



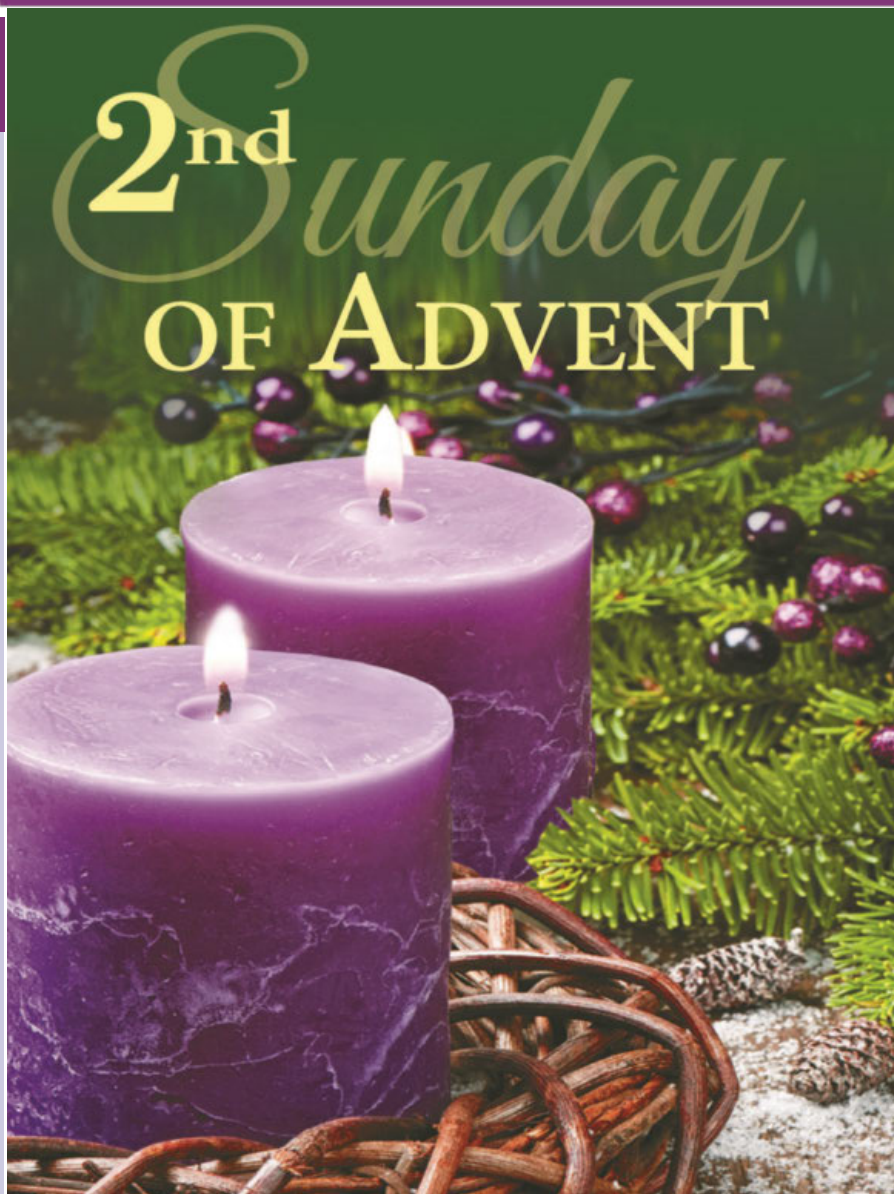
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
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Website: www.stjoan.net

**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
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Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
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Fax: 586-447-3574

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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



No One Got Sick or Hurt. AMEN:

I can make the simple the most complex, especially when it comes to cooking. I enjoy cooking and baking, but I

don't do either often enough to make me proficient in either department. My primary cooking and baking days have now come down to Thanksgiving Day and our Staff Christmas Cookie Exchange.

My contribution to our family's Thanksgiving Day meal is to cook the turkeys. I always say cooking the turkey(s) is the easiest part!

For the last several years, I've used my standard tested and tried herb butter rub that has never failed me. It's pretty simple, and I use a bag and have always had success with it. But a few days before Thanksgiving, someone on staff, let's say her name is Mary for this article, piqued my interest when she said she uses wine in her recipe. That got me thinking, and I started hunting for a turkey recipe incorporating wine. But a priest friend of mine shared a Martha Stewart recipe that called for a bottle of wine and a cup and a half of olive oil that would drench a cheesecloth that would drape the turkey while it baked. He shared the recipe with me the day before Thanksgiving, and it piqued my interest enough that I ventured back out to a crowded 9 and Harper Kroger at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Eve to gather the missing ingredients.

When I returned from Kroger that night, I decided to prepare my herb butter rub. This year, I decided to go with fresh sage, thyme, and rosemary rather than use the jar variety. Well, it wasn't in the "manual" what a pain it is to grind fresh sage, thyme, and rosemary. Good heavens, that was a lot of work. If I had not watched a YouTube video, I would have also chopped the stems! When I finally got everything ground up, I transferred my prized herbs and butter to one of these ceramic cereal-type bowls I've had for eons. As I was mixing all this stuff, I accidentally lifted the bowl, which then crashed on my countertop, chipping off part of the bowl's rim. I tried finding all the pieces to save my work, but when I couldn't find everything, I knew I had to dump the whole mixture and start over again, as I was sure some of the ceramic pieces landed in my butter mixture. I wasn't a happy camper. My big

problem now was that I used most of the fresh herbs. And, I WASN'T going back to Kroger! I chopped what little I had and supplemented it with my couple-year expired jar herbs! I figured I was safe since I've never heard of anyone dying from using expired herbs. I finished the rest of my prep work and called it a night.

After Masses on Thanksgiving Morning, I high-tailed it over to my house and started working diligently on the turkeys. I prepped my bagged butter herb turkey and walked it over to the Parish Center, where it would bake. I then turned my attention to the wine and oil oil recipe. With the turkey ready to receive its dressing, I diligently cut out the four-layer, 17-inch square piece of cheesecloth and soaked it in the wine and olive oil mixture. I then transferred it to the top of my turkey and put it in the oven. The recipe called for the turkey to be generously basted with the remaining olive oil and wine mixture every 30 minutes. Easy peasy, unless you're me! Within the first 15 minutes, I smelled something odd in my kitchen. When I opened my oven at the 20-minute mark, I found the cheesecloth rather brown (okay, more burnt) and crispy! I rolled my eyes and thought, "Can't ANYTHING ever be simple for me?" I decided to drench the turkey with the wine and olive oil mixture.

Right at the four-hour mark, both turkeys signaled they were done! I got them both prepped for their 40-minute journey to my mom's house, where we were gathering. Everything was being timed for the conclusion of the Lion's game! Everything worked out well. The turkeys turned out great; ironically, they both tasted the same. You couldn't tell the difference between the two recipes. Thankfully, no one got hurt from chomping down on broken ceramic, and no one got sick from my use of expired herbs! But new herbs will be on my list of items to get from Kroger as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day next year; hopefully, I won't need any of those ingredients for my Christmas Cookie exchange!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: This Monday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. While it is NOT a holy day of obligation this year, we will have three masses on Monday: 7:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Surprisingly, many people think that the Immaculate Conception has something to do with the birth of Christ. It doesn't; well, sort of! The Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception is about Mary being born without original sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches CCC #488: "'God sent forth his Son,' but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free cooperation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, 'a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary'... The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life."

With the celebration of the Immaculate Conception, "we recall that Mary, free from original sin, remained free of all sin throughout her life. This means that she always chose to be faithful to God's will, even in the most difficult times. Mary was a human being who, as the Second Vatican Council taught, was on a 'pilgrimage of faith.' Even when her faith was tested, she remained steadfast. As the Council also affirmed, she freely cooperated 'in the work of human salvation through faith and obedience.' She shows us what it means to be a follower of her Son. As we participate in the Eucharist (on Monday), we thank God for giving us the Blessed Virgin Mary as the pre-eminent model of discipleship and holiness (from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: www.usccb.org)."

Advent Reconciliation Opportunities: Yikes, it's already the Second Sunday of Advent. To give people ample opportunities to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, Father Bob and I will be available in the Sister Carol Center to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation on Tuesdays from 1 – 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., through Saturday, December 21. If it's been a while since you've celebrated the sacrament, I have plenty of resources about preparing for and going to confession in my Sunday email. A link to my Sunday email can always be found on the home page of our parish website: stjoan.church.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

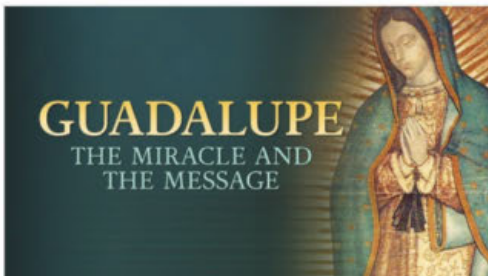
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 08, 2024



Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Hosted by the Hopeful World, this beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.



Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



What Is The Immaculate Conception?

What is the Immaculate Conception? Use this video to help teach kids about this great mystery of our faith.

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

Every so often I will be enjoying a conversation with someone, admiring the insights of the person with whom I am speaking, when she or he will say something like, “Well, I’m not all that smart, but I really think . . . (*you fill in the rest*).” And I think to myself, “HUH? Not smart? What am I missing?” A comment like that from someone who is obviously on top of things causes me to think again about the crucial distinction between intelligence (“smarts”) and wisdom. It is an important distinction that is regularly lost on us in our day-to-day living. Particularly in our present-day culture, where wisdom is as rare as hen’s teeth, many people wouldn’t know there is a distinction to be made. Certainly, intelligence and wisdom are interrelated. I like to think of intelligence as *simple* knowledge and wisdom as *practical* knowledge. Again, the two concepts are connected, but they are of two entirely different orders, or levels, of importance.

There is a difficulty when we examine the difference between being smart and being wise. Culturally, smart people seem to have the edge. Intelligence, especially extreme intelligence, can be readily monetized – turned into cold, hard cash. Also, smart people tend to gravitate toward power. They are quick enough on their feet to be manipulative and strategic in their dealings with others to mold situations to their advantage. When smart people become unethical and devious, they find common folk, of more moderate intellectual capacity, to be easy prey. These brainiacs see life as a game to be played, where the player with the slickest moves wins.

Wise people, on the other hand, are often people who live simply and quietly. They may even be very poor – from a *worldly* perspective. They may feel inadequate, or feel that they’re at a great disadvantage because they don’t have quick arguments to defend against those

who possess a high IQ – which is basically an ability to quickly and efficiently process a lot of data. To further deepen the discomfort of those of us who don’t have IBM supercomputers for brains, we live in a society that values materialism and influence peddling far more than intangibles like enduring, unified human relationships, and a vision of eternity with God. Goals like unity with our fellow sisters and brothers, and with God, require thoughtful contemplation – a slow process. Pumping out products and making the cash register ring (alright – making the card reader blink) demands speed and aggressiveness. These seem to be starkly different worlds for the intelligentsia and contemplatives. But, wait a minute! Intelligence and wisdom may not be the identical, but they are not opposed to each other.

Intelligence is a great gift. The ability to process a broad pool of data requires a good memory and a brain that is capable of integrating that data into usable concepts and applications. This is where things like medical breakthroughs come from, and other positive advances in human existence. Those of us who don’t have much of that kind of brain power, might think that we’ve got nothing. When in fact, a “lowly” person who has a *tiny* bit of wisdom – practical knowledge – is in a better place than a genius with none. Wisdom, practical knowledge, common sense is not common anymore. But, common sense is *necessary* to survive in a society where people are truly free. Free people literally need common sense – wisdom – to morally function each day. *If we don’t have common sense, we will die* or become slaves. Yet, wisdom is not much in demand in our current culture where we simply emote all the time. We throw tantrums. So we constantly respond to emotional outbursts by giving people anything and everything they want. Instead of being *childlike*, we

act and treat others like babies. Out of “compassion,” we keep others from becoming *wise*. Sadly, we steal their freedom in the process because we avoid common truths. Time was, there were not all the props and supports available to serve as social pacifiers. We were not so affluent. We did not have much excess lean on. We had to be practical, had to get wise, at least at the most basic survival level, pretty early in life. So, believe it or not, those who have a scrap of wisdom, have more going on than a nuclear physicist who does a stellar job processing data but doesn’t know how to tie his shoes. True human success can be readily possessed by someone who is considered a simpleton. And that’s why Jesus talks about us becoming like children to inherit the Kingdom of God. He’s not kidding. He’s not saying that we become cute and sweet, or infantile. He’s saying that we become simple – and dependent. We understand that we are *not* God. That is wisdom. A person who is brilliant, who is utterly successful, who can’t seem to do anything wrong, on a worldly scale, often does not have the needed level of simplicity to live rightly. The more a person knows, the more he or she is likely to think that he or she is God.

And we’re not. This is why a person who can say, “I’ve got issues; I can’t figure everything out,” has wisdom. To understand that we are limited, and that we need religious faith to reach beyond our human limitations, comes from wisdom. Faith does not come from accumulating data, other than to realize that data gathering gets us only so far in our search for ultimate truth. Intelligence and wisdom address the difference between *how* something happens and *why* something happens? Intelligent persons know *how*; they don’t know *why*. If we don’t know why, and don’t care to find out, we’re not wise.

O’ Come Emmanuel!
Fr. Bob



December 8, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9 | Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 | Lk 3:1-6

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

On this second Sunday of Advent, when the hustle and bustle of the season is already upon us, I find Paul's words in his Letter to the Philippians very comforting. He says he is confident "that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Jesus will continue to be our Advocate and our Rock until the day he comes again. Yes, these are comforting words, indeed. But we know that being a disciple of Christ requires our cooperation and our daily assent to doing God's will. How do we know God's will for us? In his letter, Paul goes on to pray that our love may continue to increase in knowledge and perception "to discern what is of value." In other words, if we are going to be able to choose what is good, we must be able to recognize it and then focus on it.

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

This is where "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness" speaks to us during this season in which we prepare for Christ's coming. It is a season of hope and anticipation, but it also must be a season of preparation. In today's Gospel, the proclamation of John the Baptist takes center stage; he proclaims a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and says to "prepare the way of the Lord." These words do not suggest passivity – waiting patiently for the Lord to come. They suggest action: Repent. Prepare. Make straight his paths. Today let us consider how we can prepare for the Lord's coming in our own lives. God has made us *good*, and he wants to bring that goodness to completion. As we continue in this Advent season, let us stay focused on recognizing and choosing "what is of value" in our lives so that we are able to truly rejoice that the Lord draws near.

SING

*Dear Savior, haste
Come, come to earth
Dispel the night and show your face
And bid us hail the dawn of grace*

Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 15

Reading One – Zep 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

Responsorial – Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Reading Two – Phil 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia – Is 61:1 (cited in Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Straight Path

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. *You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine.* Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer:

"Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

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

CATHEDRAL CHOIR ACADEMY of DETROIT

**Inviting all youth
for an extraordinary choral experience!**

The mission of the Cathedral Choir Academy of Detroit is to provide an experience in which children encounter Christ through sacred music, grow in faith aspiring to musical excellence, and witness to the Word Incarnate.



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Do you like to sing and develop your vocal potential while performing sacred music of all styles and periods in concert and at the Archbishop's Pontifical Liturgies?

This is a vibrant after-school choral music education program serving both urban and suburban youth of all faiths in grades 3-12. Come and join us!

Rehearsals:

Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30pm, dinner included |

Director: Dr. MeeAe Cecilia Nam, Professor of Voice, Eastern Michigan University

Place: Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI

Annual tuition: \$50 per singer, scholarships available

To join us, please call (313) 865-6300 or email at sacredmusic@aod.org

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, December 9th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
12:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, December 10th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, December 11th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
5:00 PM: Reconciliation
6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, December 12th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
5:00 PM: Baptism of Saylor R. Dansbury
7:00 PM: Holy Hour

Friday, December 13th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, December 14th

11:00 AM: Reconciliation
12:00 PM: Powers-Fernandes Wedding

1:30 PM: Baptism of Grace Dittmer

2:00 PM: Living Nativity Practice - Church

4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM: Living Nativity - Church/EH

Sunday, December 15th

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 8, 2024 – AI Yi Yi

Technology, to be sure, has brought many wonderful innovations to our lives.

Even if the conversation is limited to, say, the last generation or so, imagine navigating around without some sort of GPS app. Or not having the convenience and flexibility of a cellular phone. Even artificial intelligence (AI) is starting to show some promise for regular folks.

But something decidedly not promising, or beneficial, is the suggestions that AI can somehow become a replacement for our spiritual needs.

Some media outlets reported a few weeks ago on a “church” in Switzerland that has begun offering the opportunity to make a “confession” to an AI-powered hologram of Jesus, who then offers a conversational response.

“At least two-thirds of people who spoke to AI Jesus came out of the confessional reporting having had a ‘spiritual’ experience,” one story reported.

This is wrong on so many levels it’s difficult to know where to begin.

Perhaps the most important thing for people of goodwill to keep in mind when hearing of developments like this is that, for all the things technology can do, one thing it cannot and will not ever be able to do is replace God, who created everything.

In that case, it becomes a distraction, potentially a very harmful one.

“This is my prayer,” St. Paul writes to the Philippians in today’s second reading. “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 fruits of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.”

Christmas is just 2-1/2 weeks away. Are we striving to discern what is valuable, and readying to be pure for the coming of Christ?

© 2024, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	December 9, 2024 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (White)
7:00 am	Wallie Gray and Martin Gray
12:00 pm	Sr. Carol Juhasz, IHM
7:00 pm	The living and deceased members of the Rogier & Dettloff Families
Tuesday	December 10, 2024 Advent Weekday; Our Lady of Loreto (Purple/White)
7:00 am	Joseph Poirier
Wednesday	December 11, 2024 Advent Weekday; Saint Damasus I, Pope (Purple/White)
7:00 am	Sr. Marie Gregory, SSJ & Mario & Ann Catalanotte
6:00 pm	James Freundl
Thursday	December 12, 2024 Our Lady of Guadalupe (White)
7:00 am	Hugo Calisi
Friday	December 13, 2024 Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Red)
7:00 am	Aniello Mazzella & Special Intention for Flor Amante & Carmencita Rojas on their 54th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday	December 14, 2024 Vigil for the Third Sunday in Advent (Purple)
4:00 pm	Bonnie Batche, Dennis Lex, Marie Ann Easley, Michael Timmreck, David Sperry, Thomas Benoit, Paula Nagel, David Damm, Mitzi Phillips, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, Jesse Agnello, Maria Agnello, and John Agnello
6:00 pm	Special Intention for Keith Ketelhut
Sunday	December 15, 2024 Third Sunday in Advent (Purple)
8:00 am	The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am	Steve M Terlescki
12:00 pm	Joseph Paluzzi Jr., Mary Lou Orsini, Daniel Bommarito, Emilia Adamcik, Paulette Wagner, Paula Nagel, Mitzi Phillips

Daily Readings

Monday, December 9

Genesis 3:9-20
Ephesians 1:3-12
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 11

Isaiah 40:25-31
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 12

Zechariah 2:14-17
Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 13

Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 14

Sirach 48:1-11
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 15

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



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.”

Pauline Smith (The grandmother of Catherine Trudell)

Jack Accardo

Valentin Solano

Mamie Mirasola

George Agnello

“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.

Belgian American Association Band

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Wednesday, December
11th at 7:00 PM

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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

Pray for the Sick List: Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person 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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Joseph VanDusen
David Weise
Samantha Williams
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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

Second Sunday of Advent (C)
December 8, 2024

And the Word Was Made Flesh

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Many of us grew up thinking that this life doesn't amount to much. It's full of pitfalls and enticements that threaten our eternal salvation. Such disdain often boils over into contempt for the world. According to this thinking, it is only the next life that is important, which will unfold in a much better place. Today's readings challenge such extreme thinking. They assure us that the glory of God is partially revealed to us even within this life. They astound us by insisting that God speaks to us through life's events—events that often appear to be quite mundane.

Baruch tells of Jerusalem, the city loved passionately by every Israelite. This was a city like so many other cities. However, God dwelt there, and wherever God dwells is, for that reason, a holy city—be it Jerusalem, Munich, or Detroit. God dwells in our midst, right here, right now. Hence, this imperfect life and this damaged world are holy.

The gospel situates John the Baptist in the middle of the ancient Near Eastern world. It was a Roman world controlled by Caesar and a Jewish province ruled by Herod. John stated that it was to that place at that time that the Promised One would come, and it was up to John to "prepare the way of the LORD" (Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:4).

Most importantly, we must never forget that God took on the troubles and sins of this world and entered our life, making it his life. This is the real reason this world is holy. †



*God dwells in our midst,
right here, right now.
Hence, this imperfect life
and this damaged world
are holy.*

A Word from Pope Francis

We are in the age of walls and barbed wire. To be sure, we can appreciate people's fears and insecurities, the difficulties and dangers involved, and the general sense of fatigue and frustration, exacerbated by the economic and pandemic crises. Yet, problems are not resolved, and coexistence improved by building walls higher, but by joining forces to care for others....

ADDRESS TO REFUGEES,
MYTILENE, GREECE, DECEMBER 5, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do I most value?
- How do my actions reflect my values?

Sunday Readings

Baruch 5:1–9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on forever the splendor of glory from God.

Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11

Discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Luke 3:1–6

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.



Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

My sacramental Savior and divine Love, how full of kindness and tenderness are the means your love has invented to win over the love of souls. Eternal Word, you were not satisfied with becoming human and dying for us; you have also given us the Blessed Sacrament as a companion, as food, and as a reassurance of heaven. At one time, you show yourself to us as an infant in a stable, at another, as a poor man in a workshop, then as a criminal on a cross, and now as bread on an altar. Tell me, is there anything else you could do to win over our love? Infinite Goodness, when shall I really begin to be in accord with such a refinement of love?

Lord, I wish to live for the one purpose of loving you alone. And what use is life to me if I do not spend it entirely in loving and pleasing you, my beloved Redeemer, who has given your whole life for me? And what have I to love if not you, who are all beauty and grace, all goodness and love and worthy of love? May I live only to love you. May the simple memory of your love make my heart tender with that love. May the very words crib and cross and sacrament set it on fire with the wish to do great things for you, my Jesus, who have indeed done so much and suffered so greatly for me. †

This reflection is an excerpt from *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady* by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Liguori Publications (828706). Visit Liguori.org for other spiritual reading.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "The Christmas Crèche: A Franciscan Tradition" by Kathleen M. Carroll

I can relate to the image of Mary bent over her infant son in the Christmas crèche, marveling at this new life. But unlike that most perfect of mothers, I can well imagine what would fill my thoughts: *You put your newborn child in what? With all of those smelly animals around? What kind of mother are you?* Surely, if any mother was "good enough," Mary must have known herself worthy of that label. But to be the mother of such a Son? And what was good enough for that child? To be born without an earthly father? To spend his first night on a bed of straw? The miracle of birth is too much for any of us to understand, but the miracle of this birth was on a different scale altogether. Mary did well to ponder these things in her heart.

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 this season may inspire respectful dialogue among those who disagree, we pray:
Be born in us,
be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 9–14

Monday, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Gn 3:9–15, 20 / Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 / Lk 1:26–38


Tuesday, Advent Weekday: Is 40:1–11 / Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday, Advent Weekday: Is 40:25–31 / Mt 11:28–30

Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe: Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47

Friday, St. Lucy: Is 48:17–19 / Mt 11:16–19

Saturday, St. John of the Cross: Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 / Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Bringing Home
the Word 
December 8, 2024

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