



# 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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## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

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

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**PARISH CENTER**  
**22412 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-777-3670  
Fax: 586-774-5528  
Website: [www.sjascscs.org](http://www.sjascscs.org)

**SCHOOL**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-775-8370  
Fax: 586-447-3574  
Website: [www.stjoan.net](http://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  
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Deacon Dom Pastore  
dpastore@sjascs.org

#### Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone  
dciaffone@sjascs.org

#### Music Director

Catherine Trudell  
ctrudell@sjascs.org

#### Principal

Amy Pattie  
apattie@stjoan.net

#### Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net

#### Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass  
khass@sjascs.org

#### Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

#### Youth Group

Linda Lietaert  
llietaert@stjoan.net

#### Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net



### LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am  
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](http://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](http://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





## Some Advice from a

**Parishioner:** At least once a year I publish the text from an anonymous letter I received in 2005 shortly after the First Sunday of

Lent. The scripture readings each First Sunday of Lent tell the story of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan. The letter offers timeless advice, and it warrants being reprinted frequently. Usually, I toss anonymous letters right away, but this one escaped that fatal ending. By God's grace, this letter has touched the hearts of many people at SJA and beyond (you would be amazed how many times I'm asked for a copy of it). I encourage you to keep a copy AND to pass a copy around to your family and friends. If you want a copy of the letter, I have posted a PDF copy of it on the homepage of our parish website.

"Fr. Bugarin, I was very moved by your homily on Sunday, February 13, 2005, regarding Hell, Satan, and the response of faithful people to temptation. I am the father of an adult son and daughter, and it pains me to think of the mistakes my wife and I made in raising our children. We thought we had a clever, well thought out solution to the dangers and evils of the world, but instead we were victims of our over estimation of our own perceived abilities and power. In so doing we neglected the saving power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"Knowing the evils and temptations of our world, my wife and I sought to shield our children through endless activity. Like many other parents, we got our son involved in hockey and our daughter in dance; our goal was to keep our children busy and thus not give them a chance to get in trouble. However, I now realize that in engaging in a futile attempt to shield our children from battle with the Devil we were instead merely failing to equip our children for their inevitable battles with Satan. We attempted a human solution to a spiritual problem, and our human limitations and inadequacies resulted in failure. We failed to fill our children with Christ, and instead left a vacuum too easily exploited by Satan.

"In focusing our children on endless activity we created selfish, self-centered children. By failing to involve them in Catholic charitable works we taught them to believe they were the centers of their

own universes. We replaced rosaries, adoration and bible study with ice time, games and recitals. We missed Sunday masses for tournaments and catechism for performances, and we rationalized it by asserting that it was 'for the best.' How wrong we were.

"Today, both of our children have left the Church. Our daughter is living with a man and has had an abortion; our son has experimented with drugs and regards the Church with contempt and cynicism. Our first priority should have been to pass on the faith and to teach trust in the Lord; instead, we relied on our human intellect and put our faith in schemes of this world.

"If I could only go back in time I'd make every Sunday mass as a family, lead my family in a weekly rosary, take my children to pray in front of an abortion clinic, lead them in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and help them volunteer at a soup kitchen. For despite our best efforts and intentions there still were times my children were alone and lonely, tired and weak, hungry and desirous. I failed to anticipate and prepare my children for those inevitable times of temptation, and the Devil had been patiently waiting.

"Father, please print my letter in the church paper. If it will serve as a warning to at least one family it may help them to avoid the pain and regret my wife and I have experienced. An Anonymous St. Joan of Arc Parishioner."

## The Spiritual Consequences of Living a Hurried, Busy Life (Part THREE):

This is a continuation of my reflection on and quoting from an article written by Frank Powell, entitled, "7 Spiritual Consequences of Living a Hurried, Busy Life."

Last week, I reflected on the first of the seven spiritual consequences mentioned in the article. Mr. Powell's first point was that a hurried life destroys your relationship with God. Think about it; the devil loves it when we live hurried, busy lives because it takes our attention off God and destroys our relationship with Him. The devil LOVES busyness.

The second spiritual consequence mentioned in Mr. Powell's article is "A hurried life feeds 'approval addiction.'"

"When your life moves at a hurried pace, you seek validation and approval in a hurried way. This explains why social media resonates with so many people. The Instagram photos and Facebook posts give you instant validation. No need to invest in

relationships where people actually know you. That's time-consuming. Our culture is 'in bed' with large followings and spotlights. The short-term result is validation. But the long-term consequences are burnout, loneliness and over-commitment."

As we all know, crowds are fickle. As Mr. Powell points out in his article, people "friend" you on Facebook until you say something controversial or something they don't like. Election cycle time (like this year) is the worst, and it's amazing how many friendships are suddenly on rocky ground because of what happens or is said on Facebook or other social media platforms! This is also true in Church ministry. People 'like' an individual church or parish until they don't like an individual or church philosophy or teaching. They "unfriend" it by avoiding that priest/pastor, or they go to another church or even switch denominations.

As Mr. Powell notes, "Jesus never catered to the crowds. He often retreated from crowds to be alone. He gave his most controversial sermons when the largest crowds gathered around him. In fact, on one occasion in John 6, Jesus said something so controversial that many of his disciples left and never followed him again.... We love the instant validation from a packed auditorium on Sunday morning. But Jesus didn't care about Facebook likes or packed auditoriums. Jesus knew you couldn't point a crowd to God if you needed their approval.... You can't preach the difficult message of self-denial if you attract people on the basis of self-interest. You can't embrace the scandalous, radical life of Jesus if you need the approval of others. Jesus knew this. That's why he disengaged from the crowds. He wanted to be driven by God's desires, not the crowd's demands."

Here's an essential question: Are YOU driven by God's desires, or do you cater to the crowd's demands? This week, focus on God's desires for you, not the crowd's demands. In the end, remember that God is the only one who offers you salvation and eternal life ... the "crowds" can never do this!

Next week: A hurried life decreases your capacity to love others.

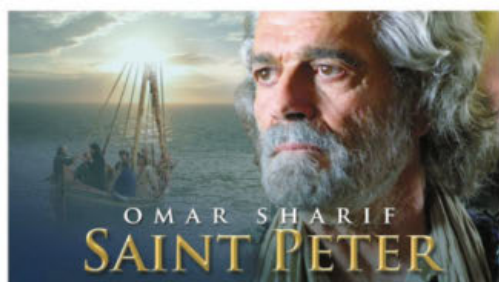
Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy Lent!

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of February 18, 2024



## Saint Peter

Watch the epic story of the spread of Christianity during the early years of the Church. This film follows the journey of St. Peter through his martyrdom on a cross.



## The Afterlife | Eternal Rest | Episode 2

What happens after the moment of our death? Once the soul has been separated from the body, then what? What is heaven, hell, and purgatory? This session looks at the truth about what awaits the human person on the other side of death.



## Week One | Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

In the Week One video for the Restore Lent series, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, reflects on the theme of the week—the desert. She explains that Jesus is inviting you to move beyond your comfort zone and into the deepest places of your heart with him. It is Jesus who helps you root out the sin, sickness, and self-hatred in your life. Sr. Miriam assures us that we can look to him for comfort, love, and healing.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.



## Along the Way

### A Beginning Lent Again

Lent began just a few days ago on Ash Wednesday and, let's be honest, I've probably already faltered with my Lenten promises. It's possible that you have too? But... it's never too late to begin again. Whether we falter in the first week or more than half way through we find ourselves breaking those resolutions.



Even if you've been giving something up for Lent for many years, it's easy to find yourself struggling as time goes by. When that leads to breaking your Lenten promise, you might feel discouraged or that you've failed in your relationship with God. What should you do?

Venerable Bruno Lanteri, founder of the religious congregation of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, reminds us that God's love and mercy allow us to begin again. By recommitting to our Lenten sacrifice, we humbly admit our shortcomings and ask Him to strengthen us. Venerable Bruno wrote, "If I should fall even a thousand times a day, a thousand times, with peaceful repentance, I will say immediately, *Nunc Coepi* [Now I begin]."

Throughout Lent, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and a personal sacrifice can all help you grow closer to God and your neighbor. They help make your love for God as real as for someone standing next to you.

When you pick a thing to give up for Lent, you're making a personal sacrifice as a sort of spiritual

exercise to help you deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. Giving something up for Lent, combined with prayer and almsgiving, can be a labor of love rather than one of discouragement—even when you think you've "messed up."

Did you give something up for Lent and haven't been able to follow through? It's not uncommon to pick a sacrifice that's more than you can handle, and it's especially challenging when you feel like it's a burden you need to carry all alone.

In this situation, call on the words of Venerable Bruno, who wrote that "First desires are generally strong and hasty, we must guard against coming to ruin on account of them." We can easily get discouraged and be tempted to abandon the good we set out to do, but "in this regard one must not seek to fly if one does not have wings."

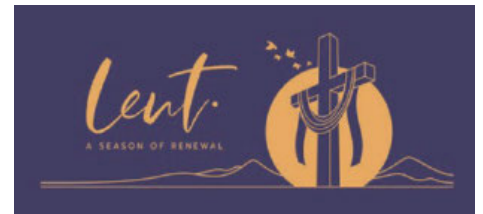
Put simply, breaking your Lenten promise like sneaking a piece of chocolate that you swore to give up is not the end. Practicing humility and honesty about yourself before God is also a way to strengthen your relationship with Him.

The discipline of Lent makes us depend more on God, not on ourselves. Venerable Bruno reminds us that "Holiness does not consist in never failing, but in rising immediately, recognizing our weakness and asking God's forgiveness, and in doing this with peace of heart, without letting ourselves be troubled."

God's closeness and mercy are what give us the strength to get up and make a new beginning. Rather than finding a new thing to give up for Lent, stick to what you're already doing—but with love rather than thoughtlessly.

Perhaps make some simple adjustments, like slowing down your meals, thanking God and savoring the food you're eating. Or putting down your phone and being present in the moment. Wouldn't it be wonderful to come out of Lent more connected to God and one another? That would be a great victory, and something worth carrying over into Easter and beyond.

Venerable Bruno advises us, "Do not let yourself be troubled by anything, not even by your own failings, taking care to overcome them immediately by an act of love of God." In other words, if giving something up for Lent is starting to go sideways, remember that our failings, no matter how big or small, can become a place where we meet God. In turn, God touches us with his healing strength.



Don't let Lent turn into a period where you hide from God, ashamed of your struggles with prayer, fasting or almsgiving. You can always begin again and overcome spiritual discouragement. After all, Lent is meant to show us how close God comes to us, no matter what. It teaches us to ask and offer forgiveness, and to discover the unfailing power and joy of mercy. Lent doesn't make us heroes. It makes us friends—friends of God and one another.

I pray you have a blessed (and penitential) Lent, always remembering the mercy of God.

Blessings,  
Fr. Adam

February 18, 2024

# First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Today is the first day of Lent! It is the beginning of a new liturgical season in the Church, a season of prayer, service and self-sacrifice. It is a time of preparation, culminating in the holiest day of the year: Easter. As we embark on our Lenten journey, we hear a reading from Genesis in which God makes a covenant with Noah where he promises, "the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings." The Lord has said that no matter our disobedience, sin and rebellion, he will never destroy us! Saint Peter explains how the story of Noah, "in which a few persons ... were saved through water," prefigures baptism, and baptism, as we know, marks us as the Lord's own forever. We are sealed with a sign that can never be relinquished. So, just as the great flood signaled a rebirth for the world, our baptism is a rebirth of our soul in Christ. We are washed clean of our original sin, and the door to salvation is opened for us. It is fitting that at the beginning of our Lenten journey we hear the story of the beginning of our eternal covenant with the Lord. Both the covenant, and Lent, will be fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As a child, Lent meant lentils for dinner, Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and no TV ever. For a 10-year-old, it was a time to be endured. Now, as an adult, Lent can still be hard, but I recognize it as a time of opportunity as well. It is a chance to strip away all the excess in my life and focus on what matters most. While I am not exactly jumping for joy at the thought of fasting, I can't deny that it is easier for me to spend time in prayer when I'm not mindlessly grazing on chips and chocolate all day long. I may grumble at times, but with God's grace I have grown in understanding of the Church's wisdom in encouraging us to fast, pray and give alms during Lent. All three practices invite us to reflect on the great sacrifice of the Lord and prepare our hearts to receive him each Sunday in the Eucharist, as well as on our final judgment day.

**PRAY** Lent is the perfect time to take stock of your current spiritual practices and add new ones to your daily routine. Remember the words we heard from Jesus today: "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Start off your Lenten season right by taking time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and designating a time each day to pray. If you aren't sure what to say to God during this time, choose a verse or two of Psalm 6 and let your heart take it from there.





# Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 25 B

### Reading One – Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

### Responsorial – Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**  
I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."  
Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**  
O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

### Reading Two – Rom 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

### Verse Before the Gospel – Cf. Mt 17:5

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

### Gospel – Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.



## 2ND ANNUAL GOLDEN LADLE SOUP COMPETITION



Scan to  
purchase tickets

**SUNDAY,  
MARCH  
17**

- 11 a.m. Holy Mass
- Followed by Soup Competition

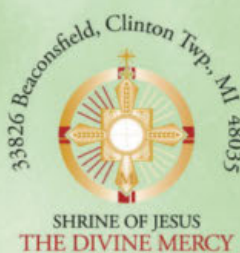


**Prizes for First Place, Second Place,  
and People's Choice!**

- Nacho Bar
- Hot Dogs
- 50/50 Raffle
- Bake Sale
- \$10 for ages 12+
- \$5 for ages 5-11
- or \$30 for your entire family
- (Children 4 and under are free)



For more information visit [sjdivinemeracy.org](http://sjdivinemeracy.org)  
or contact us at [info@sjdivinemeracy.org](mailto:info@sjdivinemeracy.org)  
or 586-777-8591





MAGIC CARPET THEATRE DRAMA MINISTRY



# AT HIS FEET

## WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE

“Come; you will personally experience Christ, His boundless love for you, His desire to renew your heart. (Bring Kleenex)”

Cindy Kogut  
St. James, Mason, Michigan

**At His Feet** - This is not simply a show, it is an interactive experience of soaking in Scripture through dramatic scenes, music and reflection. The audience witnesses three powerful encounters with Christ: The Woman at the Well, Martha and Mary, and The Woman with the Hemorrhage. These dramatic scenes and inspiring music move hearts to conversion and healing. As they were changed, we are changed.

**Powerful. Prayerful. Transforming.**

[www.mctdramaministry.org](http://www.mctdramaministry.org)

## AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH

### February 19 at 7 pm

*seating begins at 6:30 pm - Enter at the Sr. Carol Center*



Greater Mack and Overlake Street in St. Clair Shores  
for more information, visit [sjascs.org/at-his-feet](http://sjascs.org/at-his-feet)

PRESENTED BY MAGIC CARPET THEATRE

# Trivia Night at St. Lucy's

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED EVENING

# TRIVIA NIGHT

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT



**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

6 pm Doors open and Dinner • Trivia from 7 - 9 pm

**St. Lucy Catholic Church Hall**

23401 Jefferson Ave., Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

**Tickets \$30 Each**

Purchase Tickets Online at  
[www.blessingsinabackpackmi.org/events](http://www.blessingsinabackpackmi.org/events)  
or contact Vicky at 586-321-4509

- ? Entrance
- ? Pizza and Salad Dinner
- ? Trivia Game

Tables seat eight. Groups of 6 or more will be seated together at a table. Groups under 6 will be paired with other smart people.

- ? Prize for Winning Team
- ? 50/50
- ? Box Raffle

Feed the Shores Blessings in a Backpack is a community based volunteer organization which ensures children attending schools in the Saint Clair School Districts receive food for the weekend.

The Feed the Shores program is administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### **Monday, February 19th**

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed  
10:00AM Walking with Purpose - EH  
7:00 PM "At His Feet" Presentation

#### **Tuesday, February 20th**

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed  
1:00 PM Reconciliation  
5:30 PM Rescue Project - Emmaus Hall

#### **Wednesday, February 21st**

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed  
4:30 PM Reconciliation  
6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Thursday, February 22nd**

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

#### **Friday, February 23rd**

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

#### **Saturday, February 24th**

11:00 AM Reconciliation  
12:30 PM Baptism of London Mae Seiderling  
4:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed  
6:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Sunday, February 25th**

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

#### ***Feb. 18, 2024 – Bowing Upwards***

It doesn't take a meteorologist to know that when it rains, it pours.

And lately, when it pours around here, it really, really, pours.

Local news outlets reported extensively a few weeks ago on how bad things got when a midwinter storm produced a whole lot of rain.

Particularly close to home, the Clinton River near Mt. Clemens was expected to have crested at more than a foot above normal flood stage, according to a story in *The Detroit News*. In Wayne County meanwhile, the Rouge River was expected to exceed its flood stage by two feet.

The rain was the biggest part of the problem, according to a meteorologist quoted in the story, but the entire situation was exacerbated by snowpack and snowmelt.

It's a considerable threat, to be sure, especially for those who live in particularly vulnerable areas.

But the good news is that the entire situation can serve as a very tangible reminder not only of the fact that we're in God's very capable hands when it comes to the vagaries of nature, but also that God has promised he has a larger, more important reality in mind for his people.

"This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you," God says in today's first reading from Genesis. "I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

"When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

It doesn't mean there won't be rain, but the sun will always shine again.

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## Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

### Mass Intentions

<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 19, 2024 Lenten Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	For the deceased members of the Calisi Family who died in the month of February
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 20, 2024 Lenten Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	A Special Intention for Joe Schotthoefer
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 21, 2024 Lenten Weekday; Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	John, Lucy, Tom and John Pellerito
6:00 pm	Thomas Amori
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 22, 2024 The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle (White)</b>
7:00 am	Marian Gorde
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 23, 2024 Lenten Weekday; Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	A Special Intention for the Benedis Family
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 24, 2024 Vigil for the Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)</b>
4:00 pm	Grace & Sam Valenti, the deceased members of the Krolikowski Family, George Rupinski, Joes Basiricio, Rosemary Mieras, Paula Nagel, Robert Joseph Pierce, Robert Fannon, Pat Hirschberg, Pam Michaels, George Lombardi, Janice Reeb, Bonnie Batche, Michael Pore, and Special Intentions for the Delores Fikany J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, for Alison Reslow, Pam Haisenleder, Lorraine Jonas, and Linda Frank.
6:00 pm	Virginia Mette
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 25, 2024 The Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)</b>
8:00 am	For the Intentions for St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 am	Michael Forrester
12:00 pm	Joseph Paluzzi Jr., George J. Bugarin, Terry Manwell, Michael & Ann Beaupre, Shirley Beaupre, Douglas Beaupre, Doris Beaupre and Special Intentions for Nick, Ann Marie, Joanna and Lainey Cantrell, Alison Reslow, Pam Haisenleder, Lorraine Jonas, and Linda Frank.

### Daily Readings

<b>Monday, February 19</b>	<b>Friday, February 23</b>
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 Matthew 25:31-46	Ezekiel 18:21-28 Matthew 5:20-26
<b>Tuesday, February 20</b>	<b>Saturday, February 24</b>
Isaiah 55:10-11 Matthew 6:7-15	Deuteronomy 26:16-19 Matthew 5:43-48
<b>Wednesday, February 21</b>	<b>Sunday, February 25</b>
Jonah 3:1-10 Luke 11:29-32	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10
<b>Thursday, February 22</b>	
1 Peter 5:1-4 Matthew 16:13-19	



### 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.”

**Adrien Carlier**  
**Concietta (Connie) DiClementi**  
**Rev. James Schieck**



“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](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org) calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto: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.



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*Fighting the Demonic with the Holy Hour: In the words  
of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*



DCN. STEPHEN MOENING  
*Master of Ceremonies*



FR. GRAYSON HEENAN  
*Prayer: Letting the Trinity Win*

### QUESTIONS CONTACT

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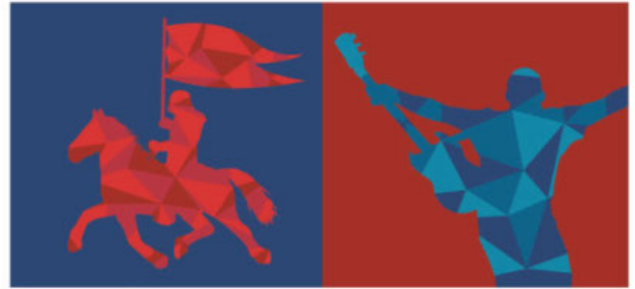
## Light of the Spirit Prayer Group

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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## BORN FOR THIS

The St. Joan of Arc Musical

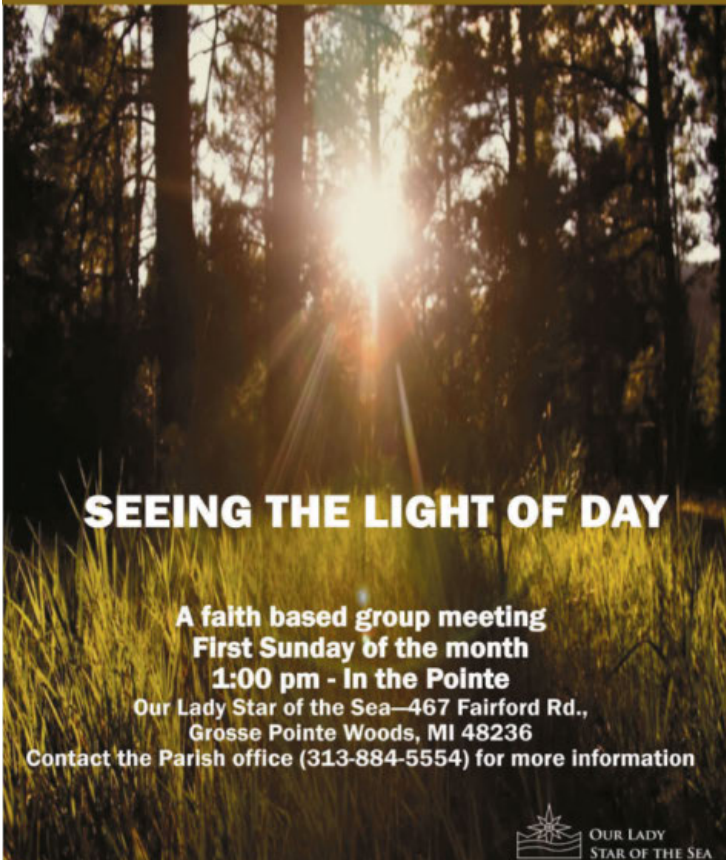


Saturday, April 6 at 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm)

Sunday, April 7 at 4:30pm (doors open at 4pm)


**Get tickets at [jropro.com/joan](http://jropro.com/joan)**

## Bereavement Group



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# Prayers Needed

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

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Edna Burton  
Lori Cardosi  
Ed Cole  
Joan Combella  
Maura Corrigan  
John Crawford  
Jerry Dedene  
Joan DeDene  
Carl DeRaedt  
Diane DeSantis  
Denise Dickerson  
Grace Dickerson  
George Dickerson  
Nick DiCresce  
Kainoa Dunn  
Jean Edwards  
Dr. Elise Eden  
Frank Faiss

Ben Fazio  
Ilene Fazio  
Taylor Fisher  
Jeanne Fleming  
Linda Frank  
Jeanne Gainer  
Roz Geitzen  
Larry Graham  
Peter Grantz  
Chris Gretchen  
Geoffrey Greve  
Helen Waltz-Gutowski  
James Gutowski  
Pam Haiseneder  
John Hanselman  
Rich Hanselman  
Judith Hasten  
Leland Helzer  
Ilona Higgins  
Joan Ireland

Lorraine Jonas  
Zayne D. Kapinski  
Thomas Kler  
Catherine Konen  
Delaney Kraemer  
Shirley Kraemer  
Laurie Krim  
Concetta Leone  
Mila Lictawa  
David Lott  
Dave Lucas  
Christa Maes  
Joan Mannino  
Cyndy McMahon  
Mary Lou Meier  
Heather A. Miller  
Mark Moffitt  
Nina Mondalek  
Jennie Mooney  
Joan Persichini

Mary Pore  
Vicky Pranger  
Carol S. Provencal  
Tracy Rauch  
Alison Reslow  
Fe Reyes  
Sr. Alice Riegel  
Paulette Russia  
Jenna Rose  
Victoria Rydholm  
Lily Saith  
Dianne Schelosky  
Ann Simmonds  
Terri Smigels  
Kathleen Smith  
Cathy Spindler  
Palma Strussione  
Raymond Strussione  
Gloria Strzelecki  
Cathy Sullens

Mary Surmont  
Terri Szolach  
Kim Thomas  
Bernadette Thompson  
James Thompson  
Linda Vitale  
Eileen Wallace  
Tom Ward  
Larry Weber  
Robert Werthman  
Adrienne Weidenbach  
Joseph Whalen  
Marilyn Wicker  
Joyce Wiekrykas  
Loretta Williams  
Jenny Wojcik  
Joan Wright  
Janet Yntema  
Michael Zinevich  
Patricia Zublin

**Pray for the Sick List:** Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at [info@sjascs.org](mailto:info@sjascs.org).

## PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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### AIR FORCE

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Charles Bartlett  
James A. Brannigan  
Robert C. Carden  
Kevin Conley  
Kelli Lynch  
Maria Marable  
Jacob Milatz  
R. Connor Montgomery  
Martin Rodriguez  
Dave Russell

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Samuel Baur  
Richard Brown  
James Patrick Carrier  
Nathan Dickerson  
Greg DeMoss  
Brian C. Ellis  
Thaddeus Kapuscinski

Joseph R. Kozlinski  
Michelle Kuznia, DDS  
Greg Lietz  
Chris Listilla  
Daniel Meagher  
Mika Prinze  
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Christopher Scholz  
John C. Tramazzo  
Dan Travis  
Joseph VanDusen  
David Weise  
Edward Williams  
Samantha Williams  
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Joseph Marable  
Tom Miller, Jr  
Anthony M. Morgan  
Leonardo Pastoria  
Luciano Pastoria  
John Patterson  
Andrew Seator

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Michael Franklin  
Christopher Rogers

### NATIONAL GUARD

Robert Douglas III  
William DuBay





# Bringing Home the Word

*First Sunday of Lent (B)*

**February 18, 2024**

## Lost at Sea

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**W**e often think that Lent is a time to concentrate on the sufferings of Jesus. Actually, that is the theme of Holy Week. The other readings of Lent suggest another theme—covenant-making. God initiates an intimate relationship with us and calls us to be faithful. This is the good news. Moreover, when we are unfaithful, God gives us another chance.

The first reading recounts God's graciousness in saving humankind from destruction. Noah and his family must have felt that they really were lost at sea. However, God's protection was always

there. In fact, the waters they so feared were destructive only to what was evil. They had been saved and now, through the covenant, all of creation was given a second chance.

One might think that Jesus wouldn't have struggled with temptation. After all, he was God. However, today's Gospel says that he was tempted. He was in the wilderness, a place long known to be a place of temptation because there the supports of normal life are gone. After forty days of fasting, one's defenses would be significantly weakened, if not broken down. In such a situation, the primary thought is survival. This Gospel does not describe the temptation itself, but it does present Jesus as someone like us—weakened, tempted, and perhaps even "lost at sea." However, God's protection was with him, in the guise of angels.

Both stories assure us that God's covenantal care is there supporting us, regardless of the difficulty or our apparent weakness. †

## Sunday Readings

### **Genesis 9:8–15**

[God said,] "I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

### **1 Peter 3:18–22**

[Baptism] is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience.

### **Mark 1:12–15**

[Jesus said,] "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

***God initiates an intimate relationship with us and calls us to be faithful. This is the good news.***

## ***A Word from Pope Francis***

True happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service....Let us take time for silence and prayer — just a little, it will do us good....

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Where do you look for God when life seems unfair?
- Do you ask for the grace to resist temptation?



## What Do I Truly Value?

Paula D'Arcy

Years ago I took voice lessons from an acclaimed musician. He was well-known and highly regarded for his talents, and the lessons were a generous gift. At the time we were both on the faculty of the same college. I scheduled these lessons in between appointments with my students and I was late for my lesson. I could have been on time, actually, but the first time I stopped to speak briefly with another faculty member, the second time I delayed to make a phone call that wasn't critical. The third time my friend said to me, "If you were paying for this hour, you wouldn't be late."

The words stung. I knew he was right, and I instantly saw that my tardiness reflected the value I placed on the opportunity he was offering. I felt ashamed and was never late again. I did value the gift.



Sometimes I remember that moment in regard to my own inner journey. I hear a voice in a whisper, "If you really saw the gift of life you've been given, you wouldn't throw it away." It jolts me from a preoccupation with a thousand peripheral things. It makes me aware of how my default position in life easily

becomes my comfort, my ease, my desire to be appreciated and loved.

For a time I stayed in a European town that was founded in 1338. I walked toward a small stone church on a path that others have walked for centuries. At night I listened to the stories of these villagers, remembrances of fearful years lived under a communist occupation. Outwardly they learned to appear faithful to the government's avowed atheism, safety depending upon this pretense. Children were taught to repeat the lies as well. But their hearts and souls knew differently, and at Easter they closed the curtains and spoke truth in whispers.

"How did you keep joy alive?" I asked. "When you see the value of being alive," one woman answered slowly, "when you know the value of life itself—there is joy." She smiles. "Life is the greatest gift." I wonder: Do I value what I say I value? †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter*, 2007

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

Excerpt from *Lent: Giving Our Hearts to God* by Joyce Rupp, OSM

I used to dread Lent. Then one year it finally dawned on me that this liturgical season gives me a focused opportunity to rearrange my spiritual priorities. Lent helps me gain clarity on how I am living my daily life. It is so easy to get swallowed up by the constant busyness and hectic pace of life. Lent helps me step back for six weeks and look more closely at how I am relating to God and to see who I am becoming. I realize that there is still a part of my heart that forgets, refuses, procrastinates, fears, or is unaware of how much it needs to reflect the goodness of God. †

Catholic Update is a practical and affordable four-page newsletter that explores Catholic teaching and tradition on contemporary topics in easy-to-understand language.

To subscribe, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9526.



*So that we may enter this season of Lent with minds open to hear your word, and hearts open to the promise of Easter, we pray—Lord, let us be like you.*


The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

February 19–24

**Monday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 / Mt 25:31–46  
**Tuesday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Is 55:10–11 / Mt 6:7–15  
**Wednesday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Jon 3:1–10 / Lk 11:29–32

**Thursday**, Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle:  
1 Pt 5:1–4 / Mt 16:13–19  
**Friday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Ez 18:21–28 / Mt 5:20–26  
**Saturday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Dt 26:16–19 / Mt 5:43–48

Bringing Home  
the Word   
February 18, 2024

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