



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 - 2nd Sunday in O.T.....	Page 4
Formed Pick of the Week	Page 5
Grow+Go	Page 6
Announcements at SJA.....	Page 7
Morning Glory	Page 8
Children's Choir	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
Prayers for the Sick & Military	Page 15
Bringing Home the Word.....	Page 16



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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. - Mt 2:10-11a

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

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

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
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Phone: 586-775-8370
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**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
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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
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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
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Deacon Dom Pastore
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Dina Ciaffone
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Music Director

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Principal

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Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
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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



CHRISTMAS THANKS: I wish to extend my appreciation and thanks to all who helped with the Christmas liturgies and environment this year. The Church

and the Sr. Carol Center looked AWESOME!

A ton of people helped, but I would like to single out a few individuals who went above and beyond to make it all so memorable for all of us!

First, I would like to thank the Markielewicz family, who not only took care of handling all the lights outside but were also responsible for the Christmas trees, wreaths, and other decorations inside the Church and Sr. Carol Center. Pat, Sandy, Abbie, and Zach spent countless hours as a family (often in the frigid cold) to get everything done for us! In addition, Letitia Kaiser and Joanne Kaiser helped fluff all the wreaths and bows on the night all that stuff was going into place.

I'm grateful to Fr. Rich, Dina Ciaffone, Anne Melise, and her adorable mother, Ilona Higgins, for all their work organizing and placing the poinsettias that decorated the Church and Sr. Carol Center. And then to Anne and Ilona, who painstakingly tend all our plants and flowers in Church year-round.

I'm grateful to those who contributed to the flower collection. People always ask where we get our poinsettias, plants, and flowers throughout the year. We get them from Canton Floral Gardens in Canon.

I'm grateful to Charlie Kaiser, who helped decorate the Athletic Field with lights and inflatables, which, unfortunately, didn't stand a chance with those gale-force winds before Christmas. We tried. But we already have ideas for next year. Father Andrew will be building a few things over the summer to help us with our ideas (hint, hint).

I'm grateful to Catherine Thomas Trudell, Kristine Hass, Eleonore Ellero-Groth, the Children's Choir, the Adult Choir, and all the musicians and accompanists who assisted with all the music during the Christmas season. The music was phenomenal and truly enhanced our Christmas liturgies!

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Mary Garofalo, Catherine Thomas Trudell, the parents, and, most especially, the little angels who participated in our O Holy Night children's program and the Children's choir on Christmas Eve. Watching the little ones sing or take part in retelling the story of Christ's birth brings great warmth to any heart!

I'm grateful to Amy Pattie, Charlie Kaiser, our teachers, and administrators for all they did to help our school children keep focused on Christ as the reason for the season. In addition, I'm grateful to Lisa Mangan, who led our school Christmas Music Program, Ron Malabed who coordinated the Advanced Band Christmas Program, and all the students who participated in this great annual tradition at SJA School.

I'm grateful to Maria and Larry Krzesowski, Debbie Bigham, and Jeanne Van Egmond for all their work in making the annual Memorial Tree a reality. Maria and Debbie spend countless hours machine embroidering the many ornaments that decorate the annual memorial tree to honor those who have gone home to the Lord over the past year. Rachel Gerard and Jeanne Van Egmond ensure all the names and dates are super accurate before and after the ornaments are made.

I'm grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Vern Dave, John Benoit, and Pete Ciaravino for their extraordinary work in getting the outdoor Nativity set into place and for ensuring the Church and Sr. Carol Center are spotless for all of our Christmas liturgies. So many behind-the-scenes and last-minute requests are made of them, and I'm grateful for all they do to get it done!

I'm grateful to Mary Garofalo and her team, who helped in the Kitchen and ensured all our Advent and Christmas receptions and gatherings were extra special. We have plenty of additional gatherings this time of year on top of our regular events and funeral luncheons.

I'm grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Rachel Gerard, Jackie Bugarin-Scheuer, Kathy Kalich, and Mary Pat Brennan for their hard work and efforts in taking care of the flurry of requests that came through the Parish Center during Advent and especially during the days leading up to Christmas. It's hard to keep track of the comings and goings of people (and boxes) and all the requests, but they do a phenomenal job and always do it with warm hearts and great

smiles.

I'm grateful to all those who participated in the Giving Tree Project or helped sponsor a family for Christmas. Because of your generosity, we raised around \$21,000 that was then used to purchase gifts or gift cards for Father Murray Nursing Center, Nativity of the Lord Church, St. Raymond Church, We Care Foster Care, St. Mary Center in Centerline, the Orchards of Roseville Senior Living Facility, the Orchards of Harper Woods Senior Living Facility and Munger Elementary School in Detroit. On top of these groups, we also adopted three families for Christmas. I want to single out our SJA 6th graders, who bought \$350 in gift cards from the money they raised wrapping gifts.

I'm grateful to my team of family members who, before our Christmas Eve dinner, helped place all those tea lights outside along the sidewalks during the 6 PM mass. We've done this now for three years in a row. Despite the sub-zero windchills on Christmas Eve, they placed close to 2,000 tea lights outside. And those little tea lights were still going strong on January 2!

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass and Dina Ciaffone for all their hard work and dedication in creating and editing the special Christmas edition of the bulletin. Of course, creating all that content isn't so easy ... but it is fun!

Our liturgies were prayerful and beautiful and led us to a deeper relationship with the Lord; it took a lot of people working together to make it all happen. It was another extraordinarily beautiful Christmas at SJA! THANK YOU!

Now, of course, and because we are SJA, there were plenty of behind-the-scenes funny moments, blunders, and issues. Just wait ... I probably have enough content from my perspective to fill TALLer Tales for the rest of January. Stay tuned.

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

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

Readings for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 15 A

Reading One – Is 49:3, 5-6

The LORD said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial – Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come."

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Reading Two – 1 Cor 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia – Jn 1:14a, 12a

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. To those who accepted him, he gave power to become children of God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Jn 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 08, 2023



A Bible Study on the Luminous Mysteries: The Baptism of Jesus (Part 1)

Why was Jesus baptized by John the Baptist and what does this mean for the Sacrament of Baptism? Sit down with Taylor Kemp and Dr. Michael Barber as they unpack the first Luminous Mystery of the Rosary.



Reborn - Episode 1: A New Creation

This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!



The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist The Bible and Baptism Episode 3

Dr. John Sehorn joins Fr. Isaac Morales, OP, a Dominican friar of the Province of Saint Joseph and Associate Professor of Theology at Providence College. This episode highlights the significance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist.

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

“Rise up in splendor,
Jerusalem!

Your
light has
come.”

(Is 60: 1)



January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It's easy to stay inside and cozy up on the couch these winter months. Having just gotten through the winter solstice, many of us crave light and warmth. The language of Isaiah may resonate with us even more deeply this time of year: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory." In today's Gospel, in the dark of night, the Magi follow a bright star to pay homage to Jesus, whom they recognize as the newborn king of the Jews. On the Epiphany, which means "manifestation," we celebrate this moment when Christ's light shone forth to the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*: "The key point is this: The wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to pay homage to the Christ Child, each of us journeys every day toward a fuller life in Christ. Just as the Magi followed the light to discover Christ, so does the light of Christ serve as our constant beacon, reorienting us toward God and his holy path. After worshiping the Christ Child at Christmas, let us move forward and pay homage to the Savior through our words and actions. Although Epiphany signifies the official "end" of the Christmas season, it is fitting that it falls at the beginning of a new calendar year because it allows us to reexamine, among our traditional "New Year's resolutions," how we live our lives in the light of Christ. "The wise men from the east are a new beginning," the pope said. May their journey and experience inspire us to "begin anew" however we must, and offer Jesus our gifts of love and devotion, considering how his light may shine through us to others.

PRAY "Dear Jesus, as you led the Wise Men to you by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to you by the light of faith. Help us to desire you as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from you. May we, like them, have something to give you when we appear before you. Amen."

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.

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.

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at St. Joan of Arc from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Sr. Carol Center.

Join us!

 **St. Joan of Arc**

Online  Giving



Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

Download the Online Giving app today at OLGApp.com

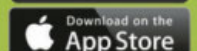
Donations

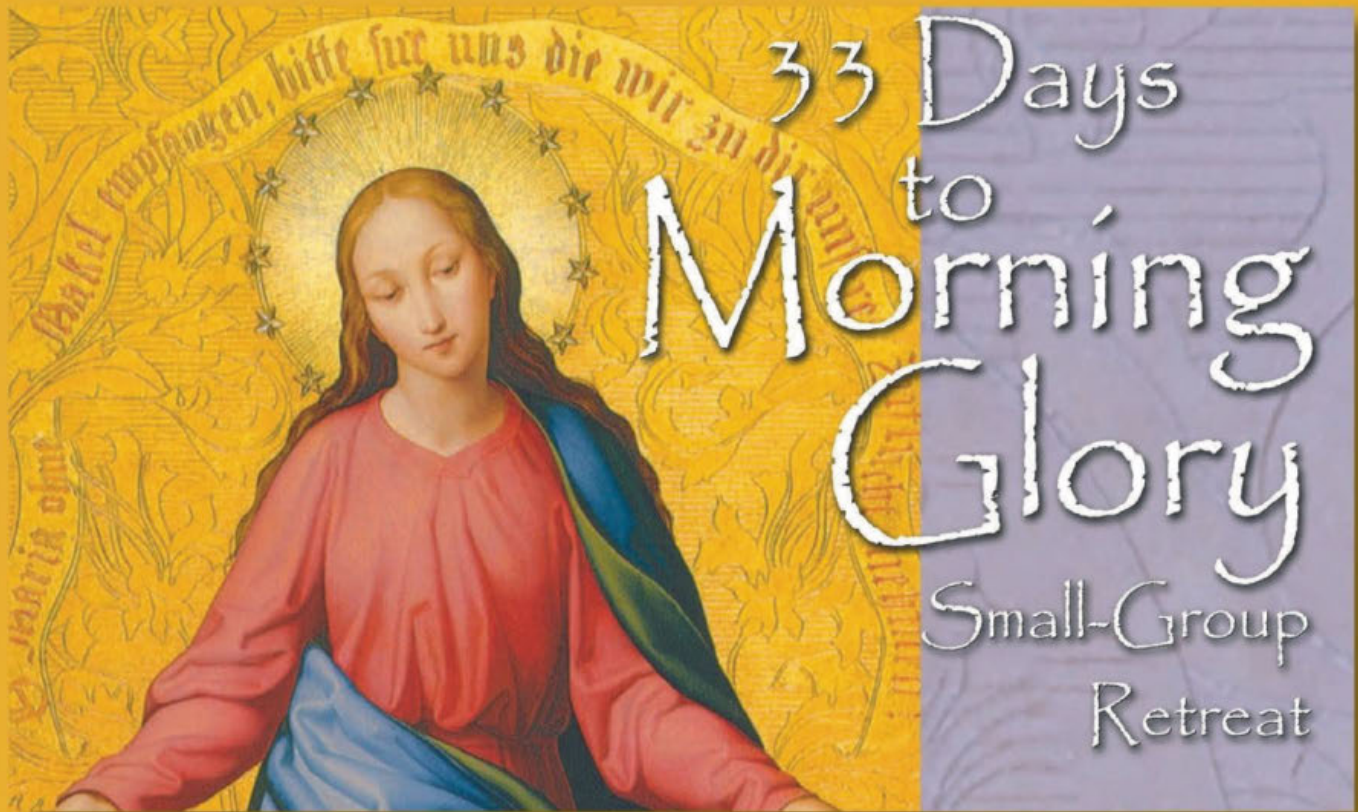
Payments

Give online at stjoan.church or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

4719





There is still time to register and be part of this weekly retreat. Learn more at sjascs.org/morning-glory

CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

Come and join our new children's liturgical choir **Grace Notes** for students from our parish and school in grades 1-5

Weekly practices begin Wednesday, January 18, from 6:15-7 pm in the Church Music Room (off the parking lot between the church and school).

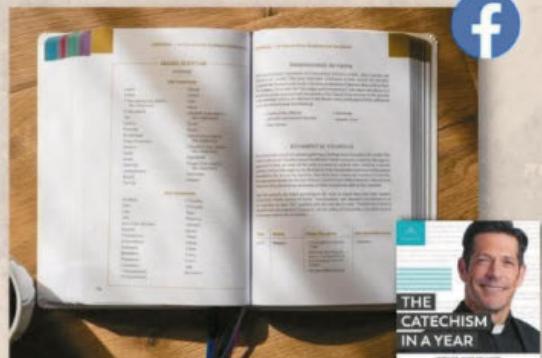
For details and to register go to sjascs.org/childrens-choir.

Contact Catherine Trudell with questions at cthomasesjascs.org or at the Parish Center at 586-777-3670

St. Joan of Arc

Join with parishioners and online friends as we work our way through the *Catechism in a Year* with Fr. Mike Schmitz and Ascension Press. New members welcome any time.

Find the link to the SJA SCS **Catechism in a Year Discussion Group** on the SJA Facebook page (search @sjascs) or see the homepage of the parish website.



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

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, January 9th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 PM Confirmation Class - EH
7:00 PM Men's Fellowship - St. Mary

Tuesday, January 10th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 11th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, January 12th

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

Friday, January 13th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 14th

11:00 AM Reconciliation
12:30 PM Baptism of Elsie E. M. Donaghue
Olive Wood Sales - After all masses - Gather Sp.
4:00 PM Vigil Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 PM Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 15th

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

Words on the Word

Jan. 8, 2023 – Slam Dunk

Local basketball fans know this was supposed to have been an exciting year for the Detroit Pistons, in which a number of loose ends were projected to start coming together.

Alas, pro sports, like so many other things in life, don't always go according to the clipboard plan.

It was particularly gratifying then, when the team's owner made headlines a few weeks ago by announcing a \$350,000 donation to SAY Detroit, a well-known philanthropic organization that helps some of the city's neediest people with things like shelter, food, medicine and education.

Specifically, a story in *The Detroit News* noted, the contribution will be used toward a technology and media center.

That's a very gratifying development and serves as a great reminder for all of us that, even as another Christmas season draws to close with today's observance of the Epiphany, there still is much joy and celebration to share, thanks to the birth of the Christ child in the world.

And, even more importantly, as we pause once more to reflect on the blessings that each of us has experienced during this holiday season, we might be reminded that it all pales in comparison to the infinite blessings awaiting us in the Kingdom of heaven.

That, after all, always has been and always will be the reason for the season.

"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," we hear in today's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

"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."

© 2022, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday January 9, 2023 Baptism of the Lord (White)

7:00 a.m. A Special Intention for the Family of Tina Calisi

Tuesday January 10, 2023 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Anna Fazi

Wednesday January 11, 2023 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. George J. Bugarin

Thursday January 12, 2023 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Kenneth A. Smith

Friday January 13, 2023 Weekday Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Green/White)

7:00 a.m. Joseph Allemon

Saturday January 14, 2023 Weekday, BVM, Vigil Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green/White)

4:00 p.m. Steve Divirgil, Theresa & Chuck Divirgil, Bonnie Batche, Rose Ferreri, Sophie Rupinski, Mark DeKoekkoek and a Special Intention for the J. Champine Family

6:00 p.m. A Special Intention for Sally Cabot

Sunday January 15, 2023 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

10:00 a.m. A Special Intention for Aaron Rupp

12:00 p.m. Johnny Spath, Frank Doetsch, Robert Boesiger, Helen Zukoff, Ms. Braveheart, Philomene Wolschlager, Kathy Meyer

Daily Readings

Monday, January 9

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Matthew 3:13-17

Tuesday, January 10

Hebrews 2:5-12
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 11

Hebrews 2:14-18
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 12

Hebrews 3:7-14
Mark 1:40-45

Friday, December 13

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, January 14

Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 2:13-17

Sunday, January 15

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34



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.”

Joyce Payne
Rose DiNoto
Francis Conroy
Kenneth Choike
Kathy Meyer



“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.”

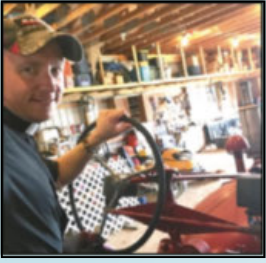
Minnie Louise Haskins



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.



New Year:

2023 is upon us. How shall we approach it? So many of us look for a New Year's Resolution to take on some way in which

we can improve ourselves. I noticed in the news that a man from the UK set upon his New Year's Resolution on January 1, 2022, and successfully completed it on December 31st. He determined that his resolution would be to run a complete marathon.... EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR!! And he did. He was successful in completing his resolution, and in the process raised £1 million (\$1.21 million) for a cancer charity.

Since that one has already been taken, I'm going to take on something different, I think.

Before seminary I practiced Kung Fu for a few years. It was a mental as well as a physical discipline. I recall the teacher talking one day about the problem with our New Year's Resolutions, that it isn't so much in the resolutions being wrong, but our decision-making. We make a good decision for good reasons, but then we allow ourselves too much latitude when maybe we're not having a great day.

It might be day two or day thirty-two. It might be the 4th month or the 7th month. But we allow ourselves to make a second decision, ignoring that the first one was more carefully considered and made after thought and reflection and with good intention and motivation.

The first decision to do that thing is the better one. But the second decision is the easier one to make because it generally means breaking the resolution and giving ourselves a break. But the second decision only provides a temporary reprieve, and ultimately leaves us feeling defeated once again.

No two people enter into the new year with exactly the same emotions. Some enter with fear and reluctance while others enter with optimism and enthusiasm.

None of us can look into the future, for God in his great mercy and wisdom has kept the future veiled from our eyes. And so we must make our entrance into 2023 in faith. St. Paul stated, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

There must have been some interesting camel-back conversations on the journey the Magi made to Bethlehem. That would have been a torturous trip over the course of several months, following a star, not knowing exactly where it would lead them or what they would find. But they pressed-on.

I'm sure Mary and Joseph had some interesting conversations on their way to Bethlehem and later, most unexpectedly, as they fled for their lives and the life of their son, Jesus, heading for Egypt. It was foreign to them, with a different language and culture and without the support of friends and family. It was not what they were expecting, but they were stepping-out in faith and following the Lord's Will.

In seminary I used to choose a scripture passage, usually just a verse or two, to focus on each year and haven't really done that in several years, but I think I might try to do that this year and I would encourage you to think about doing the same. Choose a passage and write it out and place it in a prominent place where you will see it daily. Then as you ponder it, see how it applies to you throughout the year – scripture is the living Word of God and always has something new to teach us.

As we go into this year, looking to the future will be governed by the way we look at the present and continuing to place our every moment in God's hands.

Looking around us today we must not allow the failures of the past to defeat us in living a faith-filled life in the here and now. Neither must we allow the fear of the future to rob us of serenity today. The prayer of serenity should express our attitude: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference." It's a prayer of

Abandonment to the Will of God. Similarly, we must not allow our successes of the past to allow us to fall into complacency and trick us into thinking we can consider God an accessory to our lives. Rather that when life is going well for us, it is God who is maintaining us in that grace and we must be thankful and *give* thanks to God for this grace.

Today is all we have. The past is gone. The future never comes because it is always made up of todays. Thus, to insure that all of our todays are worthwhile we must be people of faith. The writer of Proverbs admonishes us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

There are endless resolutions we can choose, and the old standbys of course. But consider choosing one that will draw you closer to the Lord by next New Year's Eve. The Lord will bless any deliberate step toward Him.

Don't try to climb the mountain in one step. But maybe you can read the readings before mass each Sunday if you don't already. It can make a huge difference to your understanding of what God is saying. Maybe choose to pray with your spouse every night or every morning. Maybe decide to be attentive to the stirrings of the conscience and come to confession more regularly, rather than just waiting until Lent or Advent. Try the Catechism in a Year or Bible in a Year programs. Resolve to make sure you make it to Mass all 52 Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation this year. Maybe try to make it to daily Mass whenever you are able.

Even if 2023 is unexpected, even if it offers surprises and challenges, as it surely will, and even if it isn't the year we hoped for, it will no doubt come with its share of joys and blessings too.

Psalm 118 reminds us: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24).

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: cowrind@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com



St. Joan of Arc parishioner:

Darryl Bryk

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Terra Sancta Pilgrimages with Franciscan friar Fr. Alex Kratz will be leading a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **April 18-May 2, 2023**.

This life-changing experience walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass and Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer and spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians.

Cost is \$5,200 (all expenses included, round trip from Detroit, 3 daily meals, all tips and taxes). Registration is first come, first serve with \$1,000 deposit to secure a seat. Full payment by Feb. 15.

Orientation Meeting is Sunday, **January 15** at St. Joseph Chapel (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48331).

Next pilgrimage: November 28-December 12, 2023.

For information, contact Fr. Alex: (313) 727-9784 or abunaalex@yahoo.com.



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Prayers Needed

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Geri Beaugrand	Grace Dickerson	Leeland Helzer	Adam Moore	Terri Smigels
Kenneth Beaupre	George Dickerson	Valerie Hudson	Jim Moore	Kathleen Smith
Mark Beaupre	Nick DiCresce	Zayne D. Kapinski	Joel Moore	Cathy Spindler
Gaetano Biondo	Renee DiMusto	Thomas Kler	Joan Persichini	Virginia Stieber
Gilbert Bousho	Jean Edwards	Catherine Konen	Mary Pare	Beverly Taylor
Elizabeth Brock	Frank Faiss	Delaney Kraemer	Tracy Rauch	Bernadette Thompson
Lori Cardosi	Ben Fazio	Concetta Leone	Sr. Alice Riegel	James Thompson
Patricia Clare	Susan Federoff	David Lott	Diane Rochwalski	Linda Vitale
Ed Cole	Taylor Fisher	Dorothy Lubinski	Larry Rochwalski	Eileen Wallace
Joan Combella	Jeanne Fleming	Joan Mannino	Suzanne Roland	Joseph Whalen
Ellen Dancey	Michelle Goode	Karen McMahon	Pat Rybak	Marilyn Wicker
Joan DeDene	James Gutowski	Charlotte Miller	Victoria Rydholm	Adrienne Weidenbach
Phyllis Dedene	John Hanselman	Mark Moffitt	Lily Saith	Joyce Wiekrykas
Catherine DeRose	Rich Hanselman	Addison Montgomery	Dianne Schelosky	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

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

January 8, 2023

A Christ for Every Nation

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“Go back where you came from!” What if the Magi heard this when they came to the place where the Child was and heeded that derisive message? The “signs of the times” that they read told them a king had been born. They might not have known exactly where to look, but they knew what they were looking for, and they recognized that king when they found him. These righteous men were not Israelites, yet God revealed this great mystery to them. Furthermore, there is no indication that they eventually became Israelites. Rather, “they departed for their country” (Matthew 2:12). God

really does not play favorites.

Then how are we to understand the claim of being God’s Chosen People, whether ancient Israelites or the Christian community? What’s the point of being chosen if you are not the favorite? While acknowledging God’s special love for his Chosen People, both Isaiah and Paul answer this question. The prophet claims that “nations will walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning” (Isaiah 60:3), and Paul writes, “the stewardship of God’s grace...was given to me for your benefit” (Ephesians 3:2). In other words, some have been chosen by God to bring the light of God’s love to others.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates two important realities—the revelation of God to all people and the responsibility to reveal that astounding mystery to others. The Magi personify both realities. They were men of another faith tradition to whom God revealed the mystery of the Incarnation, and they returned home and probably proclaimed to others the wonder of that mystery. +

*Some have been chosen
by God to bring the light
of God’s love to others.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God. They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor. Their prostration is the sign of those who place their own ideas aside and make room for God. It takes humility to do this.

Angelus, Rome, January 6, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How respectful are you of the religious quests of others?
- In what ways might your life shine the light of God’s love on others?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned
upon you.

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

The Gentiles are coheirs, members
of the same body, and copartners
in the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

Matthew 2:1–12

They prostrated themselves and
did him homage.

The Stranger Knows Him

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Today's Gospel is very familiar to us. We have mental pictures of the three Wise Men traveling by night, riding camels, wearing rich robes, and each carrying treasure boxes full of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The passage we hear today is the first half of chapter 2 of Matthew's Gospel, ending with the adoration of the child by the Magi and the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod. The rest of the chapter includes the flight into Egypt by Joseph and Mary with their newborn baby, the massacre of the innocent children of Bethlehem as Herod's men sought to rid the world of the infant king, and the return to Israel of the Holy Family after the death of Herod. It's a short chapter, only twenty-three verses, and it's all St. Matthew writes about Jesus before his baptism in the Jordan.

Saint Matthew was writing for Jewish Christians, and he took for granted that his audience knew Jewish history and the law and the prophets. In this short chapter, Matthew quotes the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) four times and each quote contains the name of a place—Bethlehem, Egypt, Ramah, and Nazareth. Why is Matthew



doing this? He is pointing out to the Jewish community that this Jesus is the fulfillment of all the prophets and the answer to their prayers; that he is not a stranger.

Luke, who was writing for Gentile Christians, mentions a different group who recognized Jesus. In his Gospel, he doesn't speak of the stranger but of the poor—the shepherds—who were the first to know him.

It seems that the Jewish religious and

political leaders should have recognized the Messiah. Herod consulted the chief priests and scribes, and they knew where he was to be born. Instead, strangers from the east, who had only a rumor to go by, welcomed him and did him homage.

Just so, it is possible for us to know the teachings but not know the teacher; to know the way but remain stuck on the path. The stranger sees what the native misses. The foreigner values what the citizen takes for granted. The poor and the alien recognize God.

Today we celebrate Epiphany—the light shines for all and into all hearts. Do we like what we see? If not, let's agree that rejecting the light of truth isn't the wisest response. Jesus promised that the truth will set us free (John 8:32). Garfield the cartoon cat said, "The truth will set you free...but first it will make you miserable!"

Have a blessed Epiphany! +

It is possible for us to know the teachings but not know the teacher; to know the way but remain stuck on the path.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, so that our homes may be havens of peace, our families a source of joy, our children safe, and our elders respected, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 9–14

Monday, Baptism of the Lord: Is 42:1–4, 6–7 or Acts 10:34–38 / Mt 3:13–17


Tuesday, Weekday:
Heb 2:5–12 / Mk 1:21–28 or
Heb 1:1–6; 2:5–12 / Mk 1:14–20; 1:21–28

Wednesday, Weekday:
Heb 2:14–18 / Mk 1:29–39

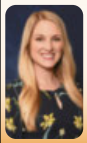
Thursday, Weekday:
Heb 3:7–14 / Mk 1:40–45

Friday, Weekday:
Heb 4:1–5, 11 / Mk 2:1–12

Saturday, Weekday:
Heb 4:12–16 / Mk 2:13–17

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 8, 2023

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