

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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19th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them." - Lk 12:37

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

OLPI

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

In-Solidum Priest

Team:

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjascs.org
Lead for SJA

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjascs.org

Fr. Jim Commyn (Moderator)
parish@stlucychurch.com

Fr. Eric Fedewa
frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla
stveronicaeast@comcast.net

Msgr. Gary Smetanka
msgr.smetanka@stargp.org

Non-Resident

Sacramental Minister

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjascs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net



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



A Clark Griswold Moment with the RV: Do you remember the scene from National Lampoon's Christmas

Vacation when Cousin Eddie empties his RV's toilet remnants into the sewer in front of Clark and Ellen's house? All I can say from experience is that the dumping of the "black water," as it's called, is one messy job!

As I mentioned in last week's column, my mom and I made a trek up to the Upper Peninsula. She had several bucket list items she wanted to fulfill this summer, and traveling to see Lake Superior, the Soo Locks, Pictured Rocks, Tahquamenon Falls, and several sites dedicated to Bishop Frederic Baraga were on the list.

Now, parenthetically, on the way home, my mom announces to me that she has two other bucket list items she wants to accomplish soon: 1) going on a zip line tour; and 2) sky diving! You can only imagine what I was thinking; I'm glad we were stopped in traffic when she announced this to me. Way to go, mom. I may help her with one of those (guess which one), but I'll arm-twist some of the grandkids to help grandma too! Some of this is WAY above my pay grade.

The RV we rented through Outdoorsy.com was a beautiful Class B Thor Sanctuary! It was great for several reasons. It was small. I've driven a 35-foot RV, and those are a bit much to handle when you don't drive an RV regularly. The Thor Sanctuary was 19 feet. It was perfect because it could pull into a typical parking spot too! It was just perfect for the two of us. One of the drawbacks of a smaller RV is that everything is so compact that there isn't much storage available onboard. We had just enough room for the two of us, our snacks, my office stuff, and our luggage (see the order of importance).

All of the RVs we've rented up until this point had the typical sewer connection and hose, so you could go to a camp sight or dump station and, well,

dump the waste from the RV. Most people carry gloves with them and know what they are doing. But I'm such a novice that I almost need a full hazmat suit for the job. Clark Griswold here (that is, me) has created a story EVERY time he has performed this task. As I'm typing this, I'm laughing because I thought that just for kicks one time, I should show up at a dump station and put on one of those full hazmat suits to get the reaction from all the real RVers out there as I perform the worst part of RV'ing!

But this particular RV had something I've never seen before. The black water waste dumped into a sealed cassette. I was REALLY intrigued with this option because I was now confident I could not ... and would not ... create a story taking care of business! You could then unlock the cassette and simply take care of dumping the black water waste either at a dump station OR a regular toilet. The cassette was small and had a handle to make everything super easy. What could go wrong?

As my mom and I traveled around, we stopped at a rest area so that I could stretch my legs. I was amazed at how long you could travel in the UP in some remote areas up there without running into a town or a gas station. You could easily go for an hour and a half to two hours without running into much of anything. So those rest area stops to stretch your legs become essential. And many of those rest areas are scenic lookouts; and the scenery is absolutely spectacular. We had the time, so we often pulled over to take a peek at what the scenic turnouts had to offer!

Well, I decided it was time to take care of my black water issue at this one rest area. I told my mom I would be but a few minutes and that she could relax in the RV. So, I dutifully found the right key to unlock the outer door that hid the black water cassette tank. I unlocked the small cassette tank, pulled out the handle, and headed to the bathroom.

Once inside, I got everything set up as if I was performing some operation. I twisted the cap on the outlet, swiveled it around, tilted the cassette, and started dumping away. I was so intrigued by how easy this was going that I bent over

a bit to marvel at the simplicity of the process! Well, that was a royal mistake! I suddenly felt a splash on my face. YES, some of it splashed on me! "You have got to be kidding," I yelled at myself! I was grossed out because I messed up probably even the most straightforward adventures of dumping the black water waste with this new high-tech cassette. UGH! Leave it to Clark!

I returned to the RV, reinstalled the cassette, put in the necessary chemicals, locked it into place, and locked the little trap door. But now, I was on the hunt for paper towels and things to sanitize my hands AND face.

After sanitizing my hands, I looked for some wipes to wipe down my face. Unfortunately, all I could find were some Clorox wipes we had on board. Not thinking, I pulled out a few Clorox wipes and started scrubbing my face! "WAIT, you did what," you ask? Yes, I began to scrub my face with the Clorox wipes. Another great Clark move. Within seconds, my face started to burn and was now red! "Good heavens," I thought, "can I make it any more complicated?" Yes, I managed to mess it up even with a simple cassette that was to make the whole process easy.

I then returned to the driver's seat, and my mom asked, "So, how did it go with that cassette?" "You don't want to know," I said. "You'll read about it in the bulletin."

As I think about it, there ought to be a complete certification program for people like me who are novices at RVing to teach them how to deal with the messiest part of the experience! But then again, I'd probably mess that up too! Yes, Monsignor, you must now successfully perform the black water dump experience on the following ten RVs to pass your exam. YUK! Maybe I should just stick to my hazmat suit idea! I should be safe going that route! Way to go, Clark!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 14 C

Reading One – Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

In those days, the princes said to the king: "Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin." King Zedekiah answered: "He is in your power"; for the king could do nothing with them. And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah, which was in the quarters of the guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebed-melech, a court official, went there from the palace and said to him: "My lord king, these men have been at fault in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah, casting him into the cistern. He will die of famine on the spot, for there is no more food in the city." Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die.

Responsorial – Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18

R. Lord, come to my aid!

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me.

R. Lord, come to my aid!

The LORD heard my cry. He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp; he set my feet upon a crag; he made firm my steps.

R. Lord, come to my aid!

And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and trust in the LORD.

R. Lord, come to my aid!

Though I am afflicted and poor, yet the LORD thinks of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, hold not back!

R. Lord, come to my aid!

Reading Two – Heb 12:1-4

Brothers and sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.

Alleluia – Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."



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.

Misc. Announcements

*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 khasse@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

August's Meetings will be on
8/10 and 8/24

We hope that you can join us!



Rendez-vous DÉTROIT

Celebrate Detroit's history at Rendez-vous Détroit!
August 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dossin Great Lakes Museum, 100 Strand Dr., Belle Isle, Detroit, MI
Free Admission to Event. Michigan State Park's Recreation Passport required to enter Belle Isle



Bring your friends and family, step back in time and experience
Détroit as it was in the days of Cadillac. Hear the original Motown
sound! Discover Détroit's unique French Colonial history through
exhibits and artifacts. Learn French dances that will bring out
your joie de vivre - all at Rendez-vous Détroit!

- Live French Canadian Music and Dance
- Historical re-enactors bringing 18th century
Détroit to life!
- Children's crafts and games
- Cultural exhibits
- 18th century Fashion Show
- Storytelling

on Belle Isle!



Find us on Facebook at Rendez-vous Detroit

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.

August's meetings will be on the 10th and the
24th all knitters are welcome.

If you are interested in joining or have ques-
tions 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.



August 7, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Wis 18:6-9 | Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or Heb 11:1-2, 8-12 |
Lk 12:32-48 or Lk 12:35-40

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

I remember the first time I moved: A suitcase or two fit in the back of my dad's lime-green Delta 88 as my parents dropped me off at college. Four years later, it took that plus a large black chest. The next move required a U-Haul; then came marriage, a family, and a moving van. I may not store my treasure in barns like the man in last week's readings, but at times it feels that way. It's natural to accumulate more "stuff" as we grow older. But in today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we won't take any of it with us when we make the move to our final destination. Rather than focus on our possessions, he encourages us to be vigilant, remain faithful, and live in service to others. In doing so, we will store up "an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Few things throw me into a panic like unexpected company. I have taken to at least cleaning the kitchen counter and bathrooms before going on a trip so the house will look presentable should something befall me and others have to come in with food or aid! We truly do not know the day or the hour, and the Gospel today encourages us to apply a little of that spring cleaning to our souls. Each day presents a new opportunity to prepare for the day we meet Jesus. If we've been out of touch, we can get reacquainted through prayer. If we feel weighed down by things we've done or said, we can bring them to the Lord through the sacrament of reconciliation. We can witness to our belief in God's promise of eternal life by putting people above possessions and supporting one another as we seek to live as Jesus taught us.

ACTION Today's psalm response is: "Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own." Count your blessings and write a few of them down, giving thanks to God for each of them.

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, August 8th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, August 9th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, August 10th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 AM Funeral Mass for Peggy Walsh

Thursday, August 11th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, August 12th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, August 13th

11:00 AM Reconciliation

12:30 PM Baptism of Rosemary F. Malek

4:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, August 14th

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

August 7, 2022 – Defending the Door

Most folks would agree – would anyone at all disagree? – that it makes sense for people to take an active role in the things that will keep themselves and their families safe.

Where the line gets a little blurrier, perhaps, is when personal protection gives way to potential government intrusion.

Headlines were recently made in San Francisco when law enforcement officials floated the idea of leveraging not only public and commercial cameras and surveillance devices – but also private devices such as residential doorbell cameras – to assist with public safety concerns and investigations.

There is enough vague language in all of that to make it almost impossible to determine if this would, indeed, help keep people safe, or if it would potentially result in an overstep of civil authorities. Or perhaps both, depending on the circumstances.

Those are the types of debates that sometimes rage on for years without a clear answer, and are best left to policy-makers to hash out.

What is much clearer, however, is that we are called to be ready for the threats of this world and the next, and to act accordingly.

“Gird your loins and light your lamps,” Jesus says in today’s gospel passage from St. Luke, “and be like servants ... whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.”

Those are the servants, after all, who stand ready to defend a home against intruders, and who likewise are ready to open the door for the master.

We must be alert to intruders in our physical and our spiritual space. And, just as importantly, we must be ready whenever the call comes to open the door enthusiastically when Jesus comes knocking.

“You also must be prepared,” Jesus says, “for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	August 8, 2022 Saint Dominic, Priest (White)
7:00 a.m.	Phyllis DeMars
Tuesday	August 9, 2022 Weekday, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr (Green/Red)
7:00 a.m.	Agnes and Jack Hubbard
Wednesday	August 10, 2022 Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr (Red)
7:00 a.m.	Leonard Czarnecki and Jesse F. Champine
Thursday	August 11, 2022 Saint Clare, Virgin (White)
7:00 a.m.	Sam Ciaramitaro
Friday	August 12, 2022 Weekday, Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious (Green/White)
7:00 a.m.	Robert Emmett Gainer and John G. Champine
Saturday	August 13, 2022 Vigil of the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saints Pontian, Pope and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs; BVM (Green/Red/White)
4:00 p.m.	Gaetano & Lucia Cottone, Bonnie Batche, Diane Bezy, Dee Misuraca, Dean Hardin, Thomas Pillar, Charles Weidenbach, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and for the Thomas Family
6:00 p.m.	Jack Vandenboom
Sunday	August 14, 2022 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Joseph Paluzzi Jr.
12:00 p.m.	Marie Champine, Jack Ventimiglia, Barbara Marco Voorheis, Ricky D. Baron, Mikie Petrella and a Special Intention for Mike Petrella.

Daily Readings

Monday, August 8

Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Friday, August 12

Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63
Matthew 19:3-12

Tuesday, August 9

Ezekiel 2:8-3:4
Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Saturday, August 13

Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32
Matthew 19:13-15

Wednesday, August 10

2 Corinthians 9:6-10
John 12:24-26

Sunday, August 14

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Thursday, August 11

Ezekiel 12:1-12
Matthew 18:21-19:1



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."

Mary Margaret (Peggy) Walsh
Joyce Esse
Robert Schick



"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.

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of August 07, 2022



Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber

This film is a moving, artistic portrayal of the life of Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert, and Carmelite martyr, Edith Stein. It powerfully captures the interior struggles of this extraordinary woman and her journey toward the Lord.



FORMED Now! St. Clare of Assisi

In this FORMED Now episode, Dr. Tim Gray, joined by Dr. Ben Akers, discusses the life of St. Clare and the beauty and attractiveness of poverty.



What is Sin?

What is sin and is it even real? Or is it something the Church made up to take away our fun and make our life miserable? Chris Stefanick sits down with Dr. John Sehorn to discuss the Church's teaching on sin.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



Why do we praise God?: The question came-up in an email I received from someone who had read my bulletin article two weeks ago on per-

sistence in prayer. The answer is relatively simple, but the reason behind our praise is actually quite beautiful, the more we understand it. So I thought this would be an opportune moment to address it here.

The email included a link to an article asking if God had an ego that needed us to approve of Him. In the sense of “ego” meaning having a pridefully high-opinion of ourselves—the way the word is generally used—that we need affirmation to feel good about ourselves, no, that would not apply to God. The ego actually is more about having a sense of ourselves. In this sense, God has a greater ego – a greater sense of awareness of His true self—than any of us. But His ego is not one that needs affirming, no. He is absolutely not prideful and doesn’t *need* our praise. But he does *want* it. Here’s why....

The Lord has done many praiseworthy things, but he hasn’t done them for the goal of being praised. He doesn’t actually need anything since he’s God. God is perfect, lacking nothing. God needs nothing from us. However, he has given us a way to praise him that does justice to him and is beneficial to us.

If you listen closely to the prayers during mass, there is sometimes the perfect answer to this question. It’s found in Common Preface prayer IV:

“It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, Always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, although you have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift, since our praises add nothing to your greatness but profits us for salvation, through Christ our Lord....”

Anyone attending mass only on a Sunday will never hear this prayer, but it’s my favorite of the Preface prayers used at daily mass.

When we praise anyone for something they’ve done it makes him or her feel appreciated and acknowledged, but it also shows us to be appreciative. Like any

virtue, we need opportunities to exercise it and show it, and a habit of praise is a virtue that like many, has to be grown and nurtured throughout our spiritual life.

Have you ever bought a Mother’s Day card (anyone reading this column regularly will know that I have tried!) or a Father’s Day card? We do that because we want to show our appreciation and gratitude to our parents, not for anything specific they have done, but for being who they *are*, for being our parent.

Paragraph 2639 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses praise of God:

Praise is the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because HE IS. It shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory. By praise, the Spirit is joined to our spirits to bear witness that we are children of God, testifying to the only Son in whom we are adopted and by whom we glorify the Father. Praise embraces the other forms of prayer and carries them toward him who is its source and goal: the “one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist.” (CCC2639)

As I tell people often in confession, gratitude is kind of an antidote for our sinfulness. Our sins are rooted in pride – they are about me, my will, my wants, with me at the center. Gratitude is focused on someone else, and in the case of praising God, focused on gratitude to God, with Him at the center. Gratitude and appreciation get us outside of ourselves and prevent us from being prideful and narcissistic.... Hence, our praise **“profits us for salvation.”**

When we praise God for who He is, we come to a greater understanding of God relative to ourselves and our weaknesses, and our need for His grace. That develops humility in us – that we praise Him rather than seek praise for ourselves. That we recognize that all good things we have come from Him. Praise of God, then, cultivates and grows in us that sense of humility, and only the humble will have a chance of Heaven. Therefore that humility **“profits us for salvation.”**

When it comes to the Lord we have something even more special. He has given us a way to praise God that not only does

justice to God, but sanctifies us: the Eucharist. Every celebration of the Eucharist, no matter the occasion, consists of praise, worship, and thanksgiving/ appreciation. On the natural level, it makes us considerate, religious, and grateful. On the supernatural level it makes us grow in communion with the object of our praise - God, and all those who praise Him as well.

Our Lord doesn’t *need* our praise or our gratitude; He doesn’t *need* anything. But that shouldn’t make us feel it’s futile to thank Him or to praise Him for all He has done.

God has also established justice, which is the obligation to give each their due. We expect justice from each other; we expect justice from a just God; therefore, we must offer what is just, what God is deserving of, which is our praise. He deserves our praise and gratitude and in his goodness has made those virtues means for our growth and sanctification... they **“profit us for salvation.”**

So does God have a prideful ego, needing our affirmation? No, the ultimate purpose of God demanding praise is our good. It’s another way in which God shows Himself to be focused on us. Rather than the demand for world praise being self-focused as it would be if we were the ones asking for it, in God’s case it actually shows God to be focused on us. We are the center of God’s world, and we are the object of His love. Our response to that love in offering Him praise will only **“profit us for salvation.”**

As the Catechism says, praise embraces other forms of prayer. Praising Him through our formal, liturgical worship is essential. When we pray sincerely, we are giving God the reverence, the respect and the attention He deserves. We are doing our duty as Christians. And doing our duty before God is in itself a form of praising the Lord. Therefore all aspects of our lives are opportunities to give praise to God, not only formal and communal prayer. In a commentary on the Psalms, St. Augustine wrote: *“I will suggest a means whereby you can praise God all day long. Whatever you do, do it well, and you have praised God.... Do no wrong and you have praised God... In the innocence of your works prepare yourself to praise God all the day long.”*

You are in my prayers this week.
Fr. Andrew adawson@sjasc.org

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AUCTION & DINNER GALA

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S GALA

- The Gala is our largest fundraiser to benefit the school! This year we are excited to host it at the **Grosse Pointe Yacht Club** on **Saturday, October 15, 2022**. Doors open at **6:00pm concluding at 11:00pm**.
- There are many ways we need your support for this event!
 - **Donations! Donations! Donations!** Opportunities to donate through our *Give Back Boards* in Church in September. Feel free to contact the School or Parish Center offices to learn how to donate Auction items!
 - **Attend the Gala!** It'll be a blast celebrating the past! Tickets will go on sale September 1st!
 - **Buy Raffle Tickets!** Raffle tickets will be available after September 1st for \$20ea or 6/\$100 in the Parish and School Offices.
 - **There's a Spot for Volunteers!** Consider volunteering the night of the Gala. For more information, please contact Pam Graskewicz.

CONTACT US:

Pam (pgraskewicz@hotmail.com), Emily (emilyaradatz@gmail.com) or Kathy (kkalich@stjoan.net)

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Prayers Needed

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Geri Beaupre	George Dickerson	Zayne D. Kapinski	Tracy Rauch	Beverly Taylor
Kenneth Beaupre	Jean Edwards	Marilyn Kiefer	Sr. Alice Riegel	Bernadette Thompson
Mark Beaupre	Frank Faiss	Thomas Kler	Suzanne Roland	James Thompson
Gilbert Bousho	Ben Fazio	Catherine Konen	Sara Rybicki	Mary Ann VerVaecke
Lori Cardosi	Susan Federoff	Concetta Leone	Victoria Rydholm	Linda Vitale
Patricia Clare	Taylor Fisher	Dorothy (Dotty)	Doreen Saur	Eileen Wallace
Ed Cole	Jeanne Gainer	Lubinski	Lily Saith	Joseph Whalen
Martin Crozier	James Gutowski	Ingrid Manalo	Dianne Schelosky	Marilyn Wicker
Philip D'Agostino	John Hanselman	Christopher Manning	Ann Simmonds	Adrienne Weidenbach
Ellen Dancey	Rich Hanselman	Karen McMahon	Terri Smigels	Joyce Wiekrykas
Joan DeDene	Judith Hasten	Charlotte Miller	Kathleen Smith	Margaret Wienck
Phyllis Dedene	Susan Hughes	Mark Moffitt	Cathy Spindler	Eddie Zatyrcz

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 7, 2022

Finding Our Treasure in God

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Abraham is considered our father in faith because he practiced his faith even when it didn't seem sensible to do so. His faith allowed him to obey God and to hope in him despite an apparent lack of evidence of God's fidelity. And because of his faith, Abram became Abraham, the Father of nations, the common ancestor of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peoples.

Abraham understands that no creature, no gift, should take God's place

in the human heart—even something as dear as a God-given child. This is the absolute, total trust God asks of us. When dealing with all the good things God gives us, including those he has promised and those we love most, we must be willing to trust what he asks of us. God doesn't always make sense right away, and we're often painfully aware that his ways are not our ways.

Have you ever been caught in a storm—perhaps a really scary storm with wind howling, rain pounding, skies so dark it looks like night in the middle of the day? This is how the winds of our passions, and the pressure of our secret expectations can clash with God's plans for us. A darkened front moves into our soul, making it difficult to hear God's voice and see the light of his will. Here lies the heroism of faith. We walk by faith, not by sight.

For this reason, Abraham is the faithful servant found doing the Master's will. His treasure was in God.

***Abraham understands
that no creature, no gift,
should take God's place
in the human heart.***

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 18:6–9

The expectation of your people was the salvation of the righteous and the destruction of their foes.

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–19 or

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–12

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

Luke 12:32–48 or Luke 12:35–40

[Jesus said,] "Sell your belongings and give alms For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

A Word from Pope Francis

In dark moments, in sad moments [Jesus] is well aware that our faith is weak—all of us are people of little faith, all of us, myself included, everyone.... [O]ur journey can be troubled, hindered by adverse forces. But ... He is the Lord who passed through death in order to lead us to safety.

Angelus, August 9, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I thank God every day for all that is good in my life?
- Is there anything more important to me than doing God's will?

A Be-attitude Adjustment

By William Clark, OMI

We all want to be happy. The Declaration of Independence affirms the pursuit of happiness as “an inalienable right with which all men are endowed by their creator.” Someone once remarked that the tricky thing about the pursuit of happiness is knowing when you’ve caught up.

What actually makes a person happy? What constitutes happiness? Human beings always want more, and when we have more we want better, and when we have better we want different.

The super-rich want more than one mansion or a bigger boat. The ordinary person wants a nicer house, a newer car. The poor person desperately wants a job and income to provide the necessities of life. The object may vary, but the desire for more or better or different is always there. As long as our desires are not guided by reason enlightened by faith, we can never be truly happy.

We don’t automatically come upon the secrets of our happiness. Over the course of history, various systems aimed at achieving happiness have been proposed. For Gautama Buddha, the only means to happiness lies in the elimination of desire. Early Greek philosophers thought the solution was to seek a balance in one’s longings. But neither the Buddhist mystic nor the Greek philosopher can achieve complete success. The calm achieved by the Buddhist is always subject to disturbance



by recurring desires. The Greek philosopher’s balance is necessarily an arbitrary standard and is always liable to change.

The Christian knows where true happiness lies. The Christian knows it’s found in directing our desires toward God. One Christian expression of where happiness lies can be found in the beatitudes, listed in the Gospel of Matthew. (See 5:3–12.)

Scripture scholars agree that it’s difficult to find an adequate translation for the word that begins each beatitude. It’s usually translated as “blessed,” but a good case can be made for translating it as “made happy.” In any case, the beatitudes

are both expressions of grace and implicit commands leading to happiness.

From a purely natural viewpoint, the beatitudes do not make sense. In faith we ask for the grace to understand. How does being poor in spirit make one happy? How does mourning or being meek make one happy? Who is truly happy when hungry and thirsty, even if it be for righteousness? From a natural viewpoint, purity of heart/chastity is, as the ancient Romans put it, “a virtue greatly to be admired...in others.” Peacemakers are often shot at from both sides. Finally, how does being persecuted make one happy?

Clearly, the beatitudes become a formula for happiness only when viewed with the eyes of faith—eyes that look beyond this world.

The Christian knows where true happiness lies.

The Christian knows it’s found in directing our desires toward God.

PRAYER

Generous God, we give you thanks for all our blessings and dare to ask for one thing more: a grateful heart. We pray always in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 8–13

Monday, St. Dominic:

Ez 1:2–5, 24–28c / Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday, Weekday:

Ez 2:8–3:4 / Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday, St. Lawrence:

2 Cor 9:6–10 / Jn 12:24–26

Thursday, St. Clare:

Ez 12:1–12 / Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday, Weekday: Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63 or

Ez 16:59–63 / Mt 19:3–12

Saturday, Weekday:

Ez 18:1–10, 13b, 30–32 / Mt 19:13–15

Bringing Home
the Word 
August 7, 2022

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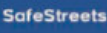
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