



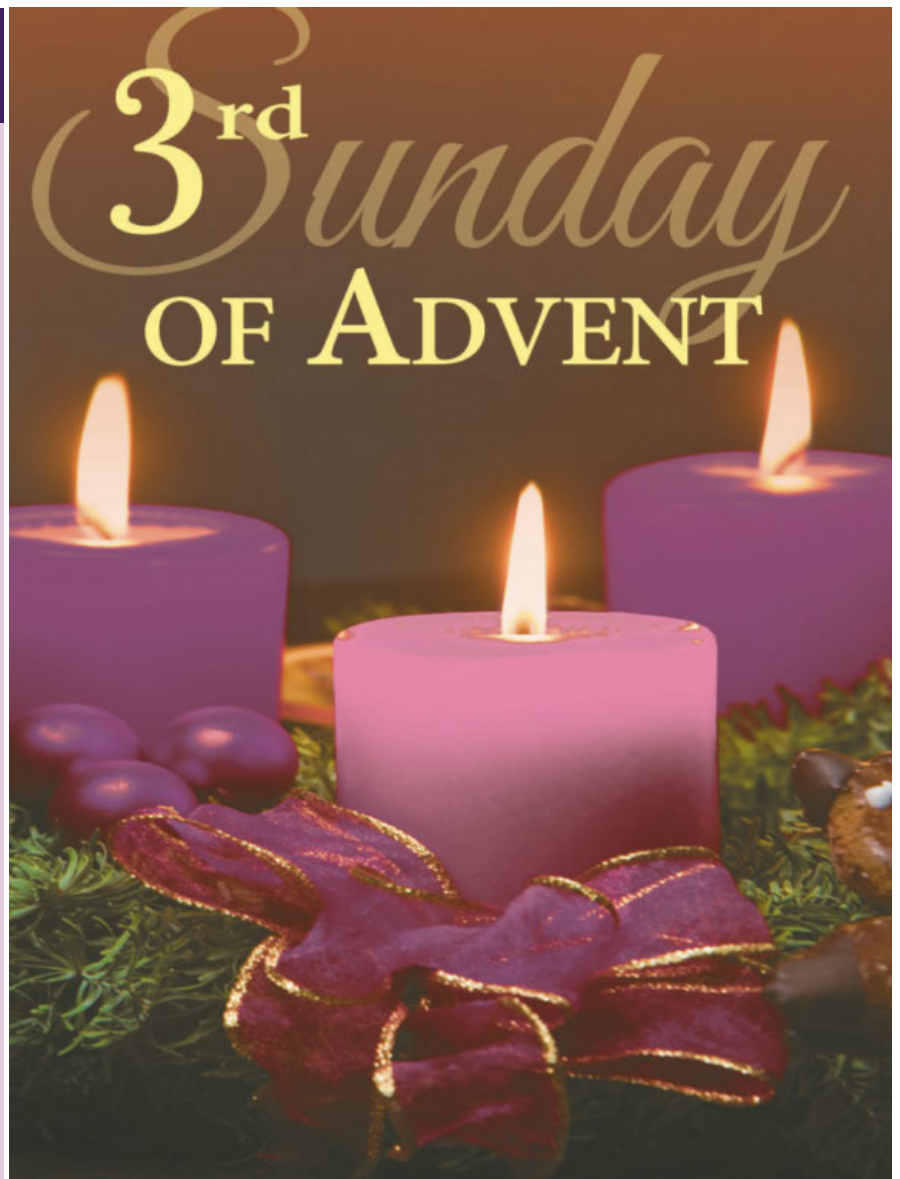
# SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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 ~*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Parish Directory/Mass Times.....	Page 2
TALLer Tales .....	Page 3
Readings - 4th Sunday in Advent....	Page 4
Formed Pick of the Week .....	Page 5
Grow+Go .....	Page 6
O Holy Night SJA Nativity Story .....	Page 7
Advent Opportunities .....	Page 8
SJA Announcements.....	Page 9
Calendar of Events .....	Page 10
Bereavement Group.....	Page 10
Weekly Calendar of Events.....	Page 11
Words on the Word .....	Page 11
Mass Intentions .....	Page 12
Those Who Have Recently Died ...	Page 12
Tire Tracks in d'Arc.....	Page 13
Coming Events .....	Page 14
Prayers for the Sick & Military ....	Page 15
Bringing Home the Word.....	Page 16



**PARISH CENTER**  
**22412 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-777-3670  
Fax: 586-774-5528  
Website: [www.sjascs.org](http://www.sjascs.org)

**SCHOOL**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-775-8370  
Fax: 586-447-3574  
Website: [www.stjoan.net](http://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  
msgsr.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](http://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 happened to all the food?

Most in our family have stomach issues. As many know, I'm allergic to red meat after a horrible case of food poisoning

some 35 years ago. When people first hear about my issue, they tend to cringe, wondering how anyone could give up a juicy hamburger, a good thick steak, or pork chops. It doesn't bother me at all. I can substitute chicken, turkey, or fish for whatever dish everyone else might have and be quite content.

While I'm allergic to red meat, other family members have worse stomach issues than I do. Our mom, unfortunately, has frequent flare-ups of colitis and Crohn's disease. She started to develop pretty severe symptoms several weeks before Thanksgiving. By Thanksgiving, she was tired of mashed potatoes, bread, English muffins, eggs, cream of rice, and simple soups. That was about all she could eat. As Thanksgiving Day approached, she wanted to venture out and reintroduce some favorite foods back into her diet, but she knew she couldn't do it just yet because she risked losing the ground she paved in settling her system down.

However, a new "food" suddenly became an INSTANT favorite: rice pudding. That became her ultimate comfort food amid this bout of colitis and Crohn's. That stuff is addictive! My mom finally requested that we only buy KozyShack's small single-serve containers because it would be easy to devour a third or more of the 22 oz container in one setting ... especially when you are very limited in what you can eat. She even got me hooked on that stuff.

As plans were being made for Thanksgiving Day dinner, we knew mom would want her KozyShack Rice pudding and mashed potatoes. That was about all she said she would be able to eat. But she was willing to risk it a bit with some chocolate. Now, she didn't want just any chocolate, but she wanted these brownies that someone on staff makes. Let's say, for the sake of this article, this staff member's name is Sharon. Her brownies are the best! My mom asked if I could ask Sharon to make her much-loved brownies but without nuts. "Mom, I'm on it," I told her.

The following day, I asked Sharon if she wouldn't mind making a separate batch of her famous brownies, but without nuts the next time she made a batch. Of course, Sharon was more than happy to help!

On Thanksgiving Eve, Sharon texted me that the special request brownies were ready. I arranged with her to get them right after Mass on Thanksgiving morning. When I told my mom that I was bringing the requested brownies by Sharon, you could tell she couldn't wait to get her hands on them. Considering that her Thanksgiving Day meal was going to be mashed potatoes, butternut squash soup, and a little bit of rice pudding, the homemade brownies were going to be the *crème de la crème* of her simple Thanksgiving Day feast. While the rest of us were feasting on our expensive fresh turkey and all the trimmings, mom's plate looked pretty sparse and a little pathetic for Thanksgiving Day!

One of the things we've learned for our family and extended family gatherings is that we often have so much food left over that we need lots of carry-out containers. I've started to buy them in bulk and bring them with me to gatherings. This way, we're ready to parcel out the food at the end of the night without worrying about finding containers and how those containers would find their way back "home."

Thanksgiving Day was also complicated because my brother-in-law Lonnie had COVID again, while Jackie had COVID-like symptoms. So we had to pack some stuff for them, too, so they could have some type of Thanksgiving Feast. They ended up driving out to my mom's condo, and we had one of those iconic "COVID era" window visits and then passed all of their food containers to them.

Unfortunately, our mom didn't have much to eat that night because she wasn't feeling a hundred percent. But she didn't lose sight of the special request brownies "waiting" for her. At one point, our mom told the kitchen crew that we should make sure all the food disappeared. She reminded us she couldn't eat much and was still having issues, so she wanted all of the food out of the house; otherwise, it would spoil. Of course, the kids and grandkids complied! So we filled all the carry-out containers with food and ensured all the food "disappeared." The condo was spotless when we left.

The following day, when I got to my

mom's house in the middle of my annual Black Friday Shopping experience (yes, I still go out), my mom had this downcast look. I asked her what was wrong. "What happened to my brownies," she asked. "I went looking for them after you guys left and couldn't find a crumb or hint they were even in the house. I looked forward to them after my rather bland Thanksgiving Day Feast." I could only gulp. "SORRY, mom. You said to get rid of all the food, so we did. And even worse, I can't even reclaim them for you because I gave the rest of the stash to your grandsons when I saw them earlier today. All those brownies are GONE!" My mom then said, "That's okay, I sat down and had rice pudding ... AGAIN. The next time Sharon makes brownies, can you ask if she could make some without nuts." UGH. I felt really bad. This was beginning to sound like Groundhog Day! As I think about it, our family needs a Thanksgiving Day "Re-Do." All we need are FROZEN turkeys (the kind that would make the kitchen smell like Thanksgiving Day when they cook) and brownies. We could skip everything else! Now, that would be a feast!

**Advent Pause:** As we enter these waning days and hours of Advent and the pace of life gets rather hectic with the final preparations for Christmas, please remember to keep your priorities in mind. Yes, please keep Christ in Christmas! It's all too easy to lose sight of what's essential as we try to accomplish sometimes an unquestionable amount of activity during these final days before Christmas. And we're lucky to have a full four weeks of Advent this year.

So as we prepare for the birthday of the Savior, may we keep Him ever before our eyes. Take some time to be quiet and pray. Take some time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Take some time to read and pray through the biblical accounts of the birth of Christ. Take some time to watch *The Chosen's* Special Christmas Presentation: *The Shepherd*, or rent online the 2006 version of *The Nativity Story*. These sacred moments become somewhat of an Advent retreat. You won't regret the time taken away from the busyness of these days to prepare spiritually for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjasc.org

# Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 18

### Reading One – Is 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

### Responsorial – Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

### Reading Two – Rom 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Alleluia – Mt 1:23

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel – Mt 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.



# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 11, 2022



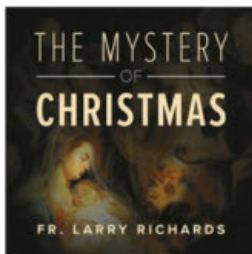
## I Am Who I Am Lectio: God Episode 1

Who is God and what does he mean when he says "I Am Who I Am"? Join Dr. Elizabeth Klein in her latest Lectio series as she begins to unpack the mystery of who God is.



## Saint Teresa of Ávila: A Study in Perseverance

Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Avila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.



## The Mystery of Christmas by Fr. Larry Richards

In this talk, Fr. Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift: his Son.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

December 11, 2022

## Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

*"The Lord  
God keeps  
faith forever."*

(Ps 146: 6)

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

Today many of us light a rose Advent candle as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice," and today's readings hint at the joy of Christ's coming. Who among us can't relate to the concrete examples from the prophet Isaiah that give us many reasons for hope and joy as we anticipate Christ's birth. Those of us who have experienced fear or doubt find reassurance: "Be strong, fear not!" During the holidays when many will grieve those who have died this past year, we hear that "sorrow and mourning will flee." In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points us to the source of our joy in the person of Jesus Christ. As we continue to prepare for his coming, we can take comfort knowing that God is with us now and for eternity. As we hear in today's Psalm, "The Lord God keeps faith forever."

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I am not a patient person. Waiting in the slow grocery line raises my heart rate, and I have to use cruise control in 35 mph zones (it works!). Despite my impatience, I've grown to love planting a vegetable garden in the spring and never cease to be amazed at the rich harvest of tomatoes in July or August. As St. James reminds us, we can learn from the farmer who patiently waits for the rains. "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." Whether we have patient personalities or not, we can rest assured that the Lord is with us for the long game. Just as the rains help our tomatoes to come in – a miracle that still surprises me each summer – our faithfulness, prayer and good works can nurture our hearts and our souls. They also remind us of the true joy of the season: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has taken on our humanity for our salvation. "Lord, come and save us."

**ACTION** Need something to brighten your living area during the deep of winter? You can find amaryllis "bulbs in a box" online. They bloom inside and can be moved outside when spring comes, serving as a visible reminder that patience pays off. This can also be a nice gift for a friend or perhaps an elderly relative who does not have access to a garden.



*The reason for the season.*

# O Holy Night

**Join us for a beautiful  
production of the Nativity  
Story presented by the  
children of our parish.**

**Saturday, December 17  
after 6 pm mass**

**Followed by fellowship and family fun.**



Contact Kristine Hass for  
information for children 5 and  
older interested in  
participating as angels.  
[khass@sjascs.org](mailto:khass@sjascs.org)

# ***I WILL BE HERE TOMORROW***

## **An Advent Night of Reflection**

Are we ready for the coming of Christ, that is, His Second Coming? Join us as guest speaker David Conrad helps us reflect on, and delight in, the Advent Scriptures heralding Christ's arrival. By preparing well to celebrate Christ's first coming, we hope to find ourselves ready to welcome Christ when He comes again in glory.



**Monday, December 12  
at 7 pm in the church**

## **PREGNANCY AID**

# **Virtual Baby Bottle Drive**

**Help Pregnancy Aid Detroit continue its good  
work helping moms and babies in need.**

**Make a donation at  
[pregnancyaid.stjoan.church](http://pregnancyaid.stjoan.church)**

Pregnancy Aid Detroit is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Christian organization that upholds the sanctity of human life by advocating for the lives of mothers and their unborn children, and by offering emotional and material support, as well as education to promote healthy lifestyles.





### St. Vincent DePaul

As the Holidays quickly approach, the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is in need of supplies to continue to provide support to our families during this Season.

We are in great need of the following items but are grateful for any contributions:

**Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towel  
Cereal, Peanut butter, Jelly  
Macaroni and Cheese, Flour and Sugar**

If you would prefer to make a financial donation Yellow SDVP envelopes are at all church exits and at the Parish Center. All food donations can be left in the baskets in Church or at the Parish Center.

**Thank you for your support and God Bless your family, now and in the New Year!**

## Help our 8th Grade with Your Returnables



*The Class of 2023 is holding an ongoing can and bottle drive. This important fundraiser helps defray the cost of the class's graduation events.*

*Bring your returnables in bags to the WEST SIDE DOOR of the Parish Center (near Father Andrew's House).*

*Just place them in the large plastic bin with a lid. Or if you need to arrange a pick-up, call or text Erin at 586-321-0667.*

### 2022 Soup Kitchen News

We were blessed to serve 400 people on Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> at Crossroads Soup Kitchen.

We served a hearty bowl of Chili, Hot Dogs, crackers, bananas, oranges, cookies, capri sun for the kids and beverages for the adults.

We also had 400 toiletry bags which included, shampoo/ conditioner, body soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and tooth paste and razors.

I want to thank everyone for their monetary donations. I want to thank St Vincent De Paul for their donations. I also want to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare and serve the meals.

We could not have done this without our wonderful St Joan family. I can not thank each and everyone of you enough.

May God bless you abundantly.

St Joan's Crossroads Team.



## Save your can tabs!

**Spread the word! We're collecting can tabs again.**

**Let others know that those little pop and food can tabs make a big difference for the Ronald McDonald House Charities.**

**Drop off donations in the buckets in the church or at the Parish Center during business hours.**





# Bereavement Group

A photograph of a forest scene with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The sun is positioned in the center, with rays of light extending downwards. The trees are dark and silhouetted against the bright light. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grass.

## SEEING THE LIGHT OF DAY

**A faith based group meeting  
Our Lady Star of the Sea**

**467 Fairford Rd. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI**

**Monday, January 9, 2023**

**7:00 pm - In the Pointe**

**Contact the Parish office (313-884-5554) for more information**



### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### **Monday, December 12th**

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed  
1:00 PM Reconciliation - Family & Youth Ctr  
6:30 PM Reconciliation - Family & Youth Ctr  
7:00 PM Advent Program by David Conrad

#### **Tuesday, December 13th**

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed  
5:30 PM School Christmas Concert

#### **Wednesday, December 14th**

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed  
6:30 PM Light in the Spirit

#### **Thursday, December 15th**

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed  
5:30 PM Baptism of Vito Steven Powers

#### **Friday, December 16th**

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Saturday, December 17th**

11:00 AM Reconciliation  
12:30 PM Baptism of MacKenzie Clare Rozelle & William Patrick Rozelle  
4:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed  
6:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed  
7:00 PM Oh Holy Night Nativity Play - Church

#### **Sunday, December 18th**

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

### Words on the Word

#### ***Dec. 11, 2022 – Lucky for Life***

For many people, the notion of winning the lottery would be considered the ultimate stroke of good luck.

After all, who doesn't feel they could benefit from an ongoing, or immediate, cash windfall?

That thought came to mind a few weeks ago when local media reported that a winning "Lucky For Life" Michigan lottery ticket had been sold at a retail store in Warren. At the time of the story, the winning ticket still hadn't been presented for payment, but the report noted the winner would have a choice of \$25,000 payments per year, or a lump-sum payment of \$390,000.

This jackpot may be smaller than some other prizes we've heard about lately, such as this fall's massive Powerball fortune, but it's still enough to be considerable for most people.

That being said, we might do well, especially in this reflective season of Advent, to keep in mind that there are other fortunes – those of the permanent kind – that await us in the kingdom of heaven.

Earthly riches and comforts, as nice as those things are, pale in comparison to the rewards Jesus promises, and those he demonstrated to us when he walked the earth.

"Go and tell John what you hear and see," Jesus tells his disciples in today's gospel passage from St. Matthew. "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

All we need do is open our eyes and walk in his path.

Christmas is two weeks away. When it comes to our spiritual lives, what steps are we taking to create our own luck when it comes to matters of eternal life?

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## Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

### Mass Intentions

**Monday December 12, 2022 Our Lady of Guadalupe (White)**

7:00 a.m. Hugo Calisi

**Tuesday December 13, 2022 Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Red)**

7:00 a.m. Special Intentions for the Family of Tina Calisi, Keith Ketelhut and Donald Ketelhut

**Wednesday December 14, 2022 Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church (White)**

7:00 a.m. Aniello Mazzella and Art Titus

**Thursday December 15, 2022 Advent Weekday (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Aniello Mazzella and Art Titus

**Friday December 16, 2022 Advent Weekday (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Donald Ancypa, Sharon Strus and Steve M. Terlescki

**Saturday, December 17, 2022 Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Purple)**

4:00 p.m. Paul & Jean Daudlin, Charles & Margaret Forrester, Michael Forrester, James Forrester, Joseph Semany, Edward & Henry Blind, Bonnie Batche, Alfred Blind, Rose Ferreri, Dorothy Baumann, Marjorie Whiteley, Mary Klarich, Anna Marie Doprzelewski, Frank LaGrasso, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, for the Thomas Family and for the Zelenek Family

6:00 p.m. Joan Weber and Dr. Lori Karol

**Sunday December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Purple)**

8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners

10:00 a.m. A Special Intention for Maria Lucia  
12:00 p.m. Audrey Benedis, Ernie Romanelli, Kevin Collins, Emilia Adamcik, Jose R. Medina, Emael L. Sarmiento, Rosario O. Medina, Jeffrey A. Hardy, Daisy Marie Buenavista, Fred Andary, Jack Jacob, Sylvia Thomas, Mary Ann Lukatch, Salvatore & Josephine Ciaravino

### Daily Readings

**Monday, December 12**

Zechariah 2:14-17  
Luke 1:26-38

**Friday, December 16**

Isaiah 56:1-3c, 6-8  
John 5:33-36

**Tuesday, December 13**

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13  
Matthew 21:28-32

**Saturday, December 17**

Genesis 49:2, 8-10  
Matthew 1:1-17

**Wednesday, December 14**

Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25  
Luke 7:18b-23

**Sunday, December 18**

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24

**Thursday, December 15**

Isaiah 54:1-10  
Luke 7:24-30



### 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.”

**Campau  
Deacon Eugene**



“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*



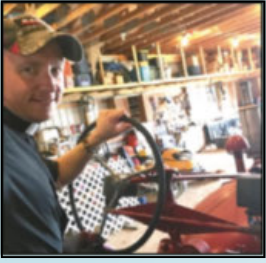
### Reporting Sexual Abuse

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](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org) calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto: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.



## Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



### Cross-bows:

One of the things I enjoy about the place I spend my retreat each year, as I was gone for last week, is the wildlife that stops by near the hermitage. The

cabin sits on open ground, on the edge of the woods, but with about 6 or 7 acres of open space in front of it. There is a small wooded area between the road and the open grass, surrounding the perimeter of the property. It's a peaceful and quiet setting and as the light begins to fade in the late afternoon at this time of year, the property is visited by the local deer—sometimes one or two, sometimes 8 or 10. Occasionally, you can spot them during the daytime, but most often I see them at dusk.

A few days before my retreat I received an email from one of the religious sisters who runs the place. In the email she said, "Father, please be honest, but would you mind if our bow hunters are on the property while you are on retreat, if they promise not to shoot you?"

The email raised a few questions in my mind. By "our bow hunters," did sister mean there is a group of hunters that they allow on the property? Or did she mean that some of the sisters carry weapons? Should I expect to be watching deer drop before me as I end each day of the retreat?

Now I have no problem with hunting per se', but I wasn't sure watching them be shot in front of me as I was trying to be on retreat was an ideal way to end the day, so I was honest in my reply. I told sister that I appreciated being able to stay on their property but it does belong to them, and if me saying no would mean closing the hermitage for deer season in the future, then please let the hunters hunt, but that my preference would be that they were not taking aim during my retreat.

Sister kindly responded, "No problem, I will ask them to come another time."

So I had to laugh when I arrived on the Sunday afternoon. Set along the edge of the tree-line, bordering the open acreage is a set of the Stations of the Cross. It seems that the weather had taken its toll on a couple of the Stations. We pray the 3rd Station, Jesus falls the first time, but here the entire 4th Station had fallen to the ground. The 7th had also fallen. Now, traditionally, I thought the 11th Station was Jesus being nailed to the Cross. But the sisters seemed to have a little different take

on the Passion. It was there that I found what would have been the spot in which the hunters would have been sitting. The 11th Station: Jesus' disciples sit at the foot of the cross and try to get themselves a 6-point buck:



What happened to, "They promise not to shoot you?!" A friend of mine had suggested, "They'll probably be in the back woods—they won't be out where you are." So much for that! I might have been the next St. Sebastian!

"What happened to Fr. Andrew?" "Oh, he went on retreat and sister shot him while he was praying the Stations...." Word must have gotten around that there may, or may not, be danger at the 11th Station and as it turned out, most of the deer stayed away that week. I only saw a couple and finally one standing in the middle of the road behind me, watching me as I drove away the final day, wishing me good riddance.

But still, when I go away, vacation or retreat, I always seem to end-up having interesting encounters with one or another of God's furry critters. And this time was no exception. How exactly I ended-up standing 4-feet under a possum is another story. I'm not saying I was not in some small part responsible for the possum being in the tree, but I would say he had free-will and chose that option himself. It was quite the stand-off, but I ultimately left him to his own devices as it was getting dark and cold. He seemed pretty happy about that.



**Patience:** *Wait for the Lord* is one of my favorite Taizé refrains, and we hear it at mass today. It's certainly a theme of Advent—our patient waiting on the coming of the Lord, at Christmas and when He comes again. It's also a theme of our readings today. How difficult the virtue of patience can be. Impatience is such a commonly confessed sin. Etymologically, the word patience is related both to the word *love* and to the word *suffering*. Patience can cause our suffering, which is why it's so difficult. And patience requires love, if we are to suffer well and if we are to make it redemptive. Accepting suffering, not willing it, but accepting it on behalf of someone else who needs our prayer is an act of love.

I find it amazing as we go through these Sundays in Advent, hearing from the prophet Isaiah talking about the coming of the Messiah... We may struggle sometimes with the idea of Jesus's Second Coming. Will this really happen after over 2,000 years of waiting? It hasn't happened in your lifetime yet, so will it ever? Isaiah is prophesying the Messiah's *First* Coming, not His Second. He didn't have the benefit of hindsight we have. For us, the history books, scripture and the accounts of so many saints have clearly recorded that Isaiah was right. Jesus was born. What for Isaiah was another eight centuries in the future, something He would not live to see, was no less a reality. Still, he prophesied what God had promised would occur.

John the Baptist had been waiting all his life, preaching the coming of the Lord. Today we hear him in Matthew's Gospel crying-out from a place of suffering, imprisoned and discouraged. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you really the one who is to come?" In other words, "if you're really him, why aren't you fixing everything? Why aren't you bringing down fire and wrath on all these Pharisees and scribes and all your enemies? You're not behaving as advertised." That God doesn't act the way we expect, or according to the timing we expect or want says more about us than it does about Him. It says more about how we need to continue to try to understand the wisdom of God—who are we to tell God He has it wrong? There is grace in the waiting, because it teaches us to entering into God's plan. St. James reminds us in the 2nd reading, "Take as an example of hardship and patience, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." May we have the patience of Isaiah this Advent, to trust and wait on the Lord.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew

[adawson@sjascs.org](mailto:adawson@sjascs.org)



## Coming Events

### St. Joan of Arc Pilgrimage

June 16-25, 2023

#### Stay in Monasteries as we visit St. Joan's 'Deep France'

After three years of Covid interference, this past June we finally were able to lead another St. Joan of Arc pilgrimage. God willing, next June we will again lead a St. Joan of Arc pilgrimage/retreat to France. This will be our fourteenth opportunity for taking a group on this fascinating journey. Our travel philosophy remains the same - one of going back to the essentials, of simplicity, of quality time in some places instead of 'rush-rush' in many. Although we will indeed see and do much, we hope to travel first of all as spiritual travelers, rather than as consumers. Consequently, we will again purposely remain a small group. Each day we will gather for some combination of the following: prayer/meditation, information on activities of the day, addressing questions, and *Question du Jour* discussions. Come and experience many of the places where St. Joan lived, visited, and prayed.

Sites will include: Orléans, Domrémy-la-Pucelle, Vaucouleurs, and Reims, with quiet stays at monasteries in the heart of France. Please visit our website, with more information and photos: [www.pilgrimwitnesses.com](http://www.pilgrimwitnesses.com).

For any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or email:

Chris & Catherine Snidow

Phone: (214) 327-4579

Email: [cwrrind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwrrind@sbcglobal.net)

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## Prayers Needed

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrew Barth  
Geri Beaugrand  
Kenneth Beaupre  
Mark Beaupre  
Gaetano Biondo  
Gilbert Bousho  
Dianne Brennan  
Elizabeth Brock  
Lori Cardosi  
Patricia Clare  
Ed Cole  
Joan Combelleck  
Ellen Dancey  
Joan DeDene  
Phyllis Dedene  
Dylan Deller  
Sharon Deller

Catherine DeRose  
Diane DeSantis  
Grace Dickerson  
George Dickerson  
Nick DiCresce  
Renee DiMusto  
Jean Edwards  
Frank Faiss  
Ben Fazio  
Susan Federoff  
Taylor Fisher  
Jeanne Fleming  
Jeanne Gainer  
Michelle Goode  
James Gutowski  
John Hanselman  
Rich Hanselman

Judith Hasten  
Leeland Helzer  
Valerie Hudson  
Zayne D. Kapinski  
Thomas Kler  
Catherine Konen  
Delaney Kraemer  
Concetta Leone  
David Lott  
Dorothy Lubinski  
Joan Mannino  
Karen McMahon  
Charlotte Miller  
Mark Moffitt  
Addison Montgomery  
Jennie Mooney  
Adam Moore

Jim Moore  
Joel Moore  
Joan Persichini  
Frank Poeschel  
Mary Pare  
Tracy Rauch  
Sr. Alice Riegel  
Diane Rochwalski  
Larry Rochwalski  
Suzanne Roland  
Pat Rybak  
Victoria Rydholm  
Lily Saith  
Dianne Schelosky  
Ann Simmonds  
Terri Smigels  
Kathleen Smith

Cathy Spindler  
Virginia Stieber  
Beverly Taylor  
Bernadette Thompson  
James Thompson  
Mary Ann VerVaecke  
Linda Vitale  
Eileen Wallace  
Joseph Whalen  
Marilyn Wicker  
Adrienne Weidenbach  
Joyce Wiekrykas  
Eddie Zatyrazc

**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](mailto:info@sjascs.org).

### PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Hector M. Martinez  
Jacob Milatz  
R. Connor Montgomery  
Martin Rodriguez  
Dave Russell

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Samuel Baur  
Richard Brown  
Nathan Dickerson  
Greg DeMoss  
Brian C. Ellis  
Thaddeus Kapuscinski  
Joseph R. Kozlinski

Michelle Kuznia, DDS  
Greg Lietz  
Chris Listilla  
Daniel Meagher  
Mika Prinze  
Kyle Richardson  
Christopher Scholz  
John C. Tramazzo  
Dan Travis  
Joseph VanDusen  
David Weise  
Edward Williams  
Samantha Williams  
Timothy L. Wilt III

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Nick Lienemann  
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Ryan McCarthy  
Lee Michael  
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Frank Schuster  
Daniel Sparkman  
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Brad Converse  
Brody J. Fitzgerald  
Jason Gaidis  
Joseph Goeddeke

Frankie Kocis  
Joseph Marable  
Tom Miller, Jr  
Anthony M. Morgan  
Leonardo Pastoria  
Luciano Pastoria  
John Patterson  
Andrew Seator

#### COAST GUARD

Michael Franklin  
Joseph Picotte  
Christopher Rogers

#### NATIONAL GUARD

Robert Douglas III  
William DuBay





# Bringing Home the Word +

Third Sunday of Advent (A)  
December 11, 2022

## The Splendor of God

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“Here is your God!” Who wouldn’t run to see this marvel? Isaiah tells us what to look for: nature will explode with excitement and splendor, and the hardships of life will no longer hold us captive. Is this really possible, or is it merely hopeful poetry? Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist that it’s possible. In fact he, Jesus, is the one who has ushered in the kingdom of heaven. Since that is true, why don’t you and I see it?

The reading from James sheds light on this. There is something wondrous about earth bringing forth “precious fruit” (James 5:7). Our understanding

of how the development and emergence of fruits occur does not make the fact of natural growth any less wondrous. Farmers know this well. They also know that such growth will occur only when human labor cooperates with the laws of nature designed by God. In other words, the farmer provides the labor while God provides the life-giving sun and rain.

If our world does not resemble Isaiah’s astonishing portrait or the healing that Jesus was able to accomplish, might it be that we have not done what we can to remedy the hardships of life that hold so many captive? When God enters our lives, he provides us with the power we need to change our world, but we must be willing to allow that power to work through us. If we are open to God in our midst, our world will be rich with life and healing, and everyone will know that God is really here. +

*When God enters our lives,  
he provides us  
with the power we need  
to change our world.*

## Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...he comes to save you.

**James 5:7–10**

You too must be patient....because the coming of the Lord is at hand

**Matthew 11:2–11**

The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

## A Word from Pope Francis

Advent tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us....The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need.

Angelus, Rome, December 15, 2019



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- In what ways might you enrich the life of another?
- What can you do to heal the broken relationships in your life?



# The Miracle that Summons Us

By Barbara Hughes

I've always been a morning person. It's possible that my body clock was genetically programmed to rise with the morning sun, but more than likely it was the demands of a busy life that would awaken me during the predawn hours. But regardless of the genesis, somewhere along the road to adulthood, the early-morning hours became sacred.

As the size of our family increased, so did the need for my holy hour with God. I might spend the time reading Scripture, praying the rosary, or simply pouring out my heart to God. How I spend the time has become less important than entering the sacred space where I meet the person I truly am: a beloved child of God, not because of anything I do, but because of who God is. Knowing this helps keep the past in right perspective, allows me to celebrate the present, and prepares me for the day ahead. Watching and waiting during the time before the sun rises remains a guilt-free luxury, not so different from the season of Advent.

The way I see it, Advent is to Christmas as dawn is to daylight, an occasion for humble expectation and joyful celebration when time seems still. It heralds the rising of the Son from the night of sin, inviting Christians to ponder the mystery of Christ's threefold coming: in history, with us now, and in anticipation of his Second Coming.

Such a regal liturgical season calls for purple vestments, greenery, and the lighting of candles. Transcending the



barriers of time that once held the world in bondage, Advent calls forth age-old stories about Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah. No longer distant figures from the past, these saints bid hearts to prepare for the birth that is ever ancient, ever new.

During the predawn days before Christmas, the communal celebration becomes personal when Mary's *fiat* invites me to say yes to God and when Elizabeth's greeting challenges me to see Jesus in the face of a weary salesclerk. When life's events rob my soul of peace, Joseph reminds me to trust God, and when self-doubt threatens to steal my identity as a child of God, Zechariah invites me to sit in silent prayer and breathe in love's miracles.

Some have called Christmas a magical season, but there's nothing magical about God becoming man. The Incarnation is a mystery and the miracle that summons Christians to receive the Infant God anew, for once again a new day is dawning.

As the beloved of God, we are being transformed. Ever mindful of his coming, we prepare for the long-awaited birth. Joyfully, we acknowledge the presence of Christ with us here and now, even as we watch and pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." +

This article was first published in *Liguorian*, a bimonthly magazine from the Redemptorists. To subscribe or give a gift subscription, go to [Liguorian.org](http://Liguorian.org) or call 866-848-2492.

*Some have called Christmas  
a magical season,  
but there's nothing magical  
about God becoming man.*

**PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, so that  
every person on this earth  
may know they are loved,  
we pray— Be born in us,  
be born in our world.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 12–17

**Monday**, Our Lady of Guadalupe:  
Zec 2:14–17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1–6a,  
10ab / Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47

**Tuesday**, St. Lucy:  
Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 / Mt 21:28–32

**Wednesday**, St. John of the Cross:  
Is 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25 / Lk 7:18b–23

**Thursday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 54:1–10 / Lk 7:24–30

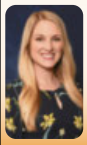
**Friday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 / Jn 5:33–36

**Saturday**, Advent Weekday:  
Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17

Bringing Home  
the Word   
December 11, 2022

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