



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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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574
Website: www.stjoan.net

FAITH AND FAMILY FORMATION OFFICE
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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

School

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

Faith Formation

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

In-Solidum Priest

Team:

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

Fr. Adam Nowak
anowak@sjascs.org

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

Fr. Eric Fedewa
frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla
stveronicaeast@comcast.net

Msgr. Gary Smetanka
msgsr.smetanka@stargp.org

Non-Resident

Sacramental Minister

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
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Deacon Dom Pastore
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Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
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Music Director

Catherine Trudell
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Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am
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:
Monday - Thursday from 8:30am - 5:00pm
Friday: 8:30am—4:00pm

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



CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS:

I wish to extend my appreciation and thanks to all who helped with the Christmas liturgies and environment this year. The Church

and the Sr. Carol Center looked
AWESOME!

Many people helped, but I would like to single out a few individuals who went above and beyond to make it all so memorable for all of us!

First, I would like to give a massive shout-out to Fr. Rich for all his work designing and creating all the most spectacular Advent and Christmas decorations that decorated our sanctuary. I don't know what we would do without him!

Second, I would like to give another massive shout-out to the Markielewicz family, who take it on as a family mission every year to get the Christmas trees and wreaths up in the Church and the Sr. Carol Center. Pat, Sandy, Abbie, and Zach spend countless hours together to get everything done for us! Pat "roped" Roger Pattie into helping hang all the wreaths in all those high places in the Church. In addition, Letitia Kaiser and Joanne Kaiser assisted with some of the "fluffing" that needed to occur.

I'm grateful to Fr. Rich, Dina Ciaffone, Fr. Adam, the Markielewicz Family, Pete Ciaravino, Anne Melise, and her adorable mother, Ilona Higgins, for all their work organizing and placing the poinsettias that decorated the Church and Sr. Carol Center. And then to Anne and Ilona, who painstakingly tend to all our plants and flowers in Church year-round.

I'm grateful to those who contributed to the flower collection. People always ask where we get our poinsettias, plants, and flowers throughout the year. We get them from Canton Floral Gardens in Canon.

I'm grateful to Fr. Adam for organizing the many people responsible for putting up the outdoor lights this year. He was assisted by Roger Pattie, who handled the lift and all the high places. I'm grateful to the Markielewicz, Pattie, and the other school families who gave of their time to put up all the outdoor Christmas lights.

I'm grateful to Charlie Kaiser and Pete Ciaravino, who helped decorate the Athletic Field with lights. The light display on the field is always spectacular.

I'm grateful to Catherine Thomas Trudell, our Director of Music Ministries, and to Kristine Hass, Eleonore Ellero-Groth, the Children's Choir, the Adult Choir, and all the musicians and accompanists who assisted with all the music during the Christmas season. The music was phenomenal and truly enhanced our Christmas liturgies!

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Mary Garofalo, Catherine Thomas Trudell, the

*Christmas
Thank You*

parents, and, most especially, the little angels who participated in our O Holy Night children's program and the Children's choir on Christmas Eve. Watching the little ones sing or take part in retelling the story of Christ's birth brings great warmth to any heart!

I'm grateful to Amy Pattie, Charlie Kaiser, our teachers, and administrators for all they did to help our school children keep focused on Christ as the reason for the season. In addition, I'm grateful to Lisa Mangan, who led our school Christmas Music Program, Ron Malabed, who coordinated the Advanced Band Christmas Program, and all the students who participated in these great annual traditions at SJA School.

I'm grateful to Maria and Larry Krzesowski, Debbie Bigham, Jeanne VanEgmond, Michelle Messina, and Pete Ciaravino for all their work in making the annual Memorial Tree a reality. Maria, Debbie, and Michelle spend countless hours machine embroidering the ornaments that decorate the annual memorial tree to honor those who have gone home to the Lord over the past year. Rachel Gerard and Jeanne VanEgmond ensure all the names and dates are super accurate before and after the ornaments are made.

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Steve Hysick, Ed Raybaud, Dina Ciaffone, Fr. Adam, and Jim and Marsha Jenkins for all their work handling the cameras for our streaming. I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Catherine Thomas Trudell, Fr. Adam, Kathy Kalich, Mary Pat Brennan, Ida Abdelnour, Brian Wotta, and Barb Hendrick for handling the technical and practical aspects of the slides in Church that display our songs and responses.

I'm grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Vern Dave, John Benoit, and Pete Ciaravino for their extraordinary work in getting the outdoor Nativity set into place and for ensuring the Church and Sr. Carol Center are spotless for all of our Christmas liturgies. John and Pete also go out of their way on Christmas Eve and Day to show up between our Masses to ensure everything is spotless for the next liturgy. And then God bless Vern for opening up and getting the lights on in Church and School as early as 4:30 or 5:00 each morning.

Speaking of the outdoor Nativity set, I continue to be grateful to the Art and Mary Ann Van Elslander family for gifting us the beautiful Nativity set that once decorated their front lawn on Lakeshore! That precious gift now enhances our front lawn for all to see.

I'm grateful to Mary Garofalo and her team, who helped in the Kitchen and ensured all our Advent and Christmas receptions and gatherings were extra special. They do extraordinary work!

I'm grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Rachel Gerard, Jackie Bugarin-Scheuer, Kathy Kalich, and Mary Pat Brennan for their hard work and efforts in taking care of the flurry of requests that came through the Parish Center during Advent and especially during the days leading up to Christmas. It's hard to keep track of the comings and goings of people (and boxes) and all the requests, but they do a phenomenal job and always do it with warm hearts and great smiles.

I'm grateful to all those who participated in the Giving Tree Project or helped sponsor a family for Christmas. Because of your generosity, we raised around \$15,000 that was then used to purchase gifts or gift cards for Father Murray Nursing Center, Nativity of the Lord Church, St. Raymond Church, the Orchards of Harper Woods Senior Living Facility, and Munger

Continued on page 4

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Elementary School in Detroit. We also were able to provide, in partnership with our St. Vincent DePaul Team, Christmas for 16 families with 32 Children.

I'm grateful to my team of family members who, shortly after our Christmas Eve dinner, helped place all 2,200 tea lights outside during the 6 PM mass. We've done this now for four years in a row.

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass and Dina Ciaffone for all their hard work in creating and editing the special Christmas edition of the bulletin. The Christmas edition of the bulletin is created to be a tool for outreach and evangelization for all our visitors and guests, besides having the usual weekly information everyone is accustomed to seeing in the bulletin.

I'm grateful to Fr. Adam for his research on selecting the Christmas book giveaway

this year, *The Words of Eternal Life: True Happiness and Where to Find It* by Jimmy Akin. I'm grateful to Kristine Hass for creating the insert and the team of people who stuffed all 4,000 books.

Speaking of stuffers, I'm grateful to those who give their time to prepare the bulletin to be mailed weekly to 1,000 families. That list includes Rachel Gerard, Pete Ciaravino, Ida Abdelnour, Barb Hendrick, Mary Pat Brennan, Kathy Kalich, Sue Mulrenin, Tony Latarski, Patty Kesner, Judy Deneweth, Laura Sorget, Debbie Bigham, Thelma Socia, and my mom Chris Bugarin.

I'm grateful to the lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and our team of God's Door Keepers for their dedication and extraordinary ministry to all who came to SJA over the Christmas holidays.

And, last but not least, thank you to Fr. Adam, Fr. Rich, Deacon Dominick, and

Deacon Tom for their extraordinary ministry around the altar of the Lord with the marathon of liturgies we had this year! We are so grateful for the team we have at SJA!

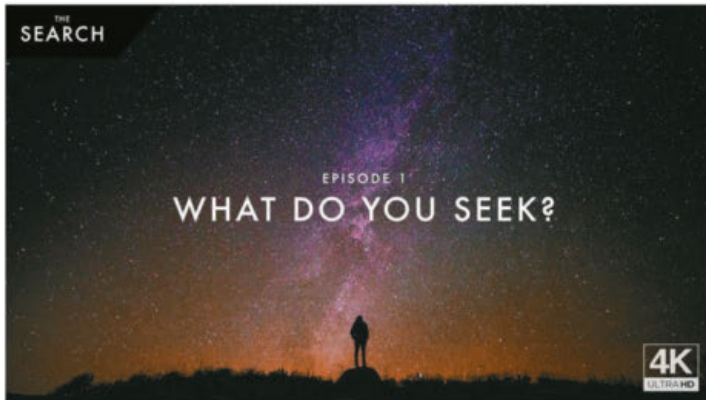
Our liturgies were prayerful and beautiful and led us to a deeper relationship with the Lord. It took a lot of people working together to make it all happen. It was another magnificent Christmas at SJA! THANK YOU! Blessed be God in all his designs!

Now, of course, and because we are SJA, there were plenty of behind-the-scenes funny moments, blunders, and issues. Just wait. I have content for a few weeks!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy Epiphany of the Lord!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org



FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

What Do You Seek? | The Search | Episode 1

What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Who Are the Magi?

In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this historical event recorded in Scripture.

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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and ignatius press

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you all so much for the many cards, gifts, and Christmas greetings that you sent. They are very much appreciated it! Know of my prayers for you for a blessed 2024! I hope you enjoyed a little bit of a break after Christmas and before things get too crazy again.

I was really looking forward to a little down time, but I didn't expect to be in isolation. After three years, I finally got struck with the dreaded **c*v!d**. Although my symptoms were mild – I'm starting to get my taste and smell back already – there were several events that, unfortunately, I had to miss. I was not able to celebrate the funeral Mass for a dear friend from a former parish. Nor was I able to baptize the grandchild of another friend from a previous parish.

But God knew that I must have needed the rest. I think this is especially true seeing as next week I'll be with the Regina High School seniors for their Kairos Retreat. "Kairos" is an ancient Greek word meaning "the right moment" or, in the Christian view, it means "God's time." This is opposed to "chronos" from where we get the word "chronology", which means "a measurable time" or "exact time."



I was thinking about this specially at the beginning of the New Year and while I was stuck in quarantine. It's about God's time. As impatient as I am, that is a hard truth for me to grasp.

Yet, we see over and over again in Scripture how God's timing is perfect. In examining the birth narrative in Luke's Gospel, something that we have just reflected upon for Advent and Christmas, we can see this to be true.

Elizabeth, barren and well beyond childbearing, waited and wept for years. We can only imagine the heartache of her infertility before the miraculous conception of John the Baptist—at God's perfect timing. Perfect timing for John, as an adult, to prepare the way of the Lord, to announce salvation at hand, and to baptize Jesus in the Jordan.

The Angel of the Lord appears to Mary, a virgin, who freely consents to God's invitation to bear our Savior. The Spirit overshadows her at the perfect time. Perfect timing for Mary to travel to the hill country to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. There, Elizabeth, "too old," affirms Mary, "too young," of the Holy Spirit's actions in Mary's life: "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:43).

The Annunciation occurred according to God's perfect timing. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a census at just the right time. There, the stars aligned perfectly, the wise men's calculations were precise, and God's timing was impeccable for the birth of our Savior. Like pinpricks of light, God's timing shines through each word in Scripture, pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophecies.

The Spirit worked through the most unlikely people, under the strangest circumstances, to bring Jesus into the world—at just the right time. God

desires to work through each of us to fulfill His mission of bringing Christ into the world. The Spirit will move mountains for us to live according to His word. Some of that timing includes waiting in faith, at other times responding in the moment.



The key is to listen to the Spirit and pray with Mary, "May it be done according to your will." And then trust that whatever routes we take or however long we wait, God's timing is perfect for His purposes! With God, all things are possible. Nothing is wasted. Nothing is lost.

Lord, in surrendering myself to You and entrusting myself to You as an instrument for Your glory, I pray that I may act only when and how You direct me to act. Help me to always know that You are perfect in Your wisdom and timing, and orchestrate all things in a harmoniously beautiful way. I trust in Your Will and choose it over my own will, today and always. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen.

Blessings -

Fr. Adam

January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

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

It's interesting how an event can be interpreted by different people. God's revelation of himself in the birth of the child Jesus is clearly one such event. The Magi, Gentiles from the east, had heard of this "newborn king of the Jews" and undertook a long and arduous journey to see him and offer him homage. They were edified and eager in their search. Herod, himself a king – of the Jews – did not have the same reaction. The very thought of this "newborn king" threatened him and filled him with rage and suspicion. In this moment in human history, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (i.e., the Epiphany) unveils the truth of God's redemptive work for all of creation to be reconciled to himself. This truth has been accepted and rejected throughout time, and our celebration of this feast gives us an opportunity to give thanks in a focused and particular way for our acceptance of it – to give thanks for the gift of our faith. Perhaps it is even a moment for us to have our own, colloquial epiphany: an "aha moment," where we once again truly understand the depth of God's love for us.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

The Magi, the Gentiles from the east, were changed after their encounter with the Christ Child; they were warned not to return to Herod and they obeyed and took a different route home. In today's second reading, St. Paul says it has been revealed that Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body" – the body of Christ. Just as the magi were forever changed by their journey, so must we be. Their journey is a model for us, but we do not have to seek Christ in the world as they did; he is here with us, in Word and in the Eucharist. The Incarnation of Jesus is pure gift to our weary, troubled world. As we heard in Isaiah, "rise up! ... [our] light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon [us]." As the Magi followed the light of the star, let us rise to the occasion and respond to God's light in our world by recognizing the good gifts God gives us each day. And then thank him for his enduring presence in our lives.

PRAY *Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star ...
Fill us with the light of Christ,
that our concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*
(from USCCB Epiphany prayer for blessing of home)



Readings for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 14 B

Reading One – 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Responsorial – Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come."

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Reading Two – 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Alleluia – Jn 1:41, 17b

Alleluia, alleluia.

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Jn 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher, — "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

*All women are invited
to join us for our next...*

Walking with Purpose

Women's Bible Studies

**Two Monday Sessions available
10 am and 7 pm**

Join women of our parish in the Sr. Carol Center for a coffee and to learn about the fruits of these beautiful weekly Catholic Bible Studies written especially for women. All women are welcome and invited to bring a friend. Each group is doing a different study. Feel free to drop in on the first session. There's always an open seat.

Beginning **January 8th**, the **7 pm evening group** will start a 22-week program: *Discovering our Dignity*. Women of the Old and New Testaments were as flawed and broken as we can be, yet the power of God worked in their lives. *Discovering Our Dignity* will allow you to learn from their experiences and uncover ways to deal with unwanted circumstances and deferred hopes.

On January 22nd, the 10 am morning group is starting an 11-week look at *Fearless and Free*, a Bible study based on the book of Ephesians. This study is ideal for those who long for wholeness of heart and are in need of freedom from past wounds. So many of us are wrestling with the reality that life isn't easy, even when we are doing the right thing.

No previous experience is needed.

Visit sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose
for contacts, registration and more information
about these groups and studies.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

the RESCUE project



Coming back to St. Joan of Arc
Beginning January 23

in-person or online

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

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

The adventure you were born for beckons



ARE YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE STRUGGLING?
DOES YOUR MARRIAGE NEED SAVING?

Consider

Retrouvaille™

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Has infidelity or addiction made your marriage an emotional wasteland?
- Are you frustrated, hurt, or angry with your spouse?
- Are you constantly fighting? Or do you simply shut down?
- Have you considered separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?



Since 1977, this highly successful Catholic ministry has helped countless hopeless couples heal and renew their marriages and restore their love for one another.

HelpOurMarriage.org

Next local weekend is January 12-14, 2024

retrouvaille.info or call 248-382-8281

email: DetroitRegistration@HelpOurMarriage.org



Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, January 8th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, January 9th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 10th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed
12:00 PM Knitting/Crochet Ministry

5:00 PM Reconciliation
6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, January 11th

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

Friday, January 12th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 13th

10:00 AM Funeral Mass for Marie Maison
11:00 AM Reconciliation

1:30 PM Baptism of Annelise A. Apone

4:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 14th

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

Jan. 7, 2024 – Let There Be Light!

We have finally – finally – passed the winter solstice, which means the days are thankfully starting to get longer again.

It'll be several weeks before it becomes noticeable, of course, but we can take solace in knowing that more daylight is on its way again.

It's no coincidence, to be sure, that the Christmas season comes during this darkest time of year precisely as a reminder for us that the birth of the Christ child is an event that brought – and continues to bring – light to our world in the truest sense of the word.

The *Detroit Free Press* a few weeks ago – during the weeks leading up to Christmas – ran a story celebrating the spirit and festivity of holiday lights all over the area. This particular story featured homes in Garden City and Birmingham, and a park in downtown Detroit. But the lights certainly were prominent throughout the area.

Packaged with the story was an interactive map listing many of the more prominent displays in the area, including, among others, the Ford House, a particular street in Warren, and the Detroit Zoo.

All of it serves as a very tangible reminder for us of the beauty and majesty of the Christmas season, which concludes today with the Epiphany of the Lord.

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you,” we hear in today's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah. “See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.

“Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday January 8, 2024 Baptism of the Lord (White)

7:00 am Fr. Edward Mitchell

Tuesday January 9, 2024 Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time) (Green)

7:00 am Special Intentions for the Family of Tina Calisi

Wednesday January 10, 2024 Weekday (Green)

7:00 am Anna Fazi

6:00 pm A Special Intention for Joe Schotthoefer

Thursday January 11, 2024 Weekday (Green)

7:00 am Kenneth A. Smith

Friday January 12, 2024 Weekday (Green)

7:00 am Joseph Allemon

Saturday, January 13, 2024 Vigil for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

4:00 pm Frances Folgado, Bonnie Batche, Sophie Rupinski, George J. Bugarin, Shirley Curcuru and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, for Alison Reslow, Pam Haisenleder, Lorraine Jonas, and Linda Frank.

6:00 pm Special Intention for Alison & Alexis

Sunday January 14, 2024 The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

10:00 am Robert Boesiger

12:00 pm Karyn Stellino, Frank Doetsch and Special Intentions for Alison Reslow, Pam Haisenleder, Lorraine Jonas, and Linda Frank.

Daily Readings

Monday, January 8

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Mark 1:7-11

Friday, January 12

1Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
Mark 2:1-12

Tuesday, January 9

1Samuel 1:9-20
Mark 1:23-28

Saturday, January 13

1Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a
Mark 2:13-17

Wednesday, January 10

1Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20,
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, January 14

1Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
1Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Thursday, January 11

1Samuel 4:1-11
Mark 1:40-45



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.”

**Fr. Gerald Cupple
Barbara Goulding
Robert A. Klein**



“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.

Celebrating the Epiphany

20+C+M+B+24



What is Chalking the Door?

It is a way to celebrate and mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. The letters we write have two meanings. They represent the initials of the magi - Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar - who came to visit Jesus in his first home in the manger in Bethlehem. They also represent the first letters of the words in the Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." The + represents the cross and the 20 at the beginning and 24 at the end or for the year. The inscription is a request for Christ to bless the home and stay with those who dwell in it throughout the entire year.

Keep the chalk in a safe place to use again next year!

CHALKING THE DOOR

What do you need?

Blessed Chalk and the following Epiphany prayers.

Blessed chalk will be available in the gathering space and at the parish office.

How do you mark your door?

Using blessed chalk, the most senior family member writes on or above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 24

While saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then together the family offers the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love, and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Note: This can be done on more than one door, outside or inside the home. See more at sjascs.org/domestic-church.

NEW MEN'S FELLOWSHIP STUDY

What do we mean when we say "God"?

Misconceptions about God abound, even among Christians, and these misconceptions can become obstacles in our relationship with God. Augustine Institute Assistant Professor Dr. Elizabeth Klein presents a careful study of Scripture that will lead you to a deeper and clearer awareness of who God is, equipping you to share this truth with others.

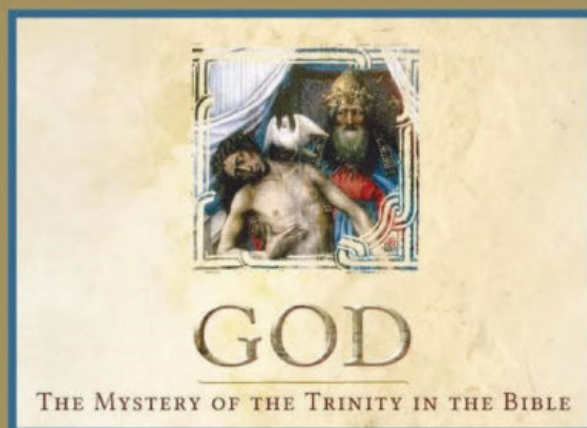
Starting in the Old Testament, Dr. Klein presents what God says about himself at various points in salvation history and how he reveals to Israel that "the Lord is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). Moving to the New Testament, Dr. Klein shows how this one God then reveals himself as three. Along the way, you'll get answers to questions such as:

- How can God be transcendent and personal?
- If God is one, how can Jesus be God?
- What does it mean that "God is love" (1 John 4:8)?
- Why is the doctrine of the trinity the central mystery of our faith when the word "Trinity" never appears in the Bible?

This dynamic program combines an in-depth biblical study with insightful questions, an explanation of common misunderstandings regarding God, and personal reflections that will strengthen your faith in the one true God, who is a communion of three Divine Persons.

Join our Men's Fellowship group beginning in December on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month as they embark on this new study by the Augustine Institute.

Contact Pat Adamcik at 586-775-3385 or Larry Kreszowski at 313-882-9369 to sign up.



Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Joyce Baetens	Taylor Fisher	Catherine Konen	Vicky Pranger	Bernadette Thompson
Andrew Barth	Jeanne Fleming	Delaney Kraemer	Carol S. Provencal	James Thompson
Geri Beaugrand	Linda Frank	Shirley Kraemer	Tracy Rauch	Linda Vitale
Edna Burton	Michelle Goode	Laurie Krim	Alison Reslow	Eileen Wallace
Lori Cardosi	Jeanne Gainer	Concetta Leone	Fe Reyes	Tom Ward
Ed Cole	Roz Geitzen	Mila Lictawa	Sr. Alice Riegel	Larry Weber
Joan Combellack	Larry Graham	David Lott	Paulette Russia	Robert Werthman
Maura Corrigan	Chris Gretchen	Dave Lucas	Jenna Rose	Adrienne Weidenbach
Richard Coatney	Geoffrey Greve	Christa Maes	Victoria Rydholm	Joseph Whalen
John Crawford	Helen Waltz-Gutowski	Joan Mannino	Lily Saith	Marilyn Wicker
Joan DeDene	James Gutowski	Cyndy McMahon	Carol Schaeffer	Joyce Wiekrykas
Diane DeSantis	Pam Haisenleder	Mary Lou Meier	Lee Schaeffer	Loretta Williams
Alan DePorter	John Hanselman	Heather A. Miller	Dianne Schelosky	Richard Wojcik
Denise Dickerson	Rich Hanselman	Mark Moffitt	Ann Simmonds	Joan Wright
Grace Dickerson	Judith Hasten	Nina Mondalek	Terri Smigels	Janet Yntema
George Dickerson	Leland Helzer	Jennie Mooney	Kathleen Smith	Eddie Zatyrcz
Nick DiCresce	Ilona Higgins	Adam Moore	Cathy Spindler	Michael Zinevich
Kainoa Dunn	Joan Ireland	Jim Moore	Palma Strussione	Patricia Zublin
Jean Edwards	Lorraine Jonas	Joel Moore	Raymond Strussione	
Dr. Elise Eden	Zayne D. Kapinski	Joan Persichini	Cathy Sullens	
Frank Faiss	Marilyn Kiefer	Gasper Piazza	Mary Surmont	
Ilene Fazio	Thomas Kler	Mary Pore	Terri Szolach	

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 +

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

January 7, 2024

Do You See What I See?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Today's Gospel answers this question quite definitively: No! Not everyone saw the guiding star in the sky. Not even those who, presumably, knew the prophecy found in the reading from Isaiah. That ancient prophet announced to the people of Jerusalem: "Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). In fact, he promised them they would be so embraced by that light, they themselves would shine brightly with its radiance. But when the time came, not everyone saw it. Or, having seen it, they did not recognize it.

The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They

knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not excited about the star? A new king meant a rival king, and those who had power weren't eager to relinquish it.

We know that not everyone in Israel rejected Jesus. Shepherds had already thrilled at this birth. Someone in Bethlehem had opened his stable to this Child and his parents. Now we add the stargazers from another country. It seems the invitation to come to him is extended to all: political and religious leaders, the unsophisticated and marginalized, the established homeowner, the foreigners in our midst. They are all asked: "Did you see what I saw? What do you think of him?" †

***The invitation to come to him
is extended to all:
political and religious leaders,
the unsophisticated,
everyone in our midst.***



A Word from Pope Francis

The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God. They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor. Their prostration is the sign of those who place their own ideas aside and make room for God. It takes humility to do this.

ANGELUS, JANUARY 6, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How open are you to new thinking?
- God's invitation is offered to all. Have you marginalized any group of people?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Beneath the Whitewash

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There is a story told in Holland about an old church. For many years, upon entering it, everyone would stop and bow in the direction of a whitewashed wall. Nobody knew exactly why anybody did that, but everyone had been doing it for such a long time that nobody questioned it. It was tradition. It felt right.

One day, the parish decided to renovate the church. They began to strip the paint and whitewash off the old walls. They discovered traces of a painting on the wall that everyone bowed to. They gently peeled off the whitewash so as not to damage what was beneath it. Slowly, a very beautiful, centuries-old painting of Christ emerged. Nobody alive was old enough to have actually seen it before. It had been hidden for at least a century. Yet everyone had been bowing to it, not knowing why, but sensing that there was a good reason for the reverence.



There is a Christmas lesson in that. Western culture still bows toward the crib of Bethlehem. Like the people in that church in Holland, many are unclear why we are doing what we are doing. There is not much conscious faith left in secular Christmas celebrations, just a habitual response to a tradition.

But—as the story of the recovered painting can teach us—that’s not all bad. It’s better than not bowing to the wall at all. At least we still have the sense that there is something special beneath the whitewash. If we are among the ones who know that there is a painting of Christ behind the whitewash, our response should not be one of cynicism. Our task is not to stop the bowing or the celebration. Our task is to help peel off the whitewash, to help restore the painting beneath it, and to tell the story of who did the painting and why.

The best way to help our culture to celebrate Christmas properly is not by criticizing how it celebrates, but by celebrating in a better way. Let our joy exceed that of the commercial world! Let our bow be deeper and more aware of the marvelous gift that’s behind the whitewash: the gift of the Incarnation of our God! †

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, available at Liguori.org. *Daybreaks* authors include Fr. Daniel Horan, Sr. Dianne Bergant, and John Shea.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “Commit Fully” by Patricia Livingston

When my granddaughter was four, she wasn’t completely over the flu when her preschool Christmas pageant came around. Though no longer contagious, she was still pretty weak. “I have to go,” she said. “They need me. I’m the star.” I assumed she meant she had the lead role. But later, I discovered she was literally the star that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. Sick or well, we each have a part to play in the pageant of life. All parts make a difference. We have to go. The world needs us. We shine to light the path to God. †

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church teaching and tradition on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9526

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, so that all believers may dwell in the light, walk in the light, and be witnesses to the light, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 8–13

Monday, Baptism of the Lord:
Is 55:1–11 or 1 Jn 5:1–9 / Mk 1:7–11
Tuesday, Weekday:
1 Sm 1:9–20 / Mk 1:21–28
Wednesday, Weekday:
1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20 / Mk 1:29–39

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Sm 4:1–11 / Mk 1:40–45
Friday, Weekday:
1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a / Mk 2:1–12
Saturday, Weekday:
1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a / Mk 2:13–17

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 7, 2024

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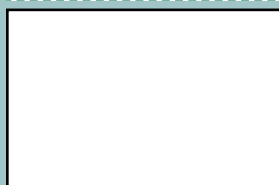
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