

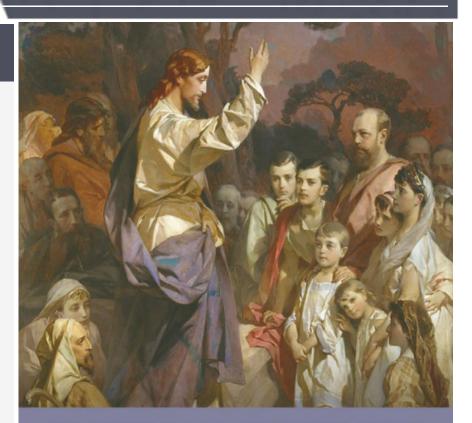
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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"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." - Mt 5:10-12a

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

OLD.

PARISH CENTER 22412 Overlake Saint Clair Shores. MI 48080

Phone: 586-777-3670 Fax: 586-774-5528 Website: www.sjascs.org

SCHOOL 22415 Overlake Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

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

Website: www.stjoan.net

FAITH AND FAMILY FORMATION OFFICE 22415 Overlake Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

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

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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

School

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

Faith Formation

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

In-Solidum Priest Team:

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin gmbugarin@sjascs.org Lead for SJA

Fr. Andrew Dawson adawson@sjascs.org

Fr. Jim Commyn (Moderator) parish@stlucychurch.com

Fr. Eric Fedewa frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla stveronicaeast@comcast.net

Msgr. Gary Smetanka msgr.smetanka@stargp.org

Sacramental Minister

Non-Resident

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

TALLer Tales



The Common **Denominator:**

'Twas the Night before Christmas, when all through the Church, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." WAIT a minute. Do you

mean there's more to the Christmas Eve mess? Not really. Well, at least let me qualify that statement. This isn't about what happened on Christmas Eve, but it was another bad technology day, and the Gremlins were busy!

Last Saturday was a busy day around SJA. Besides all the usual Saturday stuff, we had a wedding. The bride is part of my extended family ... a Finn. The bride and groom lost their spouses to cancer and met at St. Lawrence's Grief Counseling Support Group. Mary Lou and Ernie, both in their early 70s, were just the cutest

The big wedding day was last Saturday at SJA! The plan was to have mass at noon, and then the couple would have a sitdown lunch/dinner in our Emmaus Hall to celebrate the day.

Part of my preparation work for the day involved getting the couple's picture and a congratulatory message up on our electronic signs, getting the Emmaus Hall set up for using an iPad so they could play some music during lunch, and finally getting all the screens and streaming equipment ready for the liturgy. Even though I should have known better because of my typical "Clark Griswold" type experiences at SJA, I waited until Saturday morning to accomplish all of this. What was I thinking? One day I'll learn ... probably not!

It all started with me trying to get Mary Lou and Ernie's picture and a congratulatory message on the Church electronic sign. I designed the message and was ready to "push" it out to the sign. Unfortunately, the computer had issues connecting with the sign when I hit the update option. I tried a few times, and it just wasn't working. So, I decided to walk over to the Church and cut the power to the sign for a few minutes, hoping to reset it. Finally, after the power cycle trick, the sign connected, and I got their picture and congratulatory message up and running. At this point, I lost an hour, and time was running short. I still had so much more to do.

Next, I needed to get an iPad ready to play music in Emmaus Hall. We tried connecting it on the day of the wedding rehearsal, but it didn't work. My response was, "Don't worry; we have the equipment to make it work!" Silly me! Of course, I waited until Saturday morning to tinker with it. I tried a few things, and NOTHING was working. I then went to modify some of the connections on the back of the receiver, and you would have thought I set off a bunch of fireworks inside Emmaus Hall with all the noise I created. I turned it back on, and it continued to do the same thing. I could only roll my eyes. I quickly powered the receiver down again and scrambled to come up with an alternative. We had another Bluetooth receiver in the Gym, and I asked Charlie Kaiser to retrieve it. Thankfully, I got that set up and working. Phew. Two tasks down. One to go.

Then, I got a text from Catherine Trudell that one of the projectors in the choir loft that provides the images for the left screen in Church was making a loud noise. UGH. "I don't have time for this," I thought. It was now 35 minutes before the wedding, and I was FAR from having everything set up; plus, I still had to get back to my house and help my mom over to Church as she was attending the wedding too. So I texted Kristine Hass and asked her to come over and help Catherine figure out what was happening. She confirmed the projector was pretty much dead. She took a video for Rob at RMW Productions, who handles all of our video equipment, and he confirmed we had issues. "I've never heard a noise like that coming from that type of professional projector," he said. But, of course, it only happens at SJA! At this point, I thought the Christmas Eve Gremlins were still bored and had nothing else to do but mess with the Monsignor on another busy day at SJA.

It was now time for the wedding, and I breathed a little sigh hoping nothing else would happen. The wedding was beautiful. The couple would never have known all the behind the scene stuff that happened. When Kristine and I debriefed after the wedding, she laughed and said, "I'm just sayin' I think YOU'RE the common denominator here. We ALWAYS have issues whenever it is something for you, your family, or is some major feast day around here." Wait a minute, why is it always my fault? Well, on second thought, it USUALLY IS my fault! Way to go, Clark!

Catholic Schools Week: This week, we

celebrate Catholic Schools Week throughout the United States. This weeklong celebration is an opportunity to highlight the great work and ministry being accomplished in our Catholic Schools.

Catholic Schools integrate faith and values into every part of the educational experience. Whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, or in Church, Catholic School students learn to think and act according to the mind and heart of Christ. Giving students the resources they need to accomplish the task of thinking and acting according to the mind and heart of Christ is so vital in our complex world.

SJA's celebration of Catholic Schools Week begins bright and early on Monday morning, January 30th, with the celebration of mass at 8:30 a.m. I encourage you to join us or watch the liturgy online as we thank God for the many beautiful ways St. Joan of Arc School prepares students for the task of thinking and acting according to the mind and heart of Christ. The Catholic Schools Week celebration is also an opportunity to thank God for all the outstanding teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents who help make SJA School such a place of excellence.

I'd also like to call your attention to the fact that we've scheduled an Open House Winterfest on Thursday, February 2nd, from 6 - 8 p.m. The event will take place in the parking lot between the Church and School. The gathering will be an opportunity for attendees to meet our school teachers and administrators, enjoy some light refreshments, roast some marshmallows, make s'mores, and even light a candle in Church as our regular Holy Hour takes place at the same time. The Open House is an excellent opportunity to see firsthand the great things happening at our school. The Winterfest is also a perfect opportunity to invite a prospective SJA School family to visit the school and see the great family atmosphere in our school community. So, please mark your calendars and consider joining us on Thursday, February 2nd. Please see the flyer elsewhere in the bulletin for more details.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb gmb@sjascs.org

Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 5 A

Reading One - Is 58:7-10

Thus says the LORD: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

Responsorial - Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

- R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. Light shines through the darkness for the upright; he is gracious and merciful and just. Well for the man who is gracious and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice.
- R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report he shall not fear; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
- R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear. Lavishly he gives to the poor; His justice shall endure forever; his horn shall be exalted in glory.
- R. The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Reading Two - 1 Cor 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of

Alleluia - Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

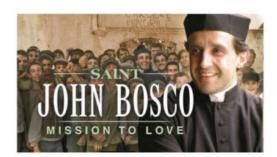
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."



Week of January 29, 2023



Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love

Flavio Insinna gives a winning performance as John Bosco, the great priest and educator of youth. Beautifully filmed in Italy, this epic movie dramatizes the many challenges that he had to overcome from his childhood all the way to founding his religious order.



A Bible Study on the Joyful Mysteries: The Presentation

What is the importance of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple? Join Dr. James Protho and Dr. Ben Akers as they unpack this great mystery and how it can apply to your spiritual life.



Don Bosco: The True Story of the Apostle of Youth

Don Bosco tells the true story of a brave and holy priest whose single-handed battle to save the children of the streets inspired the formation of the Salesians, which is now a worldwide religious order that carries on his work with youth everywhere.

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



January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 | 1 Cor 1:26-31 | Mt 5:1-12a

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

I have a competitive streak. Whether it's guessing Wordle in one try, grabbing the last Doorbuster deal at Kohl's or snagging Boardwalk early in a game of Monopoly, I like to win. For this reason, the readings today especially challenge me. In a world that values success, wealth and "winning," today's readings turn things upside down when it comes to status and justice. In Zephaniah, God chooses the "humble and lowly." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lays out a road map to lasting happiness that bears little resemblance to what the world tells us, and even what our own instincts may tell us, about being "happy." I'll still buy Boardwalk at the first opportunity, but Jesus' words invite me to focus on seeking righteousness, and to be merciful and "clean of heart." They encourage me to seek the happiness that only Christ can give. Through prayer and reflection on these words, we can ask the Lord to transform our hearts and lives to align with what it truly means to be blessed.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Pope Francis has referred to the Eight Beatitudes as a kind of Christian "identity card." (General Audience, Jan. 2020) And he had a suggestion for those of us, like me, who love to listen to the Sermon on the Mount but may not be sure where to start when it comes to living it. His suggestion is simple: "There are eight Beatitudes, and it would be nice to learn them by heart and to repeat them in order to keep this law that Jesus gives us in our mind and in our hearts." Perhaps we can place each Beatitude on a sticky note by the mirror, incorporate them into our morning prayers, teach them to our children or discuss them with friends. Practice makes perfect, yes? As Pope Francis reminds us, "the Beatitudes always bring you to joy; they are the paths to reach joy."

STUDY Memorize the Eight Beatitudes. Learn about each one by reading the writings of Pope Francis or another theologian such as Bishop Robert Barron. Ask God to help you incorporate them into your daily life.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

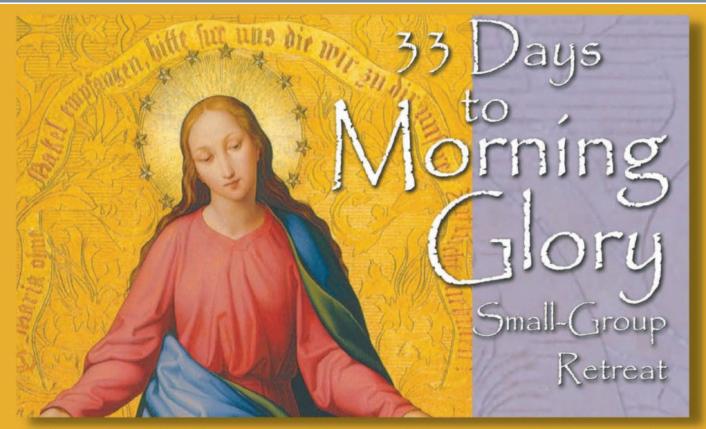


Coming to St. Joan of Arc Beginning February 14 in-person or online

For trailer, information & to register online go to sjascs.org/rescue

MEAL | EPISODE | DISCUSSION All Adults and Teens are welcome!

The adventure you were born for beckons



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

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 sjases.org/childrens-choir.

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

St. Joan 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 esjascs) 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 food truck fare, 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



586-775-8370

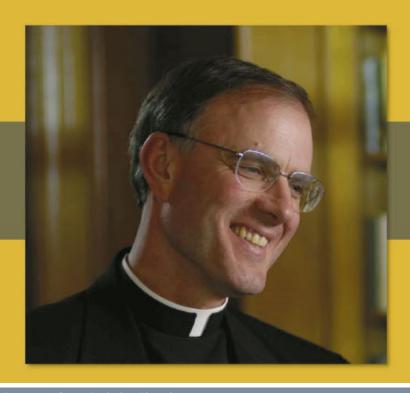
Young Adults Age 21 -35!

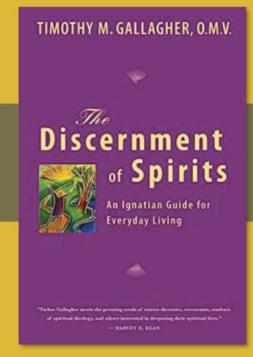
Our young adult group has met regularly for two years and we invite you to join!

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 30th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed 6:00 PM Confirmation Class + Parent Dinner

Tuesday, January 31st

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, February 1st

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, February 2nd

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour

Friday, February 3rd

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, February 4th

8:30 AM Confirmation Mass 9:00 AM Special Faith Formation

11:00 AM Reconciliation

12:30 PM Baptism of Gabrielle S. Folino 1:30 PM Baptism of Patrick David Hennigan

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

Sunday, February 5th

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. 29, 2023 - First Down

It doesn't take a football rules analyst to know that, when it comes to prayer in the world of professional sports, all kinds of penalties are called these days.

We've seen repeatedly for example, that high school coaches who wish to circle up their team for a pre- or post-game prayer come under fire. It's often a similar scenario for players who individually wish to wear their faith on their figurative sleeve.

It was somewhat refreshing then, when the football world collectively came together in prayer a few weeks ago for an NFL player who collapsed on the field during a nationally televised game.

It's extremely unfortunate that it took such a dramatic and life-threatening event for this to happen, of course. And at the time of this writing, thank God the player has continued to recover from the heartrelated incident.

But there it was, on a national stage and under the lights – football players and the entire crowd in attendance, broadcast commentators and viewers at home, people all across social media, even the National Football League itself –everyone united in prayer.

For all the talk in our combative day-to-day world of "prayer being confined to church" and "separation of church and state," it was the natural instinct for folks to pray for a man in a life-threatening situation.

The fragility of our human condition, after all, creates a certain sense of humility.

"Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law," we hear in today's first reading from the book of Zephaniah. "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."

© 2023, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday January 30, 2023 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Elmer Gorde

Tuesday January 31, 2023 Saint John Bosco, Priest

(White)

Marie Durfee 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday February 1, 2023 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Deacon Eugene DiCresce

Thursday February 2, 2023 The Presentation of the

Lord (White)

7:00 a.m. Michael Ciaramitaro and Brandon Hacias

Friday February 3, 2023 Weekday Saint Blaise,

Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop

(Green/Red/White)

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

Calisi

Saturday, February 4, 2023 Weekday, BVM (Green/

White)

4:00 p.m. Bonnie Batche, Anthony Aiello, Mark

> DeKoekkoek, William Dinan, Kathleen Kennedy-Rieth, Rob Finn, Robbie Battani, Evan Battani, the deceased members of the Huvaere & Kerby Families, John & Colleen Melisko, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, for Peg Shaughnessy, and for the Thomas Family. Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of SJA.

6:00 p.m. A Special Intention for Pauline Ciaffone on her

90th Birthday

Sunday February 5, 2023 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary

Time (Green)

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

Parishioners

10:00 a.m. John Spath

12:00 p.m. Raymond VanBecelaere, Salvatore & Josephine

Ciaravino, Rose DiNoto

Daily Readings

Monday, January 30 Friday, February 3

Hebrews 13:1-8 Hebrews 11:32-40 Mark 5:1-20 Mark 6:14-29

Saturday, February 4 Tuesday, January 31

Hebrews 12:1-4 Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21 Mark 5:21-43 Mark 6:30-34

Wednesday, February 1 Sunday, February 5

Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15

Mark 6:1-6

Thursday, February 2

Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

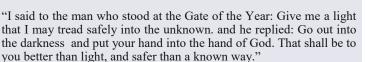
Isaiah 58:7-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:3-16



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."

> **Agnes Lamote Betty Jane Fennell** George Pamerleau (Son of Mariann Pamerleau)



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



The Beatitudes -The Kev to Happiness: Want to know the secret to happiness? The answer is revealed in the Beatitudes that

we hear in Matthew's Gospel today. Want to be the best Catholic you can ever be? The Beatitudes tell you how. Want to make Jesus happy? Practice the teachings of the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes are eight simply stated, yet profound guidelines Jesus revealed to His followers during His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus uses the words of the Beatitudes to paint a picture of what the true people of God look like—not physically, but morally and spiritually.

The word beatitude is defined as a state of utmost bliss. The eight Beatitudes are therefore, the roadmap Jesus gives to us to help us find the utmost bliss in this world and in the next. Those not familiar with the Beatitudes may be taken aback when they read them and discover that the secret to happiness is hungering, thirsting, and being persecuted for what is right, living meekly, mourning, and being merciful.

Is this right? Yes. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that the Beatitudes "are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulation."

The Beatitudes are difficult for us to understand because they are the antithesis of everything that the world we live in wants us to believe; that in order to be happy, we have to be rich, own a huge home, be physically attractive, have an extensive wardrobe, etc. Take one look at the lives of the rich and famous and Hollywood elite and it's easy to see that that is far from the whole story. The pursuit of things often leads to, or at best covers-up, great distress and pain.

Like any bad habit, we have to break away from this way of thinking and follow instead the blueprint of The Beatitudes. If we can do it, we'll have the full blessings of the Kingdom of Heaven to look forward to.

Let's Consider the Meaning of the Beatitudes:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Humility is realizing that all our gifts and blessings are given to us by God. There is nothing arrogant or selfrighteous about someone who is truly humble. Furthermore, when we are humble, we acquire an inner peace that allows us to do the will of God. To be poor in spirit means to be humble before God.

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

This is not primarily related to those mourning the loss of a loved one. We are to mourn not only the violence, hatred, and injustices present in this world, but also our sins and the sins of others. When we mourn, we open our heavy hearts to the Lord, and in turn He comforts us.

3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

To be meek means to be have a spirit of gentleness and self-control. The meek aren't violent, vengeful, or willing to exploit others.

4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; for they will be satisfied.

Jesus doesn't mean literally going without food or drink; rather He's referring to our passion and drive to do God's will and to seek a just society.

5. Blessed are the merciful; for they will be shown mercy.

Like the phrase in the Our Father, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..." those who are merciful to others (treat them with kindness and forgiveness) will be shown mercy. But we cannot presume upon God's mercy for ourselves while not being willing to show mercy to others.

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

St. Augustine explains, "A simple heart is a heart that is pure; and, just as the light which surrounds us cannot be seen except through eyes that are clear, so neither is God seen unless that through which He can be seen is pure." A pure heart is one that shows acts of love and mercy, and that longs for righteousness and justice. There is no hatred or jealousy in a pure heart.

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

God is the source of peace and He empowers us to be bearers of peace. We show ourselves to be children of God when we actively work to reconcile with others, bring together adversaries, and work in harmony with one another. "For God is not a God of disorder but of peace." (1 Corinthians 14:33). We must consider the state of our relationships and work toward peace.

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

Ouch! Maybe this is the toughest of all to hear—to accept persecution for the sake of God and His Kingdom. A prime example of those who are persecuted for the sake of what is right are the saints and the martyrs. All of us are called to be saints. And like the saints, when we suffer for Christ and others, the Kingdom of Heaven is our reward.

The message of The Beatitudes takes on a whole new level of meaning when we realize that they're a mini biography of Jesus' life. He is the ultimate peacemaker, He has the purest heart. He is merciful, and most importantly, He was persecuted—for us! We should ponder that today.

The road to happiness may not be easy, but Jesus gave us the blueprint. All we have to do is follow it.

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'

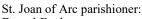
After three years of Covid interference, this past June we finally were able to lead another St. Joan of Arc pilgrimage. God willing, next June we will again lead a St. Joan of Arc pilgrimage/retreat to France. This will be our fourteenth opportunity for taking a group on this fascinating journey. Our 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.n

Email: cowrind@sbcglobal.net Website: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com



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**.

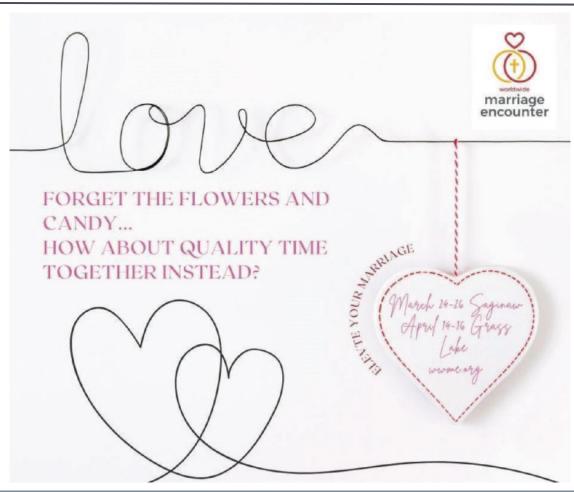
This life-changing experience walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass and Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer and spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians.

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.



Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrew Barth Geri Beaugrand Gaetano Biondo Gilbert Bousho Elizabeth Brock Lori Cardosi Patricia Clare Ed Cole Joan Combellack John Crawford Ellen Dancey Joan DeDene Phyllis Dedene 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

Leland 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 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 Zatyracz

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

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) January 29, 2023

The Beautiful Beatitudes

By Mark Haydu, LC

o follow Christ is to seek lowliness, ■ humility, mercy, and righteousness. The Ten Commandments summarize God's teaching to his people. Jesus gives us a new law that builds on the old. Before it was "You shall not ... "; now it is, "Blessed are you when ... "He calls us to greater happiness, greater blessing, but it comes with a challenge. Saint Augustine says that Jesus went up the mountain to preach the Beatitudes because he was preaching a higher moral doctrine: "greater precepts of righteousness."

The new law contradicts what our wounded human nature tends to think and feel. We are challenged to believe blessings can come from tears, meekness,

Sunday Readings

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, / who have observed his law; / Seek justice, seek humility.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong.

Matthew 5:1-12a

[Jesus said,] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

and poverty; that living meekly leads to strength and security. Appreciating these truths requires transforming our minds and hearts. Faith is required. Deeply desiring and living in the right does bring satisfaction. There is consolation in mourning the things that sadden Christ's heart.

If we live by the Beatitudes, many will treat us more generously. We know people who are merciful, and we are quick to show them mercy. When our hearts are clean, we can see God more clearly. Those who seek and create peace are considered by all to be children of God. They are not without trials and suffering, but they are blessed and happy.

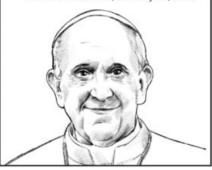
Christ calls us to store up treasures in heaven, spiritual blessings that cannot be taken away. Even if we experience difficulty, we will still receive the highest and greatest gift: the kingdom of heaven. +

> Jesus gives us a new law that builds on the old. Before it was "You shall not...": now it is, "Blessed are you when "

A Word from Pope Francis

What does...blessed mean? The original term does not mean one with a full belly... but rather it is a person who is in a condition of grace, who progresses in God's grace and progresses on God's path: patience, poverty, service to others, comfort....Those who advance in these things are happy and shall be blessed.

General Audience, January 29, 2020



REFLECTION ouestions

- Do I really believe the messages of the Beatitudes?
- How does believing the Beatitudes make a difference in how I live?

Softening Christianity

By Fr. John F. Kavanaugh, SJ

T f we are to judge by the Sermon on the Mount, even Jesus, who is God with us, has a view of human affairs thoroughly at odds with our own. If we have to tune out the prophets' mistrust of humankind, imagine the skills of repression we must employ to ignore Christ's rejection of our every human impulse.

The benighted Nietzsche was clever enough to see the terrible truth in the Sermon on the Mount. What Jesus proposes is a bald reversal of human nature. Nietzsche knew that every last one of us wants wealth abounding and a full stomach. We dread suffering and tears. Being hated, ostracized, and insulted by others is among our greatest nightmares.

But Iesus deemed such conditions blessed. We are to rejoice if we are poor and hungry. We are to take delight in our tears and accept gladly our rejection by the powers of the age. This outright rejection of natural wisdom and desire so infuriated Nietzsche that he raged at those who might dare to follow Christ.

Perhaps the most constant failure of Christians is our reluctance to take our own gospels seriously and accept them in their entirety. We have an uncanny ability to block out those portions of Scripture that challenge our prejudices and to magnify those that confirm our own advantage.

A question much ignored these days is whether our faith has anything to do with justice, economics, poverty, or other



sociopolitical issues. We have pried open a yawning gap between the world of faith and the world of "real" issues. As a result, we never have to worry about changing our behavior or confronting our culture. This is quite strange for a people that contends that its way is the way of the Lord Jesus.

Nietzsche realized that there is something in Christianity dreadfully at odds with our natural impulse. He would never settle for some watered-down, feel-good Jesus who pals along with us in

Unfortunately, Christians have done just that. Rather than rejecting outright Christ's teachings, we soften and suffocate them with the pillows of our more realistic wisdom. As the great English writer and theologian Dorothy Sayers observed, we have snared the lion of Judah, trimmed his claws, and turned him into a domesticated kitten. +

Excerpted from Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter by John F. Kavanaugh, SJ. Visit Liguori.org to learn more and review our list of Daybreaks authors, including Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Daniel Horan, and others.

Henri Nouwen writes: Jean Vanier, who founded a worldwide network of communities for mentally disabled people, [said] Jesus did not say, "Blessed are those who care for the poor," but "Blessed are the poor." As simple as this remark may seem, it offers the key to the kingdom. I asked Vanier: "How do you find the strength to see so many people each day and listen to their many problems and pains?" He smiled and said: "They show me Jesus and give me life." Here lies the...mystery of Christian service: those who serve Jesus in the poor will be fed by him whom they serve. + Excerpted from Henri Nouwen: In My Own Words, @ 2001 Liguori Publications, 825170.



Gracious God, you who have blessed us so richly, please give us the grace to be a blessing to others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 30—February 4

Monday, Weekday: Heb 11:32-40 / Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday, St. John Bosco: Heb 12:1-4 / Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday, Weekday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 / Mk 6:1-6 Thursday, Presentation of the Lord: Mal 3:1-4 / Heb 2:14-18 / Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Friday, Weekday: Heb 13:1-8 / Mk 6:14-29

Saturday, Weekday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 / Mk 6:30-34



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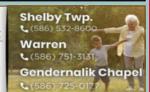


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