



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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15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.” - Mt 13:23

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.sjascscs.org

SCHOOL
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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

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Fax: 586-775-8374

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Non-Resident Sacramental Minister

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Michelle Russo

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



Playing Paul Bunyan: My paternal grandparents (my dad's dad) had an 80-acre farm in Imlay City. As a kid, I always enjoyed spending a day at the farm.

My grandparents grew corn, beans, potatoes, and tomatoes. I think I was the only one of my siblings who enjoyed a day up at the farm. My grandparents had a large pole barn, a small camper trailer they called home at the farm (their real house was on Eureka in Detroit). I really enjoyed it when my dad allowed me to sit with him as he drove the tractor. Most notable, and probably the reason my sisters didn't like the farm, was that the only bathroom facility was an outhouse. Despite the outhouse, from the time I was a little kid, I had a fascination with farms and farming.

Fast forward to when my sister Cindy met her future husband, Jay Finn. I thought it was so ironic that the Finns lived up in Allenton, which wasn't too far from Imlay City ... and thus, all farm and country living. Cindy and Jay settled in Allenton, right on Capac Road. Several years after my brother-in-law died in 2015, my oldest nephew bought that house and property for him and his now wife Kerry, and Cindy and my niece McKenzie built and settled in a home a mile up the road. It's a beautiful house, and all adjacent land is being farmed.

Now all of this information had to be known because, in a remote corner of the property, I installed a solar and cellular camera so we could scope out what was happening on the property. Why did I do this ... well because I'm me. There is no power and no internet connection, so I enjoyed the challenge of configuring a solar and cellular-based security camera. In the fall and wintertime, the camera catches all the deer passing by, and during the spring and summer, we see the crops the farmer is farming on the property.

When setting up this camera late last summer, I spent some time scoping things out to get the most sun and the best cellular signal because my camera would be absolutely useless without the sun and a good cell signal. I finally found the perfect tree and got everything functioning. I trimmed the tree a bit to ensure no stray leaves interfered with the solar panel, and everything worked (which sometimes is an anomaly in my world). I was most pleased

as this was my first venture with a solar and cellular system.

The camera worked well until the end of May. The last image recorded was on May 31st. Of course, this drove me crazy because I couldn't hop on over there, climb a ladder and fix it because of my knee surgery and foot issue. I thought about it for a nano-second, but somehow I knew I would be caught and read the riot act for doing this without asking for help. Often, my nephew J.J. is my partner in crime for these types of projects out there. But I decided to wait it out. I knew the tree had grown a bit because one branch kept causing the motion sensor to go off, but I had no idea how overgrown it had become. I figured the stray leaves had finally blocked the solar panel, and thus the camera died because it wasn't being charged.

We had a family gathering in Allenton on July 4th. I commandeered my mom to leave early so I could play Paul Bunyan and trim off some leaves or small branches from the tree. I planned on a half hour to accomplish my task. My mom was game, and a plan was made.

When we arrived at the property, I grabbed the small saw I brought, which I thought could handle the task. I carefully walked to the spot where I installed the camera. I knew my mom would be all eagle eyes watching to make sure I didn't do anything crazy. I finally got to the infamous tree and was amazed by all the growth. The camera and the entire solar panel were overtaken with leaves. I crawled through all the brush and the patch of wild raspberries, hoping it would be a few minute job to trim the tree a bit. As I did so, I noted a vine of leaves overtaking the tree. It looked odd, but my focus was really on one thing, and that was to trim this tree. It must have been 90 outside, and I was dressed in long pants and started to sweat a ton as I sawed off some branches from this tree. As I did so, I continued to be intrigued by this vine that was all over the place. At one point, my mom shouted, "I hope there isn't any poison ivy out there." Suddenly I started to panic. I was covered in vines and brush. I shouted back, "I don't think there is any poison ivy; I think I know what that looks like. But this vine with leaves all over the place looks odd." My mom shouted back, "Oh no, it's probably poison oak!" I instantly backed off and started to Google poison oak. What came up on my phone looked like what I saw in front of me. "OH NO," I thought to myself. "This is the last thing

I needed was a case of poison oak." At this point, I gave up on my project and just wanted to wash down my arms and dry off. I returned to the car and asked how long it would take before knowing if I had a case of poison oak. My mom said it could easily be within an hour or two. So I began the timer in my mind and hoped the redness on my arm was more psychosomatic than a real rash. We got to my sisters, and I changed clothes and threw what I was wearing in the dryer. After devouring some chocolate chip cookies my niece made, I continued the Google hunt on poison oak while staring at my arms, watching for changes.

When we got to our family gathering down the road, my arms showed no changes, and I was starting to breathe a sigh of relief that I wasn't affected by the poison oak. All I wanted was to play Paul Bunyan and Farmer Mike for a few hours. Instead, I got another incomplete project (a dead camera) and a poison oak education. But what is the solution to every DIYer's dilemma? Go and buy a new tool! So I bought a 14-foot pole saw and pruner the other day so I could go back and tackle my project another day. This way, I would stay clear of the poison oak and anything else lurking around in this overgrown area of the property. All I wanted was to get my camera working so I could watch the corn grow and look at the silo of the nearby dairy farm!! It's the little things that amuse this Monsignor! But at least I got another tool out of the adventure!

CSA Update: Thanks to your generosity, we have \$130,867 in pledges toward our \$208,946 goal. To all who have contributed to the CSA thus far, thank you for your generosity! What's impressive to me is that 364 families alone have helped us reach our \$130,867 total pledged amount.

I have to admit I've been amazed at the number of people lately who stop me and say, "OH, I keep forgetting to drop off my CSA stuff." Well, don't forget ... please! Please help us reach our goal. The easiest way to give is electronically at csa.stjoan.church or by following the link on the homepage of our parish website. Let's do what we can in prayer and action to make this year's CSA a huge success.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of July 16, 2023



Easter in Art: Mary Magdalene (Part 3 of 3)

Learn about the "apostle to the apostles" in this discussion with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp. They take a look at a famous painting of Jesus's encounter with Mary Magdalene following the Resurrection.



Where are You? | Forgiven | Session 1

This captivating series explores Catholic themes of redemption, grace, and forgiveness through compelling storytelling and thought-provoking narratives. It offers a profound understanding of the transformative power of forgiveness and its significance in personal growth and spiritual renewal.



Saint Mary Magdalene

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp for a discussion on the life and witness of St. Mary Magdalene. Who was she, and why is she a saint? Find out in this conversation.

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

Along the Way

Thank you all for your warm welcome this past weekend. It is always a challenge moving to a new parish – getting used to a new routine and environment, meeting all new people, etc. But your graciousness has made the process so much easier!

I am all settled in now and unpacked, except for my office – I'll get to that eventually. It has been fun exploring the "East Side," of which I am totally unfamiliar. It is so beautiful! I grew up in Southgate and then Brownstown Township and lived just 5 minutes from the water. As a child my dad had a boat, and we would often go fishing. But there is one big difference between where I grew up and here in St. Clair Shores.... fish flies. That is definitely something I am going to have to get used to. Even in my seminary and diaconate internship at Holy Trinity Parish in Port Huron we didn't have fish flies like this. But everyone keeps saying that they are a sign of a healthy lake, so that's a good thing!

Another big adjustment for me is living alone. Believe it or not, at 32 years old, this is the first time that I have ever lived alone. Though I'm very extroverted, I have to be honest, I enjoy that quiet solitude in the evening. I am also starting to become a master chef with the air fryer – maybe I'll release a cookbook? Though I like to cook, it sure is hard to find the time. My dad, Alan, is a phenomenal chef, as was my late mother, Shelly. They taught me many Polish recipes handed down from my grandmother and great grandmother.

If you attended the 10am Mass this past



weekend, you may have seen my dad there. Though Msgr. Mike said they are the same age, let me assure you, Msgr. is actually 359 days younger than my dad.

My dad and mom raised a beautiful family, of which I am the middle child. My older sister, Brittainie, and her husband, Jacob, have three beautiful daughters: Addisyn, Paityn, and Olivia. I am the godfather to Addisyn and Olivia was my first baptism. My younger brother, Scott, and his wife, Madison, have a daughter named Harper and a son, Levi. Harper always reminds us of the beauty of life and the blessings that can come even in sorrow; she was born the day after my mom lost her battle with cancer in 2020.

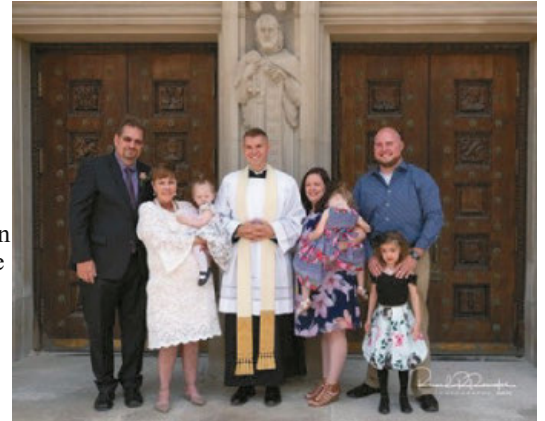
As a youngster I attended St. Pius X School in Southgate. (Other notable attendees include Fr. Mario Amore and Fr. Mark Livingston.) From there we moved to Christ the Good Shepherd School in Lincoln Park where my dad and his four brothers had attended. Eventually we moved to what then felt like so far away, Brownstown Township. I really came to encounter the Lord and grow in relationship with him while I was in youth ministry at Our Lady of the Woods in Woodhaven. If you've heard of that parish, it might be because Fr. Rich was pastor there once upon a time. Our beloved Sr. Carol also ministered there for a number of years.

As I said this past weekend in my homily, I didn't want to be in youth group because I didn't think it was cool. Well God has a sense of humor because during college I became the coordinator of youth ministry at St. Cyprian in Riverview. Ministering in a parish really helped solidify my vocation to the priesthood. So, after graduating from the University of Detroit Mercy with a degree in psychology and religious studies in 2013, I entered seminary.

It was never *my* plan to enter seminary, but it was always in God's. I tried to ignore His calling while in college because my plan was to go to Notre Dame to get my doctorate in clinical psychology. But God's

calling is persistent, and I always knew that if I didn't answer, I would be asking "what if?" for the rest of my life.

I really enjoyed my time in seminary and graduated in 2019 with degrees in philosophy and theology. I have to admit,



I'm a bit of a nerd. I love reading and learning and I'm back in school full-time again, pursuing an MBA and an MA in philosophy (it's a dual degree program) at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. That is the reason you didn't see me the first weekend of July since I was attending the summer institute on campus for the program.

Anyway, after ordination I spent three years at St. Frances Cabrini in Allen Park as parochial vicar and campus minister of the high school. It was interesting, to say the least, to be assigned to a parish so close to where I grew up, but a blessing. After Cabrini I was assigned to St. Hugo of the Hills, Bloomfield Hills, where I spent the last year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all my priestly assignments and I thank God every day that He has allowed me to and with His people. I also feel very blessed to join this wonderful community at St. Joan of Arc. Thank you again for your gracious welcome and I look forward to getting to know you all better. Please continue to pray for me!

Blessings,

Fr. Adam

July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10-11 | Rom 8:18-23 | Mt 13:1-23

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

At Mass with my family recently, my five-year-old daughter caught the last four words of the mystery of faith as if she was hearing them for the first time. She was bursting with excitement as we finished saying, “We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.” She turned to me and said, “Mom! We said, ‘until you come again.’ Does that mean Jesus is coming back? He’s coming HERE?” What a lovely, emotion-filled response to learning that truth. She has heard those words countless times, but this time she heard the truth behind them. Her soul has been made for relationship with God from her time in the womb. The Holy Spirit has been preparing her to receive those words when she was ready to hear them in their fullness, and as the responsorial psalm proclaimed: “The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.” For those in the young, challenging years when it may seem easier to leave the little ones at home rather than take them to Mass, let’s remember what we are told in the first reading from Isaiah. “Thus says the Lord: ... my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How often do you find yourself listening to a friend or family member not to really hear what they are saying, but to plan your response? Do we do that while we pray as well? Sometimes I catch myself praying with an inner monologue behind it, deciding how I want that prayer to be answered. Now all of this may not be exactly what Jesus meant when he said, “This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand,*” but it is worth exploring. When we are so anxious to get our words in – either to another person, or to God, we’re not really being the rich soil that the other’s words deserve. We’re not even the rocky ground or the thorny path of which the Lord speaks; we’re more like a giant rubber wall off of which the words bounce! Let’s take some time to consider how our practice of listening and receiving others, including the Lord, is preparing us (or not) for the return of Jesus. And if there is room to improve, now is a good time to do it.

PRAY *Lord, Jesus Christ, prepare my heart and my soul so that your words and your desires for my life will not fall on rocky soil. Give me the strength to be a Godly sower to all I encounter, especially my family, so your glory will be revealed. Amen.*



Readings for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 23 A

Reading One – Wis 12:13, 16-19

There is no god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned. For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity. But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.

Responsorial – Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you. Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O LORD, and glorify your name. For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds; you alone are God.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity. Turn toward me, and have pity on me; give your strength to your servant.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Reading Two – Rom 8:26-27

Brothers and sisters: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

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 13:24-43

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: *I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.*

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Gala Save the Date

 **St. Joan of Arc**
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

17th Annual Auction & Dinner Gala



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S GALA

- Once again, the gala is at the **GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB** in **Grosse Pointe Shores!**
- The Gala is our largest fundraiser to benefit the school. **Attend or buy raffle tickets** to support this event.
- **We need your donations.** Contact the School or Parish Center to learn how to donate Silent and Live Auction items.
- **There's a spot for you.** Join the Gala Planning Committee or volunteer to help the night of the Gala.

CONTACT US:

Pam Graskewicz (pgraskewicz@hotmail.com) or Kathy Kalich (kkalich@stjoan.net)

We ENCOURAGE everyone to dress in the red and white in honor of our SJA Chargers for this year's Gala!

Mark your calendar for a great time...

OCTOBER 21, 2023 @ GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB



SJA's Target:
\$208,946

Pledged to Date:
\$130,867

Total Pledges:
364

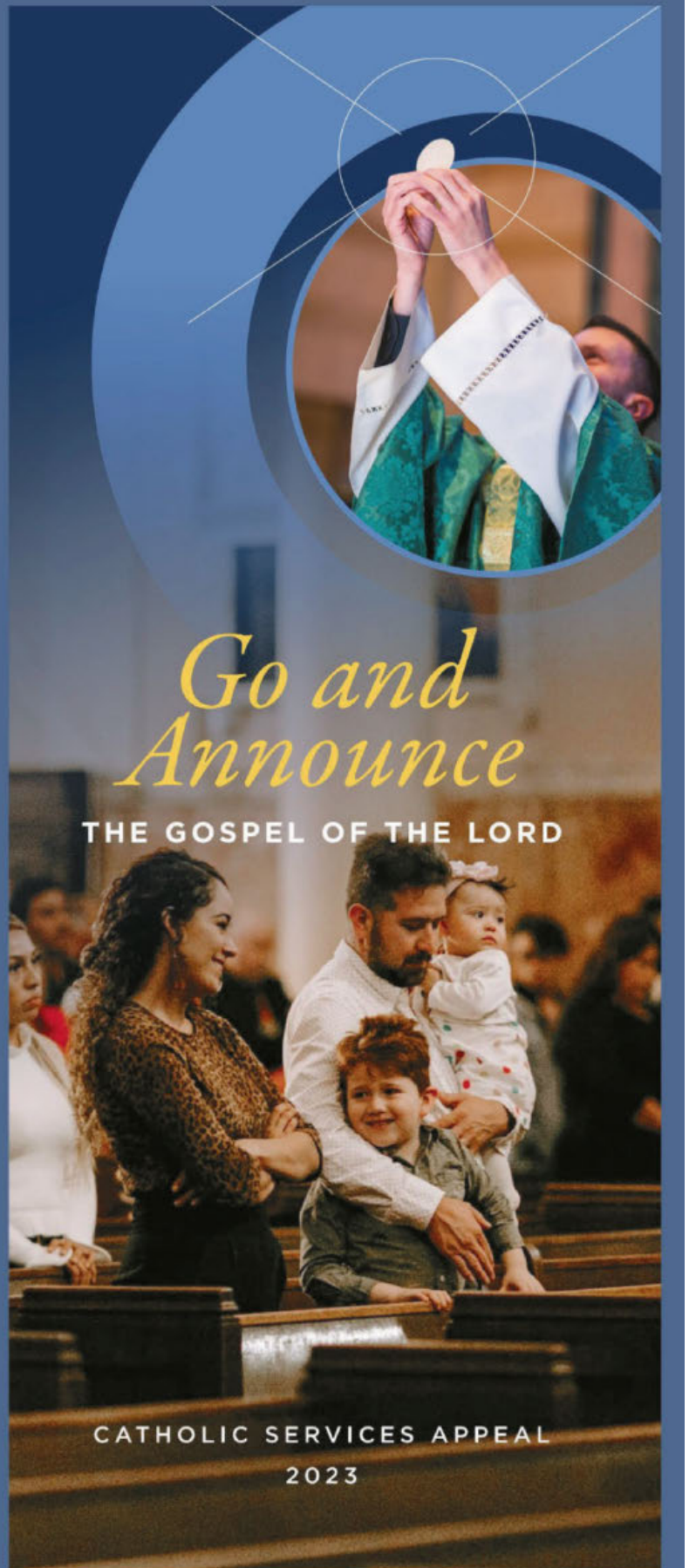
WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE:
sja.aodcsa.org

or use this
QR Code



PHONE:
888-331-8695



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 through August 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.



Presented by the Office of Faith
and Family Formation

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, July 17th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, July 18th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, July 19th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 AM Summer Book club—Peregrine Room

9:00 AM Story Hour in the Emmaus Hall

5:00 PM Reconciliation

6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, July 20th

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, July 21st

7:00 AM Morning Mass - Live Streamed
Parish Center Closed—Summer Hours

Saturday, July 22nd

11:00 AM Reconciliation

4:00 PM Sunday Mass Vigil - Live Streamed

6:00 PM Sunday Mass Vigil - Live Streamed

Sunday, July 23rd

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 16, 2023 – Muscle Car Parable

What would Jesus do?

It's a common expression, and it comes to mind frequently as one contemplates the day-to-day cycles of news.

Consider the developments in Oakland County a few weeks ago related to the amount of noise pollution emanating from muscle cars and motorcycles.

According to a story in the *Detroit Free Press*, several Oakland County communities have come together to work on ordinances that would attempt to regulate the extreme noise these vehicles make. At the time of this writing, it remains to be seen whether the initiative will gain any traction, and, if so, the impact it will have.

But the entire scenario brings to mind how, Jesus, if he were preaching in southeast Michigan right now, might use the scenario as an opportunity for a parable.

“This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand,” Jesus says in today's gospel passage from St. Matthew.

“Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted and I heal them.”

So, were Jesus to preach on the corner of 14 Mile Road and Woodward tomorrow, he might suggest that the loud cars and motorcycles are not only a symptom of – but are actually emblematic of – a society so inundated with noise that it isn't able to hear the word of God.

“We need to put mufflers on our vehicles,” he might well say, “so that we can enable ourselves to be more attentive to my Father's word.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

- Monday July 17, 2023 Weekday (Green)**
7:00 a.m. Dolores Dobson
- Tuesday July 18, 2023 Weekday, Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest (Green/White)**
7:00 a.m. Dr, Edmond Aubrey
- Wednesday July 19, 2023 Weekday (Green)**
7:00 a.m. Bianca Calisi
6:00 p.m. Delphine Kirejczyk
- Thursday July 20, 2023 Weekday, Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr (Green/Red)**
7:00 a.m. Suzanne Roland
- Friday July 21, 2023 Weekday; Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Blessed Francis Jordan, Priest and Religious Founder (Green/White/White)**
7:00 a.m. Monsignor Ricardo Bass and Keith Khalil
- Saturday, July 22, 2023 Vigil of the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Saint Mary Magdalene (White)**
4:00 p.m. Grace & Sam Valenti, Florence Semany, Bonnie Batche, Shirlene Keyes, Italo Binelli, Tom Koehler, Patricia Dimavicius, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, for Alison Reslow, and for Pam Haisenleder.
6:00 p.m. Elizabeth Howard
- Sunday July 23, 2023 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)**
8:00 a.m. For the Intentions for St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m. Frank Shuder & Johnny Spath
12:00 p.m. Jaclyn Maul, Joan Hardy, Felician King, Joseph DiTrapani and Special Intentions for Alison Reslow and Pam Haisenleder

Daily Readings

Monday, July 17

Exodus 1:8-14, 22
Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tuesday, July 18

Exodus 2:1-15a
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday, July 19

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday, July 20

Exodus 3:13-20
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday, July 21

Exodus 11:10-12:14
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday, July 22

Song of Songs 3:1-4a
John 20:1-2, 11-18

Sunday, July 23

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43



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.”

**Patricia Rybak
Christine Sharp**



“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.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that it's all about the soil.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

*"...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."
— Isaiah 55:11*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

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
Wednesday of each month
at St. Joan of Arc from
6:30-8:30 pm in the
Sr. Carol Center.

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at the Parish Center
during business hours.

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

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

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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David Light
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Lee Michael
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Brody J. Fitzgerald
Jason Gaidis
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Robert Douglas III
William DuBay





Bringing Home the Word

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

July 16, 2023

So, What's Your Point?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Have you ever explained something carefully and at length, and yet the "listener" misses your point? This seems to be the situation in today's Gospel. The scene Jesus first described was a familiar one. The people listening to him might have sown seed in this manner themselves. So, what was the point?

First, it is important to recall that a parable is a story with a double meaning. One meaning is literal, the other is metaphoric. The literal meaning of this parable is obvious. So, what's the point? It is in the second part of the passage that Jesus explains the metaphoric meaning. He tells his disciples that the

seeds represent those who hear the word of the kingdom. Then the reality of life intervenes and each seed (the one who hears the word) must decide how to deal with that reality. One might think, "Very interesting story. I know just what the seed is going through."

We are now ready to ask, "What's the real point of the story?" The metaphoric meaning of the parable should pose several questions for each of us. What yield do I produce? Do I appreciate what it means to be a disciple, or is that privilege far from my consciousness? Am I grounded in my faith, or am I religiously rootless? Do I live according to the standards of Jesus, or does the allure of the world entrap me? That's the point of the story. †

Do I appreciate what it means to be a disciple; or is that privilege far from my consciousness?



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 55:10-11

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me.

Romans 8:18-23

The sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

[Jesus said,] "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

A Word from Pope Francis

Concern for the dignity of all... became an essential part of the American spirit. During his visit to the United States in 1987, St. John Paul II reminded all Americans that: "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones."

INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How has the word of the kingdom taken root in your family?
- Is it obvious to others that you are a disciple of Jesus?

Lower the Volume So You Can Listen

By Kathleen M. Basi

In the absence of clarity, the only way to hold the course is to stay in touch with the One who sees the big picture. Prayer is the foundation of a lived faith.

Sometimes I think past generations had an easier time following God. The Israelites had the finger of the Almighty carving commandments in stone. The early Church had flesh-and-blood encounters with the Son of God. We, on the other hand, have to make do by asking, “What would Jesus do?”

It seems like an easy question until you start trying to answer it. After all, Jesus never told us how to address terrorism, prenatal testing, or the hookup culture. Even perennial problems like poverty require us to distinguish between collective (governmental) and personal responsibility. As we consider the future, how do we discern a Christian response to sticky moral quandaries?

The answer is as deceptively simple as the question. The answer is prayer. But prayer is more than a shopping list tacked to a rosary or Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Asking God for what we need is



good and holy, but prayer is a two-way street; we also have to listen. Listening requires quiet, and the paradigms that govern modern life leave little room for quiet. Lack of stimulus makes us nervous. We can't exercise without an iPod. We can't eat in restaurants without a widescreen TV in every corner. Smartphones ensure that the web is a touch away at all times.

In many ways, this is a blessing; however, it also means God has to shout to be heard. And although God certainly can shout, it's not his preferred mode of communication. God doesn't inscribe

messages on billboards; he speaks softly to pilgrim hearts (see 1 Kings 19:12)—those who seek to hear his voice in everything they encounter, who take time to “be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:11). And therein lies the first challenge—to set aside the background noise that fills modern life.

It may not feel like it, but the moral conundrums of generations past were as much a muddle to the people living through them as ours are now. Their problems look simple because we have the advantage of hindsight. The future will always be shrouded in uncertainty. Confidence comes when we humbly admit we don't have the answers. It comes when we remove distraction and allow our hearts and minds to be molded into a clearer reflection of God

If we reflect God, we can trust that we have direction in our stumbling—even if we can't see the endpoint. †

First published in *Liguorian*, March 2013

Sr. Thea on Catholics with “Radical” Ideas

“Catholic Christians came into my community, and they helped us with education, they helped us with health care, they helped us to find our self-respect and to realize our capabilities when the world had told us for so long that we're nothing and would amount to nothing. And I wanted to be a part of that effort. That's radical Christianity, that's radical Catholicism.”

Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA, *In My Own Words*, copyright 2009, Liguori Publications



Creator God, you still speak through your word and through your holy ones. Help us to hear and to heed your voice, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 17–22

Monday, Weekday:

Ex 1:8–14, 22 / Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday, Weekday:

Ex 2:1–15a / Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday, Weekday:

Ex 3:1–6, 9–12 / Mt 11:25–27

Thursday, Weekday:

Ex 3:13–20 / Mt 11:28–30

Friday, Weekday:

Ex 11:10–12:14 / Mt 12:1–8

Saturday, St. Mary Magdalene:

Sg 3:1–4b or 2 Cor 5:14–17 / Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

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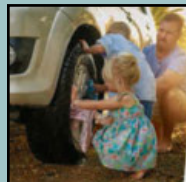
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