

SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

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17th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." - Lk 11:9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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PARISH CENTER
22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528
Website: www.sjascscs.org

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574
Website: www.stjoan.net

FAITH AND FAMILY FORMATION OFFICE
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528

School

Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574

Faith Formation

Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascs.org

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjascs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Exceptional Children
Michelle Russo

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjascs.org

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm
In the
Sister Carol Center

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is open
Monday - Thursday from 8:30am-5pm
Friday from 8:30-4pm

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that form.

Marriages: Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

Registration: It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity: 586-777-3670.

RCIA: Please call the Parish Center: 586-777-3670

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone. Or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

Go to: livestream.stjoan.church to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

Weekday Masses

Monday thru Friday @7am

Weekend Masses

Saturdays @ 4pm & 6pm
Sundays @ 8am, 10am, 12pm

Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm



What's with "Clark's" Arm?

Last week, I shared how I ended up with a nasty long cut on my arm after running into some siding at my sister's house.

The mishap happened while I was doing a few DIY projects for my sister on the Fourth of July Weekend. As my family likes to remind me, NO project I ever embark upon is without problems or issues; it's just how it works. If you didn't see last week's article, I let the gash go somewhat untreated. It then got infected, and I landed at Beaumont Urgent Care, where I got a tetanus shot, an antibiotic prescription, and some antibiotic ointment. I concluded last week's article by saying there was a part two to the bloody mishap! This is part two!

On the Sunday following the Fourth of July, I was at my mom's house before our family dinner. I figured I would use my two hours before our dinner to work on something simple. Well, the afternoon started with the garage door breaking. A central hinge that holds the two upper panels of the garage door had completely snapped, which then caused the two panels to be misaligned. I tried to fix it, but nothing I did was going to help. It was apparent it needed professional attention ... not the priest TRYING to be a professional! After showing my mom the issue of the day, she says to me, "Well, there's another issue in the house?" She then took me to the basement staircase and showed me that her chair lift was dead. She took it downstairs just before I arrived, and it died at the bottom of the stairs. Once again, I tried to see if I could get it going, but it was clear the lift was deader than a doornail! UGH! First, the garage door, now the chair lift. We made a plan to call in the pros first thing Monday morning.

On Monday morning, I called the chair lift place, and they weren't sure when a technician could be out. They indicated they would call me later in the afternoon after looking at everyone's schedule. My mom had an appointment that afternoon and wouldn't be home, so I told them Tuesday or Wednesday would be ideal. That afternoon they called me back and said they had a technician available to be there in an hour. I jumped on the opportunity, and since I had time to run out there, I hopped in my car and started on my journey to meet them. While at the condo, I figured I could accomplish ONE project while the lift was being repaired. That one project was to get a new carpet my mom bought placed under

the sectional sofa. My mom turned the basement into a mini-theater and second dining room for family gatherings. I figured this project would be simple and would give me an excuse to use these new air wedges I bought some time ago but haven't used yet. These gizmos have been advertised in my Family Handyman magazines. They are wedges you can put underneath something, which you then fill with air with the attached air pump to lift an object slightly. It's somewhat like a blood pressure cuff but not used to cut off circulation to your arm completely but to lift objects! I couldn't figure out how to undo each piece of the sectional to place this carpet, so I figured I would use the air wedges to lift one side of it to accomplish my task. It was going to be a simple 5-minute project!

I got to the condo before the technician arrived, so I had time to work on my project. I already had the earth tones colored carpet, which also had some white patches in it, up close to the sectional so I could place it quickly. I then placed my three air wedges and started pumping away. I was so excited to see the whole section of this sectional start to lift. This was way too cool. After realizing I could have placed the wedges differently, I extended the leg lifts on each portion of the sectional and crawled underneath the sectional. After I got into place, I felt something wet on my arm. I looked and saw my arm filling up with blood. Right away, I grabbed some paper towels to soak up the blood because I didn't want any evidence of my blood on the carpet. After all, who would want their son's blood dripping on their new carpet (see a pattern from last week). I was convinced I had sliced open the old wound. After a closer look, I realized I had sliced my arm in a new spot a few inches away from the first wound. While the cut wasn't as long as the first one, it was still bleeding as much. This wasn't good. After cleaning up all my evidence and ensuring I didn't get any blood on the carpet, I finally got the carpet in place. I then looked at my arm and said, "Well, at least you got a tetanus shot last week and are already on antibiotics. So you're good to go! But just wait until Mom and your sisters (and the 'older sisters I'm glad I never had' that work at the Parish Center) hear about this one!"

The Sacrament of the Sick (Part Four): I've been writing about the Sacrament of the Sick over the last few weeks, in part because many people have misinformed opinions or improper information about the sacrament. This week, I want to continue reflecting on the redemptive value of our sufferings.

Last week, I shared a quote from Mother Teresa that's worth repeating: "Suffering

will never be completely absent from our lives. If we accept it with faith, we are given the opportunity to share the passion of Jesus and show him our love." To accept suffering WITH FAITH becomes a critical point to remember. Life changes when we start to view things through the lens of faith.

This reminds me of a lady I once visited in a nursing home. After I anointed her, we had a rather spirited conversation about her illness and her anger with God. "Why would God do this to me? I'm good and have been good all my life. Why couldn't he choose to give my illness to some bad people? There are plenty of them who deserve it; I don't deserve this at all," she said. I told her that she was flat-out wrong! I wanted to encourage her to see the redemptive value of her suffering and that she needed a change of attitude about the whole situation. Once we accept that sometimes God loves us so much that he gives us incredible crosses to carry in life, it's up to us to turn that cross into something redemptive for ourselves and those around us. It isn't always easy to swallow, but the more faith you have and the more you accept the reality of God's will in your life, the more you will come to a better understanding of the crosses we are called to embrace. God never intends to leave us hanging in a perpetual Good Friday experience; WE keep ourselves there. Every cross we embrace is a sharing in the passion of Christ. And just as Christ journeyed from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, so too can we, with our own crosses, move from the pain of our own Good Friday to the emptiness of our own Holy Saturday to the joy of our own Easter Sunday. It is about our faith. It is about our relationship with God. It is about our attitude and whether we acknowledge that God may just be using us for some purpose in accomplishing his divine plan.

I still often quote and ask people to reflect upon the prior English translation of the opening prayer for Masses for the Sick. "Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they are chosen to be saints, and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world" CHOSEN to be saints ... JOINED to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. Those are some powerful words that deserve our attention and reflection!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

OUR FATHER

*Who art in heaven,
 Hallowed be Thy Name.
 Thy Kingdom come.
 Thy Will be done,
 on earth as it is in Heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 Amen.*

July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:20-32 | Col 2:12-14 | Lk 11:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I miss my friend, Carol, a second mother to many of us navigating young adulthood in one of my adopted hometowns. Carol offered wisdom and perspective - and binders full of recipes for any occasion. So, even after moving away, I knew that I could "Dial A Cook" at a moment's notice and Carol would drop everything and patiently dictate a recipe. Today's Gospel fills me with gratitude for Carol, who through her love and generosity hints at God's love and generosity toward us. Carol is with God now, so I still talk to her from time to time. Today's Gospel reminds us that, likewise, we can bring anything to our loving God in prayer, and the Father will listen and respond. We may think we can power through our days, and our lives, on our own, but Jesus reminds us to persist in prayer: "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Remember the time before smartphones? When you needed a cup of flour or an egg, that meant knocking on a neighbor's door. Now we most often text ahead, making the request a bit less awkward. Well, despite the proliferation of Catholic and spiritual apps, praying still requires "putting ourselves out there" before God. While God knows all and sees all, it us up to us to bring our deepest needs and desires to him. Our smartphones can help us here: We can set a reminder to pray each morning and each evening. We can model our persistence in prayer to our children and others by praying with and for them, especially at times when they are struggling with something or facing a difficult choice or situation. If an earthly Mother or Father knows how to give good gifts to their children, after all, "how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

PRAY Recite the Lord's Prayer, understanding that God knows our needs and will give us each our daily bread.

Background: Getty Images/Eric Isakov



Walking With Purpose 6-Week Studies Sept 12-Oct 17.

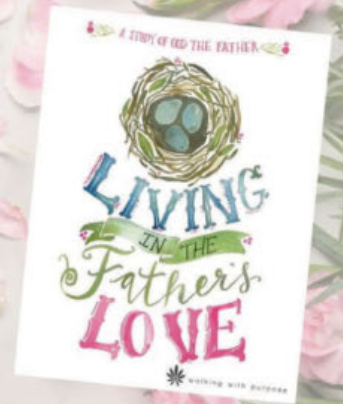
Get acquainted with the beauty of **Walking With Purpose** Bible studies with this 6-week program: **Living in the Father's Love**. There are two groups; one meets Mondays from 10 am-12 noon and the other from 7-9 pm.

There is always room at the table for new women to join our morning or evening groups. This short study is a great way to experience the beauty of the program designed especially for today's women.

Register and pay \$21 for materials at sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose.

There is also registration and payment info about the 20-week studies that begin on Oct 24 (no meetings on Oct 31). 10 am: Discovering Your Dignity | 7 pm: Touching the Divine.

Questions? See the website for group leaders and contact information or reach out to Kristine Hass at khass@sjascs.org or call 586-772-1282.



St. Joan of Arc RCIA RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

**A new RCIA
group at SJA is
starting soon!**

Fill out the contact
form for our RCIA
coordinator, Patty
Chase, at
sjascs.org/rcia

**Are you or anyone you know interested in learning
more about the Catholic Church?**

What is RCIA?

RCIA is the process through which a person becomes a fully initiated member of the Catholic Faith. It's for

- Adults and children of catechetical age (over 7 years) who have not been baptized
- Those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination who want to become Catholic
- Those who were baptized as infants in the Catholic Church but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and/or Confirmation) and who have had no faith formation

How long does it take?

Each person is on a personal journey in his/her relationship with God. Time varies depending on the individual. We walk with you in this process.

Do I have to commit to becoming Catholic if I enter the RCIA process?

No, the RCIA process is marked by opportunities for discernment along the way, and ultimately it is about one's readiness and desire to be received into the Church.

*Are you called
to help our
parish families
grow in Faith?*

*The best way to learn is to
teach! If you want to grow
in faith while helping youth
grow in theirs - consider
joining our Faith Formation
team at St. Joan of Arc.*



We need adult helpers, those interested in becoming catechists, family mentors and small group leaders for our Confirmation classes.

Contact our Office of Faith and Family Formation to learn more. 586-772-1282 or khas@sjasc.org



Light of the Spirit Prayer Group



2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month
at
St. Joan of Arc

The meeting will now be from
6:30pm—8:30pm

July's Meetings will be on
7/13 and 7/27

We hope that you can join us!

Right to Life Diaper Drive

It's Christmas in July at Right to Life of Michigan's Macomb Educational Resource Center!

During the month of July, we will be collecting diapers and baby wipes to help local crisis pregnancy centers and baby pantries.

All size diapers are needed, especially sizes 4-6.

Please drop off your donations at 27417 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 or call 586-774-6050 for more information.



St. Joan of Arc Knitting Group

The SJA Knitting Group will begin meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

The group will meet from 12pm - 3pm in the Mother of Mary Conference room in Church.

July's meetings will be on the 13th and the 27th all knitters are welcome.

If you are interested in joining or have questions please call: Marie Byrski @ 586-943-0240.



*Spend an hour
with me.*

HOLY
HOUR
SONGS &
PRAYERS

Join us for Eucharistic
Adoration with music at
7 pm every Thursday
in the church.

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 31 C

Reading One – Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! Here is one who has labored with wisdom and knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property. This also is vanity and a great misfortune. For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest. This also is vanity.

Responsorial – Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
You turn man back to dust, saying, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past, or as a watch of the night.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
You make an end of them in their sleep; the next morning they are like the changing grass, Which at dawn springs up anew, but by evening wilts and fades.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading Two – Col 3:1-5, 9-11

Brothers and sisters: If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia – Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God."

Registration is now open for

Faith Formation

**JOIN US FOR A MONTHLY FAITH
ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.**

**Visit sjascs.org/Faith-Formation for all the details
including dates, sacrament preparation
and materials fees.**

**Our Family Formation Sunday School starts
October 2. Register by Aug 31.**

**Our monthly Sunday School is for all
parish families with children in grades
K-6. See the website for the schedule of
Monday night classes for students
preparing for Confirmation.**



 **St. Joan of Arc**
FAITH & FAMILY FORMATION



Questions?

Contact Kristine Hass
at khass@sjascs.org
or 586-772-1282

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, July 25th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
5:00 PM Baptism of Henry H. McGhie

Tuesday, July 26th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 AM Funeral for Robert Schick

Wednesday, July 27th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, July 28th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, July 29th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
12:00 PM Memorial Mass for Carol Squillace
Parish Center is Closed

Saturday, July 30th

11:00 AM Reconciliation
12:30 PM Baptism of Olivia Mae Nahtyoal
1:30 PM Baptism of Olivia A. Hunter
4:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass -Live Streamed

Sunday, July 31st

8:00 AM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 AM Sunday Mass- Live Streamed
12:00 PM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

July 24, 2022 – Knockin’ on the Door

To find and pursue opportunities in life, it helps to have some doors open along the way.

Those who are smart, motivated, and capable can find their way around closed doors, as well, but that can take a lot longer.

It’s inspirational, then, to hear about ways in which people of goodwill are working to help open doors for others, creating opportunities for success in careers and in life.

The Detroit News reported a few weeks ago on a program launched last year by a local nonprofit that helps people who have encountered closed doors to earn their college degrees.

According to the story, that might mean “better support systems for high school students to start and complete college without dropping out.”

Or it might mean opening a door “for adults who never went to college or ... are looking to return.”

One particularly unique aspect of the program enables participants to earn their degrees by completing a series of projects that leverage their skills and experience, as opposed to attending classes and lectures and taking tests.

Whether and how this all works out, of course, is something that will be determined by the students themselves and by the market, as employers evaluate the capabilities of those who successfully complete the program.

But it’s encouraging to hear of people helping other people by creating programs such as this, and it’s reflective of the love of God to those who seek his assistance.

“Ask and you will receive,” Jesus says in today’s gospel passage from St. Luke. “Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

“For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

- Monday July 25, 2022 Saint James, Apostle (Red)**
7:00 a.m. William R. Richer
- Tuesday July 26, 2022 Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary (White)**
7:00 a.m. Frank and Mary Fleming and a Special Intention for Eric Ketelhut
- Wednesday July 27, 2022 Weekday (Green)**
7:00 a.m. A Special Intention for Rachel Allemon
- Thursday July 28, 2022 Weekday (Green)**
7:00 a.m. Hugo Calisi
- Friday July 29, 2022 Saint Martha (White)**
7:00 a.m. George and Ida Zogay and Ann Stanglewicz
- Saturday, July 30, 2022 Vigil of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)**
4:00 p.m. Linda Hollern, Bonnie Batche, Josephine Ciaravino, the deceased members of the Gore family, Frank Nagy, Charles Weidenbach and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and for the Thomas Family
6:00 p.m. Sam Ciaramitaro
- Sunday July 31, 2022 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)**
8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m. Marion Zapytowski
12:00 p.m. Larry Rancilio, Roberta Ivon, Anna Mae Reinhard, and a Special Intention for Raymond and Palma Strussione on their 65th Wedding Anniversary

Daily Readings

Monday, July 25

2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Matthew 20:20-28

Tuesday, July 26

Jerimiah 14:17-22
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday, July 27

Jerimiah 15:10, 16-21
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, July 28

Jerimiah 18:1-6
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday, July 29

Jerimiah 26:1-9
John 11:19-27

Saturday, July 30

Jerimiah 26:11-16, 24
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, July 31

Ecclesiastics 1:2; 2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21



I Am The Resurrection & The Life

“Heavenly Father, welcome home those who you have called from this world and grant peace and consolation to their families.”

Robert Schick
Joyce Daenzer
Joanne VanTiem Ryan



“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

Minnie Louise Haskins



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse. Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.

FORMED[®]

PICK OF THE WEEK

July 24, 2022

WATCH

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA: SOLDIER FOR CHRIST

At the end of this week, we celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the “Soldier for Christ.” While Martin Luther’s interior troubles plunged Europe into a maelstrom of controversy, Ignatius of Loyola set out on an extraordinary interior pilgrimage of grace. Taught directly by God, Ignatius offered the Church a new spirituality of devoted service to Christ and founded a religious order dedicated to evangelization, the Jesuits.



LEARN

FORMED NOW! DOES FAITH TAKE A VACATION?

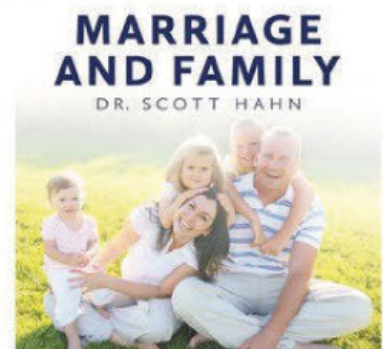


As many of us embark on sunny vacations, it’s important to make sure our faith remains front and center in our lives. Since it’s easy for us to be distracted by the excitement of the summer rhythm, Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger discuss what we can do to make sure we don’t let the spiritual life take a back seat.

LISTEN

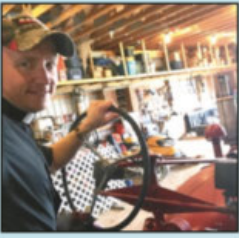
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

Strong relationships and marriages are of vital importance to individuals, the Church, and society as a whole. In this focused presentation, Dr. Scott Hahn shares key principles that he has lived out in his own life. His advice is practical, challenging, and sometimes requires sacrifice, but it is sure to bear fruit and bring forth many blessings in your family. In honor of Sts. Joachim and Anne, please enjoy this powerful talk!



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Bird On A Wire: The last time Monsignor was out of town, the livestream equipment decided to take some time off too. On this occasion it was the

HVAC system, but at least it had the decency to do so last Saturday, so Monsignor already knew about it before he left and knew I had nothing to do with it! Perhaps, I thought, the hot Church over those weekend masses was out of solidarity for my parents, as I had just seen the forecast for the week in England, where my parents live.... 107 degrees! It is NEVER 107 degrees in England... and NOBODY has air-conditioning there...

Monday was a busy day with a number of communion calls and noticing that the Tabernacle in the PC needed replenishing, I came back from a visit and went over to the Church to get the Blessed Sacrament from the Tabernacle there and bring some hosts over to the PC Chapel. As I walked into Church, I heard what sounded like a loud smoke alarm, “chirp-chirp.” I thought that was odd, but then I realized that the “chirp-chirp” was actually a bird-bird. There was a sparrow perched up on one of the organ pipes, enjoying the acoustics as it was singing pretty loud. But it appeared to not really enjoy being trapped in Church and had already fluttered its way through one of the ferns on the sanctuary, spreading leaves all over the steps. Holy Spirit, you ask? Nope. Smaller than that! And less helpful. As of late Monday afternoon, all I can tell you is two things: that I didn't let it in... and that the bird is preaching Tuesday morning! Let's see what Tuesday brings....

Persistence in Prayer: The readings today offer us encouragement to never tire in our prayer.

But why doesn't God give us what we ask for immediately? Why does he desire persistence and consistency in prayer?

While we can never hope to understand fully the mind of God, we can say that the need to be constant in our prayer keeps us from treating God like a magical genie who grants all our wishes. It causes us to depend on God, trusting him to give us what we need at just the right time—our “daily bread.” It brings glory to God when he powerfully answers our prayers in unexpected ways. And it causes us to regularly draw near to God.

So just what does the power of persistent

prayer look like and what are the reasons we should always keep asking God to answer our prayers:

1. If we persist in prayer we will reap with joy: Even though we might not see the answer to our prayer immediately, God promises that if we persevere we will reap joy. That doesn't mean that we will get exactly what we were praying for each time. But it means that we will see God's hand at work in our lives, even when things are tough, maybe especially then. We will then come to know his faithfulness and love more intimately.

2. God promises that our labor is not in vain: If we're honest, sometimes prayer seems like wasted effort. We put all this work into it, we pour our hearts out to God, and sometimes it feels like nothing happens. But the Bible assures us that our labor in prayer is not in vain. In fact, it's through prayer that we become unwavering in our faith. It's through prayer that we come to know God more intimately and grow in our love for him.

3. When we persevere in prayer we will receive an answer: The Lord promises to always answer our prayers. It may not be the answer we were expecting, but it will always be the absolute best thing for us. But in order to receive that answer, we must keep asking, seeking, and knocking.

4. We can't see all that God is doing through our prayers: The reality is that we have no idea of all that God is accomplishing through our persistent prayers. All we see is what is right in front of us, but God sees the big picture. He knows what's best for us and he is working all things together for our good. He's playing the long-game. We should pray with perseverance because God is doing so much more than we could possibly imagine.

5. Prayers of persistence bring abundant blessings: When we pray with persistence, God blesses us in ways we could never have imagined. He pours out his goodness on us, and provides for all our needs. Never give-up praying - God is faithful and will bless us beyond our imagining.

6. We've already seen God do great things: God saved us from our sins and Satan. We were dead in our sins. We could never have saved ourselves. So if God did the big thing, so never doubt that he can do the smaller things we ask for. Ask him to provide all you need. If God saved us he can do anything else we ask.

7. Our prayers delight God and he delights in answering them: If our prayers

are delightful to God, he takes pleasure in answering them. When God answers our prayers it brings him glory. It ought to produce thanks and praise to him. God is no Scrooge, clinging to his blessings. Our God delights to pour-out blessings. Our God is the lavish God who didn't create just one kind of tree or one color of sky. He gives without end.

8. God promises to reward those who seek him in faith: Our persistent prayers must be accompanied by faith. We must believe that God exists and that he will reward us for seeking him. If we are a people of faith, we must believe that God will do great things through our prayers. Pray with expectation.

9. God hears and answers persistent prayer: Throughout the Bible, it's clear that God deeply values perseverance in prayer. Though there are times when he immediately answers our prayers, in most cases God wants us to come to him again and again and not give-up until he answers our prayers.

10. Jesus invites us to cast all our cares on him: Jesus invites us to cast all our cares on him. When we come to him with all our concerns, he gladly takes them and cares for us. The Lord doesn't want us to bear our anxieties on our own. He wants us to come to him and share with him what he already knows.

11. The Lord is good to all who wait for him: The Lord is good to all who wait for him. He is a kind and gracious God who rewards those who patiently seek him. When we wait on the Lord, he blesses us with his goodness and meets our needs. We can be assured that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us.

12. God is a loving Father who loves to bless his children: How much do you love your children, your grandchildren? Impossible to quantify? God loves his children more. How much more will our Heavenly Father give good things to us when we ask him.

All of this amounts to God encouraging us to persevere in prayer. So whatever you are seeking from God, don't give-up. Don't quit asking him, no matter how impossible it seems to you. But also don't stop listening, and being open to him answering your prayers in a way *different* to the way you were asking. Our God is a faithful God. He doesn't lie, or forget or change his mind. He will keep his promises to us.

You are in my prayers this week.
Father Andrew- adawson@sjascs.org

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SUMMER STORYBOOK HOUR

Parents and caregivers, bring your preschool and elementary-age children for a story hour, snack and fun faith-related activity. (And a little coffee break for you!)



When?

Wednesday mornings from 9-10 am on:
July 6, 13, 20 and Aug 3.

Where?

The Emmaus Fellowship Hall in the Sr.
Carol Center.

Respond

Let us know by the Tuesday before each session if you're coming.

Leave a message at 586-772-1282
or respond at sjascs.org/storyhour

Siblings of all ages are welcomed.



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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ashley Marie Allemon	Catherine DeRose	Joan Ireland	Jennie Mooney	Virginia Stieber
Andrew Barth	Grace Dickerson	Margo Javelov	Mary Pore	Neal Stoneback
Geri Beaugrand	George Dickerson	Marilyn Kiefer	Tracy Rauch	Beverly Taylor
Kenneth Beaupre	Jean Edwards	Thomas Kler	Sr. Alice Riegel	Bernadette Thompson
Mark Beaupre	Frank Faiss	Catherine Konen	Suzanne Roland	James Thompson
Gilbert Bousho	Ben Fazio	Al Kraska	Jennifer Rose	Mary Ann VerVaecke
Diane Brennan	Susan Federoff	Concetta Leone	Sara Rybicki	Linda Vitale
Lori Cardosi	Taylor Fisher	Dotty Lubinski	Victoria Rydholm	Eileen Wallace
Rose Marie Carroll	Jeanne Gainer	Janet Malaski	Doreen Saur	Peggy Walsh
Patricia Clare	Sylvia Gentile	Ingrid Manalo	Lily Saith	Joseph Whalen
Ed Cole	Geoffrey Greve	Christopher Manning	Dianne Schelosky	Marilyn Wicker
Martin Crozier	James Gutowski	Joan Mannino	Ann Simmonds	Adrienne Weidenbach
Ellen Dancey	John Hanselman	Ed Marosso	Terri Smigels	Joyce Wiekrykas
Peter Dawson	Rich Hanselman	Karen McMahon	Kathleen Smith	Margaret Wienck
Joan DeDene	Judith Hasten	Charlotte Miller	Cathy Spindler	Eddie Zatyrazc
Lucy Dedene	Susan Hughes	Mark Moffitt	Robert Stasak	

Pray for the Sick List: Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at info@sjascs.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

July 24, 2022

Praying to Our Good, Good Father

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Learning to pray well is perhaps the most important skill we can learn. It's one thing that will carry us through life, all the way to heaven. We might as well get good at it!

Jesus was often found praying, but if he was God, why was this necessary? Jesus prayed because he longed to experience the love of his Father. He prayed because he wanted to, not because he had to. Amidst the demands of his mission and the cross looming over

him, Jesus felt an existential need to seek strength in his only source of love.

This "being caught up in love" was evident to those who watched Jesus pray. Looking at him, the apostles longed to experience what he experienced, so they asked him "teach us to pray." He began, "Our Father..."

When we pray we're not in dialog with a demanding commander but with a caring, protecting Father. He is a good, good Father. The last thing he wants is to see his children suffering or in want. He wants to provide exactly what we really need—not necessarily what we pout about! Our role is to trust and abandon ourselves into his hands through prayer.

This is where the life of grace comes in. Grace—God's Fatherly love shared with us at baptism, and which continues through the help of his Holy Spirit—is our greatest treasure. One way to grow in prayer is to ask yourself what will help this grace, this God-shared love, grow in your heart.

Prayer will carry us through life, all the way to heaven. We might as well get good at it!

A Word from Pope Francis

Prayer is a kind of musical staff, where we arrange the melody of our lives. It is not in contrast with daily work; it does not contradict the many small obligations and appointments; if anything, it is the place where every action finds its meaning, its reason and its peace.

General Audience, June 9, 2021



Sunday Readings

Genesis 18:20-32

The LORD replied: "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Colossians 2:12-14

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God.

Luke 11:1-13

[Jesus said,] "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."



- As I pray the Our Father slowly and thoughtfully, what is one phrase that stands out?
- What is one thing I can do to improve my prayer life?

Blessing's Ultimate Form

By Fr. Donald Willard, CSsR

What is a blessing? I've heard people use the phrase "God bless you" in a manner similar to the way they say, "Have a nice day." At other times, people ask for a blessing as if they are asking a favor from God. Finally, some people ask for a Bible to be blessed or for a special blessing immediately after receiving the Eucharist. And while we should desire blessings, the act of blessing has a much fuller meaning than many of us realize.

An essential element of worship is prayer. The four traditional types of prayer are blessing and adoration, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession. Therefore, at a deeper level, a blessing is a particular manner of worship. It stems from a profound adoration that is expressed through a desire to be more like the beloved. For example, sometimes a young child will act like a parent because the child wants to be similar to the parent. This is an outward expression of an internal disposition of respect, admiration, and love.

By definition, a blessing is the act of sanctifying someone or something. When someone or something is sanctified, it has become holy, and to be holy means to be set aside for the purposes of God. The person or object is brought into the presence of God, or we might say, "brought closer to God." This is not to say God isn't everywhere; rather, the blessing is our



acknowledgment that this person or object belongs to God and that it is God who determines the right order, purpose, and design of all.

Thus, the blessed object or person is to be in conformity with the will of God. For example, if a person wants a car blessed, the car now exists to do the will of God, not merely the will of the person. This car now must be used in the service of God.

At the level of blessing, we are expressing the desire to be more like God. Through the blessing, we give our free will to God and allow God to be Lord of our lives. We are saying, "Lord,

you are Lord of all, make me holy as you are holy, to do your will in all things, all places, and all times, so that I may be more like you."

For a Catholic, this statement finds no fuller meaning than in the blessing that comes when we receive the Eucharist—the Real Presence of Christ. When we give our lives as a gift to God, it is the ultimate form of blessing. And through the action of the Holy Spirit, God gives us his divine life through the gift of his Son.

A blessing is our acknowledgment that this person or object belongs to God.



*Father God, your name is holy.
Help us to do your will in all things.
Give us bread to strengthen us.
Forgive us and guide us
to walk in your way. Amen.*

—From *Celebrating the Gospels: A Guide for Parents and Teachers*, by Gaynell Cronin

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 25–30

Monday, St. James:
2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 20:20–28

Tuesday, Sts Joachim and Anne:
Sir 44:1, 1–15 / Mt 13:16–17

Wednesday, Weekday:
Jer 15:10, 16–21 / Mt 13:44–46

Thursday, Weekday:
Jer 18:1–6 / Mt 13:47–53

Friday, Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus:
Jer 26:1–9 / Jn 11:19–27

Saturday, Weekday:
Jer 26:11–16, 24 / Mt 14:1–12



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