



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 -Epiphany of the Lord.....	Page 4
Formed Pick of the Week	Page 5
Grow+Go	Page 6
Morning Glory Retreat Info	Page 7
Living the Liturgical Life.....	Page 8
Young Catholics Holy Happy Hour..	Page 9
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
Marriage Encounter	Page 14
Prayers for the Sick & Military	Page 15
Bringing Home the Word.....	Page 16



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:19

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

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

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

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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

School

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

Faith Formation

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

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



The Ultimate Stressor: There isn't much that really stresses me out. I can deal with chaos and last-minute stuff or even last-minute chaos and crises. The life of

a priest is filled with crises and last-minute stuff. You may start your day with an idea of how the day will progress, but then there is that family in need, the intervention, or the crisis you have to attend to that provides plenty of twists and turns to the day. But none of that stresses me out. I thrive on that stuff. But a cookie exchange, now that causes me stress!

The Parish Center's cookie exchange, as in the past, has some phenomenal bakers. When you're up against people like Mary Pat Brennan, Kathy Kalich, Dina Ciaffone, Rachel Gerard, Sharon Ozark, Patty Kesner, and my sister Jackie Bugarin-Scheuer, you better have your ducks in order and, more importantly, just accept the fact your cookies WILL NEVER reach the perfection of anything they create.

I was already stressing about our cookie exchange a few days before it was scheduled to happen. When I shared my story of woe on a family Zoom call before the exchange, my sisters and mom were all yapping at me that I should just go out and buy cookies. And, more importantly, if I decided to make something myself (for which they said I would be crazy), I should stick to something I knew. As my mom wisely and loudly shared, "DON'T EXPERIMENT. This isn't the time to experiment." Well, I didn't listen.

Eventually, I landed on a cookie I loved as a kid: Kolaczki Cream Cheese Cookies. The recipe seemed simple, and the accompanying picture made me think, "I can do that."

I went to Kroger the day before our exchange and got my ingredients. I was convinced this would be super easy, and according to the recipe, it would only take an hour and a half. I returned to the parish for confessions that night and planned to start baking away after our 8:30 PM family Zoom call. The cream cheese and butter were on the counter softening up, so this was going to be easy-peasy.

During our family zoom call, the "Sisters' Council" and Mom wanted to

know how the cookie exchange baking was going. I laughed and said I planned to start baking after the call. However, when I told them what type of cookie I landed on and that I was only going to START once our call was done, I had to turn down the volume on my iPad from the comments flying through my speaker.

Well, "Cark Griswold" got ready to put everything together. As he started to read the recipe, it said to roll out the dough with a rolling pin. Suddenly I dropped dead in my tracks. Rolling pin? Hmmm. Do I have a rolling pin? I thought I did. I started the hunt for a rolling pin. I was convinced I had one, but nothing was turning up. "OH, this is great," I thought to myself. "What a dork! Why don't you read the WHOLE recipe to ensure you have EVERYTHING?" I thought for a few moments about how I could improvise, but I was falling short. It was now 9:40 PM, and my only hope was to return to Kroger before it closed at 10 PM. So, I hopped into my car and made the mad dash out to Kroger. Thankfully, I found a rolling pin. As I headed to the checkout, I decided I would also get some ready-to-bake cookies just in case the easy-peasy Kolaczki cookies were a total and royal flop.

Well, there was nothing easy-peasy about these cookies. Thankfully, the parchment paper I used had grid lines, so I could dutifully roll the dough out to a 12-inch by 12-inch square. That was easy. As I was using the rolling pin, it became abundantly clear that my improvised methods would have made it more of a flop than they were already becoming.

After cutting the dough into smaller squares, I dusted the whole batch with powdered sugar as directed (while getting powdered sugar all over my floor, shoes, shirt, pants, etc.). I preheated the oven and then went to work on the filling. That seemed simple, too: a bit of water, cornstarch, and jam filling. I mixed it as directed and then waited for the cookie dough to harden in the freezer. The recipe then said to drop the filling by scant teaspoonfuls into the center of each square. What is the world is "scant." I thought I knew, but I figured I should look it up. So I did. Thankfully, I was right. I quickly confirmed that a scant teaspoon was nothing more than "almost a teaspoon.

I filled all the squares with goop, dabbed the required corners with egg white, and then joined those corners. Then into the

oven they went. I felt somewhat confident up to this point.

I checked their progress at the 12-minute mark in the oven. When I opened the oven, I wanted to scream. The cookies looked like they had vomited filling onto the cookie sheets. Only a little filling was left in the cookies, while the rest crystalized on the cookie sheets. What a mess! I scraped multiple and now hinged cookies off the cookie sheets and flopped them onto my cooling racks. I was not a happy camper. After surveying the damage, I decided it was time to scrap them and start baking my backups. It was so easy to drop a pre-made cookie dough ball on a cookie sheet and drop them in the oven.

After baking my backups, I let them cool for a bit on some additional cooling racks. Now, I had another problem; many of the backups were a little burnt! UGH! I should have just bought some cookies. By 1 AM, my blood pressure was probably sky high, but I was bound and determined to walk into the Parish Center with something. I called it quits for the night and decided to resume my work first thing in the morning after mass.

That following day, I scrambled to bake the last batch of backups and bag them. After doing so, I determined that I would also bag my failure cookies as a conversation piece for the grand gathering. So I broke off the crystalized ends and slopped them into bags. I was done with it!

At the grand gathering, I shared my tale of woe, and people humored me. The professional bakers tried some and tried to convince me they weren't all that bad. By this point, I was crabby and stressed out. I was ready for some chocolate wine! This is why I need to stick to my day job ... or do what my brother-in-law Lonnie does, bribe our niece McKenzie to bake our cookies! OR, listen to my mom and sisters (I had to throw that in because I'll hear about it anyways). Who needs a stress test when you have a cookie exchange?

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy New Year!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

Readings for the Epiphany of the Lord



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 8

Reading One – Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial – Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading Two – Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for

your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia – Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

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THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 01, 2023



God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montreal

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



How to Pray

Whether you are a veteran in the spiritual life or are just beginning, start this year off right by recommitting yourself to prayer! Join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein as they discuss ways to kickstart your prayer life this year!



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

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



January 1, 2023

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27 | Gal 4:4-7 | Lk 2:16-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

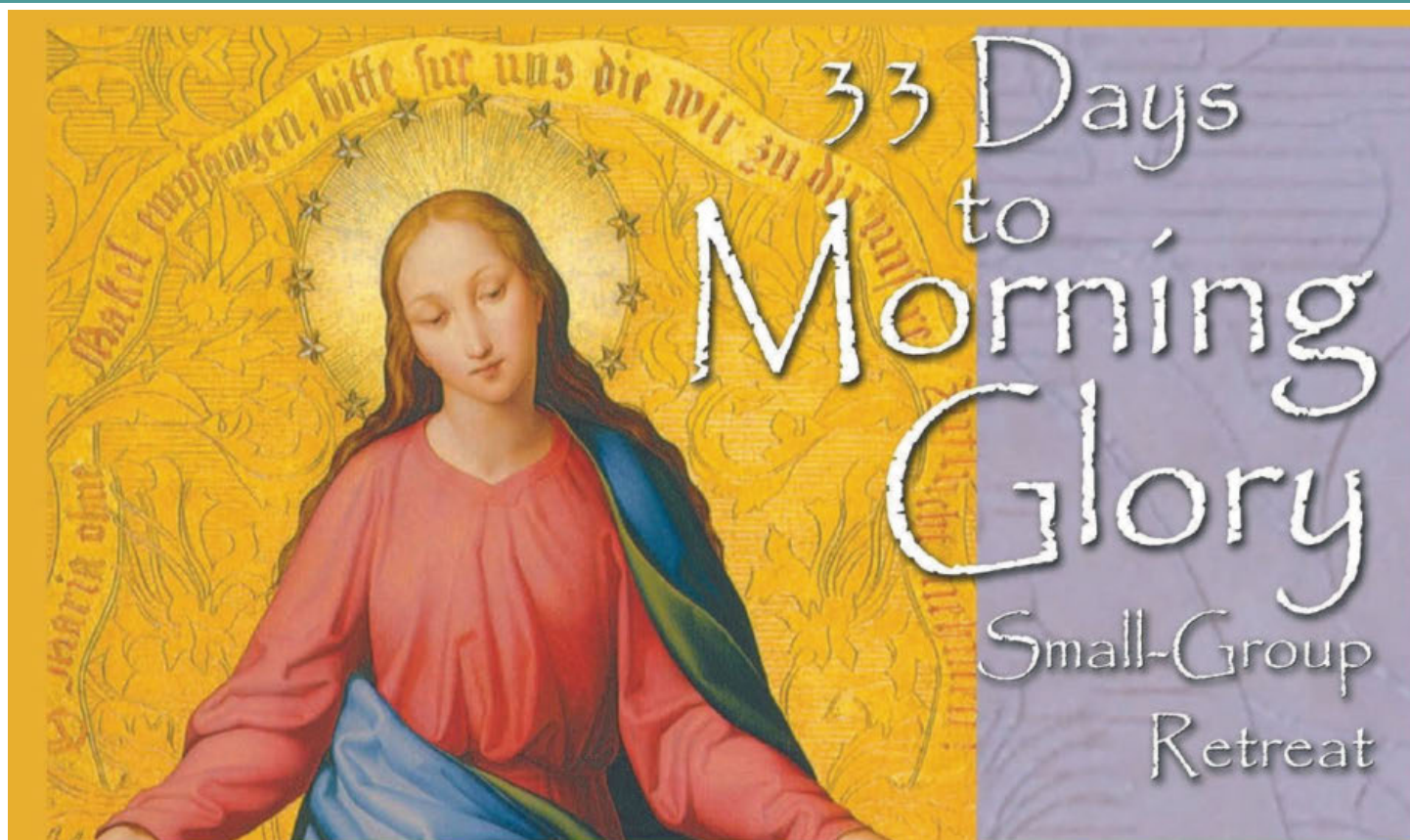
Today's readings remind us of the central role Mary plays in the story of Jesus and the story of our salvation. We may be tempted to place her on a pedestal – as well we should – she is the Mother of God! At the same time, today's Gospel reminds us she is not divine herself, but human – and she bore the incarnate flesh of the Son of God in his divine and human nature. She went through the sleepless nights and the uncertainties of parenting in all its stages. She learned early on what it takes many of us a lifetime to learn – often in fits and starts – absolute trust in God. As we celebrate this solemnity, we can bring our uncertainties, fears, and struggles to Mary our mother, asking for the grace to follow her faithful example.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Of course there's nothing wrong with New Year's resolutions, and I always admire people who have thought about them in advance. Me? I'm often tongue-tied on January 1 when someone asks me what my resolutions are (hmm ... maybe I should think about kicking that procrastination habit in 2023?) This is why Mary's reaction to the visit of the shepherds strikes me so profoundly. The shepherds pay homage to Jesus and spread the word that God's Son has been born. Mary, Luke writes, "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." As we move into a new year, so rich with possibility, we might follow Mary's example and reflect before jumping headlong into this or that goal or New Year's resolution. Instead, perhaps we can take the day – or a week or a month – to prayerfully reflect on how we can best put our faith in Jesus into action. How can we witness to our faith in our daily lives? What changes might help us do that? We can ask God to help us draw up a list of ways that we can be more faithful to him.

PRAY Pray the Hail Mary, reflecting on each line with gratitude. If you have more time, give yourself a "mini-retreat" by reading or reflecting on a book or devotional about Mary.



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)

LITURGICAL LIFE

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

She Kept All of These Things in Her Heart

"What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?"

My oldest has reached the age where she has started to ask questions like this. As she grows up, she is realizing that, in order to understand the world around her, she must first understand herself. This makes her insatiably curious about her own identity, her history — her "origin story," as they say in the movies.

I've got most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it's a detail that wasn't scribbled in a baby book or saved to my digital cloud, it's a memory that I can quickly summon and make real for her as we snuggle and talk about who she was, who she is, and who she may become.

I'm the mom. I have kept all of these things in my heart.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

In the way that I can tell my daughter everything there is to know about the part of her life she cannot recall, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ. All we have to do is ask.

Mary kept all of these things in her heart. — Luke 2:19

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the history of the rosary? Where did this prayer come from?

Answer:

Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means "garland of roses") was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 "Our Fathers" to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913. In the apostolic letter *On the Most Holy Rosary*, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: "The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary's prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love" (no. 1).

Holy Happy Hour

Wednesday, January 18 // 6:30 pm

Join us and other Catholic young adult singles for
Holy Happy Hour at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Troy

- Eucharistic Adoration + Rosary // 6:30 pm
- Confession // 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- Benediction // 8:00 pm

Happy Hour // 8:10pm // McVee's Pub & Grub, Troy

✉ hncyagroup@gmail.com

📷 @hot_and_holy

f @HHCYAGroup



Scan QR code to follow us on Instagram



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**

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.

Bereavement Group



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, January 2nd

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, January 3rd

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 4th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM PTG Meeting - Emmaus Hall

Thursday, January 5th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour

Friday, January 6th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 7th

9:00 AM Exceptional Faith Formation
11:00 AM Reconciliation

12:30 PM Baptism of Theo James Hentrich

4:00 PM Vigil Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 PM Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 8th

8:00 AM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
10:00AM Sunday Mass- Live Streamed
10:00 AM Family Faith Formation - Gym
12:00 PM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

Jan. 1, 2023 – Human Touch

“No matter how many times you yell ‘representative’ into the phone, you won’t reach an employee at (this particular company).”

That was the lead paragraph in a recent *Wall Street Journal* story detailing how an increasing number of companies are relying on virtual systems and so-called AI-powered chat boxes to replace human beings to help customers.

The company mentioned in the lead paragraph happened to be an airline, but the story went on to discuss similar changes being made in any number of industries, including hospitality, professional services, and transportation companies, as examples.

“Companies are taking this short-term view of reducing the load on employees and shunting customers off to poorly designed (alternatives), an analyst quoted in the story said.

The bottom line is that people in need of assistance end up feeling frustrated and unvalued. Most folks have experienced this in one way or another in recent years, and it’s on the increase.

How refreshing then that, spiritually speaking, the story is entirely different.

“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,” St. Paul writes to the Galatians in today’s second reading.

And that fact – that Jesus entered the world as a human – to show us in a human way what the love of God is all about, is the cornerstone of salvation history and the basis for our eternal hope.

“As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” St. Paul continues. “So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.”

Human contact. With God. Made possible through Jesus.

© 2022, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	January 2, 2023 Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church (White)
7:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Lally
Tuesday	January 3, 2023 Christmas Weekday (White)
7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for the Priests, Staff and Faculty of St. Joan of Arc
Wednesday	January 4, 2023 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (White)
7:00 a.m.	Rita LaHood
Thursday	January 5, 2023 Saint John Neumann, Bishop (White)
7:00 a.m.	John Gaines
Friday	January 6, 2023 Christmas Weekday, Saint Andre Bessette, Religious (White)
7:00 a.m.	Odette Karam
Saturday	January 7, 2023 Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord (White)
4:00 p.m.	Bonnie Batche, Rose Ferreri, Mark Siwik, Mark DeKoekkoek, a Special Intention for the J. Champine Family and Prayerful Appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of SJA
6:00 p.m.	Joseph Galano
Sunday	January 8, 2023 The Epiphany of the Lord (White)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions for St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	George J. Bugarin
12:00 p.m.	Jerome Rogier, Salvatore & Josephine Ciaravino, James Doetsch, Victor Hage, Thomas A. Mackey

Daily Readings

Monday, January 2

1 John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

Tuesday, January 3

1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

Wednesday, January 4

1 John 3:7-10
John 1:35-42

Thursday, January 5

1 John 3:11-21
John 1:43-51

Friday, December 23

1 John 5:5-13
Mark 1:7-11

Saturday, January 7

1 John 5:14-21
John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 8

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



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.”



“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

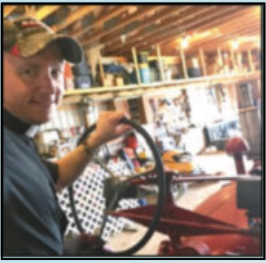


Reporting Sexual Abuse

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



Growing-up, December 27th was always letter-writing day in our house. Christmas parties over, all the chocolate on the tree eaten;

now it was time to sit down and write thank-you letters. I don't have a big family, so in truth it wasn't many letters, but still I dragged my heels. But my parents instilled the idea that when someone gives you a gift, even another pair of socks from Aunt Whoever, you'd better be writing to say "thank you" pretty soon.

Who would ever dare to stand there, hands out-stretched and accept a gift from someone, face-to-face, and not say "thank you?" Every Sunday, every day, Jesus gives us the greatest gift anyone could ever receive. I've come to appreciate those sock gifts, but it takes time for children to realize that it's not about the gift, but the giving – the intention behind it. But Jesus' gift of Himself, His very bodily presence in sacramental form of bread is unfathomably, infinitely more valuable. The Eucharistic gift is the gift of the Giver Himself – a gift as significant as the intention behind it. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (Jn 15:13).

There in our hands is the cancellation of all our sins, salvation, the strength to face anything this world can throw at us and eternal life with the Father. St. John Vianney wrote, "There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us." We hold out our hands and willingly accept the gift, sayi "Amen," declaring that we accept Him and we believe what we receive is truly Jesus Christ Himself, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. But do we believe? If we do, it cannot be without consequence for how we live out our lives.

Do we return to our seats filled with gratitude? Are we thinking about what's next, when our Sunday *really gets started?* *We just came face-to-face with the God of the universe, who created all that is, all that was and all that ever will be. And He gave Himself to you and to me...*

Celebrating Mass every day comes with it the inherent risk of complacency and I

pray that I don't fall into this trap. As I genuflect behind the altar, after elevating the Body of Christ on the paten and the Blood of Christ in the chalice, I have to take a moment to remind myself of what is occurring on our altar, not through any ability of mine, but by God's infinite grace and love.

As we receive the Eucharist today, I pray that there is a moment of reflection for all of us and that we pause to lift our hearts and minds to God with a "Thank you Lord! Thank you!" It's not the time in the mass for people-watching; it's not the time for gathering-up our possessions, checking texts or finding car keys; it's not the time for bolting for the door to avoid the announcements. It's a moment in our day to thank God for His generosity. No letter writing needed—He would love to hear it from you directly.

On this first Sunday, this first day of the New Year, I can think of no more important reminder that to begin our New Year as Mary does in today's Gospel passage, reflecting in her heart on the things she has heard and seen. She recognized the awesome (in the true sense of the word) gift she had received from God and could not simply move on to the next thing. She would come to understand it more the more she reflected upon it. And no doubt the more she understood, the more she would have given thanks for this gift.

Winter? What Winter?: We always have early deadlines for the bulletin around Christmas and the New Year, so as I write this, on December 20th, we are hours away from the shortest day of the year. I don't know anyone who enjoys the shorter, darker days on winter... BUT...! For me, I look forward to this moment, not for the shortest day, but the day after! If you remember the hair-brained theory I mentioned last year, that day after the shortest day is the first day of summer (in my delusional world of kidology). It's all a game of convincing myself that the worst is behind us - the days are longer now and summer is slowly, incrementally edging closer toward us. Okay, a summer no doubt with ill-timed snow and *slightly* lower than desired temperatures, but summer none the less. Please do not try to disavow me of my delusion—I won't hear it! I spent 4 (actual) summers in Michigan back in the 1990s before I realized there was a winter too! And by then I was committed... (or maybe I ought to be...!)

So with the onset of "quasi-summer," I'm

looking forward to more projects. What's next? Last summer/ Fall, I completed the most fun of the "building from junk" projects. In August the Parish Center conference room chairs were replaced. I spent about 6 hours taking the old ones apart to save the oak frames, not knowing what I'd use them for, but one day I was looking at them in my garage and an idea came to me! "I'll build a church!"



Using some old pallets and a picture in my mind of a little country church I spent some time at in South Dakota, a few weeks later I had a lil' old country church of my own (actually, not so little!).



On a windy day, the bell rings by itself. The church is fully water-proofed with copper roof-flashing and exterior lighting. I'm waiting for the roof to weather green to match St. Joan's roof. Like most of my projects, I had a the beginnings of the idea before I had the end-point, so I don't really know what to do with this church now, but rumors are that there will be mini-choir try-out in the Spring and a tiny CSA appeal! Happy New Year!

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew

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.

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

Chris & Catherine Snidow

Phone: (214) 327-4579

Email: cwrrind@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com

St. Joan of Arc parishioner:

Darryl Bryk



St. Matthews' Church Holiday Choir Singalong

Celebrate the closing of the Christmas Season with a warm afternoon of carols, chanting, and cheer on Sunday, January 8, at St. Matthew Church, 6021 Whittier, Detroit.

St. Matthew's special Holiday Choir will lead a Christmas carol singalong in the Church at 3:30 p.m.

At 4 p.m., all are invited to participate in a Vesper Service (evening prayer) for Epiphany, the Feast of the Magi, the Three Wise Men.

Immediately after Vespers, we will gather in the church auditorium for Christmas cookies, hot cider, and mulled wine for fellowship and fun.

The doors to the church will be open at 3 p.m. for personal worship if so desired. If you have any further questions, please call the rectory at 313-884-4470. There is no cost for the event.

Please come!



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Kenneth Beaupre
Mark Beaupre
Gaetano Biondo
Gilbert Bousho
Elizabeth Brock
Lori Cardosi
Patricia Clare
Ed Cole
Joan Combella
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
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
Linda Vitale
Eileen Wallace
Joseph Whalen
Marilyn Wicker
Adrienne Weidenbach
Joyce Wiekrykas
Eddie Zatyraz

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 +

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother Of God (A)

January 1, 2023

Like the Morning Star

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For the first four centuries following Jesus' ascension, Christians grappled with understanding how his humanity and divinity commingled in his person. His humanity was evident to all who walked and talked with him. His divinity was also evident to his disciples because of the miracles he worked and his resurrection. In short, they knew he was fully human, and they knew he was fully God, but how could he be fully both at the same time?

The Council of Ephesus settled the issue definitively in 431. The Church declared that in the one person of Christ there are two natures: one divine and one human. This same council also declared, as a natural consequence, that the holy

virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*), since she conceived and gave birth to the Word of God. So today's feast is one of the oldest, shared by all Christians from the earliest times.

When Mary said yes to the Incarnation and gave birth to the Savior, all of us could bask in his divine light. She is like the morning star that first breaks the horizon and mirrors the light of the sun that she both foretells and follows. In loving Mary, we truly honor her Son. God was the first to praise her through Gabriel—"Hail, favored one!"—and the one who blessed her beyond all other creatures. We are merely following his example. +

A Word from Pope Francis

Looking at Mary with her Son in her arms, I think of young mothers and their children fleeing wars and famine or waiting in refugee camps. They are many!....If we become artisans of fraternity, we will be able to mend the threads of a world torn apart by war and violence.

Angelus, Rome, January 1, 2022



Sunday Readings

Numbers 6:22-27

"The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

Galatians 4:4-7

God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law....

Luke 2:16-21

Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

In the year 431, the Council of Ephesus ruled that Christ has two natures: He is fully human, and fully divine.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When my inner peace is threatened, do I quietly call on God?
- Is God asking me to say yes to something or someone today?

The Duty of God's Foot Soldiers

By Emily Blasik

Even if doing this feels small, volunteering in your community or simply loving your neighbors in a new way can make a difference.

Americans have had a few tough years. With mass shootings, violence, deep political divides, and more, our country seemed to be falling apart piece by piece.

On many mornings, I couldn't even bear to turn on the news. Everywhere you looked, tragedy was at the forefront. As a result, we saw a deep-seated fear envelop the hearts of many in an ununited United States: fear of the future, fear of the unknown, and even fear of our neighbors, all made evident by the sheer amount of hate and malice running rampant in our streets as well as our social media spheres. As we know, words can be weapons, too.

It's difficult to know what to do in these situations or how to react. Even harder still is discerning how to help. When tragedies strike—whether a natural disaster, mass shooting, or terrorist attack—we feel a certain amount of helplessness, like a spectator watching from the stands. This is how I felt after white nationalist protests made headlines. I was confused and hurt by the state of our country, but I didn't know how to help mend it.



At Mass one Sunday, God's message rang clear. The homily spoke to my heart: "Do not despair during these times, and most importantly, do not lose your faith in God," said our pastor, Fr. Mike. "We might not be able to change the world overnight, but we can make a difference where it counts: in our homes and in our communities."

As his words started to sink in, a

feeling of peace settled over me. When the ways of the world get us down, we have a choice: We can either spend all of our energy panicking and perhaps inspiring panic in others, or we can focus on causing change in our own circle of influence. Small as it may feel, volunteering in your community or simply loving your neighbors in a new way can make a difference. If you can donate money to those in need, do so. Lead with love, and the rest will follow.

While the holidays probably helped provide distractions from the year's drama, January brings us back to a sobering reality. What's next for our country? No one can be sure. Clearly, the problems remain unsolved, but whatever does happen, it's crucial to remember that God is with us. And we are his foot soldiers, showing the way for a better tomorrow. +

This reflection is from an issue of *Liguorian*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Redemptorists. To subscribe or purchase a gift subscription, go to Liguorian.org or call 866-848-2492.



Lord Jesus, so that we may imitate your mother and say yes to all God asks of us, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 2–7

Monday, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen:

1 Jn 2:22–28 / Jn 1:19–28

Tuesday, Christmas Weekday:

1 Jn 2:29–3:6 / Jn 1:29–34

Wednesday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

1 Jn 3:7–10 / Jn 1:35–42

Thursday, St. John Neumann:

1 Jn 3:11–21 / Jn 1:43–51

Friday, Christmas Weekday: 1 Jn 5:5–13 /

Mk 1:7–11 or Lk 3:23–28 or 3:23, 31–34, 36, 38

Saturday, Christmas Weekday:

1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 2:1–11

Bringing Home
the Word 

January 1, 2023

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