

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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13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple--amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." - Mt 10:42

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

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

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
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**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
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Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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

School

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

Faith Formation

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

In-Solidum Priest

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Lead for SJA

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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
Wednesday: 6:00 pm

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

Wednesdays: 5:00 pm
Saturdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
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 (July Schedule):
Monday - Thursday from 8:30am - 4:00pm
Friday: Closed

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.

OCIA: 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
Wednesday @ 6pm

Weekend Masses

Saturdays @ 4pm & 6pm
Sundays @ 8am, 10am, 12pm

Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm



The Preamble

Joke: As I was googling for the words of a joke I wanted to use as the opener for TALLer Tales this week because the joke fit with the topic I wanted

to write about, I came across the following one that made me laugh. So, I thought you could use a laugh too.

The joke is entitled: “The Preacher and the Peanuts.” The joke goes like this: A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch, he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. “Mind if I have a few?” he asks. “No, not at all!” the woman replied. They chat for an hour, and as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. “I’m terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts. I really just meant to eat a few.” “Oh, that’s all right,” the woman says. “Ever since I lost my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off them.”

Lovin’ the Retiree Life: As I was thinking about what I would write about today, I landed on the topic that I was starting to love the “retiree life.”

As I was thinking about the “retiree life,” I couldn’t help but recall a joke I wanted to share. This joke is entitled “Waking Up for Church.” The joke goes like this: One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for Church, to which he replied, “I’m not going.” “Why not?” she asked. “I’ll give you two good reasons,” he said. “One, they don’t like me, and two, I don’t like them.” His mother replied, “I’ll give YOU two good reasons why you SHOULD go to Church. One, you’re 54 years old, and two, you’re the pastor!”

Since May 1, when I had my knee surgery, I’ve been somewhat living the “retiree life.” At first, the slower pace was a bit annoying, but I was able to focus on doing my physical therapy and controlling my knee pain. With my Mom staying with me and my family and staff taking care of me, I started to enjoy all the benefits rather quickly!

I never knew until early May what it was like to get up just in time for Mass and then watch it on TV. I heard about all the experiences during COVID, but I was the

one on the camera; this time, I was the one watching it on TV. And I will admit that my Mom would bring up our coffee, and I would sit on my comfy recliner, often curled up with my favorite blanket. I would make sure to start the TV about 10 minutes before Mass so I could watch everyone walking into Church, and then I would stay on for a few minutes after Mass to watch people clean up the sanctuary or gather in groups to yap with one another. I got used to the patterns of people’s arrival times, and then my Mom and I often wondered why someone wasn’t in Church on a given day if we didn’t see them.

We would also study and discuss some of the “things” that needed to be corrected for a perfect video-streaming image. One item was the carpet seams. I was amazed at how much the carpet seams show online; even the white threads could be seen. I would also catch an out-of-place plant or flower or a camera that would go out of focus. I would notice when the Paschal candle would be tilted or when the flowers needed to be ditched. I would even “binge-watch” all the masses on the weekend.

But getting up just before Mass and then only taking a shower and getting ready for the day after Mass became the norm for a few weeks! That was nice. Then my sister Jackie was taking care of the laundry (until recently, I couldn’t handle stairs without difficulty). My Mom was taking care of the dishes and emptying the dishwasher. And then food, normal meals, were the norm ... you wouldn’t want to know my “normal” meal habits, although I’m sure you can guess.

Then, the best part was the occasional afternoon snoozes! I remember taking siestas when I lived overseas, but you never felt guilty doing so because everyone would nap in the afternoon after the big meal of the day at 1 p.m. (*pranzo* time).

And then there was the “wind down” time in the evening when my Mom and I would watch the news, and then we would watch Family Feud. I would never have guessed I would be watching Family Feud several times during the week. Then there were the DIY shows or stuff on HGTV that we would watch (Windy City Rehab or Log Cabin Living became favorites). But my favorite was watching The Incredible Dr. Pol. It became entertaining.

THEN, if all that wasn’t enough of “Living the Retiree Life,” it was the early bedtimes. My Mom would often go to her

room around 9:00 p.m. so she could start saying her rosary and all of her prayers. I would then use the time to say my prayers and get ready for bed. But one night, I got to bed while it was still light outside. I laughed as I crawled into bed and still saw light outside. WHAT. WAS. HAPPENING. TO. ME? I could see how one could easily get used to this pace of life!

Well, retiree life came to a close the other day. Father Rich went to visit his Mom in Manistee, so it was only me. Since I’m the “pastor,” I had to get out of bed! I did a practice round to ensure my morning routine times hadn’t changed too much! Vern texted me about whether I would assist Father Rich at the masses before he left, and my response was, “Retiree life is over. I’ll be there.” He responded, “You’re NOT READY for it YET!!”

Yes, I got a taste of livin’ the retiree life. So, let’s do the math. It will probably be 16 years until I can retire. That’s only 5,840 days to go. Not bad. But I may find some time for a few episodes of Dr. Pol, Windy City Rehab, and Log Cabin Living in the meantime! As for those afternoon siestas, I’ve got to figure out how to book those in my calendar! Livin’ the retiree life isn’t so bad!

Parish Center Summer Hours during

July: Beginning next week, the Parish Center will switch to its “July Schedule.” The Parish Center will only be open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We will not be open on Fridays.

The Parish Center will also be closed on Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4, for the Fourth of July holiday.

Fourth of July Mass Schedule: With the Fourth of July, we will have our regular 7:00 a.m. Mass, as well as a 9:00 a.m. Mass as we usually do with the parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Veronica, St. Lucy, and St. Basil Parishes. Consider joining us for one of these masses to start your Fourth of July celebrations.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy Fourth of July!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of July 02, 2023



Maria Goretti: The Story of the Patroness of Modern Youth

Learn more about the holy life and martyrdom of St. Maria Goretti in this moving documentary. In particular, the film highlights her ultimate act of love: forgiving her murderer on her deathbed.



The Resurrection of Jesus: Luke 24 | The Bible Project

Luke's video wraps up his depiction of Jesus of Nazareth. The disciples find an empty tomb, leading to a life-altering encounter with the risen Jesus. This marks the climax of Jesus' mission to establish the kingdom of God, and sets the stage for its continuation in Luke's Acts.



The Annie Moses Show - Salute To America

The Annie Moses Show "Salute To America" honors the past and looks to the future with eyes of faith! Featuring world-champion yodeler, Don Derby, a Mark Twain Broadway blowout, and up-and-coming virtuosos from across the fruited plain.

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

July 2, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4: 8-11, 14-16a | Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11 | Mt 10:37-42

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

In today's first reading, the Shunammite woman recognized that Elisha was "a holy man of God." She and her husband then went on to provide Elisha with hospitality and lodging, and she was rewarded with a son. But how did she recognize Elisha as the holy prophet that he was? Recognition, or lack of it, is a recurrent theme in Scripture – from Mary Magdalene not recognizing the risen Lord at the tomb to the disciples not recognizing Jesus on the road to Emmaus. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus himself encouraged his listeners to learn to recognize "false prophets" because they bear bad fruit. What do we need to open our eyes to and recognize today? Perhaps the realization that Jesus' life and teachings always point us to life – life with him and in him, on earth and for eternity. As members of the body of Christ, let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with his love so that we may bear good fruit and always choose the road that leads to that life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Perhaps we should consider these words from Jesus in today's Gospel a challenge. Yes, we know that faithful discipleship comes with demands. But "losing our life"? I like to think of it as going "all in" in our response to Jesus. Investing the most we can in our relationship with Jesus means recognizing that he is the way and the truth and the life. And then we must act upon that. How? Put God first in your life. Serve him before all else. Let our relationship with Christ be like the frame that holds a building up – let it define us, strengthen us, and shape us. And may it allow us to recognize his loving presence in each moment of our lives.

ACTION The summer months are hot in the northern hemisphere, and traveling, running errands, and doing things for oneself can be difficult for those who are adversely affected by the heat. Take a look around you – at your neighbors or even those who are part of your daily circle of encounters – and be intentional at recognizing who they are (a child of God) and what their needs might be. Offer specific assistance to them related to that need, as the Shunammite woman and her husband did for Elisha.



Prophet Elisha and the Shunammite woman on Mt. Carmel by Gert van den Brink, 16th century

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

A Prophet's Reward

"Move back in with us until you save enough for a decent house," my mother told me over and over again as the birth of my second child neared.

My little family was quickly outgrowing our rented space, but the housing market in our area was a nightmare for first-time homebuyers. As appealing as the offer was, I kept refusing, convinced that my mother didn't understand the chaos, disruption, and loss of personal space that such a move would mean for her and my dad.

I was wrong — she did. And eventually she wore me down. When my son was three months old my family of four moved back into my old bedroom. My parents made an office space for my husband in the basement, and they converted their den into a playroom for two of the loudest children you will ever meet. They told us we could stay as long as we needed to (it ended up being two years). They greeted us with love and warmth every morning and never made us feel like we were an inconvenience.

Today's first reading always reminds me of my mom, not because I consider myself a prophet (hardly) but because of the way she received me — specifically, in whose name she received me.

I've always tried to understand exactly what makes my parents' acts of love — toward me, toward each other, toward perfect strangers — feel so genuine. I think, after more than 30 years, I've finally realized the secret: my parents love God more than they love me. They love God more than they love anyone.

Like making room in their life and their home for me and my boisterous family, these acts originate in sacrifice. They don't come cheap. They come from the cross.

*"Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
— Matthew 10:39*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Is the Catholic Mass really celebrated the same throughout the whole world?

Answer:

One of the truisms of the Catholic Faith is that "wherever you go in the world, the Mass is the same." In fact, the answer to this question is both "yes" and "no."

On the one hand, the essential elements of the Roman Rite are the same. The structure of the Mass as it is presented in the Roman Missal is consistent and this is one of the beauties of belonging to a liturgical tradition.

On the other hand, however, there are elements of celebrations that can vary depending on the country or even local region you might be in. For example, in certain parts of the world, certain feasts and solemnities are celebrated on different days (even here in the United States the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord can be celebrated on Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter or it may take the place of the Seventh Sunday of Easter, depending on what diocese you are in). Whether it is the use of certain liturgical colors, local celebrations of regional saints, special seasonal blessings of crops or produce, or the use of dance and processions all demonstrate a sort of organic variety that can exist even within our established liturgical tradition. While we always respect what is essential to the rite, such local variations and traditions are very much in keeping with the vision of liturgical renewal and adaption envisioned by the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (nos. 37-40).

Readings for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 9 A

Reading One – Zec 9:9-10

Thus says the LORD: Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; the warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial – Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

I will extol you, O my God and King, and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The LORD is faithful in all his words and holy in all his works. The LORD lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Reading Two – Rom 8:9, 11-13

Brothers and sisters: You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Alleluia – Cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mt 11:25-30

At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SUMMER STORYBOOK HOUR

Parents and caregivers, bring your preschool and elementary-age children for a story, snack and fun faith-related activity. (And a little coffee break for you!)



When?

Wednesday mornings from 9-10 am
on: July 5, 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2

Where?

The Emmaus Fellowship Hall in the
Sr. Carol Center.

Respond

Let us know by the Tuesday before
each session if you're coming.

Leave a message at 586-772-1282
or respond at sjascs.org/storyhour

Siblings of all ages are welcomed.



 **St. Joan of Arc**
FAITH & FAMILY FORMATION



Presented by the Office of Faith
and Family Formation

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE

sja.aodcsa.org

or use this
QR Code



PHONE

888-331-8695



*Go and
Announce*

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2023



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Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, July 3rd

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
Parish Center Closed for the Holiday

Tuesday, July 4th



7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
9:00 AM Morning Mass for the Holiday - Live Streamed

Wednesday, July 5th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
9:00 AM Story Hour in the Emmaus Hall
5:00 PM Reconciliation
6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, July 6th

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

Friday, July 7th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, July 8th

11:00 AM Reconciliation
11:30 AM Baptism of Penelope, Noah & Cohen Braithwaite
12:30 PM Baptism of Skylar Rose McCaa
1:30 PM Baptism of Opal Oneira Scavo
2:30 PM Baptism of Ava James Lewandowski
4:00 PM Sunday Mass Vigil - Live Streamed
6:00 PM Sunday Mass Vigil - Live Streamed

Sunday, July 9th

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

July 2, 2023 – Take Up Your Cross

Heaven knows, there are all kinds of crosses.

For some, the crosses are emotional – family discord, social conflict, anxieties, and all manner of heartaches.

For others, the crosses are financial -- struggling to make ends meet, to feed families, or to maintain adequate housing.

And for many, to be sure, the crosses are physical. From the relatively “simple” matters like a headache or toothache, to the more serious issues such as cancer or chronic pain, the burdens can be difficult, even debilitating.

A recent story in *The Detroit News* chronicled the particular difficulties of people with so-called “long covid.” Among the common symptoms that have been associated with this relatively new malady, the story said, are post-exercise malaise, mild to severe fatigue, brain fog, dizziness, heart palpitations, pain in the chest, unusually high levels of thirst, a loss of the senses of smell or taste, and others.

Covid wasn’t even on the radar just a few years ago, of course, and now there are statistically significant numbers of people suffering from its after-effects for long periods of time.

The story went on to describe, among other things, how the medical community is working to best address the needs of these patients over the long term.

There are probably a few lessons to be taken away from this situation.

One is that nearly everyone has a cross of some type they are carrying with them.

The other is that taking up those crosses and uniting our suffering with Jesus assures a good outcome.

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me,” Jesus says in today’s gospel passage from St. Matthew. “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

© 2023, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	July 3, 2023 Saint Thomas, Apostle (Red)
7:00 a.m.	Anna Marie Wilson
Tuesday	July 4, 2023 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Debbie Albrecht
9:00 a.m.	The deceased members of the McQuillan, Zaraneck, Walters and Gaidis Families
Wednesday	July 5, 2023 Weekday, Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; Saint Elizabeth of Portugal (Green/White/White)
7:00 a.m.	Fr. Richard Stieber and a Special Intention for the Thorpe Family
6:00 p.m.	Karen McMahon
Thursday	July 6, 2023 Weekday, Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr (Green/Red)
7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for the Family of Tina Calisi Special Intention for Robert Wojcik
Friday	July 7, 2023 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Robert Swalec and Dr. Peter Polidori
Saturday	July 8, 2023 Vigil of the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)
4:00 p.m.	Bonnie Batche, Dr. Edmond Aubrey, Helen Blind, Paul Burt, Susan Federoff, Arlene Moody, Jerald Folske, Patricia Dimavicius and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, for Alison Reslow, for Pam Haisenleder and for Christine & Jim Dodge on their 25th Wedding Anniversary
6:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Howard
Sunday	July 9, 2023 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions for St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Ella LaChance & a Special Intention for the Dobson Family
12:00 p.m.	Joseph Paluzzi Jr., Dottie Lubinski, Gene Seton and Special Intentions for Alison Reslow

Daily Readings

Monday, July 3

Ephesians 2:19-22
John 20:24-29

Tuesday, July 4

Genesis 19:15-24
Matthew 8:23-27

Wednesday, July 5

Genesis 21:5, 8-20a
Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday, July 6

Genesis 22:1b-19
Matthew 9:1-8

Friday, July 7

Genesis 23:1-4, 19:24:1-8, 62-67
Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday, July 8

Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29
Matthew 9:14-17

Sunday, July 9

Zecharia 9:9-10
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30



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.”

Thomas Schemanski
Shirley Fedeli



“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

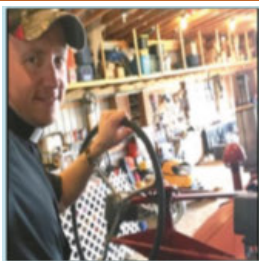


Reporting Sexual Abuse

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.

Farewell to Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Thank you and Farewell: Yes, I know it's July 2 and I was supposed to be gone now! And I am. But I wanted to have the opportunity

to say goodbye and thank you for my time here at St. Joan.

I took the opportunity for a little rest after my final weekend and get out of town, and in the process forgot the deadline for last week's bulletin article. Thank you, Fr. Adam for allowing me to steal this space for his first weekend (not that I gave him a choice!)

The readings for this Sunday are perhaps most appropriate for a weekend where parishes across the Archdiocese are transitioning from one priest to another, letting go of one and welcoming another.

In this very simple first reading today from the Second Book of Kings is a beautiful image of the relationship between the priest and God's people, and the community the priest is to serve.

Welcoming the prophet Elisha into their home was no doubt a great comfort to the Shunemite woman and her husband. In the midst of a culture led by the weak King Ahab and his murderous wife Jezebel, who were hostile to Israel's God, it must have been reassuring to have this man Elisha, who they recognized as a holy man, staying with them—a kindred spirit in the faith.

It was a life-giving relationship, and literally so, in that Elisha's desire to return their generosity causes him to prophesy that the woman will have a son to care for her in her later years.

Being a prophet of God was hardly an easy and care-free life. Traveling the dusty roads from town to town, enduring the harshest of the desert climate of the Middle-East, they were itinerants, relying on God and the generosity of His people. It must have

been a great encouragement to Elisha to know that whenever he passed that way, he knew that he had welcoming hosts, a guaranteed meal and a bed on which to lay his head. Simple, but life-giving generosity indeed. After all, even today, it is the generosity of parishioners in making their weekly offering to the parish that gives the priest a place to live, most practically speaking. It is your financial contributions that allow the parish to exist and to afford a priest of its own.

But equally important, it must have meant a lot for Elisha to know that in this place were like-minded people who worshipped the same God as he. Here, at least, was a safe place with people who understood his mission and his intentions. That reassurance really should not be underestimated. In a society today hostile to the message of the Gospels, the people of God, the people a priest serves in his parish, feed the priest's spirit, not just his stomach. It means everything to the priest to see his pews filled, to know that he is surrounded by like-minded people who are striving for holiness.

The pandemic did a lot to interrupt that life-giving relationship between the people and their priests—to separate us from the sacraments, not just from the Eucharist and reconciliation, etc. - the sacraments of the church - but from that sacramental relationship that we are to each other. As the sacrament of Holy Communion is the visible sign of the invisible reality of God giving Himself to us, so your presence in church is a visible sign of the invisible reality of our need and desire for community and worship.

It's the community that builds and strengthens the community. We offer each other support by our coming together in the faith to worship, to pray with and for each other. This is why a community cannot stay a community without communal gatherings, communal prayer and communal sharing of time and gifts.

As married couples are often reminded about the new "community" of family

they are forming, the couple that pray together, stay together, so the same goes for the community of the parish. The priest needs the community of his parish as much as the parish needs him.

It has been an honor to serve you to the best of my ability here at St. Joan these past 3 years and I sincerely thank you for your hospitality and welcome.

From those early days when I arrived at the height of the pandemic and it was hard to find you and to work-out ways to meet the community, it has been heartening to see us finally put all that behind us and to return our hands to the plough and be about the task God has set before us.

I thank you sincerely for all the different ways in which you have welcomed me into your lives over the past 3 years. I thank you for your kind words of support, your cards, your generosity in over-looking my mistakes.

Thank you to all who came to offer their good wishes after mass on my final weekend, and for all of your cards and gifts.

I am confident that you will be as hospitable to Fr. Adam as he arrives here, and that you will "arrange a little room" for him as the Shunemite woman did, hopefully not on the roof, but at least in your hearts. A priest arrives at a new parish, not always knowing if he has a bed or chair or table or lamp, but the most important thing he hopes he will find there is the openness of the community to take him in and make him feel welcome. He brings with him his own gifts and talents and desire to serve you and I know you will make him feel at home.

God bless you now and forever.

You are in my prayers always.

Fr. Andrew



Announcements

Catholic Holy Land Pilgrimage

Terra Sancta Pilgrimages, with Franciscan friar Fr. Alex Kratz, will be leading a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Jordan, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Galilee.

November 28-December 12, 2023.

This life-changing 14-day experience of walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass & Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer, spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians.

Cost is \$5,200 (all expenses included, round-trip from Detroit, 3 daily meals, all tips and tax).
Registration is first come, first serve.

Orientation Meeting—which is mandatory- for the registered is 2:00 pm Sunday, August 27, at St. Joseph Chapel, 400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341

In 2024 our trips (11-days long) are April 15-25 and November 11-21. For more information contact Pilgrimage Coordinator -Patti Giangrande, OFS:
248- 514-1747 or
Fr. Alex: 313-727-9784

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group

Meets on the 2nd and 4th
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at St. Joan of Arc from
6:30-8:30 pm in the
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Women Invited to 'Learn, Pray, Share, Celebrate' on Feast of St. Dominic

Are you a woman aged 19 or older considering God's call for your life? If so, the Adrian Dominican Sisters invite you to a special event to "Learn, Pray, Share, and Celebrate" as you learn more about vowed Dominican life or association with us.

The event begins with lunch on Monday, August 7, 2023, and concludes at about 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, the Feast of St. Dominic. Participants have the opportunity to: engage with St. Dominic's ways of prayer and with the early women of the Order; celebrate the Feast of St. Dominic with the Adrian Dominican Sisters through common prayer and Eucharistic Liturgy, and visit with Sisters and with other women who are discerning a call for their lives.

This special event is hosted at Weber Retreat and Conference Center on the Adrian Dominican Motherhouse Campus, 1257 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, Michigan, and is offered at no charge. Please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/ADSDiscern>.

For more information, email Sister Katherine Frazier, OP, at kfrazier@adriandominicans.org or call or text her at 260-229-3045.

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Andrew Barth	Nick DiCresce	Leland Helzer	Joel Moore	Terri Smigels
Geri Beaugrand	Jean Edwards	Valerie Hudson	Paula Nagel	Kathleen Smith
Noreen Bidigare	Frank Faiss	Zayne D. Kapinski	Karl Osantowske	Cathy Spindler
Gaetano Biondo	Ben Fazio	Thomas Kler	Mark Oumedian	Betty Squire
Gilbert Bousho	Taylor Fisher	Catherine Konen	Joan Persichini	Cathy Sullens
Edna Burton	Jeanne Fleming	Delaney Kraemer	Carol S. Provencal	Terri Szolach
Angeline Calus	Michelle Goode	Shirley Kraemer	Tracy Rauch	Beverly Taylor
Lori Cardosi	Jeanne Gainer	Laurie Krim	Alison Reslow	Bernadette Thompson
Ed Cole	Roz Geitzen	Concetta Leone	Sr. Alice Riegel	James Thompson
Joan Combellack	James Glaeser	David Lott	Jenna Rose	Linda Vitale
Maura Corrigan	Larry Graham	Joan Mannino	Randal & Bicah Roy	Eileen Wallace
John Crawford	James Gutowski	Charlotte Miller	Pat Rybak	Adrienne Weidenbach
Joan DeDene	Pam Haisenleder	Heather A. Miller	Sara Rybicki	Joseph Whalen
Catherine DeRose	Larry Hallman	Mark Moffitt	Victoria Rydholm	Marilyn Wicker
Diane DeSantis	John Hanselman	Jennie Mooney	Lily Saith	Joyce Wiekrykas
Grace Dickerson	Rich Hanselman	Adam Moore	Dianne Schelosky	Loretta Williams
George Dickerson	Judith Hasten	Jim Moore	Ann Simmonds	Joan Wright

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.

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Luciano Pastoria
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Bringing Home the Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

July 2, 2023

Dead and Buried—but Risen

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“Dead and buried” is a familiar phrase. But add “risen”? That’s something else. It may be that we have heard it so often we might miss how astounding it is. To say that we will die and be buried is one thing, but that we will rise is extraordinary. However, this is really not what St. Paul tells us today. The focus here is Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection—not primarily ours. Paul says that we actually enter into Jesus’ death, burial, and rising. This is amazing! People have always wanted somehow to be divine.

That was the great temptation in the Garden (“...you will be like gods, who know good and evil.” [Genesis 3:5]). Well, by baptism we are somehow divinized. Baptized into his death, we are buried with him and rise with him to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Note the form of the verbs here. This death, burial, and rising do not occur in some future place at some future time. It happens here and now. It all began at our baptism when we were joined to Jesus in his death, burial, and rising. It continues when we die to whatever holds us back from living as we know we should. It continues when, feeling like we are buried with the dead, we stand against injustice, dishonesty, and oppression of any kind. It continues whenever we rise to “newness of life.”

How blessed we are to have died, been buried, and live—here and now—the risen life of Jesus. †

***Baptized into his death,
we are buried with him
and rise with him
to “newness of life.”***



Sunday Readings

2 Kings 4:8–11, 14–16a

Elisha promised, “This time next year you will be cradling a baby son.”

Romans 6:3–4, 8–11

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Matthew 10:37–42

[Jesus said,] “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”

A Word from Pope Francis

We remember the great struggles which led to the abolition of slavery, the extension of voting rights, the growth of the labor movement, and the gradual effort to eliminate...prejudice....When a country is determined to remain true to...those founding principles based on respect for human dignity, it is strengthened and renewed.

INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you believe in the resurrection?
- Do you witness to the promise of resurrection by how you live?

One Nation Under God

By Rick Potts, CSsR

Daniel Berrigan once said that if, as it says in Hebrews 4:12, “the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword,” there ought to be a little blood on the floor after it’s been preached. This is so true when we speak of politics and religion.

Our ancestors erected a government that recognized people’s right to prosperity and worship, and then they promised to keep the two separate. Many agree with the principle, some because they don’t want the state interfering with their religious beliefs, others because they don’t want religious institutions meddling in their civil and political lives.

For a believer, the two realms can’t be separated. The Catholic religion, for example, is not a Sunday-only faith. To be authentically Catholic, one must live that faith 24/7. The articles of our faith—the Gospel Jesus preached—impact every aspect of our lives. We may not like it, but the Gospel has something to say about what we do in our bedrooms and whom we do it with. It has something to say about the money we make and how



we make it. And it has something to say about our government and the laws and policies of a nation.

Abortion, for example, isn’t just a question of political freedom and disembodied rights. It raises ethical issues that cannot be ignored because they directly impact the value our nation places on all human life. And speaking of life, as children of the Redeemer who count on his limitless mercy for our own salvation, what do we say about condemning someone to death? No mercy, no forgiveness—only death?

Likewise, we must address our economy specifically as Church. We’re like the wealthy man who had kept all the commandments and then asked Jesus what else he should do to be saved. When he was told to give all his possessions to the poor, he went away sad. (See Mark 10:17–27.)

He wasn’t alone: We who are wealthy often find the Gospel a hard pill to swallow. A fitting expression in the African American community is, “If you can’t say ‘Amen,’ then say ‘ouch!’” And indeed, the Word of God does hurt when it strikes close to the bone and challenges our comfort zone.

Like all good citizens, the Church is free to critique the state and free to challenge it when it crosses ethical lines or fails to protect its weakest citizens. You could even say the Church would be unpatriotic if it didn’t. Something to think about as the US celebrates Independence Day. †

A couple of very good pastors taught me to look for common ground. One of those pastors, Bishop Paul Zipfel, offered a Mass on the eve of Desert Storm, and began by saying something like this: “Some of us think going to war is what we need to do. Some of us think it’s a dreadful mistake. Some of us think all war is wrong. But we all want the same thing. We disagree on the means, but we all want the same thing. We want to feel safe. We want a future for our children.

“We want beauty, calm, and a place to grow. We want peace. We all want peace. And so, let us unite ourselves in our prayer for peace.” †

Paige Byrne Shortal, Liguori bulletin, July 4, 2004

PRAYER

Faithful God, as we each struggle with our own cross, make us mindful of the burdens others must carry, and allow us to be a blessing to them. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 3–8

Monday, St. Thomas:
Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29
Tuesday, Weekday:
Gn 19:15–29 / Mt 8:23–27
Wednesday, Weekday:
Gn 21:5, 8–20a / Mt 8:28–34

Thursday, Weekday:
Gn 22:1b–19 / Mt 9:1–8
Friday, Weekday:
Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 / Mt 9:9–13
Saturday, Weekday:
Gn 27:1–5, 15–29 / Mt 9:14–17

Bringing Home
the Word 
July 2, 2023

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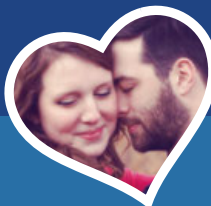
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