

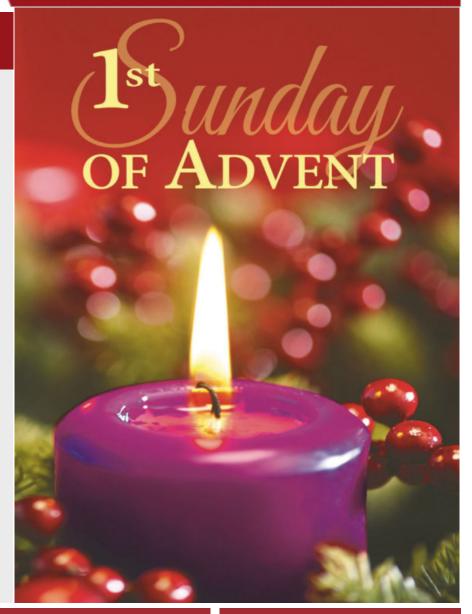
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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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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. Robert Voiland 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

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Support

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

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

TALLer Tales



Traveling with Ms. Daisy (Part 10.5): This is the final segment of my travelogue about my journey with "Ms. Daisy" (aka my mom) on our Eastern Seaboard

Journey on board the Viking Mars.

After we boarded the bus near Wall Street for the journey to JFK airport, it must have taken about 20 minutes for my heart to stop racing because I was huffing it to get us back to the bus on time. We were the LAST people on the bus, and I had enough time (2 minutes) to run across the street to buy some water and junk food for the ride out to the airport.

My mom and I settled in the back row, and the journey home began. I haven't been to JFK Airport in eons, but it was chaotic and packed with people. We boarded our plane, and I watched my exhausted mom fall asleep for the journey home. During this final leg of the trip, I was able to sneak in a few more selfies to complete my photo log. It was an awesome trip! It was awesome not only because I was able to spend this time with my mom, but, more importantly for me, I was able to help her check off a few more items on her bucket list of things she wants to do as she enters ... as she calls it ... the check-out line of life.

Life moves fast. Between all the work deadlines, family and social commitments, and endless to-do lists, time feels like a luxury we can rarely afford. Yet, as the days race by, there's one truth we cannot ignore – our parents, the people who invested so much in our lives and sacrificed so much for us, are growing older. They nurtured us, made sacrifices, and were our constant support. Our parent's "golden years" are often when time spent together becomes all the more valuable for them and for us.

I've written about this before, but I learned from Cardinal Maida the importance of checking in with my parents daily. We did this with his mom every day when she was alive ... no matter where we were in the world. I started that tradition with my parents, and since COVID that daily call has morphed into a daily Zoom call with family. Then, gratefully, Father Rich challenged me at my dad's funeral to start taking every

Friday off and spend that time with my mom.

Spending time with elderly parents or grandparents is more than just a nice gesture; it's a profound source of joy FOR THEM. As our parents and grandparents age, they face new challenges, from limited mobility, declining health, to loneliness. They often need simple help from getting groceries, getting to doctor appointments, or sometimes getting the simplest things taken care of around their house. Knowing that their child or grandchild chooses to share precious moments with them has a profoundly uplifting effect. Spending time with parents or grandparents undeniably lifts their spirits, but it's also a gift to us. These moments fill the heart and are the memories we will hold closest when they

turn to give back, not out of obligation, but out of love and absolute gratitude for all they've done for us!

In recent months, I have talked with several people about a new project. I'm going to call it something like Operation Parent, Grandparent, Grandfriend. The purpose isn't about a meeting or meetings but rather to get people to commit to their parent(s), grandparent(s), or grandfriend(s) some QUALITY time each month. My vision is to get people to sign up, and I will randomly send out text reminders about visiting or calling that parent, grandparent, or grandfriend. The text would include suggestions for a conversation starter, activity, or task you could accomplish for or with them. I plan to "reveal" the project in our Christmas bulletin.

My mom's bucket list gave us an agenda for things to do. My sisters and I have enjoyed participating in those activities, but we've also enjoyed helping our mom check off items on that list, which she could never do on her own now. Helping our mom check off items on that list has created some incredible memories that will last forever.

Whether it's a long trip, a quiet walk, or making a surprise visit where you walk in with food and drink or a meal, make the time! You will never regret it. As I've learned, the work will always be there tomorrow, and no matter how much time we spend on those tasks and lists, they will NEVER be fully completed in our lifetime. Seeing the joy and smiles on a parent/grandparent's face when we make that surprise visit, take them out for a meal, or watch them fall asleep after

spending a full day or trip with them brings greater joy than simply checking off another item on our endless to-do or task list. You'll find, as I have done, that every moment spent with our parents, grandparents, and grandfriends, you give a little, receive so much more, and create a legacy of love that will last far beyond the fleeting constraints of time!

Feel free to pass this article along to your children and grandchildren; they'll welcome the gentle nudge/reminder!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy Advent.

In Christ,

gmb@sjascs.org









are no longer with us. My brother-in-law's sister Jeanne will often pull out her phone at family functions and joke that she has to take this or that picture of her mom or my mom for the "funeral boards." No, those pictures aren't just for the "funeral boards," but they're for us ... to remember the sacred moments we've spent with our elderly parents.

Our elderly parents and grandparents often don't ask for much, if they ask at all. They frequently feel that we, their children and grandchildren, are way too busy, and they don't want to bother us. Yet, all they really want from us is our time, our attention, and our presence. And, it's often not as much time as we might think (or fear). They gave us the best parts of themselves for so many years. Now, it's our



Week of December 01, 2024



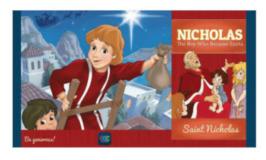
30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



Christmas (Part 1) | What Catholics Believe

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!



Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa

Here is the fascinating story of the boy whose love for others make him one of the most popular figures of all times. Today, more than sixteen centuries later, the entire world celebrates the kindness and generosity of the man we call Santa Claus.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and Augustics press

Voiland's View

Ad veneri. These Latin words mean: to come toward; to approach. They are the root of the name of the liturgical season we begin today – Advent! Advent will carry us through these first four Sundays of December. These holy sabbath days will be mile markers on our spiritual journey toward the coming of all comings: the birth of Jesus Christ in human flesh. Advent is a time filled with anticipation as we await the Lord, as we look forward to Christmas. Little ones practically jump out of their skin thinking about the celebration. Adults become children again, too. In Advent, we plan ahead to celebrate!

Advent observance and Christmas celebrations come every year, as sure as sunrise and sunset chase each other. We live in a circle to time. Like orbiting planets, we begin again and again. In the Church, our remembrance of Jesus' coming to the world initiates our yearly recounting of his whole life. We follow him all year. We rejoice at his birth. We entrust Mary and Joseph with his growth into adulthood. We witness his years of ministry. Ultimately, we ponder his sacrifice of himself on the cross for us. Then, gloriously, we cling to his victorious rising from the dead and ascension into heaven! All this is part of our yearly religious practice. We think Christ through on an annual basis. We try to *live* Christ on an annual basis. We move from the beginning to the end of his story. Is this something in which we find peace? Do we mind thinking through this? Or, quite simply, do we get bored?

Although we recount Jesus' life in a yearly cycle, his story is more precisely linear. He had an earthly beginning (in Mary's womb) and *earthly* end (Ascension into heaven). So when we think during *this* Advent season about his coming, do we think, "Oh, just the start of another Christmas season," or do we find ourselves moving closer to Jesus, in the big, eternal picture? "Do we want him to actually come, or do we want him to stay frozen in a nativity scene?

Do we crave his coming, or do we fear his coming?

Certainly, when we live lives of suffering; when we live lives of challenge, of exhaustion; as we live the difficulties of staying faithful; of continually trusting when it's hard to trust; of forgiving, when it's incredibly hard to forgive - especially when we're hurt over and over and over again; when we struggle with doubts; when we question our ability to stay on course, to be able to remain faithful when being faithful is the last thing we want to do; when we'd much rather run back into ourselves, to satisfy ourselves with what little pleasure we can get from our physical being; do we really want to stay on the narrow path? Do we want to continue to reinvest ourselves in Jesus' coming?

It's a tough question because it is very difficult for us to stay on that path. But that's what we have to ask again as Advent is once again is upon us. We think about God coming to us, and then leaving us with the decision.

Once again, he approaches. He comes toward us. And he does

not insist upon us receiving him. He wants us to receive him. He makes himself utterly vulnerable to us. He comes as a child. He comes in truly the most inoffensive, the most easily rejected form. He comes with no words. He comes with no pomp, with no circumstance, with no power. He comes to a poor Jewish girl, a faithful Jewish girl. She has made *her* own commitment to him – in the affirmative. She allowed him to be born. She received his life within her womb, said yes. She could have said no. She could have stopped the whole thing . . . but said yes.

And then Jesus asks us if we will say yes. But we don't have to. Will we do that? Will we start once again? Will we recommit? Will we continue on the path? When we say that Jesus is our Lord, that this is the way of life that we want to continue, that we want to still provide ourselves for him, to be his hands and his feet, to nurture for him – it's not an easy question. Because then, we are very vulnerable ourselves. We know we are very limited. We know we can't do it perfectly. We can know the truth and still feel utterly inadequate to support the truth that we know. Should we open our hearts – again – to the One who comes? That's what Advent is. Another question mark. Another opportunity to commit or not.

Blessed days, Fr. Bob



December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

FAITHFUL

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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

Are you one of those people who flips to the end of the book to find out what happens or maybe you roam the internet for spoilers of your favorite show? We have all been tempted to know what is going to happen before whatever it is unfolds, especially in tension-filled situations. Knowing the ending changes the way we experience the angst of the present moment, especially if it's a great ending! Like today: even as we anticipate and know the comfort and joy of the Advent season, we certainly do not begin there with our Gospel reading from Luke. In it, Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man: this time will include moments of dismay, tribulation, assault, fright, and death. Contemplating this time of justice can be fearsome, but it is also a source of joy, because Christ is coming! We know that through Christ we have been redeemed - and that, if we remain faithful to him, we have the hope of eternal life. As Luke tells us, we can stand with our heads held high because redemption is at hand. Our Advent does not start with comfort and joy, but it sure ends there. Knowing this ending helps us have confidence and hope in God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We are encouraged and challenged by the Word and our Advent traditions this first week to remember how it ends! In our first reading, the prophet Jeremiah relays consolation to the nation in crisis when God tells them the days are coming when the Lord will "fulfill the promise." This will bring them much-hoped-for safety and security. In Luke's Gospel, Christ's coming will be with "power and great glory" and although it sounds somewhat frightening, it will usher in redemption. Those are some spoilers providing great confidence and hope. In addition to our readings, the lighting of our first candle this Advent season is a visual reminder of the culmination of our salvation story! The Light who has come into the world has and will dispel the darkness. We can stand erect and raise our heads together to glimpse this light of Advent and fill our hearts again with hope that God surely is the one who keeps his promises. That is the best spoiler of all.

SING

O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph And sadness flee away

Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent

St. Joan of Arc

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 8

Reading One - Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

Responsorial - Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Reading Two - Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Alleluia - Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - Lk 3:1-6

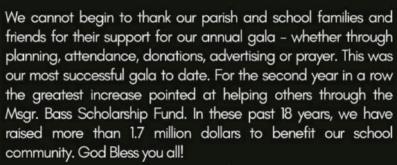
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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Gala Update

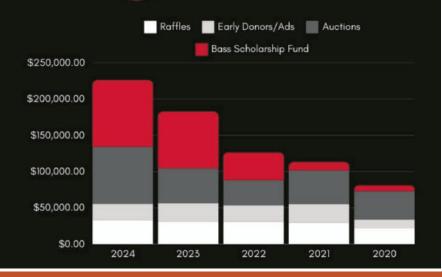


More than \$226,000 was raised for our school



An astonishing

Check out the Gala highlight reel













WEDNESDAY, DEC 18 6:30-8:30 PM - IN THE SR. CAROL CENTER (FOLLOWING WED 6 PM MASS)

St. Joan of Arc

ADVENT TEA

FOR WOMEN

What to bring

YOUR FAVORITE TEA CUP,
ADVENT-INSPIRED TABLE DECOR,
A DESSERT OR HORS D'OEUVRES
TO SHARE AND A GIFT CARD TO
KROGER, TARGET OR WALMART
OR MONETARY DONATION FOR
PREGNANCY AID DETROIT

Hosted by the women in our Walking With Purpose Bible Study groups.

Register online sjascs.org/advent-tea or call the parish center 586-777-3670

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 Arc

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, December 2nd

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

5:00 PM: Baptism of Sullivan M. Murphy

Tuesday, December 3rd

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

6:30 PM: Highschool Information Night - EH

Wednesday, December 4th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

5:00 PM: Reconciliation

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

6:30 PM: Catholic Bible School - EH

Thursday, December 5th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Friday, December 6th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, December 7th

10:00 AM: Exceptional Christmas Party - EH

11:00 AM: Reconciliation

2:00 PM: Fuentes/Jakab Convalidation

4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, December 8th

8:00 AM: Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 AM: Family Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 PM: Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

December 1, 2024 – Kicking and Praising

On the gridiron of life, it's important to always keep in mind what the most important goalposts really are.

The Detroit Lions – and, of course, their fans – have been enjoying what is by almost every measure a truly amazing season. Their growing number of wins is even more impressive when one looks at some of the unusual ways they've been racking them up.

Consider the game a few weeks ago, won primarily with a couple clutch field goals by the team's placekicker, a young man who, just a few short months ago, had been preparing to begin his career as a brick salesman, but got a chance to prove himself with the Lions.

After the particular game in which his impact was so huge, his perspective was noteworthy:

"I think it just shows how good the Lord is," he was quoted in a Fox News story as saying. "He's so faithful. My story is, if anything, I just hope people can see Jesus through my story. I mean that's what I think I'm here to do. Not make or miss or be a good kicker or bad kicker, but spread the love of Jesus."

For a professional athlete at the top of his game, that's a clear indication of proper priorities.

"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," we hear in today's second reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

"For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus."

It's the first Sunday of Advent. Christmas is just three weeks away. Are we shooting for the uprights in our love for each other?

© 2024, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Daily Readings

Monday December 2, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 am Clara M. Champine

Tuesday December 3, 2024 Saint Francis Xavier,

Priest (White)

7:00 am Mary A. Champine

Wednesday December 4, 2024 Advent Weekday; Saint

John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the

Church (Purple/White)

7:00 am Fr. Arthur Oldani

6:00 pm Debbie Albrecht

Thursday December 5, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 am Special Intention for Tina Calisi and Family

Friday December 6, 2024 Weekday (Purple/White)

7:00 am Richard & Virginia Robinette

Saturday December 7, 2024 Vigil for the Second

Sunday in Advent (Purple)

4:00 pm Bonnie Batche, Stephanie Gryebet, Mary Steele,

David Sperry, Thomas Benoit, David Damm. Paula Nagel, Lauren McDonald, Marie Ann Easley and Special Intentions for Tina Calisi, the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, Danny Elles, and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc

6:00 pm Donald Ketelhut

Sunday December 8, 2024 Second Sunday in Advent

(Purple)

8:00 am The Intentions of SJA Parishioners

10:00 am Steve M Terlescki

12:00 pm Danuta Siwik, Dennis Venuto, Paige Rosemary

Galliven Moir, Paula Nagel, and a Special

Intention for Tina Calisi

Monday, December 2 Friday, December 6

Isaiah 2:1-5 Isaiah 29:17-24 Matthew 8:5-11 Matthew 9:27-31

Tuesday, December 3 Saturday, December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10 Isaiah 30:19-26 Luke 10:21-24 Matthew 9:35-10:1

Wednesday, December 4 Sunday, December 8

Isaiah 25:6-10a Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 5

Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21-27 Baruch 5:1-9

Luke 3:1-6

Philippians 1:4-11

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. Ronald W. Kurzawa Doreen Saur Gloria Kwiatkowski Joan Faber Deacon Valere Buyle

"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.

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.

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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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Shirley Kraemer

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Palma Strussione Cathy Sullens Mary Surmont Terri Szolach Kim Thomas Bernadette Thompson James Thompson Linda Vitale Eileen Wallace Elaine Walters Tom Ward Larry Weber Adrienne Weidenbach Joan Weitz, O.P. Robert Werthman Joseph Whalen Marilyn Wicker Joyce Wiekrykas Loretta Williams Jenny Wojcik Joan Wright

Patty Stevenson

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

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Bringing Home the Word

First Sunday of Advent (C)
December 1, 2024

Birth Day

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

of our birth day is not the anniversary of our birth—that is our birthday. Our birth day is the actual day of our birth. However, we do have a second birth day, and it is this day to which this Sunday's readings refer. We might call it our final birth day—the day when we are born into fulfillment. Jeremiah assures us that will be the day when God's promises will be fulfilled in us. We will finally have a righteous leader; the nation will be safe; and the place where God dwells amid the people will be secure.

In the Gospel, Jesus is probably speaking figuratively about the end of

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In those days, at that time, I will make a just shoot spring up for David.

1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

[Jesus said,] "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." the world—at least the end of the world as it is known to humans. However, it is not the end of everything, for after cosmic destruction takes place, "then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27). Something new will appear; we will see that our redemption is at hand. We will be born into a new life in a new world.

Advent is the time to look forward to this new birth day of fulfillment. We do not simply await the anniversary of Jesus' human birth day, for that day announced the coming of the final birth day of each of us. *His* birth announces our new birth. †



On our final day, something new will appear; we will be born into a new life in a new world.

A Word from Pope Francis

We need to...guard our hearts against apathy.... Apathy is a type of laziness that makes us slide into sadness, it takes away zest for life and the will to do things.... The Book of Proverbs says: "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life" (Prv 4:23).... Stay awake and guard your heart.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS GRESTIONS BEEFFECTION

- How am I preparing for my final days?
- How can I live today to avoid regret on my last day?

Bringing Home the Word



Meditation on the Annunciation

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, STL

How often do you say "yes" to extra work, tasks, chores, favors, and events? How often do you say "yes" to the work God asks of you? Sometimes, we have to say "no" to be free to give our wholehearted "yes" to greater things.

What are you afraid of? Like Mary, sometimes we are asked to go into the unknown, to face things we don't feel prepared for. Ask God for the graces you need to keep going.

The secret of our own peace lies in balancing the tensions of our fallen human nature with our new life in Christ. What are some ways we can work toward this

new life within our day-to-day tasks? Sometimes, the people around us need help saying "yes" to what God asks. What are some ways you can help the people in your life say "yes"?

Mary didn't say, "Yes, but I need some details first," or "I'm really busy, but I'll fit it in sometime next year." She said "yes" with total trust and surrender, no caveats attached. Make time in your life to build your personal relationship with God, whether that's through the sacraments, prayer, or just returning to Mass after a lapse. Make your goal the trusting surrender of Mary, and don't be afraid if that feels a long way off. *

This reflection is an excerpt from *Meditations on Vatican Art: Angels* by Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, STL, Liguori Publications (825606). (Note: This beautifully crafted book with meditations and photographs is available at Liguori.org for the closeout price of \$5.99; originally \$31.99.)

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Advent and Christmas Signs and Symbols"

One of the most common symbols used during Advent is the Advent wreath, usually made of evergreen branches formed into a circle. It holds four candles: three purple (or dark blue) and one pink. The purple candles represent the time of preparation and are lit at the beginning of the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent. The pink candle, lit at the beginning of the third week of Advent, symbolizes our focus on rejoicing during this penitential season. Many families make a small Advent wreath for use at home. Some families place a white or light-colored candle in the middle of the Advent wreath on Christmas Eve to symbolize the coming of the Christ Child.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521.



Lord Jesus, so that
we may enter into the
peace of this season
and be a source of
peace to others,
we pray:
Be born in us,
be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 2-7

Monday, Advent Weekday: Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, St. Francis Xavier: Is 11:1–10 / Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday, Advent Weekday: Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37 Thursday, Advent Weekday: Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, Advent Weekday: Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, St. Ambrose: Is 30:19–21, 23–26 / Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8



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