



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
fericstbasil@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
lletaert@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.

OCIA: 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

Christmas Greetings from Monsignor Mike



Dear Friends in Christ,

In my own name and on behalf of Father Andrew, Father Rich, Deacon Tom, Deacon Dominick, and our entire staff, I wish to extend to you and your family my prayers and best wishes for a most blessed, joyous, and safe Christmas.

To our visitors and guests, those present in Church, and those watching online, I welcome you to St. Joan of Arc Parish. I am delighted you are praying with us! Know you are always welcome at our amazing Parish. As you look through the pages of this bulletin, you will see many opportunities to grow in your faith and get involved. Even if you live far away, you can livestream our liturgies and faith formation opportunities at livestream.stjoan.church. We want to help you grow in your relationship with Christ.

To our parishioners, I extend my grateful appreciation for all you do for our Parish and School. We are an amazing parish because of you! Our mission to be radically hospitable, to boldly make disciples, and to be truly transformative in all that we do are being fully realized because of our collective efforts. We could not do all that we do without your involvement. Thank you!

Yes, the Lord is born for us this day, and a light has shone upon us. We need to cherish this precious gift of God in every moment of every day. May we become beacons of light ourselves, lighting the way for others to experience this wondrous gift of God, the Prince of Peace.

With best wishes and prayers for you and your family during this Christmas season and throughout the coming New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Mike". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Monsignor G. Michael Bugarin
gmb@sjascs.org



January 1, 2023 - The Octave Day of Christmas Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Reading One – Nm: 6-27

The LORD said to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them"

Responsorial –Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

R. (2a) May God bless us in his mercy.

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth
fear him!

R. May God bless us in his mercy

Reading Two – Gal 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
to ransom those under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

As proof that you are sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying out, "Abba, Father!"

So you are no longer a slave but a son,
and if a son then also an heir, through God.

Alleluia – Heb 1:1-2

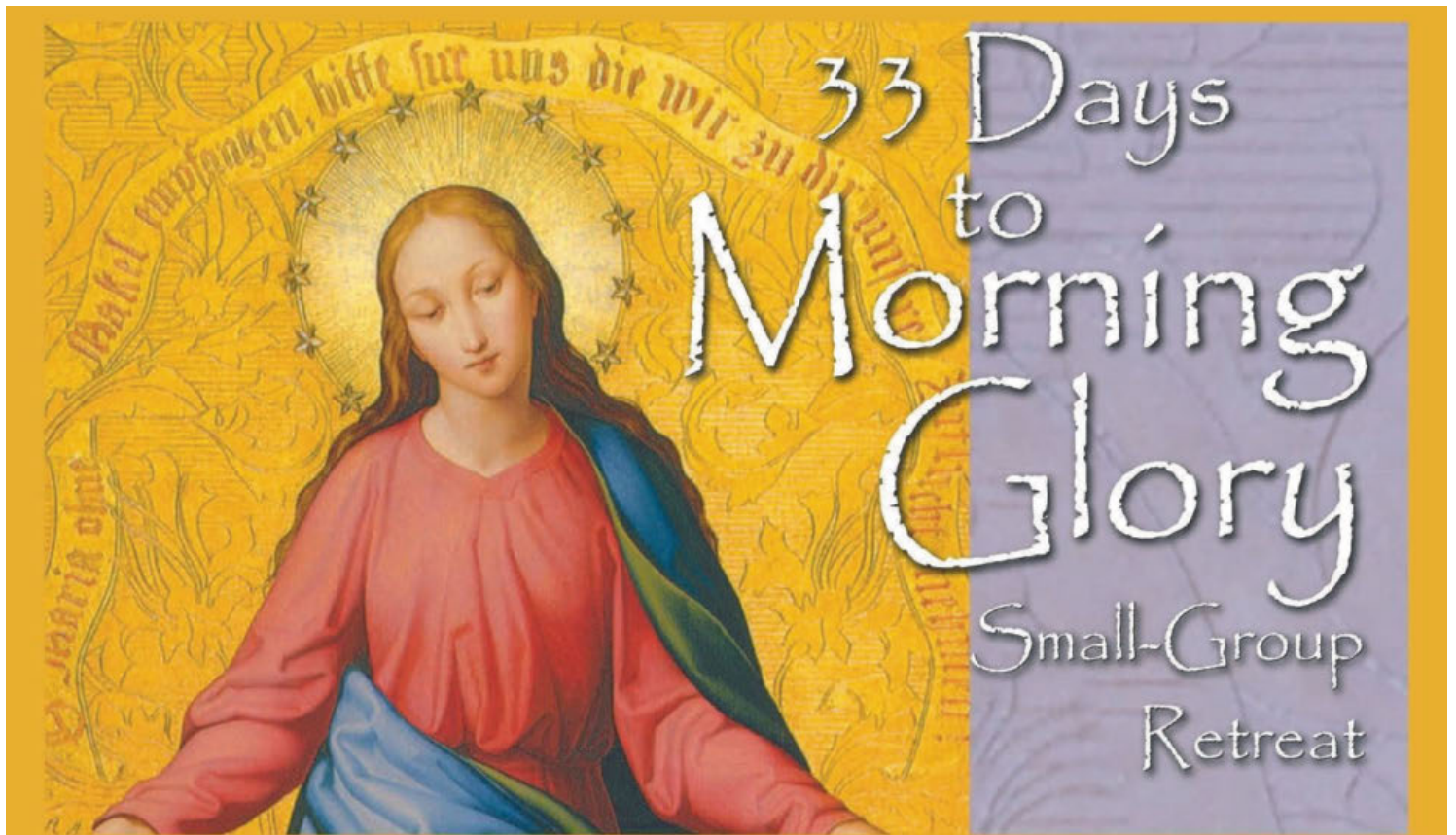
Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 2:16-21

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found
Mary and Joseph,
and the infant lying in the manger.
When they saw this,
they made known the message
that had been told them about this child.
All who heard it were amazed
by what had been told them by the shepherds.
And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.
Then the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision,
he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.



33 Days
to
**Morning
Glory**
Small-Group
Retreat

Beginning January 3, 2023
More information and registration
at sjascs.org/morning-glory



We live our lives
by the stories we believe...
What if there is a different story?

That Story is the gospel.

We invite you to join us in
The Rescue Project

Know The Story.



RescueProject.us

**Coming
soon to St.
Joan of
Arc.
Learn
more at
[sjascs.org/
rescue](http://sjascs.org/rescue)**

Pause, reflect, and reconnect with Marriage Encounter

The experience allows you to create a dialogue with each other and with God, to create a higher and broader understanding of what it means to be married. While faith is a powerful part of this process, the focus of the Marriage Encounter experience is on the ups and downs of married life. Married couples of any denomination, mixed-faith, or without religious affiliation are welcome! Faithful to the Roman Catholic Church's definition that marriage is a covenant that exists between one man and one woman, any reference to "marriage" or "couple" made by Worldwide Marriage Encounter is in this context. Learn more at wwme.org



Get a troubled marriage back on track

Retrouvaille helps couples heal and renew their hurting marriages. The Retrouvaille Program is

- for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship
- a marriage program that helps couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship
- a Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin, where couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend
- a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect

Presenters are not trained marriage counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love. Check out the schedule for 2022 at helpourmarriage.com or call 800-470-2230



Learn about becoming Catholic



Each year at the Easter Vigil mass, parishes welcome new members into the Catholic Church through a process of education, faith sharing, and rituals known as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). The process is designed for those adults and children over the age of seven who are:

- not baptized
- baptized in another tradition
- baptized Catholic, but with no further religious training or reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation

For further information please feel free to contact the Faith Formation Office at 586-772-1282 or visit the parish website at sjascs.org/OCIA.

Blessed be God!



Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Learn about baptism at SJA at sjascs.org/baptism.

Weddings and preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Joan of Arc



“
Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails ...”

1 Corinthians 4-8

By teaching that marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament, the church is saying that the couple's relationship expresses in a unique way the unbreakable bond of love between Christ and his people. Like the other six sacraments, marriage is a sign or symbol that reveals the Lord Jesus and through which his divine life and love are communicated. The sacraments were instituted by Christ and were entrusted to the Church to be celebrated in faith within and for the community of believers. The rituals and prayers by which a sacrament is celebrated serve to express visibly what God is doing invisibly. For this sacrament, the

Church requires that a couple make their unions public, so to speak. They stand before their faith community (a priest and at least two witnesses) and publicly exchange their vows. The church says that the significance of what couple is doing is a public matter – becoming a newly formed family with responsibilities and privileges the civil and the religious community. Civil society recognizes the new social unit of a family, and the Church recognizes a new social unity within the parish and a new public witness to Jesus' love for his Church (cf. CCC 1656).

Engaged and planning your wedding?

Congratulations and the prayers of our community are with you! Our website has a page dedicated to the step needed to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and to secure your wedding date at St. Joan of Arc. Visit sjascs.org/weddings

SJA School: encountering God through prayer, worship, study and service



Msgr. Mike says a prayer of blessing over boxes our 6th-grade classes prepared for distribution to children around the world for the Operation Christmas service project.



Saint Nicholas stopped by on his Dec. 6th Feast Day to offer a prayer and treat.

Learn more about
St. Joan of Arc School at stjoan.net



St. Joan of Arc's Buddy Program encourages mentorship as students in upper grades are paired with students in younger grades. Here sixth-grade and kindergarten buddies work together on a Christmas project.



Students load collected food items and Principal Pattie presents them to Forgotten harvest.

*St. Joan of Arc,
pray for us!*



Students observe and record data during a science experiment testing acid levels in various liquids.

 A foundation of faith and excellence.
St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
stjoan.net

The school year joyfully journeys forward inspired and centered on Christ

In August, we joyfully greeted our St. Joan School students for another amazing year of in-person learning. We resumed some familiar traditions as we moved past the everyday challenges the pandemic brought. This included a much-welcomed visit to the Lake Saint Clair Metro Park in celebration of our summer reading and math scholars.

This year, a new addition to our class offerings is the option for a five-day, half- or full-day four-year-old preschool. Our after-school enrichment programs are up and running with chess club, grade four-eight band, and TechKnow Kids Club.

What remains a constant at St. Joan of Arc School is its commitment to providing excellence in Catholic education rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and forming students to know God and the Gospel through prayer, worship, study and service.



Students from the fifth-grade class have daily flag patrol.

Students participate in weekly mass, daily prayer and seasonal opportunities for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



A group of first-grade boys pore over Bible stories in Mrs. Allison's classroom.



Our eighth graders reveal their class shirts and patron saint to the student body and receive a special blessing from Msgr. Mike.

Join us for our Open House on Feb. 2, from 6-8 pm or call for an after-school tour: 586-775-8370

December 25, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10 | Heb 1:1-6 | Jn 1:1-18

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

The day we have been awaiting has arrived: Christ is born! All of our Christmas preparations - wrapping gifts and preparing holiday meals to be shared among family and friends - are meant to glorify and reflect God's own work for and in us. That is, God's greatest gift of himself, clothed in mortal flesh, who would one day offer himself as the bread of life: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Jesus came to the world in the form of the most helpless of us all, a newborn infant, so that through him we would be reconciled to the Father, for "to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." We celebrate the Incarnation of the Lord, for Christ is our salvation! It is through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit that we are adopted into God's family and receive the fullness of his grace. The fullness of God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ. "The Lord has made his salvation known"; "he has spoken to us through the Son." Let us give thanks and rejoice this day!

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that John the Baptist testified to the light of Christ before Christ had yet publicly appeared. Sharing the Good News is not optional! Even the earth proclaims the Good News in Isaiah, "announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, 'Your God is King!'" Indeed, Christ the King - God in human flesh - has arrived. Just as John was sent before the Lord to proclaim his coming, so are we charged: Sent out to the world to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord, "so that all might believe."

WITNESS How might you go out and proclaim the coming of the Lord? Don't forget: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ isn't limited just to speaking to others. It includes *living* as Christ did - feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and the poor, defending the helpless - because we are Christ's body in the world.



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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

- Monday December 26, 2022 Saint Stephen, The First Martyr (Red)**
 7:00 a.m. Clara M. Champine and Stephen & Nancy Fattore
- Tuesday December 27, 2022 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist (White)**
 7:00 a.m. Jesse F. Champine & Art Titus
- Wednesday December 28, 2022 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Red)**
 7:00 a.m. Karen Jones & Hugo Calisi
- Thursday December 29, 2022 Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr (White)**
 7:00 a.m. Francisco Aquilera Jr.
- Friday December 30, 2022 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (White)**
 7:00 a.m. Donnie Hunsucker
- Saturday, December 31, 2022 Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, Saint Sylvester I, Pope (White)**
 4:00 p.m. Blair Zernick, George Wietecha, Charles Miller, Rose Ferreri, Mark DeKoekkoek, Bonnie Bathe, Bernard Champine, and Special Intentions for the Champine Family, and the Thomas Family
- Sunday January 1, 2022 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord (White)**
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners
 10:00 a.m. George J. Bugarin
 12:00 p.m. Joseph Paluzzi Jr., Father Leo Ramer and Gregory Knoff

Daily Readings

- Monday, December 26** Acta 6:8-10, 7:54-59
 Matthew 10:17-22
- Tuesday, December 27** 1 John 1:1-4
 John 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday, December 28** 1 John 1:5-2:2
 Matthew 2:13-18
- Thursday, December 29** 1 John 2:3-11
 Luke 2:22-35
- Friday, December 30** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday, December 31** 1 John 2:18-21
 John 1:1-18
- Sunday, January 1** Numbers 6:22-27
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:16-21



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.”

**Kathleen Carr
 Mark Siwik**



“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

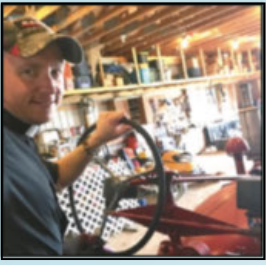


Reporting Sexual Abuse

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.

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Christmas Every Day: I have mentioned before that when it comes to her simple and sincere young faith and understanding, my little god-

daughter, Annie, “gets it.” She has very good, faith-filled parents. Recently, her mom was putting her to bed for the night and Annie has a pamphlet in her room from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor. She took it out of the recycling about a year ago to look at it and she kept it. Before bed that night, she wanted to look at it and read it with mom. She had many questions.

She and her mom talked about what the Sisters do and how someone becomes a religious sister. Annie mentioned that she wants to see their chapel at the Mother House. Then she and mom prayed their usual bed-time prayers. Annie then said, “Mom, stop praying.... I need to ask Jesus something.” And then she prayed, “Jesus, will you make me a sister please?”

Such a great and generous heart in one so young, although her mom says she can't share with her little brother yet (!) but we're all a work in progress!

Last Sunday Annie was at Mass with her parents and a parishioner approached and asked her, “Are you enjoying this Christmas time?” And Annie responded, “Well... it's still Advent.” And right she was. This Advent has been as long as it can be, four full weeks this year, but still it goes by so quickly. I always wish it was longer because it's my favorite Season. I never like the rush to Christmas that the stores want to engage us in so they can empty our pockets.

But today, Christmas is here. The Christmas season begins now. Hopefully we have been waiting for more than gifts, lights, music, good food and Santa. Hopefully it's for Christ we have been waiting—waiting to celebrate in a new way something that is not new—the arrival of a Savior, a child, but a King—to use the words of the prophet Isaiah, 800 years before the fulfillment of God's promise that he prophesied, the arrival of the Wonder-Counselor, the God-Hero, the Father Forever, the Prince of Peace. Advent is over and His advent is here.... His coming is a present reality.

We come together today to celebrate this, the second greatest day in our church year,

second only to the celebration of Easter. It is a day filled with so many beautiful images and sounds and smells, not only in church but in our homes. It is a day spent with family and friends and often so many good memories and feelings. But it's not just supposed to be that way today and today only. Advent is more than a name for a season—it's an action and a promise. Advent, *adventus* in Latin, it's an *arrival*, a *coming to*. The *to* is us. Jesus was coming *to us*. And if He came us to, it wasn't just for one day.

What and Who was to come, has *already* come that first Christmas, has come today as we begin the season of Christmas, will come again to rule over the entire world, and comes to us every day in the minutia of our lives. The question for us to ponder this Christmas season is *what is coming for us in our relationship with Jesus?* There is always the opportunity to allow Jesus to come closer and for us to step closer to Him, so that every day of our lives become a new Christmas celebration.

Why do we like this Christmas season so much? I think we all see the good in it. Even if we have been less engaged in our faith for much of the year than we know we ought to have been, there is something about this time of year that draws us back to church. And I think it's deeper than just “this is the thing we do to make Christmas *feel* right.” If we have really prepared ourselves adequately during Advent, prayed, been to confession, reflected on what this season means, reaffirmed our desire to allow Jesus an even bigger space in our hearts, that maybe hasn't found room for Him in the last year, then it truly will do that—this celebration of Mass *will* make Christmas feel right. Why would we want to celebrate the coming of the Savior and not invite Him to be a part of the celebration? But beyond that, I would suggest there is more. There is something we all yearn for that we find here, even if we are unaware that we are looking for it and finding it here. The atmosphere at Christmas exudes joy, as we hear so many familiar hymns and Christmas carols, as we hear the readings from scripture recounting the familiar story of Jesus' birth, the sight of the Nativity, the decorated trees and lights, the wreathes, the candles, the wrapped gifts, the flowers decorating the church, the smiling faces of excited kids.

Hopefully we can all remember the Christmases of our childhood and have some good memories that we hold on to. I remember being sick on Christmas day four years in a row! In those days, doctors in the UK could be called upon to do home visits out-of-hours, and I remember my

parents having to do that... poor doctor! Small town, always the same poor Dr. Warner.

But I have good memories too. Even on those Christmases when I was sick—that meant being up through the night on Christmas Eve and getting to hear the Carol Singers who knocked on the door (they took requests too!). And then opening my gifts in the morning—listening to my new Dukes of Hazzard story audio cassette; my roller boots that I couldn't try because it was the first Christmas in years to get snow; my grandfather setting fire to the Christmas pudding (he was supposed to—it's what you do to Christmas pudding!); my mom's thousands of mince pies she would bake—they were amazing, but she could never get the tops of the pies to stay on! That was always a funny part of the tradition; the chocolate yule log my dad insisted on, as he didn't like Christmas pudding; “Angel Punk–Rocker,” my sister's angel that she made at school as a 6 year old, that sat atop the family tree for decades, and even today, somewhat worse for the wear, still sits on my sister's tree, some 38 years later! The Queen's speech on TV at 3pm; the turkey left-overs grabbed whenever you feel like it later in the evening.

Whatever the details of the good memories you hold on to, it was probably a simpler time in your life, shielded from the responsibilities that come as we age. It was a special time of wonder to enjoy. Our young hearts were free to be filled with a joy and peace that maybe we could not have put into words—but it felt good.

Those feelings, that sense of joy and peace and happiness is something we all still desire as adults, and I think that's why Christmas is such a special time still—why it still conjures-up so much nostalgia and craving to experience that inner peace once more.

Jesus' advent, His coming to us this Christmas, and every day, offers a way to find that peace and that joy, once more. But only if we don't put Him back in the crib after Christmas and fail to take-up the relationship He came to offer us. Every day can be, and should be, a new Christmas day, when we welcome Him into our lives, making room for Him to stay with us. He won't take away our adult responsibilities, but He will make it easier for us to maintain our sense of peace and joy in the midst of the craziness and busyness of the world around us. Merry Christmas!

You are in my prayers this Christmas.

Fr. Andrew

adawson@sjascs.org

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, December 26th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Parish Center Closed

12:30 PM Baptism of Penelope R. Kyle

Tuesday, December 27th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, December 28th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

6:30 PM Light in the Spirit Prayer Group

Thursday, December 29th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour

Friday, December 30th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Parish Center Closed

Saturday, December 31st

11:00 AM Reconciliation

12:30 PM Baptism of Luca Maxwell Umles

4:00 PM New Years Eve Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 1st

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. 25, 2022 – To Give or Receive?

Sometimes, given the joy of Christmas, the light can be found in the unlikeliest of places. Industry publications, for example. A trade publication for those in the materials handling and logistics industry, for example, ran an article in the days leading up to Christmas with the headline “Practicing Kindness At Work.”

The article, which itself cited a piece in the *Harvard Business Review*, indicated that “recognizing a colleague’s accomplishment, offering a compliment or praise can ‘help individuals feel more fulfilled, boost their self-esteem, improve their self evaluations, and trigger positive emotions, decades of research have shown.’”

The brief article went on to quote the authors of the research as observing, “giving compliments actually made people happier than receiving them.”

In other words, this study confirms what so many people learned early in life, and which is resoundingly reinforced on Christmas – that it is better to give than to receive.

“Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people,” the angel says to the shepherds in the Midnight Mass gospel passage from St. Luke. “For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”

And after explaining where the infant can be found, the passage concludes:

“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’”

The joy of Christmas, the joy of Jesus’ birth in the world, is profoundly more important than just a so-called “happy” feeling. But, at its heart, the love of Christmas is perfectly expressed in the notion of giving to others.

Christmas Day is here! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrew Barth
 Geri Beaugrand
 Kenneth Beaupre
 Mark Beaupre
 Gaetano Biondo
 Gilbert Bousho
 Elizabeth Brock
 Lori Cardosi
 Patricia Clare
 Ed Cole
 Joan Combellack
 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
 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.

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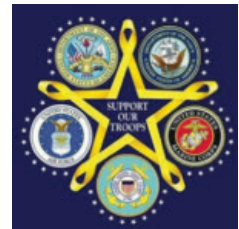
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Bringing Home the Word

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (A)
December 25, 2022

The Gift that Gives Forever

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

The fact of a savior born for us does not bring us immediate festive joy. Our world remains wounded; wars, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Our hearts remain wounded; pain lingers. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, death, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold, hunger, lonely days of bitterness, and a lifetime of longing.

The Incarnation does not promise heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven. Here on earth, it promises us something else—God’s presence in our lives. This presence redeems because knowing that God is with us is what ultimately empowers us to give up bitterness, to forgive, and to move beyond cynicism and bitterness. When God is with us, then pain and happiness are not mutually exclusive, and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

We need to celebrate Christmas heartily. Maybe we won’t feel the same excitement we once felt as children—when we were excited about tinsel, lights, Christmas carols, and special gifts and special food. But something more important is still available, namely the sense that God is with us in our lives, in our joys as well as in our shortcomings.

The word was made flesh. That is an incredible thing. It should be celebrated with tinsel, lights, and songs of joy. If we understand Christmas, then carols will flow naturally from our lips. +

This article is an excerpt from the *Daybreaks* series, published by Liguori Publications for the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Fr. Ron Rolheiser has authored several in this series of seasonal devotionals. To learn more and review our complete list of *Daybreaks* authors, visit Liguori.org.

A Word from Pope Francis

The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power that gives new birth, forgives sin, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God.

URBI ET ORBI, ROME,
DECEMBER 25, 2019



- What blessings have I received today?
- How can I be a blessing to someone else?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 52:7–10

All the ends of the earth can see / the salvation of our God.

Hebrews 1:1–6

[God] spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe.

John 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Gift of Love and the Value of Thanks

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Did you come to church today to please someone else? Perhaps your parents or grandparents or your spouse? Whether you came willingly or under pressure, I hope I'm not being presumptuous when I acknowledge your gift. Coming to church to make someone else happy is an act of love, and you might be giving them their favorite Christmas present.

I'm a convert and find myself fascinated by people who grew up in the Church and then stopped going to Mass. I tend to ask them a lot of personal questions: What takes the place of church for you? Who do you pray to? What do you use as a guide when you make moral choices? If you have children, how will you teach them right from wrong? Who (or what) will you turn to if you are suffering or someone you love is suffering? What gives you meaning and purpose in this life?

Paul Tillich said there are no atheists; that we all make something or someone our god. We must just make sure our god is one who is worthy of the investment of our lives. Today the Christian community celebrates the birth of God, who promises an abundant return on our investment.

I've learned that it's possible to grow up going to church and still not know much about Jesus. A priest friend admitted he didn't really know Jesus until he was in the last years of preparing for ordination. He decided he'd better do



something about it so he sat down and read the Gospel of Matthew straight through. I decided I wanted to do the same. Be warned! This is life-changing stuff.

On a lighter note, here's a true story from my husband's family. There were two older relatives who attended Midnight Mass after many years away from the Church. One whispered, "Hey, that's a woman reading up there." And the other responded, "Yeah, and either that's English or my Latin is better than I thought."

After my oldest had been on his own for a while, he called one night to tell me he had discovered he could not sit down to a nice meal without saying Grace. He

didn't want to say the traditional "Bless us, O Lord..." but he did feel the need to say "thank you."

Later, a month or so after Christmas, I began to get the calls: "Did he get the package, the check? I haven't heard from him." So I called him and suggested that while thank-you notes did require more organization than exists in the lives of most young bachelors, they are part of a "Grace Way of Life." You don't eat thanks, wear it, use it, or spend it before you say it—"thank you"—to the giver.

What do I want my last words to be? Not "Give me more!" or "Not fair!" or "No!" I would like to be the kind of person whose last words are simply: "Thank You."

Merry Christmas. +

On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of God, who promises an abundant return on our investment.



Lord Jesus, so that there may be peace among the nations, within communities and families, and in our hearts, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 26–31

Monday, St. Stephen:
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 / Mt 10:17–22

Tuesday, St. John:
1 Jn 1:1–4 / Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Wednesday, Holy Innocents:
1 Jn 1:5–2:2 / Mt 2:13–18

Thursday, Octave of Christmas:
1 Jn 2:3–11/Lk 2:22–35

Friday, Holy Family: Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 / Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Saturday, Octave of Christmas:
1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18



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