

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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"EVERYONE WHO BELONGS TO THE TRUTH
LISTENS TO MY VOICE." - JN 18:37

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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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

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
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Lead for SJA

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rvoiland@sjascs.org

Msgr. Gary Smetanka
(Moderator)
msgr.smetanka@stargp.org

Fr. Jim Commyn
parish@stlucychurch.com

Fr. Eric Fedewa
frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla
stveronicaeast@comcast.net

Non-Resident Priest Support

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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Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Office of Faith & Family Formation

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Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

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: 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



Traveling with Ms. Daisy (Part 10): Yikes, it's the bulletin before Thanksgiving already! Because I always like posting some thoughts about Thanksgiving

Day, I will post my concluding travelogue about the Eastern Seaboard Journey with Ms. Daisy ... aka my mom ... next week!

Thanksgiving Day (Part One): Of all holidays, Thanksgiving Day is at the top of my list. While Christmas and Easter are up there too, this one, as far as a national holiday, is one of my favorites. It's one of my favorites because I usually have only one liturgy (a rarity with holidays), and more importantly, it's a day to celebrate with family and friends. There's no gift-giving; you simply get to "be" with family and friends. And I dare say we need to spend more time with family and friends.

As with all holidays and holy days, we need to reflect upon them in their proper context. Thanksgiving Day isn't just about parades, turkey, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, and football! It's about being thankful to God for all he has given us. Going around the dinner table and asking people to share what they are thankful for would be a great way to start or end your gathering.

Thanksgiving Day (Part Two): Please consider starting your Thanksgiving Day celebrations by joining us for mass at 7:00 am or 9:00 a.m., whether in person or online (livestream.stjoan.church). It's a great way to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with your "church" family! For the 9:00 a.m. Mass parishioners from St. Lucy, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Veronica, and St. Basil parishes will also join us. As is our custom, the collection taken up at the 9:00 a.m. mass will be given to our local St. Vincent DePaul Society Conference. Your contributions help our local Vincentians assist the poor and needy who live within our parish boundaries!

Thanksgiving Day (Part Three): Over the years, Mitch Albom has written several thought-provoking columns about Thanksgiving. I wanted to mention two of those columns here. The first column was written in 2010; it was entitled "The Turkey Shrinks as the Absences Grow." In this column, Mitch spoke about how missing Thanksgiving Day with family and friends was once unthinkable. Years ago, Thanksgiving with family encompassed the whole weekend. In recent years, he writes, "the holiday has been shaved, like one of

those giant wedding cakes that slowly gets sliced away." Today, however, the turkey "shrinks" as the excuses trickle in. People have all kinds of excuses why they can't attend the usual family Thanksgiving Day (weekend) celebrations. The saddest reality, as Mitch points out, is that people are missing the best part of Thanksgiving ... being with family! Mitch's article is a great read and worth sharing with family and friends. You can find this column at Mitch Albom's website: mitchalbom.com; search for "The Turkey Shrinks."

The second Mitch Albom column I wanted to call your attention to was written six years ago. It's entitled, "Empty chairs, empty table, but still Thanksgiving." In this column, Mitch mentioned how he decided to set an extra table for Thanksgiving. It wasn't for the kids or the extra desserts. It wasn't for the out-of-towners. Rather, this table was for all those who "are no longer coming, all those who filled the house with laughter and stories and singing and arguments, and who, sadly, will never walk through the door again." That year was the first time Mitch hosted his Thanksgiving Day celebrations without his parents. We can all relate to Mitch's thoughts as it seems that as we age, every Thanksgiving now brings about more people who sadly fill those "empty chairs." As I write this, I was thinking how cool it would be if we could actually revisit those Thanksgiving Day gatherings of, say 10 years, 20 years, or 40 years ago and see and hear those beautiful people who have already gone home to the Lord.

Mitch writes, "Now, like so many of my older relatives, my parents are gone. But I can still see them. Hear them. So I'm setting a table. Empty chairs." Mitch then walks down memory lane and recalls the family members who once filled the seats at his family Thanksgiving Day dinners. He recalls their stories and what they often wore or brought. Mitch profoundly recalls how Thanksgiving for his family was a once-a-year opportunity to gather both immediate and extended family for a long weekend. It's different now, he writes. It's not the same as it once was. He also recalls how the absentees grow as he himself grows older. "One by one, they disappeared from the Thanksgiving table, and each year we mourned the latest absentee, until the absentees outnumbered the original attendees.... You can't keep things alive. I'm learning that, painfully. No matter how much you love something, or someone, their existence is out of your control. You can weep. You can wail. But you can't summon them back. All you can do is carry on and remember. So I pull out the furniture and

move it around, if only in my mind, which is where so much of this holiday lives. Empty chairs. Missing loved one. Lord, how their voices once filled the room, as their echoes fill it now." I encourage you to read the whole column. It can be found at Mitch Albom's website: mitchalbom.com; search for "Empty Chairs."

Thanksgiving Day (Part Four): Several years ago, I found a great editorial column about Thanksgiving Day posted in the archives section of the New York Times website. The piece was originally published on November 18, 1869. Here are a few snippets: "Thanksgiving is the Home Holiday. We have no sweeter festival in the calendar.... We need more holidays in our American life. We have many anniversaries, but few days sacred to friendship (and) faith This is the feast day of Family and of Friendship. Many a truant son and daughter will cross seas and travel weary miles to sit in the old pew, and hear the familiar psalms, and gather around the fireside with those they love. The real meaning of this day is Coming Home. There are no traditional glories, no memories of sacred adventure or suffering to divide it. It has but one embracing sentiment. 'God has blessed us,' we say, 'and we thank Him in our homes.' While we come together and thank God for his manifold kindness ... let us remember that with our privileges there comes a duty always present, but in seasons like this, commanding and imperative. In the fullness of our own joy we must not forget those who are poor and sick and cast down by bitter fortune. The Master to whom so many praises will be sung this morning showed no holier attribute of divinity than when he taught us that true Christianity gave clothing to the naked and food to the hungry, and opened the prison doors to those in bonds. We have many prisons around us, where poverty and misfortune and hard necessity hold their victims with sterner grasp than with chains and bars. It is for us to open these doors and break these bonds, to spread our substance and store, to lend the helping hand and bless the day with deeds of charity. As we do to others so may we hope that others will do to us and our children. This is the lesson of the day. By its full observance we can make a true Thanksgiving, and show that the gifts we have received from the Father of all have not fallen upon hard and stony ground."

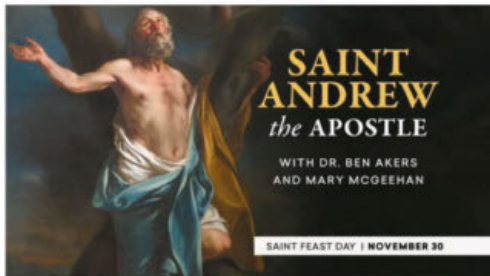
Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

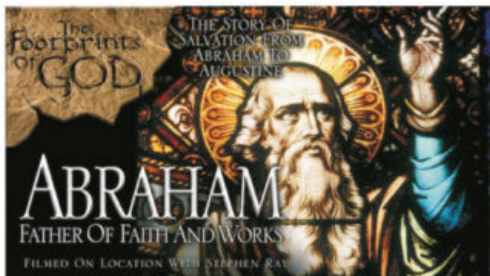
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of November 24, 2024



St. Andrew the Apostle | Catholic Saints

All of the saints had a story before they met Christ. For St. Andrew, he was a fisherman. Hearing the call of Christ, Andrew and his brother Peter left everything behind to follow Jesus. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Mary McGeehan as they discuss St. Andrew, his life, and the example he provides to all Christians.



Abraham: Father of Faith

He left his home, the bones of his ancestors, and the false gods of his fathers to follow the God of glory. Excruciating trials, weary miles of desert travel, and even the command to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice did not deter him. Mount your camels and ride back in time to discover Abraham, the only man called the "Friend of God."



The Perpetual Virgin | Lectio: Mary | Episode 5

Why do Catholics believe that Mary remained a virgin her whole life? Dr. Brant Pitre unpacks this much debated topic in this engaging presentation.

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

During the course of my lifetime I've had the honor of knowing some people who have a truly positive attitude. We have such persons here at St. Joan's. They are rare birds. I think I could count the number of them that I have run across on both hands. To say that they have a positive attitude does not mean that they are purely optimistic all the time. Optimists are much more common than these folks are. Optimism comes in varying degrees and can apply to different segments of our lives. For example, some people see each new Lions, Tigers, or Red Wings season as an opportunity to win a championship – even if it takes a miracle. Other people are confident that the human race will eventually eliminate poverty. Still others think bigger; they sense that, through its ongoing development, humanity will eliminate all disease and defeat physical death.

We Christians have an eternal confidence that God's will shall ultimately come to pass, that we will be able to get to Heaven and be with God forever. All of these levels of optimism pale in comparison to the positive attitude I have seen in some folks.

There are these people among us who are not hung up on waiting to be happy. They are happy *now*, even though they have plenty of reasons to be unhappy. They suffer through life with a smile! They constantly look past the bad to grab hold of the good. Honestly, it can be frustrating to witness. Being around a person who won't let obvious evil – sickness, abuse, marital trouble, financial troubles, spiritual emptiness, and other things – steal

their joy, is confounding and convicting. Such people can easily make us feel guilty for whining about trivial daily inconveniences while they have a smile on their face as they battle cancer or heart disease or life in a wheelchair. These are extraordinary human beings.

What seems to possess these remarkable people is a flood of unstoppable gratitude. Because they are so absorbed with thankfulness for the good things they have, they don't have the time to devote to bellyaching about their troubles. And troubles they have! This overwhelming positive attitude seems to primarily show up in the people who would seem to have the most to complain about. But they don't. It should make us think about how soft we have gotten. Our common reaction to most situations in our overly affluent civilization is to first complain about what is lacking before we exalt in what is abundant.

Giving thanks for abundance is what the celebration of Thanksgiving is supposed to be about. Giving thanks cannot be merely an annual event if we are to be genuinely happy, though. Gratitude should not be restricted to just a daily exercise. Thankfulness should underlie *everything* we do. Gratitude is a conscious decision to focus on the giftedness of life. Precious days are wasted when we dwell on the burdens we have created by abandoning God and turning in on ourselves. Complaining simply does no good. It doesn't fix anything. On the other hand, being grateful is empowering. We take control of life's situations when we identify the positive aspects of

our lives and embrace them.

The unique and gifted individuals who embrace the goodness in their lives, and radiate it out to others, weren't necessarily born that way. It's more likely that their suffering led them to make a decision to take control of their happiness. They probably realized that they were better at making themselves miserable than anyone else – and they had enough. They came to terms with the difficulty of living each day, that it was not going away. They realized that, even if they were only twenty-five-years-old, they were dying a little bit each day. But dying is not the same as being dead. Wearing out is not the same as complete collapse. A difficult relationship is not necessarily a destructive relationship. And even when death does finally come, for the Christian, it means life!

So, thankfulness for the present, even the difficulties of the present, is key to happiness. Not funny, ha-ha, grab-another-drink, and crank-the-music-up happiness. But deep-seated, contentment-in-your-soul, everything-is-going-to-be-alright happiness. We can be thankful that we are on the right path . . . a *hard* path . . . but the *right* path. It's the path to eternity with God, walking (sometimes crawling) with Christ. People who can be thankful all the time on the journey with Jesus are simply amazing!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Fr. Bob



November 24, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dn 7:13-14 | Rv 1:5-8 | Jn 18:33b-37

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

If we reflect on today's Gospel, it might be hard for us to envision Jesus ever dressed like an actual king! When Pontius Pilate asked him if he was a king, Jesus responded, "If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over." Imagine: Jesus had spent the night in agony; his friends had all abandoned him; and, in a few verses, Pilate will deliver him to be scourged. He must have *felt*, at that moment, like anything but a king. But, indeed, he was (and is) the Creator of the Universe and its rightful king. We Christians – called, like Jesus' first disciples, to be his friends and followers – should do everything we can to proclaim him as king of our hearts, our families, our lives, and our society.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There is a tradition of placing an image of Jesus' Sacred Heart in a prominent place in the home. The idea is to "enthron" Jesus as king of the home and the family; there is even a small ceremony to go along with the enthronement. In one of the most famous images of the Sacred Heart, Jesus wears a magnificent crown, holds a scepter in his right hand, and carries the earth in his left hand. We see, from this picture, Jesus as a king with a glorious crown who holds the world in his hand – but he does so with a heart burning with love! He loves us so much that he wishes to extend the reign of his love to every human being on earth. We can cooperate with him in this by "enthroning" him as king of our hearts and our homes and allowing his love to impact everything we do and say. By our willingness to welcome God into every aspect of our lives, we will become witnesses of his love to others.

INVITE This week, take one opportunity to invite someone to pray with you. They could be dinner guests, a coworker, or a friend you meet for coffee. Whoever it is, ask him or her if there are any particular intentions you can bring to God in prayer. By doing this, you remind your friend of God's constant presence and his desire to be part of all of your joys, sorrows, and anxieties.

Readings for the First Sunday in Advent



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 1

Reading One – Jer 33:14-16

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."

Responsorial Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Reading Two – 1 Thes 3:12–4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Alleluia – Ps 85:8

Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Citizens of Another Country

I read an article, years ago, about an American filmmaker who decided to step away from a wildly successful film franchise that had been requiring him and his family to live abroad.

It stuck in my mind because of the tongue-in-cheek reasoning he gave for the surprising decision, "My kids were starting to speak in British accents."

Sometimes, we just want to go home, don't we?

Returning from a recent family vacation, I burst into tears at the airport, overcome with relief when I saw my sister's van pulling into the pickup lane. It didn't matter that I had had fun on this trip and that I was even looking forward to taking another one. In that moment, I was so tired, and all I wanted was my own bed. The smell of my own house. The feeling of not being "away."

If Jesus is our king, and his kingdom is not of this world, then we live our lives as perpetual aliens. This should reassure us in some ways. The world so often feels cold and cruel and strange to us because it is. We were not made for this world. We were made for heaven. We were made to yearn for the face, the presence, the protection of our King.

But this understanding of ourselves as strangers in a foreign land should also be a caution to us.

We can't get too comfortable here. We cannot become too wrapped up in the world and its temptations, its rewards, its comforts. We cannot start speaking in the language, the accent of our adopted homeland. Not if we ever want to return home and belong there.

Our King looks for our return.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is a sacramental seal and where did it come from?

Answer:

Leaving more than just a memory, there are some events in our life that are truly transforming, making us different people. The same thing can be said of spiritual things, especially sacraments. A sacramental seal or character is a theological concept to describe the life-changing and permanent effect of three sacraments on the person: baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that these sacraments confer a seal "by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible" (#1121).

Once we receive these sacraments, we are forever changed. It's a spiritual "point of no return" whereby we take a step forward in our faith journey. We are marked as people of faith, as those who have received the Spirit and as those called to serve in ordained ministry. That is why these sacraments are received only once. The direction is set, the choice is made, and we are called by God to be his people. Nothing can change that, not even our own sinfulness.

St. Joan of Arc Giving Tree Project 2024

The "Giving Tree Project" is a special charitable project designed to match our parishioners' generosity with our community's needs during the Christmas holidays. The project serves 100% local individuals who may not otherwise receive a gift at this special time of the year. This year, we have also taken on additional charitable organizations that focus solely on gifting children's toys. In addition to our gift cards and online giving, we will have boards in the Gathering Space with tags for toys to be purchased.



HOW IT WORKS:

PURCHASE GIFT CARD(S):

The Giving Tree will accept gift cards again this year. This decision makes it safer and easier for our parishioners to participate. It also makes the program more flexible for our charity agencies.

Buy plastic* gift card(s) valued from \$15-30 (per card). You may purchase more than one, but please make sure limits fall within per-card limits of \$15-\$30.

** tangible gift cards, please, no electronic vouchers. Please ensure the cards have been activated by the retailer that issued them.*

STORES ACCEPTED: Meijer, Walmart, and Target

WHERE TO BUY: At the named retailer, most drug & grocery stores, or online.

LET US PURCHASE THE GIFT CARDS FOR YOU: You may donate again this year via our online giving platform by going to givingtree.stjoan.church or by scanning this QR code and indicating the amount you want to donate. We will take care of the rest.



PURCHASE TOY(S):

New this year, there are 100 gift tags for toys on boards in the Gathering Space. They are specific to the age and gender of the child. Please bring the purchased toys unwrapped and place them in the red bins with the tag attached. Gifts can also be brought to the Parish Center.

DEADLINE for all donations: Monday, December 9, 2024

Bring your marked envelope(s) to the Parish Center Office during office hours or place it in the locked collection boxes in the Sr. Carol Center or the Parish Center Lobby.

Living Rosary

**December 9 at 6:30 pm
(Before the 7 pm Mass) on the Solemnity
of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Join us for a Living Rosary, where people represent the beads and encircle our church with light as we pray the Holy Rosary together.

This will take place before the
7 pm Mass on the Holy Day.

*Immaculate Heart of Mary
Pray for Us!*

**Call Sherry at 313-530-2533 or
Pam 586-291-7045 if you would like to volunteer.**

 **St. Joan^{of} Arc**

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, November 25th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM: Baptism of Ivie Stella Jessica Horton

Tuesday, November 26th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, November 27th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

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

Thursday, November 28th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live
Streamed

9:00 AM: Mass - Live
Streamed



Friday, November 29th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, November 30th

11:00 AM: Reconciliation

12:30 PM: Baptism of James R. Skelton
1:30 PM: Baptism of Henry D. Gross
2:30 PM: Baptism of James Murray

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

Sunday, December 1st

8:00 AM : Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 AM: Family Mass - Live Streamed
11:00 AM: Family Faith Formation - Gym
12:00 PM: Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

November 24, 2024 – Christ Above All

Here's something from the file of post-Election Night oddities.

Prior to the election, New York's famous Empire State Building announced on its social media channels that it would illuminate its top floors either red or blue to "announce" the results as so-called swing states started to report their respective presidential race outcomes.

As the results started to come in, the building was briefly illuminated in red a few times, indicating Republican victories.

In this age of near-constant political division, of course, it didn't take long before someone complained; no surprise there. But what they said was curious:

"May Zeus himself strike this building down," someone wrote on the building's social media site, according to a media report. Setting aside that the reaction may be a bit over-the-top, the choice of words was odd; would someone in this day and age really call on Zeus, the ancient mythological god, to take action?

Was it "just an expression," or did the commenter really believe that, somehow, Zeus would be at a level equal to God?

It's a great reminder to us that there is only one true God, and on this, the feast of Christ the King, we proudly raise the banner to ensure the truth resounds.

"As the visions during the night continued, I saw one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven," we hear from the Prophet Daniel in today's first reading. "When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, the one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him.

"His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed."

Amen. Amen. All glory, honor and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, on election night, now, and forever!

© 2024, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday November 25, 2024 Weekday; Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr (Green/Red)

7:00 am Shelly Nowak

Tuesday November 26, 2024 Weekday (Green)

7:00 am Jay Finn

Wednesday November 27, 2024 Weekday (Green)

7:00 am Mary Hobig

6:00 pm Deceased members of the McQuillan, Zaranek, Walters and Gaidis Families

Thursday November 28, 2024 Weekday - Thanksgiving (Green/White)

7:00 am Hugo Calisi

9:00 am Roseann Coules & Dennis Lex

Friday November 29, 2024 Weekday (Green)

7:00 am Anthony Lombardi

Saturday November 30, 2024 Vigil for the First Sunday in Advent (Purple)

4:00 pm Patricia Golla, C. Pat Walters, Bonnie Batche, Mary Steele, Lawrence Rybicki, Mary LaFata, David Sperry, Thomas Benoit, Jeffrey Blizinski, David Damm, Gabriel Nehro, Param Troyer, Helen Sadler and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and the Thomas Family, Tricia Troyer and Tina Calisi

6:00 pm Mario & Ann Catalanotte

Sunday December 1, 2024 First Sunday in Advent (Purple)

8:00 am The Intentions of SJA Parishioners

10:00 am Robert Boesiger

12:00 pm Steve Finn, Raymond Strussione, Paula Nagel and a Special Intention for Tina Calisi

Daily Readings

Monday, November 25

Revelation 14:1-5
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 26

Revelation 14:14-19
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday, November 27

Revelation 15:1-4
Luke 21:12-19

Thursday, November 28

Revelation 18:1-23
Luke 21:20-28

Friday, November 29

Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday, November 30

Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Sunday, December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-36



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.”

“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.



Holy Land Carvings

We are the Holy Land Carvings group, and we are proud to represent the Christian woodcarvers of Bethlehem. These artisans rely on tourism, but due to the war in Israel, they have lost their jobs and are unable to provide for their families.

Our goal is to sell beautiful hand-carved Olive Wood religious items, including Nativity Scenes, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Statues, Pictures of the Last Supper, and many other religious items, to Catholic Churches in the United States. By purchasing one of these exquisite items, you will be supporting the Christian families in the Holy Land and helping them provide for their families and maintain their jobs.

We invite you to take a moment to browse through the carvings that will be available on the weekend of **November 30 & December 1**. By supporting this project, you are making a significant contribution towards keeping the Christian community present in the Holy Land.

Please join us in this worthy cause and help us make a difference. We deeply appreciate your support and understanding in this crucial matter.

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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

John Antone	Taylor Fisher	Shirley Kraemer	Robert Peters	Patty Stevenson
Geri Beaugrand	Jeanne Fleming	Laurie Krim	Michelle Pierson	Palma Strussione
James Belloli	Linda Frank	Maria Krzesowski	Frank Poeschel	Cathy Sullens
Kristen Benedict	Larry Gehrke	Charles LaCombe	Vicky Pranger	Mary Surmont
Edna Burton	Larry Graham	Patricia LaCombe	Carol S. Provencal	Terri Szolach
Maryann Carlin	Peter Grantz	Concetta Leone	Tracy Rauch	Kim Thomas
Ed Cole	Chris Gretchen	Mila Lictawa	Fe Reyes	Bernadette Thompson
Toni Glaeser-Collins	Geoffrey Greve	David Lott	Sr. Alice Riegel	James Thompson
Joan Combella	Helen Waltz-Gutowski	Dominik Mackowski	Paulette Russia	Linda Vitale
Maura Corrigan	Pam Haisenleder	Patrick Maher	Jenna Rose	Eileen Wallace
John Crawford	Judith Hasten	Sam Manalo	Marilyn Rose	Elaine Walters
Olivia Crimando	Leland Helzer	Ilene Manning	Victoria Rydholm	Tom Ward
Jerry Dedene	Ilona Higgins	Joan Mannino	Lily Saith	Larry Weber
Joan DeDene	Ted Hinz	Sandy McCabe	Barbara R. Scharneck	Adrienne Weidenbach
Anita Dembeck	Joan Ireland	Dennis McCarthy	Dianne Schelosky	Joan Weitz, O.P.
Debra Dembeck	Chris Janutol	Cyndy McMahon	Thomas Sloan	Robert Werthman
Grace Dickerson	Lorraine Jonas	Heather A. Miller	Terri Smigels	Joseph Whalen
George Dickerson	Rosemary Jonas	Mark Moffitt	Kathleen Smith	Marilyn Wicker
Ray Dinser	Zayne D. Kapinski	Nina Mondalek	Cathy Spindler	Joyce Wiekrykas
Kainoa Dunn	Lorraine Kilroy	Jennie Mooney	Frances Stafford	Loretta Williams
Jean Edwards	Catherine Konen	Marco Julian Moro	Darlene Stanisky	Jenny Wojcik
Frank Faiss	Delaney Kraemer	John Perna	Wendy Stevens	Joan Wright

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

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Joseph VanDusen
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Samantha Williams
Timothy L. Wilt III

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Daniel Klein
Paul Koss
Matthew Krugler
Jeffrey LaTour
John Lewins
Justin Lienemann
Nick Lienemann
Michael Light
David Light
Lee Michael
Thomas Reichling
Frank Schuster
Daniel Sparkman
Tom Stevenson

Jason Gaidis
Joseph Goeddeke
Frankie Kocis
Joseph Marable
Tom Miller, Jr
Anthony M. Morgan
Leonardo Pastoria
Luciano Pastoria
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Bringing Home the Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (B)

November 24, 2024

Your Majesty

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This an interesting form of address. It is not really a title, like Queen or Lord. Nor does it identify a function ascribed to royalty, such as “ruler.” It refers to a status of excellence. It belongs to the position of royalty itself rather than the person in that position. Just what is majesty, and why do we attribute it to some people?

Originally, people believed that royal individuals were descendants of the gods. This probably explains the notion of royal majesty. The readings for today’s feast

show that Jesus turned upside down the ideas of kingship and royal majesty.

The son of man in Daniel was a heavenly being upon whom “dominion, splendor, and kingship” (7:14) were bestowed by God. The kingship of this figure is universal and everlasting. In the gospels, Jesus frequently identifies with this title. When he does so, he is making a claim about his identity. The passage from Revelation depicts Jesus like this son of man: a heavenly being who comes “amid the clouds” (1:7) as “ruler of the kings of the earth” (1:5).

In the gospel scene, Jesus is interrogated about his identity. He insists that his kingship springs from love and service, not power and force. It’s clear that his royal majesty flows from who he is, not from any political position he might hold. To call him king, as we do with today’s responsorial psalm, was a very dangerous political statement for his early followers, for it claimed that Jesus, not Caesar, is Lord. †

Sunday Readings

Daniel 7:13–14

His dominion is an everlasting dominion / that shall not be taken away.

Revelation 1:5–8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty.”

John 18:33b–37

Jesus answered [Pilate], “For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”



Jesus turned upside down the ideas of kingship and royal majesty.

A Word from Pope Francis

Many of your dreams are the same as those of the gospel. Fraternity, solidarity, justice, peace: these are Jesus’ own dreams for humanity. Don’t be afraid to encounter Jesus: he loves your dreams and helps you to make them come true. Cardinal Martini used to say that the Church and society need “dreamers who remain ever open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.”

HOMILY, ROME, NOVEMBER 21, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What does the idea of “servant leadership” mean to you?
- How can we imitate Jesus and be servant leaders in our homes and communities?



The Right Choice

By Paige Byrne Shortal

It was an advertisement in the Sunday paper. One of those glitzy, full-color ads from a major department store. The kind of ad that usually wouldn't register for me. In one corner, the copy read, "Hot Street Savvy." (Definitely not my kind of product!) Down below, in smaller print, it read, "The Right Choice." Pictured were three necklaces—beaded with crosses. At first, I thought they were rosaries, but upon closer examination, I counted the wrong number of beads.

The right choice. It's what the Solemnity of Christ the King is about: making a choice. St. Ignatius Loyola, the father of the Jesuits, wrote a book called *The Spiritual Exercises*. These exercises are still used as the basis for many retreats.

One of the exercises is called The Two Standards, and the retreatant is encouraged to meditate on the standard of Christ and the standard of the Evil One. The kings of old were preceded by their standard-bearers, carrying the flag ("standard") announcing their presence. The soldiers followed the standard and made their choice for their king. The flag inspired the soldiers in battle, and the men sacrificed to keep the standard flying high. When the standard fell, the battle was lost. The standard was the symbol of the king, the kingdom, and all that the king stood for. In the great battle between good and evil, we are called to follow the standard of Christ the King—called to make the right choice.

The battleground changes from season to season. Sometimes it's hard to know who or what is good and who or what is evil. And one of the battle plans of the Tempter is to convince us that there is no battle at all. When we can place the cross next to the words "Hot Street Savvy" and not blink an eye, when our holiest symbol has become a marketing ploy, then our faith is in danger. And yet, I don't want to live in a society so repressive that such things are outlawed. Rather, I want to live in a Christian community that is so aware of the dangers of evil that we are able to see clearly the true path, the true standard flown by the True King. We Christians need a community to help us make the right choice, over and over again. †

This reflection is an excerpt from a Liguori Publications bulletin, November 23, 2003.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Liturgical Music: Sing Well, Pray Twice" by Orin Johnson

Music has always been part of what it means to be a person of faith. Look to Psalm 104, which tells of singing praise to God. See Paul's letters to the Colossians (3:16) and the Ephesians (5:19–20), where he urges those communities to sing to God with gratitude in their hearts. Psalm 130 is a lament. Psalm 19's petition and prayer is boldly beautiful. Christ and the apostles sang a hymn after the Last Supper before journeying to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30). Because music is integral to the human experience and to our expressions of our faith, music is then integral to our liturgies, where humanity and faith come together in harmony as a corporate act of worship before God.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

PRAYER

Majestic God, when I am given authority, inspire me to put others first, to serve rather than to be served, to lead without expecting honor or reward. Amen.


The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 25–30

Monday, Weekday:
Rv 14:1–3, 4b–5 / Lk 21:1–4
Tuesday, Weekday:
Rv 14:14–19 / Lk 21:5–11
Wednesday, Weekday:
Rv 15:1–4 / Lk 21:12–19

Thursday, Weekday:
Rv 18:1–2, 21–23; 19:1–3, 9a / Lk 21:20–28
Friday, Weekday:
Rv 20:1–4, 11–21:2 / Lk 21:29–33
Saturday, St. Andrew:
Rom 10:9–18 / Mt 4:18–22

Bringing Home
the Word 
November 24, 2024

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