

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 TalesPage 3
- Wednesdays @ SJA in Lent.....Page 4
- Formed Pick of the WeekPage 5
- Grow+GoPage 6
- Readings –4th Sunday in Lent.....Page 7
- SJA Flower SalePage 9
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Mission . Page 10
- Weekly Calendar of Events.....Page 11
- Words on the WordPage 11
- Mass IntentionsPage 12
- Those Who Have Recently Died... Page 12
- Tire Tracks in d’Arc.....Page 13
- Palm Weaving @SJAPage 14
- Prayers for the Sick & MilitaryPage 15
- Bringing Home the Word.....Page 16



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

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

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

**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

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Youth Group

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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



Missin' the mark: Recently, I attended the funeral of Janice Thibodeau, the mother of Father Scott Thibodeau. She was a tiny little lady with a commanding

presence in all aspects of life. She was hilarious to be around because she never minced words, especially when around her children. The Thibodeaus had five sons, one became a priest, and another is a permanent deacon. Mrs. Thibodeau was known for offering sage and direct advice to her sons.

During his homily at the funeral, Father Scott mentioned that his mom was known for sitting toward the back of church and “clearing her throat” loudly if either of her cleric sons preached too long. Moms of priests and deacons can get away with this stuff! But then, if you knew Father Scott, you wouldn't be surprised if he said from the ambo, “Mom, I've got the microphone; I'm not done yet.”

But it's also funny to hear moms of priests talk to one another! Recently, my mom shared with me a conversation she had with Kay Kosanke, the mother of Monsignor Chuck Kosanke. Monsignor Kosanke's parents were parishioners of SJA up until a few years ago when they moved from their two-story house to a single-story home. My mom and Mrs. Kosanke swap stories all the time about life with their priest sons. I'll admit we priests are a complicated breed.

As the story goes from this recent conversation, Mrs. Kosanke told my mom that Monsignor Kosanke was due over at the house for dinner at a particular time; but he called his mom and said he would be at least a half hour late. They waited patiently but then got a call that he couldn't come at all because something else had come up. My mom quickly retorted, “Kay, I hear that all the time too from Mike. They ALWAYS have emergencies or something else going on. They say they will be here at 4 p.m. when you know full well you'll be lucky to see them by 5 p.m.!”

Not too long ago, my mom and I were discussing all the excellent resources that exist that offer reflections on the daily and weekend mass readings. She was sharing some of her favorites with me and why they were her favorite sites. Whether we

are on vacation or not, especially since she has been staying with me while she recuperates from her recent hospital stay, I hear snippets of what she is listening to on her phone. It's pretty impressive to see all the spiritual resources she relies on and how much she prays throughout the day!

As our conversation continued, my mom started talking about one of her favorite scripture scholars, Jeff Cavins. I feature Jeff Cavins' *Encountering the Word* videos from Ascension Press on my Sunday Email Update. Jeff is a phenomenal evangelist and author. He was a protestant minister for twelve years before reverting to the Catholic Faith. We've used his Bible Timeline system to assist with some of our bible study programs throughout the years. If you haven't taken the time to watch these *Encountering the Word* videos, I encourage you to do so; all you have to do is click on the link in my Sunday email.

As my mom continued to share why she likes listening to these *Encountering the Word* videos by Jeff Cavins on the Sunday readings, she revealed one of the TOP reasons for doing so. She looked me squarely in the eyes and said with a tinge of laughter, “Because sometimes you guys miss the mark altogether and I need another perspective!” I burst out laughing. But it is true; I'll be the first to admit that sometimes we miss the mark! Yes, moms of priests can get away with saying this stuff, and in doing so, they also help keep us humble!

Opportunities for Confession: Lent and Advent, because they are both penitential seasons, allow us to be more intentional about looking at our lives to determine where we have failed to be faithful and holy disciples and then resolve to seek the Lord's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When was the last time you celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful encounter between you and Christ. Through the ministry of the priest, you encounter Jesus' forgiveness as well as words of encouragement and counsel about how best to walk the path of virtue. I've never known of anyone who has left the confessional feeling sad. You can't help but be overwhelmed and uplifted after experiencing the incredible gift of the Lord's forgiveness.

What saddens me is the number of people who stop going to confession because they forgot how to do so or use the

excuse they don't remember the act of contrition. It's pretty easy. One shouldn't be so concerned about knowing all the steps. The easiest thing to do is admit to the priest that you don't remember what to do or don't remember the act of contrition. We are here to help you through the entire process. Even if you haven't gone for years or decades, don't be afraid of approaching a priest to celebrate the sacrament. It truly is a beautiful sacrament and one that brings so much healing. You'll be welcomed! You'll be encouraged. Most importantly, you'll be forgiven!

When going to confession, you start by making the sign of the cross while saying, “Bless me, Father for I have sinned. My last confession was ...” At this point, you should indicate your state in life (married, single, etc.) and then state your sins. After giving some counsel, the confessor will give you a penance and ask you to make an act of contrition. The act of contrition doesn't have to be the one many of us memorized as a kid. The act of contrition can be as simple as, “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.” The confessor will then pray the words of absolution.

During Lent, we have scheduled some additional confession opportunities. On Monday afternoons, Father Andrew and I will be available from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m., and then Fr. Rich, Fr. Andrew, and I will be available on Wednesdays from 5:00 until 5:50 p.m. (mass is then celebrated at 6:00 p.m.). Our regular Saturday confession schedule will remain the same at 11:00 a.m. The sacrament is celebrated in the Sr. Carol Center. You'll see a series of numbered chairs near the bathrooms when you arrive at the Sr. Carol Center. Just take the next available chair, and the line will move as people celebrate the sacrament. If you want to go to a specific confessor, wait until that confessor is available (you'll let the person next to you go ahead of you until the confessor you want is free). You can celebrate the sacrament face-to-face or behind a screen so there is some anonymity. Please don't fret about all the particulars; we'll guide you through it. Just come and experience the incredible gift of the Lord's mercy and forgiveness!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org



WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

Reconciliation
from 5–5:50 pm
Mass at 6 pm

Reconciliation rooms are
in the Sr. Carol Center.

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of March 12, 2023



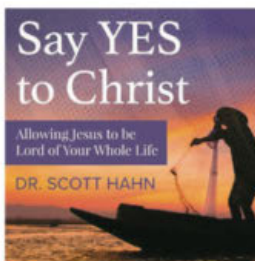
The Story of Death Eternal Rest Episode 1

Where did death come from? What does death mean for the human person? Is it simply just part of life, or is it something else? In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.



Living Lent as a Family (Part 2 of 4)

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Keenan and Bri Fitzpatrick, parents of four, to discuss liturgical living during Lent and marks of the Christian home in our world today.



Say Yes to Christ: Allowing Jesus to be Lord of Your Whole Life by Scott Hahn

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In doing so, she became the model of perfect discipleship. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.

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



March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Even St. Teresa of Calcutta experienced a period of “spiritual dryness.” We pray, we go to Mass faithfully, we serve others – yet at times God’s presence may seem elusive. Like the Israelites, we may ask, “Is the Lord in our midst or not?” As we enter the third Sunday of Lent, today’s readings assure us that God remains with us even during those times we may feel spiritually parched. In Exodus, water flows from a rock to satisfy the people. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman, a sinner and an outcast, recognizes Jesus as Messiah, and it changes her life. Even when we don’t “feel” God’s presence, we can rest assured that Jesus stands beside us. He is our redemption and our Hope, and “Hope does not disappoint.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today’s Gospel, Jesus breaks with custom by talking to a woman – a Samaritan woman, no less. He “sees” her – knowing she has been married five times before and is living with a man not her husband. Yet he chooses to reveal to her his identity as the Messiah and offers her “living water.” But it doesn’t end there. The woman at the well goes forth and shares her experience with others. Many more came to believe in the Messiah based on her testimony. What an unlikely disciple! We may feel that we, too, are unlikely disciples: We are sinners, we’ve made mistakes, perhaps we feel we are unworthy to “represent” Jesus to others. But nothing is further from the truth. Jesus invites us not only to partake of the living water but to share it with others so that all may believe.

ACTION Put a note on your mirror or bedside: “Hope does not disappoint.” Each morning, remind yourself that Jesus is the source of our hope, and try to think of ways to share this hope with others.

Readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 19 A

Reading One – 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Responsorial – Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reading Two – Eph 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Verse Before the Gospel – Jn 8:12

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

Gospel – Jn 9:1-41

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man

St. Joan of Arc

called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

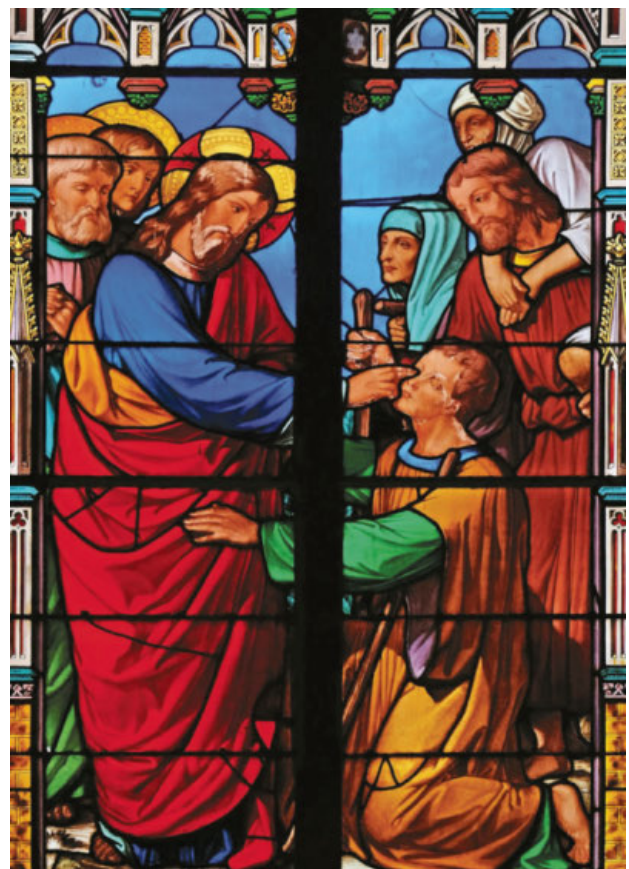
Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were

born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.



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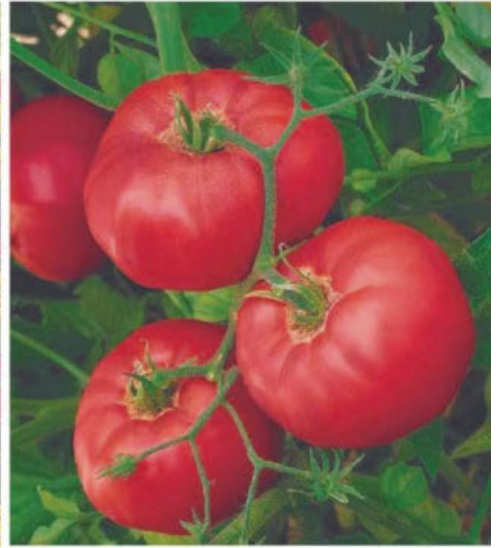


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SPRING 2023 ONLINE ORDERING GUIDE



HOW TO ORDER ONLINE

1. Visit the online store at fundraiseit.org
2. Select "Shop Online"
3. Use the Quick Link Code **18D760**
4. Enter your email when prompted
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SCAN TO START GENERATING YOUR LINK



Sales Ends:

March 17

Delivery Date:

May 12

12 noon - 5 pm



See the entire catalog online



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Presented by Fr. Steven Bell

LEAVING MY FEARS & LIVING MY FAITH

March 13 | March 14 | March 15
7:00 PM

Join us at Sunday Mass on March 11/12 where Fr. Bell will be preaching and the following evenings for three nights of the mission. You can come to all evenings or whichever nights you are able to make it. Each evening will be different, but follow us along the theme: *Leaving My Fears and Living My Faith.*

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, March 13th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
1:00 PM Reconciliation

Tuesday, March 14th

7:00 AM Morning Mass Live Streamed
6:00 PM Rescue Project - EH/Livestreamed

Wednesday, March 15th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
5:00 PM Reconciliation
6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM PTG Meeting

Thursday, March 16th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed
5:30 PM First Eucharist—Mini Retreat—EH
7:00 PM Holy Hour

Friday, March 17th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - Live Streamed

Saturday, March 18th

10:00 AM Funeral for Mark Siwik
11:00 AM Reconciliation
12:30 PM Baptism of Madeline James Nysen
1:30 PM Baptism of Jack Elliott Jarvi
2:30 PM Baptism of Aiden Drain, Jacob Drain & Robbie Drain

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

Sunday, February 19th

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

Words on the Word

March 12, 2023 – Here's Hoping

People, by and large, are incredibly resilient.

Folks can handle illness, grief, depression, career setbacks, domestic problems – all manner of setbacks and obstacles – as long as at least one thing is evident: hope.

In most of those scenarios, and others, too, there generally is some hint of hope evident on the “other side,” whatever and whenever that may be. It’s only when hope is lost that things turn particularly bleak.

Headlines were made a few weeks ago about a woman serving a life-without-parole prison sentence in a 30-year-old case. The details of what took place three decades ago aren’t as important, for now, as the current developments.

The 55-year-old woman, according to a report in *The Detroit News*, is requesting, through her attorney, that her sentence be reduced. After that request was quickly denied, the woman’s attorney quickly asked authorities to take a closer look, based on the woman’s efforts over the last 30-years.

“I’m asking that you give (the prisoner) that little inkling,” the attorney was quoted as saying. “That little crack in the door where she can have hope.”

Again, the merits and details of the case aside for the moment – and with consideration to the loved ones of the victim in the case – it’s fair to say we all need hope. And, thanks be go God, we have it, especially in the most important matters. Eternal matters.

“Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, though whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God,” St. Paul writes to the Romans in today’s second reading.

“And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday March 13, 2023 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Dorothy Shuder

Tuesday March 14, 2023 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Dorene Oster

Wednesday March 15, 2023 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Marjorie Whiteley
6:00 p.m. A Special Intention for Pat Adamcik

Thursday March 16, 2023 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Joan Linden

Friday March 17, 2023 Lenten Weekday Saint Patrick, Bishop (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Aniello Mazzella

Saturday, March 18, 2023 Vigil of the Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

4:00 p.m. Bonnie Batche, the deceased members of the Batche Family, Joan Weber, Dr. Lori Karol, Christopher Weingartz, Edward, Helen & Henry Blind, Gerald Ellar, Virginia Curran, the deceased members of the Gore Family, Frank Nagy, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, for the Thomas Family, for the people of Turkey and Syria, for Debbie & Smokey Mortus, for the Muer and Thurber Families, for Dennis Nehro and for Karen McMahon

6:00 p.m. Rob Finn, Evan Battani and Robbie Battani

Sunday March 19, 2023 The Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

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

10:00 a.m. Jose' Silva

12:00 p.m. Italo Binelli

Daily Readings

Monday, March 13

2 Kings 5:1-15ab
Luke 4:24-30

Friday, March 17

Hosea 14:2-10
Mark 12:28-34

Tuesday, March 14

Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Matthew 18:21-35

Saturday, March 18

Hosea 6:1-6
Luke 18:9-14

Wednesday, March 15

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

Sunday, March 19

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ephesian 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Thursday, March 16

Jeremiah 7:23-28
Luke 11:14-23



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.”

**Ellen Dancey
John Mueller
Edward Baranek
Sharon Blair
Fr. Norman Thomas**



“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

Minnie Louise Haskins

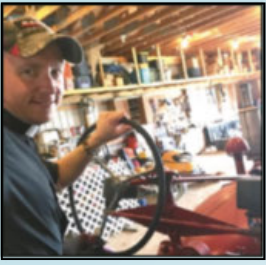


Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse. Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Coming to the Well: Today's Gospel is one of the longest Gospel passages read at Mass all year. But there is so much in it from which we can learn.

Jacob's Well is the location of this meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The woman is not named in the Gospel because she stands in the place of all of us. The Orthodox Church tradition names her as Photini, the name she took at her baptism following her conversion. Tradition later has her killed as a Christian martyr and she lends her name to the Church that currently stands on the site of Jacob's well, St. Photini. In the crypt of this Greek Orthodox Church, is Jacob's Well. The site is a Christian Holy site and a place of pilgrimage.

In the course of this conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus, in a totally unexpected way, God intervened in the life of this woman. That is precisely how our God operates in your life and mine.

The Samaritan woman must have come to that well many times before as she went about with her daily chores. However, this time was different. Her life was touched by Jesus. Her physical thirst was transformed into a deeper thirst for God. She could have rejected the kindness of Jesus. After all, this man was a Jew, and the Jews and Samaritans never had anything to do with each other.

But she did not reject Him. And she did not refuse to enter into the conversation. She eventually recognized Him, as Lord and Savior, precisely as He revealed her sinfulness to her—twice saying: "Come see a man who told me everything I have done."

In his Letter on the Joy of Love (*Amoris Laetitia*), Pope Francis challenges each of us to act more and more like Jesus when we encounter individuals and family situations in need of healing like that of the Samaritan woman. He writes that this is the "preaching and attitude of Jesus, who set forth a demanding ideal yet never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery."

What about us? Are we truly open to the

voice of Jesus as the Samaritan woman was? Do we let Him tell us everything we ever did? Are we open to others who suffer and struggle in their marriages and families as Jesus was? Are we open to His merciful forgiveness in sacramental confession? Do we realize that the commitments made at Baptism must be renewed each day if we are to encounter Him concretely and intentionally and let Him encounter us each and every day of our lives, especially in these penitential days of Lent?

It can be easy to think maybe I was baptized 60 years ago and I come to Mass every Saturday at 4pm or Sunday at 10am and that's all I'm supposed to do. That's why this Gospel is so good for us to hear and takes place at this time of the year and the journey of our OCIA group. The members of this group are engaging daily and weekly in a conversation not unlike that which took place at the well that day. Jesus is introducing each person to His Father and a new source of quenching their thirst for life. It means often wrestling with the teachings of the Church in a way that perhaps the rest of us don't do. And in the search, is found answers to questions that maybe the rest of us have never asked.

We commend our Elect for coming to the well and truly entering into this conversation with Jesus. They have now begun the Period of Purification and Enlightenment which focuses on their preparation to receive the Easter Sacraments. It is not easy to do this alone. Perhaps we take it for granted if we have been Catholic since being an infant. It takes courage and determination to make this journey later in life. And our duty as members of this community is to encourage and accompany them. A smiling face a word of encouragement after mass, and our daily prayers are essential ways in which we can be Jesus at the well and support them.

Being a Christian means becoming a Christian ever anew—those numerous prayerful daily encounters with the "living water" within each of us and the many opportunities where we can offer Christ in our relationship with others.

Like that unforgettable experience of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, we too can experience the living Jesus in our day. In His very person, Jesus becomes our meeting place with God, our place of welcoming encounter and of accompaniment.

Jesus desires to, and can, change us as He

changed her. And He desires that each one of us becomes more like Him in our daily encounters with those who are crying out to be accompanied by His life-giving and loving truth, whether they know it or not.

But notice the gentle way in which Jesus works with the woman. She doesn't come to understand who He is and all He is saying immediately. But Jesus is patient. Jesus is a man without a home of His own, but He is *the* example of hospitality for us to learn from. He comes to her, meets her where she is, geographically and spiritually. He does not condemn her for the life she is living. But nor is He prepared to leave her in that place.

Far from the modern sentiment of our day that we don't interfere and judge each other's business, Jesus' love for this woman means He calls out her sin—not to condemn her, but to challenge her to be greater. He encourages and accompanies her to a better place—a better life. When she comes to understand who Jesus is, how He knows her and what Jesus is offering her. She is freed from worldly concerns. She is freed from her sense of shame. She leaves behind the jar of water that she had come to collect, a sign that she has found something more valuable. She is no longer concerned about her physical thirst.. She has come to this place, sacred to all Samaritans, who trace their heritage back to Jacob, but here found something far more sacred.

She has been called the first Christian preacher because she runs to tell others about Jesus. She leaves her water jar behind—just as the disciples left their fishing nets—a sign of her complete embrace of this calling to follow Jesus. She returns to her town and effectively shares her own experience with Jesus, inviting the villagers to come and see if they reach the same conclusion about him.

As baptized Christians, that is our daily task and challenge: to embrace the path of discipleship, no matter our history and how far we may have strayed from the Lord in the past. And then, embracing God's call to us, we walk with each other in our respective journeys of faith and, at times, to challenge each other, in love, to be better. We are to invite others to put aside worldly distractions and to come and drink from the well of God's grace.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjasc.org

PALM WEAVING WORKSHOPS



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Workshop Objectives: This workshop is two (2) hours long. Participants will learn through hands-on experience the weaving of crosses, leaves, and bells also known as artichokes. Class size is limited to 10 people. Attendees need to bring a pair of sharp scissors.

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrew Barth
Geri Beaugrand
Gaetano Biondo
Gilbert Bousho
Elizabeth Brock
Lori Cardosi
Ed Cole
Joan Combellack
Maura Corrigan
John Crawford
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
Jeanne Gainer
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
Jennie Mooney
Adam Moore

Jim Moore
Joel Moore
Paula Nagel
Mark Oumedian
Joan Persichini
Tracy Rauch
Sr. Alice Riegel
Diane Rochwalski
Suzanne Roland
Pat Rybak
Victoria Rydholm
Lily Saith
Dianne Schelosky
Ann Simmonds
Terri Smigels

Kathleen Smith
Cathy Spindler
Betty Squire
Beverly Taylor
Bernadette Thompson
James Thompson
Linda Vitale
Eileen Wallace
Joseph Whalen
Marilyn Wicker
Adrienne Weidenbach
Joyce Wiekrykas
Eddie Zatyrcz
Patricia Zublin

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 of Lent (A)
March 12, 2023

Water for Living, or Living Water?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Water flows through this Sunday's readings. In the passage from Exodus, the Hebrews cry out for the water so necessary for life. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of living water that provides eternal life.

The exchange between the Hebrews and Moses is straightforward and startling. Physical thirst led them to question the divine care that miraculously delivered them from the hands of Egyptian oppressors. We shouldn't be too quick to shake our fingers at them. How many times have we

looked past blessings we take for granted, only to focus on lesser immediate needs? These desert people are our ancestors in more ways than one.

The Gospel of John is most interesting. Jesus is in Samaria, a land hated by the Jews. There he initiates a conversation with an inhabitant of the town of Sychar, someone who is an outcast in three major ways. She is a woman—no self-respecting man would be alone with a woman he didn't know. She is a Samaritan—Jews considered Samaritans unclean. And she is promiscuous—his own honor might be at risk. The woman's questionable social status does not prevent Jesus from engaging her, first in social etiquette ("Give me a drink" [4:7]), then in a theological exchange ("Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst" [4:14]).

The Hebrews experienced God's saving action in their exodus, but they lacked trust. The woman, hated by the Jews, was an outcast of her own people, yet she believed. How do we respond to the water? †

How many times have we looked past blessings we take for granted, only to focus on lesser immediate needs?

A Word from Pope Francis

Like the Samaritan woman, whoever personally encounters the living Jesus feels the need to talk about him to others, so that everyone might reach the point of proclaiming that Jesus "is truly the savior of the world" (Jn 4:42), as the woman's fellow townspeople later said...[W]e too are called to witness the life and hope that are within us.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 15, 2020



Sunday Readings

Exodus 17:3-7

The LORD answered..., "Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink."

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit.

John 4:5-42 or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

[Jesus said,] "The water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What is the deepest longing of my heart?
- Have I overlooked a blessing, an answer to a prayer?

Foreign Encounter

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

“Y’all mind sharing a table with these folks?” asked the attendant as we wandered into a dueling piano bar in the French Quarter. Our group was one or two years past the legal drinking age; they were elderly couples who were one or two drinks past the legal alcohol limit. The couples were from California visiting New Orleans for an Elks Convention. My Cajun friends and I had limited experience with elks—or their conventions—but thirst knew no boundaries, and lasting friendships with these strangers was formed.

In John’s Gospel, two strangers meet at a well on the outskirts of town. Their peoples—the Jews and the Samaritans—had been estranged from each other for generations. Thirst, however, knows no boundaries.

“The woman is taken aback that a Jew, no matter how thirsty, would ask a Samaritan for a drink,” writes Denis McBride, CSsR. Yet, she “has a thirst for meeting Mr. Right” that hadn’t been satisfied after five husbands and the man she’s living with. Then the buckets are turned, when Jesus tells her he is the Christ, and “at long last she has met the right man.” †



These reflections were excerpted from Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter by Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, available from Liguori Publications. To learn more and review our complete list of Daybreaks authors, including Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI; Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR; Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA; and others, visit Liguori.org.

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 13–18

Monday, Lenten Weekday:
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab / Lk 4:24–30

Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:
Dn 3:25, 34–43 / Mt 18:21–35

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday:
Dt 4:1, 5–9 / Mt 5:17–19

Finding Redemption

By Amy Welborn

As John narrates the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well, we witness one more fascinating conversation that seems circuitous, but by the end, homes in on the truth.



It begins in the heat of the day, the point at which the light is strongest, and into this light steps a woman. An ordinary chat turns into a moment of profound self-knowledge. She is confronted with her flaws and comes away with understanding. How instructive that, faced with embarrassing and awkward news about her life, she experiences it as good. Good news. She meets Jesus as she is, and in that truthful, painful space she finds redemption.

A friend fought cancer for years. At some point between her diagnosis and her death she said to me with complete conviction, “Thank God for my cancer.”

Cancer had ravaged her body and was cutting her physical life short, but my friend felt strongly that cancer had also stripped her of pretense and forced her to confront herself and God on spare, honest terms. There, in that bright, painful light, she was brought face to face with Jesus through a winding, wandering path. She saw herself as she really was, flawed, yes, but most of all, loved. †

PRAYER

So that we may recognize you wherever we are and proclaim your presence to all those we meet, we pray—Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

Thursday, Lenten Weekday:
Jer 7:23–28 / Lk 11:14–23

Friday, Lenten Weekday:
Hos 14:2–10 / Mk 12:28–34

Saturday, Lenten Weekday:
Hos 6:1–6 / Lk 18:9–14

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