

SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

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3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Mt 4:19

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.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
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Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
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Music Director

Catherine Thomas
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Principal

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Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
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Office of Faith & Family Formation

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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



'Twas the "Night" Before Christmas ... ROUND TWO:

Yes, 'twas the
"night" before
Christmas, when
all through the
Church, not a
creature was

stirring, not even a mouse. The wreaths were all hung by the balcony with care, in hopes that Christmas crowds soon would be there; the parishioners were nestled all snug at their homes; with visions of warmer temperatures dancing in their heads; Father Andrew and I already had a full day of activity and had visions of the day ending swarming around in our head. The boiler, the cold, the popped breaker, and no streaming was enough to say, "That's enough; let's call it a day." BUT WAIT, it was Christmas Eve, and another Mass was yet to happen. But this should be a breeze, we foolishly told each other. What more could happen on Christmas Eve?

WELL, this is SJA! And lots can happen. After all, 'Twas the night before Christmas, and the Gremlins knew we were busy.

After I finished the 4 PM Mass, I headed up to the choir loft to get the computers and the streaming equipment all back in order. Once I knew we could go live, I headed to the Parish Center for my family dinner. Thankfully, my family knows the drill and was able to put it all together without much intervention from me. After dinner, I pulled out the 2,000 little tea lights the crowd would help drop around the Church. Some tried to weasel their way out of it only because we had sub-zero windchills that day. I was ready to cave, but the cousins pipped up and challenged the others. This group of young cousins loves a competition, so it became a game, and out they went to decorate the church perimeter with 2,000 tea lights! God bless them!

After dinner, we cleaned up and got the Parish Center back to normal. Then, my whole family left, and I returned to Church for what I envisioned would be a nice, calm, and prayerful liturgy. But wait, this is SJA, and it's NEVER that simple!

Mass started without a hitch. But then, during the Gloria, I notice some activity near the Mack/Overlake doors. First, I saw people coming and going as if someone was possibly having a medical issue; it

appeared things might have been under control. But then I saw Pat Curran approach Barb Hendrick on the other side of the Church. Some whispering went on, and I then saw Barb walking up the aisle leading to the Ambo. At this point, I also saw Pat Curran approach Father Andrew in the sanctuary, and then most hastily, Father Andrew took off to the back of the Church with his now flowing vestments flapping in the wind. Barb Hendrick then gave me the "Let's Stop / Time Out" sign, but I didn't process that too well. I figured that if Father Andrew and the assembled team were already in the back, I could continue with Mass, knowing that whatever was happening was being handled.

Trying to deliver my homily that night was an absolute disaster. My big headache from the day's earlier events came back with a vengeance. I had my eyes firmly planted in the back, watching all the activity while trying to deliver my homily. In retrospect, I should have just stopped Mass to figure out what was happening, but with a few hundred people in Church and it being Christmas Eve, I didn't want to stop.

But then I saw people carrying buckets and towels and rolled-up table clothes. I then saw a few parishioners jump in to help. There was a flurry of activity, and then I saw Father Andrew leading Joe Schotthoefer, Rory Mallon, Tom and Kathy Mazawey, Barb Hendrick, and a few others as if in a race to the far side of the Church. It then became clear we had a flood, and something significant happened in the back.

During the Creed, Father Andrew and I began to text each other. "Major pipe broken above old bathroom. I'm calling Dina," he texted. I responded, "The shut-off valve is in the ceiling, I believe near there. I just can't remember without seeing it. How bad?" "HUNDREDS of gallons," Father Andrew replied. I then said, "Check bathroom in my confessional ... my old confessional," because I was confident the shut-off valve was back there. I then saw Father Andrew dart off with a group to the Gathering Place and turn to the left near the bathrooms. I couldn't figure out for the life of me where he was going. It then dawned on me he had no clue what I was talking about when I said "my confessional," as he arrived amid Covid and we already abandoned the old confessionals in the back of Church and our new confessionals were conference rooms in the Sr. Carol Center. So I sent them on a wild goose chase while hundreds

of gallons of water poured out into the Church and down the ramp of those doors. By this time, it was offertory, and I paused and said to the congregation, "If we have any plumbers in the house, we could use your help in the back of the Church." I then saw the team race off back to the Gathering Place, and I could hear them enter behind me into the sacristy. "OH, they're now going for the main shut-off valve," I thought. And sure enough, the subsequent text from Father Andrew confirmed it all: "Stopped!" Amen. Blessed be God!

Immediately after Mass, I joined Father Andrew, Dina Ciaffone, Pete Ciaravino, Mark Ciaravino, Diann Regelbrugge, Joe Schotthoefer, Barb and Kevin Hendrick, Tom and Kathy Mazawey, and a few others to help with the cleanup. It was a mess, but gratefully we were able to get it all cleaned up by 12:15 or so and call it quits for the day. I'm grateful for all who stepped in to help that day! It wasn't your typical Christmas Eve at St. Joan of Arc ... but then again, I remember when a little boy decided to pull the nice shiny little red handle near an exit (the fire alarm handle) in the middle of a 4 PM Christmas Eve mass which brought many fire trucks to the scene. Oh, yes, 'Twas the night before Christmas ... MAYBE this is normal. If it happened any other way, it wouldn't be SJA! And that's why we love it! Top that, Clark Griswold!

End of the Year Tax Statements: With the many changes in the tax laws, itemizing deductions does not benefit as many people as in the past. As a result, many people do not need or benefit from the usual end-of-the-year tax statements we once generated. Please consult with your tax preparer to determine if you still need a contribution statement from SJA. If you need a contribution statement for your 2022 income taxes, please complete the online form at sjasc.org/taxstatements. We will generate a statement for you toward the end of January. Those who contributed \$2,000 or more will automatically receive a contribution statement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Center at 586-777-3670 or info@sjasc.org.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 29 A

Reading One – Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

Responsorial – Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free.

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Reading Two – 1 Cor 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the

world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

Alleluia – Mt 5:12a

Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mt 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 22, 2023



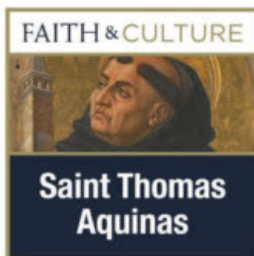
Saint Francis de Sales: Pastor of Souls

St. Francis de Sales became a hero during the Catholic Reformation for his pastoral care and spiritual writings. Join Dr. Chris Blum as he walks through the life of this great saint, who is celebrated on January 24th!



The Conversion of Saint Paul

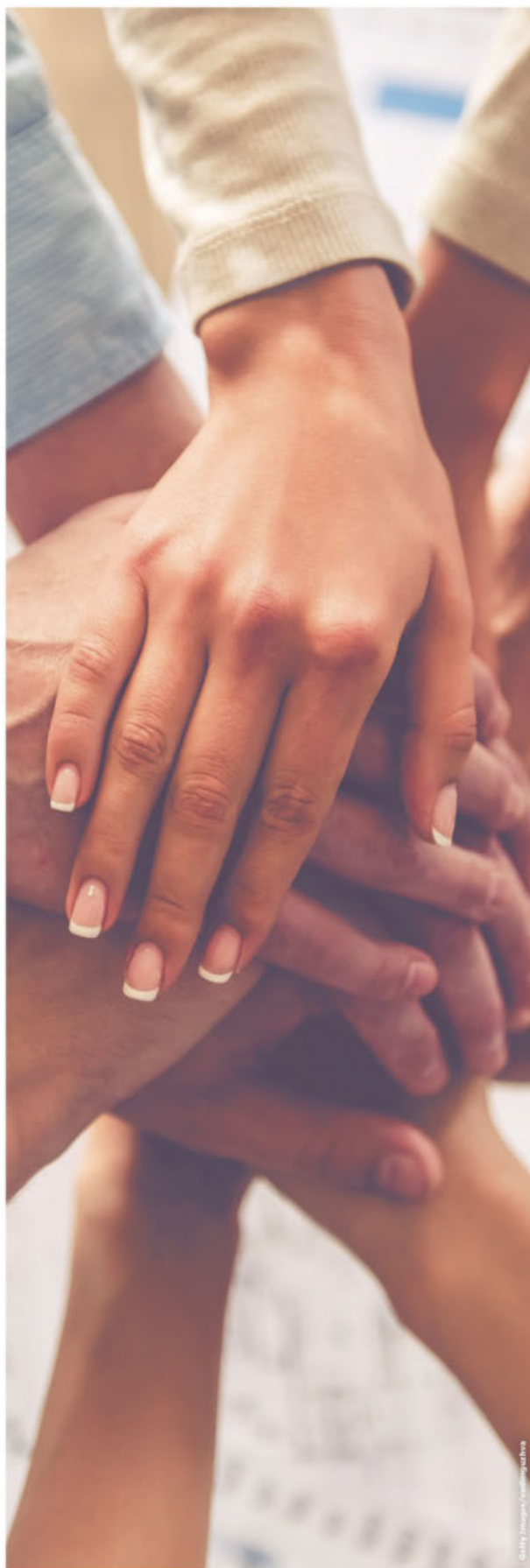
Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, to discuss the conversion of one of the largest figures in Christianity, Saint Paul.



Saint Thomas Aquinas with Randall Smith

The Angelic Doctor is often associated with his Summa Theologica among his other great works. Join Drs Christopher Blum and Randall B. Smith as they explore some of the lesser known works of St. Thomas Aquinas.

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



January 22, 2023

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 8:23–9:3 | 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 | Mt 4:12-23 or Mt. 4:12-17

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Since the Fall, the world has been riddled with strife and divisiveness. From the disobedience in the Garden, to Cain and Abel, to conflicts and wars throughout the centuries, it's clear that we humans are prone to picking sides and fighting over them. We hear about this even within the early Church from St. Paul in today's second reading. There were rivalries, and Christians were saying things such as, "I belong to Paul" or "I belong to Cephas." But Paul wisely asks: "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" Clearly not. There is only one source of Truth – Jesus Christ – and Paul never hesitated to refuse credit for himself, and to instead glorify the Lord in his word and deed. This is the model set for us – to refuse to set ourselves or God-made-in-our-own-image over and against the Triune God who created us. Christ came to unite us with himself and to one another, in reconciliation with the Father. His words are now our words: Repent and believe in the Gospel. Pray for the grace to come together as the body of Christ so that we can be his hands and feet in the world and carry out the work he began.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In Jesus Christ the kingdom of God enters into human history, fulfilling God's promise of salvation for his people. Christ inaugurated the kingdom on earth, and as members of his Church we are responsible for continuing to build it – here and now. As Christ called his first disciples and made them "fishers of men," so he calls us, that we might go forth "proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."

PRAY The Lord has commissioned us to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Where we cannot go physically or in person, we can go in prayer. Bring before the Lord all who yet need to hear his voice and repent and believe. Pray for those who are persecuted for their belief in Jesus Christ.

Help Save a Life



St. Joan of Arc will be sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive next Sunday, January 29th, from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Emmaus Hall.

If you are a regular donor, we thank you and hope to see you there. If you've never given before, it takes a little over an hour to donate and can save many lives.

The American Red Cross will not be taking walk-ins and you must have an appointment.

To make an appointment, log on- to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) (sponsor code: stj JoanBloodDrive) or call John Staperfenne at 248-789-8274.

Please help save a life and become a Red Cross Blood Donor!

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.

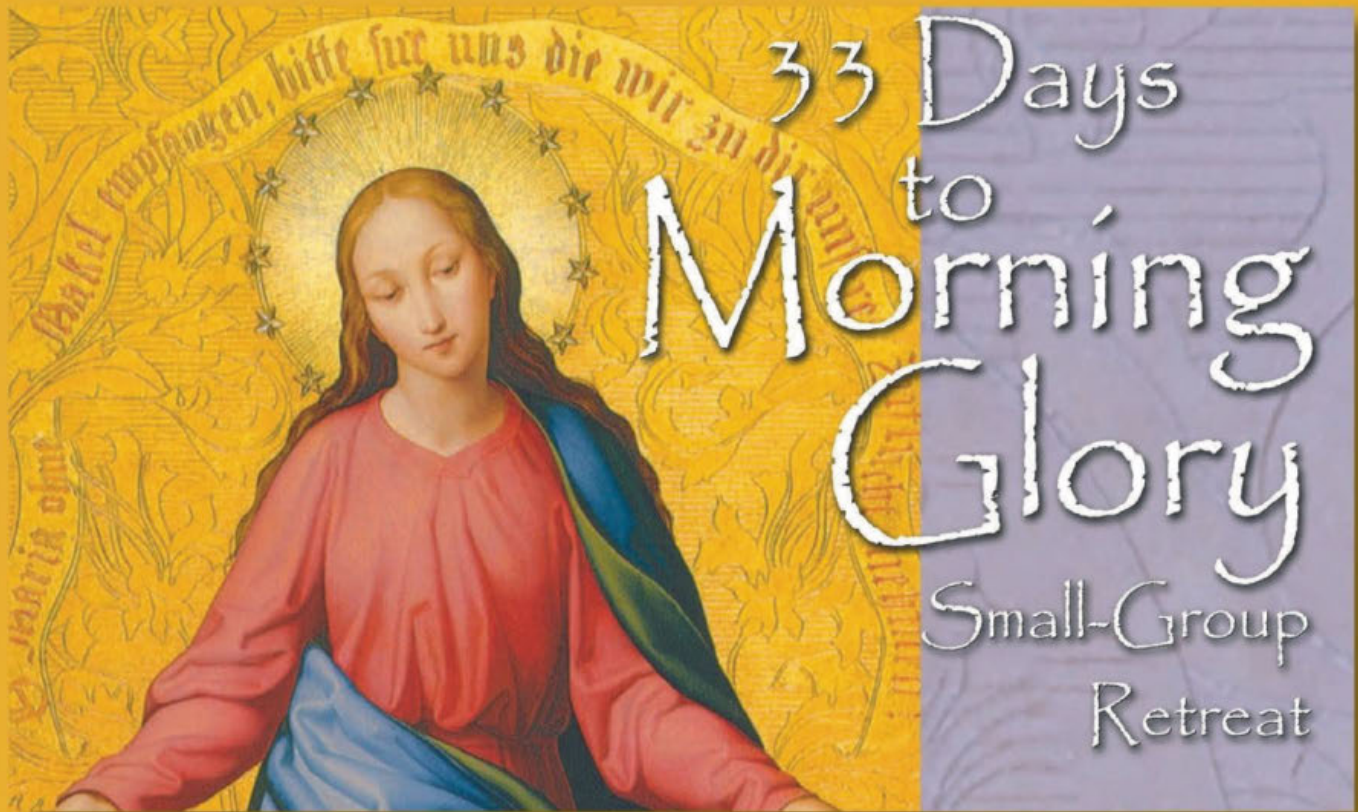
Join us!

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.



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).

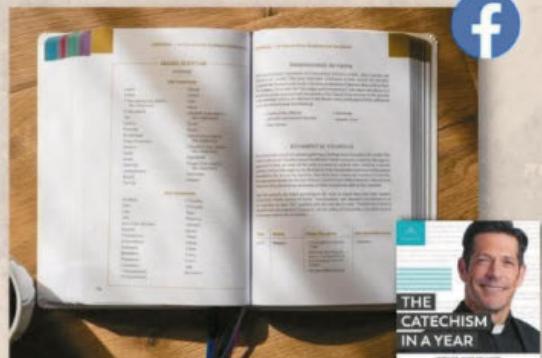
For details and to register go to sjascs.org/childrens-choir.

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.



Join us

Thursday, February 2, 6-8 pm

OPEN HOUSE WINTERFEST

Outdoor fun with school tours for visitors upon request



Visit with teachers, enjoy a hot dog and chips, sip hot cocoa, roast marshmallows and make s'mores, light a candle in the church, and celebrate SJA Catholic school with wonderful family fellowship. Dress warmly!

learn more at stjoan.net



A foundation of faith and excellence.

St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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586-775-8370

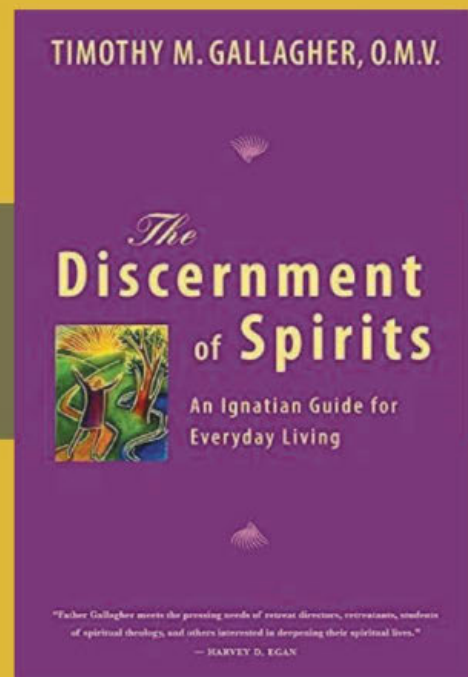
Young Adults Age 21 -35!

**Our young adult group has met
regularly for two years
and we invite you to join!**

**This January will feature Fr Timothy Gallagher's
Discernment of Spirits.**

**We'll listen to a 30min podcast, discuss the
episode, and enjoy fellowship Thursdays @ 7pm!**

**Interested? Contact Holly
@ hollymcgrath198@gmail.com
or St Paul's office: (313) 885 8855**



Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, January 23rd

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

Tuesday, January 24th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 25th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, January 26th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour
8:00 PM Knights of Columbus - St. Mary Rm

Friday, January 27th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 28th

11:00 AM Reconciliation

12:30 PM Baptism of Salvatore Nino DiPilla

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

Sunday, January 29th

8:00 AM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
8:00 AM American Red Cross Blood Drive –EH

10:00AM Sunday Mass- Live Streamed

12:00 PM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

Jan. 22, 2023 – Cause for Celebration

Unless one happens to be celebrating a birthday here in the middle of winter, these deepest, darkest days of January and February typically are not the first choice for big celebrations.

The New Year's Eve and Day festivities were three weeks ago already. The college football playoff parties are over with.

Yes, next week will be the NFL conference championships, followed a couple weeks later by the Super Bowl. Mardi Gras is later still. And Valentine's Day is in there, as well.

But after the revelry of the holidays, and until the warm weather rolls around again, this is typically the time of year when there is much more quiet time, hanging around the house, doing inside things.

For most folks anyway.

But the good news is that, if we lift our sights beyond the temporal and toward the eternal, there is cause for joy and celebration and wonderment every day of the year.

The Prophet Isaiah captured well this spirit of wonderment and elation in the Lord.

"Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is the darkness: for there is no gloom where but now there was distress," Isaiah writes in today's first reading.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian."

That's beautiful language, poetic in its celebratory tone and message.

May we look past the midwinter blahs and darkness and rejoice in the light of God's enduring love.

© 2023, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday January 23, 2023 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin (White/Red)

7:00 a.m. Lee Dunn

Tuesday January 24, 2023 Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (White)

7:00 a.m. George J. Bugarin

Wednesday January 25, 2023 The Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle (White)

7:00 a.m. Leonard LeFevre

Thursday January 26, 2023 Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, Bishops (White)

7:00 a.m. A Special Intention for the Lutfy Family

Friday January 27, 2023 Weekday Saint Angela Merici, Virgin (Green/White)

7:00 a.m. Laura and Jamie Puzzuoli

Saturday, January 28, 2023 Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Vigil Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (White)

4:00 p.m. Bonnie Batche, Mark DeKoekoek and a Special Intention for the J. Champine Family

6:00 p.m. Hugo Calisi

Sunday January 29, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

10:00 a.m. George J. Bugarin

12:00 p.m. Guido Regelbrugge, Anthony Lombardi, Dee & Pete Misuraca, Diane Bezy, Dean Hardin, Duane Gore, Clifford Zaydel, Sam Ciaramitaro, Michael Ciaramitaro

Daily Readings

Monday, January 23

Hebrews 9:15, 24-28
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 24

Hebrews 10:1-10
Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 25

Acts 22:3-16
Mark 16:15-18

Thursday, January 26

2 Timothy 1:1-8
Mark 4:21-25

Friday, January 27

Hebrews 10:32-39
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, January 28

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, January 29

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a



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.”



James Collins

“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.”

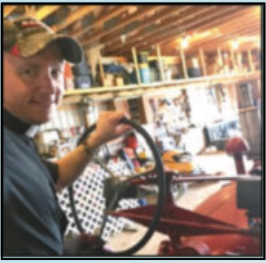
Minnie Louise Haskins



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.



Word of God Sunday: Three and a half years ago on the feast of St Jerome, Pope Francis proclaimed that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time be

observed annually as the Sunday of the Word of God. He declared it "a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people." He went on to vividly describe the power of the Word of God: it "makes a pathway within us. We listen to it with our ears, and it passes to our hearts; it does not remain in our ears; it must go to the heart. And from the heart, it passes to the hands, to good deeds. This is the path which the Word of God follows: from our ears to our heart and hands."

Saint Jerome, the priest, monk and Doctor of the Church is renowned for his extraordinary depth of learning and translations of the Bible into Latin known as the Vulgate Bible. It was the first translation from the original text so that the Western world could access God's word.

Besides his contributions as a Church Father and patronage of subsequent Catholic scholarship, Jerome is also notable for his devotion to the ascetic life, and for his insistence on the importance of Hebrew scholarship for Christians. He insisted, "ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ." How can we hope to know God if we never hear or study what He has said to us?

Today we have scripture available and accessible to us in more ways, places and mediums than ever before, and we are less scripturally literate than in several generations. But this accessibility is making a difference. Simple publications like the Word Among Us, and great initiatives like Fr. Mike Schmitz's Bible In A Year podcast, which is reaching 100s of millions of people are introducing people to a better understanding of scripture every day.

This year is designated Year A in the 3-year cycle of Sunday readings. The Sunday Gospel reading usually comes from the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's gospel has a particular focus on showing Jesus as a continuation and the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures. Matthew portrays Jesus as the New King David, The New Moses with a new law, and as Emmanuel

(meaning "God with us").

Mark's Gospel (Year B) is the shortest. My scripture professor in seminary would refer to it as "Stark Mark." His Gospel is at times breathless in its pace.... "The next day..." and "Then the next day." Mark's Gospel stresses the deeds, strength, and determination of Jesus in overcoming evil forces and defying the power of imperial Rome. Mark emphasizes the Passion, predicting it as early as chapter 8 and devoting the final third of his Gospel to the last week of Jesus' life. The focus is on Jesus getting to the cross. He is resurrected, commissions his disciples and then ascends to heaven.

Luke's Gospel (Year C) states the writer's purpose right away in his introductory paragraph: this book is meant to give believers an accurate, chronological understanding of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Luke investigated the events of Jesus' life by speaking with eyewitnesses. Luke's Gospel is written in ways that Jewish and non-Jewish people can understand and appreciate. In Luke, Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah; the savior of the nations. This isn't surprising—after all, Luke spent a great deal of time with the apostle Paul, who shared the good news with both Jewish and Gentile audiences. Luke is a great story teller, which is why there are so many good parables recounted in his Gospel. His Gospel is really a two volume book, with the Book of Acts recounting the events from Pentecost onwards.

John's Gospel is quite different in character from the three synoptic gospels. It is very literary and symbolic. It does not follow the same order or reproduce the same stories as the other gospels. It was probably written in the 90s of the first century and seeks to teach some of the theological understanding that the early Christian community had developed in that time since Christ's ministry.

The Gospel of John (which is dispersed through the cycle of 3 years and a particular focus in Lent) begins with a magnificent prologue, which states many of the major themes and motifs of the gospel, proclaiming Jesus as the preexistent and incarnate Word of God who has revealed the Father to us. This is the reason John begins his Gospel not with the birth of Jesus, but with "In the beginning..." modelling the Book of Genesis. He is teaching that Jesus, the Word of God has always existed and that his ministry is the direct work of God Himself among us.

John's Gospel divides into what's known as the Book of Signs and the Book of Glory. The signs are the miracles, beginning with the Wedding at Cana, all of which give evidence of Jesus' divine power. They lead into the Book of Glory, which is really a long conversation between Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper in the Upper Room, as He prepares them for His departure from them—He is going to die, to be resurrected, to ascend into Heaven and to send them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, Who will instruct and counsel them thereafter as the Church is established.

Knowing the background, knowing the focus and the goal and the audience, the context, is so important in understanding what we hear read at Mass. But like anything worth having, it only comes through effort. Studying the scriptures, reading them for yourself, reading good Catholic commentaries can take your "take-aways" from Mass to another level.

I have mentioned it before, but the Bible Project is a good website offering short illustrated videos that give a wonderful introduction and outline to the books of the Bible, as well as themes, like mercy, forgiveness, the prophets, salvation, etc.

And always, always, always, read the Sunday readings before you come to Mass and hear them read. Sometimes I hear them differently read at mass, because I have read them beforehand. Even in preparing a homily, it's different to read them for yourself versus hearing someone else read them. But if you already placed the words in your mind earlier in the week, the meaning can settle deeper when you hear them read on Sunday, because you are not listening to the words but to what they mean.

In his address at the inauguration of this annual celebration, on the 1600th anniversary of the death of St. Jerome, Pope Francis said:

"The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words....The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity."

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
January 22, 2023

Is Christ Divided?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

You're breaking the back of the body of Christ!" Saint Paul might have said this to members of the Corinthian community who rival each other, claiming that the leader who baptized them is greater than the one who baptized others: "I belong to Paul!" "I belong to Apollos!" "I belong to Cephas!" (1 Corinthians 1:12). This suggests that, based on the one who baptized them, the members thought of themselves as superior. Such rivalry sounds so petty. We should be careful here because some of this rivalry still exists in the Church.

In any healthy group there will be diverse opinions. We all have our own tastes, preferences, cultural habits, and so on. This is true in church music, preaching style, and religious devotion. The relative uniformity of the Church prior to the Second Vatican Council has given way to great diversity. What is different is not necessarily bad. Nor is our preference necessarily superior. Such diversity need not pit us against each other, but sometimes it does. Is Christ divided over points of preference?

We are all part of the body of Christ. We are all God's beloved. The diversity among us challenges us to work toward the common good, to "be united in the same mind and in the same purpose" (1 Corinthians 1:10). Let us not divide Christ. +

*We are all part of the
body of Christ. We are
all God's beloved.*

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 8:23—9:3

Upon those who lived in a land
of gloom,
a light has shone.

1 Corinthians 1:10—13, 17

I urge you...that all of you agree
in what you say, and that there be
no divisions among you.

Matthew 4:12—23 or 4:12—17

[Jesus said,] "Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is at hand."

A Word from Pope Francis

What is important is the journey toward unity. It is very good that theologians study and discuss; that is what specialists are for. But it is also good that we...walk together on the journey. Together. Let us build unity through prayer, works of charity, and mutual cooperation.

Address to an ecumenical delegation,
Rome, January 17, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How do you act toward someone who understands faith differently?
- Which religious voices do you listen to? Why?

Harmony

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Saint Paul's letters to the Christians in Corinth are also letters to us. In them, he addresses problems that were particular to that community; problems that recur down through the ages so that we can find striking similarities between the issues in the church at Corinth and those in a modern parish or diocese.

In today's second reading, St. Paul sternly corrects the Corinthians, exhorting them to cease their rivalry in the name of those who first brought them to Christ. He had heard that the Corinthian Christians were boasting: "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

The significance of these divisions is both intellectual and social. Apollos, a brilliant Jewish scholar and engaging speaker, appealed to the educated members of the community who wanted a more sophisticated presentation of the gospel. The Jewish Christians from Palestine boasted of their attachment to Cephas, (the Aramaic name for Peter). The majority of the community were poor and less educated, and they tried to compensate for their lack of social status by aligning themselves to Paul, who brought the gospel to Corinth. Less is known about the "Christ party," but



some scholars think it might refer to the "Gnostics"—those who follow no disciple but claim to receive divine revelation directly from Christ.

Paul begs them to understand that Christ cannot be divided. He is especially pained because he himself is being used as a source of division, and so he asks, "Was Paul crucified for you?"

Saint Paul's letters are not just interesting documents for the student of church history. They are the living word of God and, properly understood, are a source of wisdom and sound advice for

the church in the modern world.

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18–25). Many Christians feel the pain of the division of the body of Christ and hear the call to unity while still remaining faithful to their home church. In my community we began an effort we call the Combined Christian Choirs—over one hundred singers from twenty-five different congregations, including Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Baptist, and several nondenominational churches.

While theologians find the paths to unity and church leaders take the necessary tentative steps, perhaps we people of the Church might prepare the way by singing together. The beauty of the music is often in the blend, the harmony of different voices creating a sound that moves the spirit and makes the difficult task of unity seem not only possible but inevitable. We are one in Christ Jesus; we truly are. +



*God of all people, open our eyes
to see what we hold in common
with each other so that we may
build your kingdom together.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 23–28

Monday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:
Heb 9:15, 24–28 / Mk 3:22–30

Tuesday, St. Frances de Sales:
Heb 10:1–10 / Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday, Conversion of St. Paul:
Acts 22:3–16 / Mk 16:15–18

Thursday, Sts. Timothy and Titus:
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 4:21–25

Friday, Weekday:
Heb 10:32–39 / Mk 4:26–34

Saturday, St. Thomas Aquinas:
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19 / Mk 4:35–41

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 22, 2023

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