



# 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 ~*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Parish Directory/Mass Times.....	Page 2
Livestreaming Information .....	Page 2
TALLer Tales .....	Page 3
This Week on FORMED .....	Page 4
Voiland's View .....	Page 5
Go + Grow.....	Page 6
Readings - 4th Sunday in Advent ...	Page 7
Liturgical Life.....	Page 8
Advent Tea .....	Page 9
OCIA .....	Page 10
Weekly Calendar of Events .....	Page 11
Words on the Word.....	Page 11
Mass Intentions .....	Page 12
Catholic Advocacy Network.....	Page 13
This Week at Home .....	Page 14
Prayers for the Sick & Military .....	Page 15
Bringing Home the Word.....	Page 16



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

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

**FAITH AND FAMILY  
FORMATION OFFICE**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-772-1282  
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## 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  
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#### 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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#### Music Director

Catherine Trudell  
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#### Principal

Amy Pattie  
apattie@stjoan.net

#### Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net

#### Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass  
khass@sjascs.org

#### Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

#### 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](http://stjoan.church) and we will contact you by phone. Or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

### Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

**Go to: [livestream.stjoan.church](http://livestream.stjoan.church) to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.**

#### Weekday Masses

Monday thru Friday @ 7am  
Wednesday @ 6pm

#### Weekend Masses

Saturdays @ 4pm & 6pm  
Sundays @ 8am, 10am, 12pm

#### Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm





## On the WRONG

**Team:** A few weeks ago, my mom and I ventured over to my sister's house in Allenton so I could work on a few things. My primary task was

to figure out what happened to one of our remote cameras mounted on a tree on an adjacent piece of property my mom owns. Based on the images, it looked like a tree branch or branches fell or grew so much that it took over and blocked the lens. When I got there, I discovered that the mounting bracket broke and the camera had fallen into a bunch of weeds and brush (and probably poison oak and poison ivy too). I carefully removed the camera and rather than work on it there, I decided to take it back to my sister's house down the road.

I worked on the camera for a bit, cleaning out the charging port with toothpicks and alcohol. The port had all kinds of gunk in it from the fall. After I thought all was okay, I decided to take the equipment and drive back down the road. I was driving Daisy Lou at the time. My sister lives right on Capac Road, and it can be treacherous at times to pull out of her driveway as cars will often fly down the road (and the nearby curve), going about 70 miles per hour. As you turn, they can be on your back in seconds, laying on their horn, or even worse, trying to pass you as you come out of the driveway.

I was just about a few hundred feet from my sister's house when my watch buzzed with a notification that my phone was no longer nearby. I thought that was weird but didn't think anything of it. Then, seconds later, my watch had a call from OnStar. When I answered the call, it was OnStar Emergency Assistance saying that my phone had indicated I had fallen or had gotten into a crash. As I tried to talk to this person on my watch and assure the agent I was okay, I noticed a huge combine harvester quickly approaching me; if I didn't get off the road, I WAS going to need OnStar emergency assistance. I turned into the corner farmhouse and waited for the combine to pass while concluding my conversation with OnStar. Then, lights went off in my head, and my heart sank. While my heart was still sinking, I realized I left my phone on the hood of Daisy Lou, and it probably had fallen. I was sick. I returned to the house, hoping it was still in my sister's long driveway. It wasn't. I went

onto my sister's computer and checked to see the phone's last known location on my Verizon account; it showed the phone was still on Capac Road. My heart sank even more. My sister Cindy and I hopped in her car and searched for my phone. As we were driving north on Capac Road, I saw a bunch of black "spots" sitting in the middle of the road. We went down the road, waited for the traffic to clear, and made a U-turn. My sister pulled off to the side of the road, and I got out and started hunting for the phone. This was a dangerous adventure, only because of the speed of the traffic and the fact you couldn't see cars and semis barreling down the road because of the nearby curve. Then, my worst fear was realized: my phone WAS in a bunch of pieces in the middle of the road.

Waiting for the appropriate moment, I went out and gathered my "road kill." It was a mess. The glass had all broken, but the main guts of the phone were somewhat intact. I returned to my sister's house, wondering how I would manage without a phone until the following week. A few minutes before 6 PM, I went onto the Asurion website to file a claim for a broken phone. Much to my surprise, my new phone was to arrive the following day.

Between the funeral and baptisms I had on Saturday, I watched our video coverage to see if FedEx made any deliveries. The prized package arrived during the 4 PM mass; I went right to work on it between the 4 and 6 PM masses. With an Apple phone, the restore process is very simple, and everything just appears. This is the first time I've ever had to do a full restore from the cloud on a Samsung phone. After I went through the first restore process, my heart sank. A TON of stuff was missing and wasn't found anywhere in the cloud. I called Verizon and Asurion tech support, and they said my only option was to take it to an Asurion fix-it place with the hopes they could put a new screen on my "road kill" and do a manual transfer!

That Monday, I had an appointment at UBreakiFix on Gratiot in Roseville. The tech person helping me was awesome. After he got done chuckling at my story and seeing the condition of my phone, he wasn't sure he could help me but said he would try. He said he had never seen a phone like mine work in that condition before. He told me to come back in about four hours.

I showed up four hours later, and he was able to attach a screen to my phone and

initiate a transfer to my new device. EVERYTHING got transferred. And I mean everything. AMEN ALLELUIA! I thanked God and sang the tech person's praises for the rest of that week.

As he and I were chatting about how easy it is to restore Apple devices from the cloud versus what I was going through with my Samsung phone, he paused and said with a smile as he handed my phones back to me, "Well, I guess you're on the WRONG team." Thankfully, I got a pass this time and was very lucky! This was a wake-up call to ensure my backups are functioning on all my devices! UGH. It was a close call, and I felt like I had just won the Superbowl ... even though I felt like I was on the wrong team!

**Christmas Mass Schedule:** Our Mass schedule for Christmas is as follows: Christmas Eve at 4 PM, 6 PM, and 10 PM. Christmas Day will be 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 PM.

All of our masses will be live-streamed. And, as we have done in the past, we will have two 4 PM Masses. Father Bob will be the celebrant of the 4 PM Mass in Church, and I will be the celebrant of the 4 PM Mass in Emmaus Hall.

**Christmas Greetings:** Since next weekend's bulletin will be our special Christmas edition, I want to take the opportunity now to extend my Christmas greetings and prayers to you, our faithful and regular parishioners. I am truly grateful for the many ways you share your time, talent, and treasure around the parish. Through your extraordinary generosity, we are changing many lives and doing much to deepen people's relationship with the Lord! It's incredible to realize all the great work and ministry that is being done at our parish. Thank you for all that you do that makes us such an amazing parish!

May the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace, enlighten your hearts and homes with the warmth of his light, love, and joy! Please know that you will be remembered in my prayers and Masses during this holy season.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org

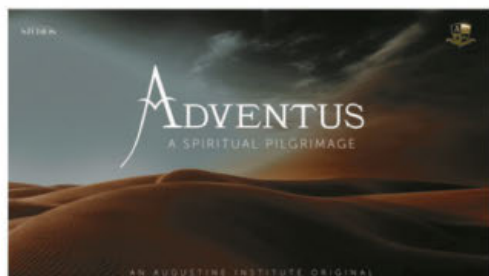
# THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 15, 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.



## Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



## Christmas (Part 2) | What Catholics Believe

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

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

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press

Consider using what's left of Advent and the coming Christmas season as a time of spiritual conditioning. Our relationship with God is something that takes continuous work to keep at peak performance. Our spiritual wellness is much like physical wellness, about which much of our society is deeply concerned – sometimes to the point of obsession. If we neglect our physical bodies, the damage that occurs to us is something that usually comes about over an extended period of time. If we gain too much weight, if we've lost physical strength, if we have certain illnesses or maladies that have been brought on by poor physical habits, chances are the causes of the decline didn't arise suddenly. Eating improperly, not getting enough exercise, not getting enough sleep, putting harmful substances into our bodies, not doing the things that we're *supposed* to do to keep healthy, are behaviors that come gradually.

Their effects aren't necessarily rapid either, although some health problems may appear quickly. More commonly, our bodies break down over time. So, to get back in shape, back to *health*, we have to resolve ourselves to change. We embark on a plan to lose weight, to get stronger, and to establish a better daily routine that is more respectful of our natural, physical needs. We establish a physical rhythm, a conditioning routine that turns our bodily ship around from its harmful path to a healthy one. Spiritual health demands a similar course correction.

As we can easily stray from good bodily health habits, we also tend to fall into bad spiritual habits. We get morally sloppy. Our souls grow fat with worldliness. We lack the energy to lift our spiritual feet and tread the "narrow path" to heaven. We don't pray regularly. We quit going to Sunday Mass . . . or maybe go *if* we feel like it. We clog our minds with lame content on TV. We waste time endlessly scrolling through electronic

screens. We don't actually look at people's faces anymore, nor listen to what they are saying. We find ourselves neglecting the good things we *should* do, while replacing them with idiotic things that turn our minds to mush. We trade good habits for bad habits, and they lead us into a slump. We get 'dirty' inside.

Essentially, we get spiritually soft. Getting back into spiritual good shape, is just like getting physically fit again. To rejuvenate our body, we start a regular exercise routine. We eat better. We might take some nutritional supplements. But the result won't be instantaneous success. The same thing goes for our souls. We have to start praying again. We have to p-r-y open a Bible and actually read some of it. We start attending Mass again. Then, *we have to contemplate what we are doing*. Rather than just going through the motions, we build an awareness in our lives of the importance of our spirituality, of our religion. It helps to talk with others about our faith journey, just like it helps to have a training partner at the gym. We can let others know about the holy circuit training that we have devised to strengthen our relationship with God who created us.

Spiritual conditioning forms us in a practice that St. Paul spoke about: praying ceaselessly. Our life becomes more prayerful in itself. We practice being in God's presence *all the time* – because he is always with us, whether we're aware of it or not. A keener awareness of how God continuously works in our lives brings much needed focus to our overly-active daily routines. Advent can be a time of such realignment.

Using Advent and Christmastime for spiritual conditioning isn't a radical, unsettling experience. There should be a sense of peace in going back to a familiar state of mind – or finally finding peace that has been elusive until now. It will hopefully be an

enduring, life-giving adjustment that produces spiritual fruit long into the future. We are not talking about instant sainthood here. We don't become spiritual champions overnight – just like we're not going to lose thirty pounds in a month, as much as advertisers say we can. In reality, that's not even healthy.

Similarly, expecting to fully reclaim long-neglected spiritual vitality by simply saying a couple of prayers isn't realistic. Being nice to somebody *once* doesn't carry much long-term weight. Reading one paragraph of the Bible doesn't promise a love for Scripture. Good things take time to develop. Virtue is a habit. Virtue comes when we *act* virtuously, over and over again.

**Then** we become virtuous ourselves! These next several weeks, consider taking time to think about what the coming of Jesus Christ means in our lives. What does It mean to us that God came in the flesh, that he has relationship with us, that he understands who we are, that he continues to give himself to us in the Eucharist? Think about how different our relationship with God would be had Jesus *not* come: no Eucharist, no teaching, no intimacy with God, no salvation. Pouring some energy into our relationship with God will pay serious benefits. It's tough to start again on any kind of exercise program that has been abandoned.

But, it feels good when we get back into the swing again. Now is the best time to get back into good spiritual condition! May these mid-Advent days and coming Christmas season be time to create the spark that intensifies the Light of Christ in our lives!

Hoping in Jesus,

Fr. Bob





December 15, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

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

"I want to be a sanctuary lamp," Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. "To be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.'" In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them - indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist - that is, to God in our midst - entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

### SING

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold  
Come break the captive fetters  
Redeem the long-lost fold*

# Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Advent



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22

### Reading One – Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

### Responsorial – Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

### Reading Two – Heb 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'

"First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Alleluia – Lk 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel – Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."



# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Asking the Question

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” that his reply was not going to be: “Keep doing exactly what you’re doing.”

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That’s a hard thing to do, and I don’t do it enough. Too often, I’m afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it’s easy to stray.

#### Answer:

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord’s coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.



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](https://sjascs.org/advent-tea) or call  
the parish center 586-777-3670



# St. Joan of Arc OCIA



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

***Are you or anyone you know interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? A new group is starting soon.***

## **What is OCIA?**

OCIA is the process through which a person becomes a fully initiated member of the Catholic Faith. It's for

- Adults and children of catechetical age (over 7 years) who have not been baptized
- Those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination who want to become Catholic
- Those who were baptized as infants in the Catholic Church but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and/or Confirmation) and who have had no faith formation

## **How long does it take?**

Each person is on a personal journey in his/her relationship with God. Time varies depending on the individual. We walk with you in this process.

## **Do I have to commit to becoming Catholic if I enter the OCIA process?**

No, the OCIA process is marked by opportunities for discernment along the way, and ultimately it is about one's readiness and desire to be received into the Church.

**Fill out the contact form for our OCIA coordinator, Patty Chase, at [sjases.org/ocia](http://sjases.org/ocia) or call the Parish Center at 586-777-3670**

## **A prayer for conversions**

*O blessed apostle, St. Paul, greatest of all converts, who labored unceasingly for the conversion of other souls, inspire me with the ardor of your zeal that I may pray and work for the conversion of my brethren, redeemed in the blood of Christ but not as yet blessed with the full light of his truth.*

*Mindful of the loving concern of the Divine Shepherd for the salvation of the "other sheep that are not of this fold," I now beg your intercession to obtain the grace of conversion for those who do not know you and your church.*

*May God, the Holy Spirit from whom alone this gift can come, hear my humble prayer and thus enable me to share with others the riches of my heritage of faith through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*



### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### **Monday, December 16th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Tuesday, December 17th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

1:00 PM: Advent Reconciliation

#### **Wednesday, December 18th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

5:00 PM: Reconciliation

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM: Baptism of Cody L. Roper

#### **Thursday, December 19th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM: Holy Hour

#### **Friday, December 20th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Saturday, December 21st**

11:00 AM: Reconciliation

12:30 PM: Baptism of Navy N. Elling

4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Sunday, December 22nd**

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 15, 2024 – Food for the Hungry***

We've reached the point in the year where, some might say, there's finally some good news!

Media outlets, normally filling their space with the ugly and the horrid, look for and report on heartwarming things, since folks are especially in search of that as we approach Christmas.

The *Detroit Free Press* a few weeks ago did a nice story on a woman who spends her Thanksgiving Day cooking for several hundred people at the Pope Francis Center downtown.

She and her team cook all the staples – turkey, stuffing, sweet and mashed potatoes, gravy and more – and serve to people who otherwise likely would not enjoy any substantial meal at all that day, let alone an old-fashioned comfort food extravaganza.

The woman, according to the story, has a resume that includes cooking at places like the Roostertail, the Westin Book Cadillac, and more, but she thrives on cooking for the Pope Francis Center visitors.

"It's an honor to cook for the people I serve," she was quoted in the *Free Press* story as saying. "I fell in love with the Center and the job, and I don't think they will ever be able to get rid of me."

That's it. A simple story of loving one's neighbors and helping by using the gifts provided. It's a tangible putting-into-action the advice given by St. John the Baptist in today's gospel from St. Luke.

"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise," John says, before, as always, turning the conversation to Jesus. "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals."

Christmas is just a week away. How are we using our gifts to turn hearts and minds to Jesus?

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## Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

### Mass Intentions

<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 16, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	Donald C. Ancypa
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 17, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	For the deceased members of the Calisi Family who died in the month of December
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 18, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	Audrey Benedis
6:00 pm	Joseph Semany
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 19, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	Esmenia Salomon Silva
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 20, 2024 Advent Weekday (Purple)</b>
7:00 am	Kathleen Doak
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 21, 2024 Vigil for the Fourth Sunday in Advent (Purple)</b>
4:00 pm	Laura Barkley, Leonard LaMountain, Bonnie Batche, Edward, Helen & Henry Blind, Joan Weber, Dr. Lori Karol, Kevin Collins, Mary Steele, Joseph & Angeline Calus, George Lombardi, Maria Lombardi, Julian Ross, David Sperry, Thomas Benoit, Paula Nagel, Mitzi Phillips, Maureen Buda and Speial Intentions for the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family and Tina Calisi
6:00 pm	Michael & James Forrester; Charles & Margaret Forrester
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday in Advent (Purple)</b>
8:00 am	The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am	Michelle Deleeuw
12:00 pm	Steve Wright, Ralph Marzolino, Victor Hage, Patricia Peters, Paula Nagel, Mitzi Phillips, Robert Ruhama and a Special Intention for Tina Calisi

### Daily Readings

<b>Monday, December 16</b>	<b>Friday, December 20</b>
Numbers 24:2-7; 15-17a Matthew 21:23-27	Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38
<b>Tuesday, December 17</b>	<b>Saturday, December 21</b>
Genesis 49:2-10 Matthew 1:1-17	Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45
<b>Wednesday, December 18</b>	<b>Sunday, December 22</b>
Jerimiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-25	Micah 5:1-4a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45
<b>Thursday, December 19</b>	
Judges 13:2-7; 24-25a Luke 1:5-25	

### 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.”

**Patrick M. Wearn (Father of Eloise & Penelope Wearn)**

“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

*Minnie Louise Haskins*



### Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or [aginvestigations@michigan.gov](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org) calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto:vac@aod.org). There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse.

Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.





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## Help Increase Safety and Mental Health Funding for Nonpublic Schools

Since 2015, the state has funded school safety improvement grants for both public and nonpublic schools. For the past two years, the state has funded mental health services within these grants to improve the overall health and safety of schools on a per-pupil basis. The state budget should promote safety and mental health wellness for all Michigan students, regardless of where they attend school.

**However, safety improvement and mental health grants were cut 92% in the state budget passed this past summer.** Advocacy from the nonpublic school community, resulting in 7,000-plus messages sent to lawmakers, helped prevent the complete elimination of safety funding for nonpublic schools.

**When state lawmakers passed a follow-up supplemental spending bill this past fall to add safety funding, they added \$125 million for public schools but \$0 for nonpublic schools.** Public schools will now have \$150 million for school safety, while nonpublic schools will have \$1.5 million to split among the 100,000 students attending nonpublic schools in Michigan.

**As lawmakers again consider a supplemental spending bill in the closing weeks of session, please contact your senator and representative and ask them to support additional school safety and mental health funding for nonpublic schools,** so that schools can be safer for all Michigan children.

**visit: [cthl.cc/safety](http://cthl.cc/safety)**





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 16

#### Trust

In today's Gospel, religious leaders question Jesus' authority as he taught and ministered. At times, you might find yourself faltering in your faith and may question God's authority in your life. Spend some time journaling about your trust in the Lord. How have you questioned him? After your reflection, pray with today's psalm, then choose a line or phrase that stands out to you, calling it to mind throughout your day. Ask for the strength to trust in Jesus. *Today's readings: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27.*

### Tuesday, December 17

#### O Wisdom

The "O" antiphons date back to around the eighth century. They accompany the Magnificat during evening prayer between today and December 24. As the final days of Advent are entered, dedicate time each evening to meditate with the "O" antiphon of the day. Today's antiphon is "O Wisdom of God our Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!" How can you look to Wisdom to guide you this week? *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17.*

### Wednesday, December 18

#### O Sacred Lord

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and, similarly to Mary's call at the annunciation, tells him to "not be afraid." Joseph courageously responds by taking Mary "into his home" and faithfully accepting his role as Jesus' earthly father. Today's "O" antiphon is "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!" As you pray with the antiphon, consider how you might courageously respond to God. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8, Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.*

### Thursday, December 19

#### You Are My Hope, Lord

In today's Gospel, the angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah and tells him that Elizabeth, his barren wife, will give birth to John. Questioning Gabriel, Zechariah notes that he is "an old man, and [Elizabeth] is advanced in years." Gabriel renders Zechariah speechless because of his disbelief. As you light the three candles on your Advent wreath today, pray for those who struggle with their faith. Consider how you might "speak of the mighty works of the Lord." *Today's readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.*

### Friday, December 20

#### The Lord Is with You

The angel greets Mary, saying, "Hail, full of grace." Today you might ponder how Mary may have received those words. Spend time with the Gospel reading, using the prayer form *lectio divina*, a slow and repetitive reading and praying with Scripture. In this practice, a phrase is repeated and meditated upon in prayer. At the end of your prayer, pray for pregnant women and those who will give birth today. *Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38.*

### Saturday, December 21

#### O Radiant Dawn

Today's antiphon is "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." As you pray with today's antiphon, take a moment to pray for those who may "dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death" near you. Dedicate time to serve them this weekend: visit a shelter, a soup kitchen, someone who is homebound, or reach out to a person in mourning. *Today's readings: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45.*



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**KEEPING THE SEASONS**  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024-2025



# Prayers Needed

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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

## PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

### COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Joseph R. Biden Jr.



### AIR FORCE

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

Joseph R. Kozlinski  
Michelle Kuznia, DDS  
Greg Lietz  
Chris Listilla  
Daniel Meagher  
Kyle Richardson  
Christopher Scholz  
Mekhi Terry  
John C. Tramazzo  
Dan Travis  
Joseph VanDusen  
David Weise  
Samantha Williams  
Timothy L. Wilt III

David J. Kennedy  
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  
John Patterson  
Andrew Seator

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

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Daniel Allen  
Arthur J. Barron  
David Chute  
Kyle Cichowski  
John DuBay Jr.

### NAVY

Gary J. Annis  
Brad Converse  
Brody J. Fitzgerald

### COAST GUARD

Michael Franklin  
Christopher Rogers

### NATIONAL GUARD

Robert Douglas III  
William DuBay



# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Advent (C)  
December 15, 2024

## Joy to the World!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This is the Sunday of joy, Gaudete Sunday. In the first reading, the people are told to “Shout for joy” because “the LORD is in your midst” (Zephaniah 3:14–15). In response to the first reading, we sing, “Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.” The second reading directs us to “Rejoice in the Lord always” because “The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4–5). In the gospel, we see that “the people were filled with [messianic] expectation,” even wondering “whether John might

be the Messiah” (Luke 3:15). All John could say was that “one mightier than I is coming” (Luke 3:16).

So what are we waiting for this Sunday, and how is God present? We know that God is already present with us in many ways: in the Church and sacraments, in the lives of good people we know, in the depths of our hearts. And so, we rejoice. We also know that the story of salvation is unfinished. There are still so many evils from which we must be saved. When you think of them, what’s at the top of your list?

We are eager for God to come into our lives anew to comfort us and strengthen us. We know we cannot do it alone. Even as we wait for the day of salvation to dawn, we rejoice, for we know that it came before and will come again. That’s why we sing “Joy to the World.” †

## Sunday Readings

### Zephaniah 3:14–18a

The LORD your God, is in your midst...who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.

### Philippians 4:4–7

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

### Luke 3:10–18

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah.



***We know that God is already present with us in many ways; we also know that the story of salvation is unfinished.***

## A Word from Pope Francis

What can I do concretely...as we draw near to Christmas?... For example: I can call a person who is alone, visit that elderly person or that person who is ill, do something to serve a poor person.... Maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt.... Brothers and sisters, let us find something concrete and do it!

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- How many blessings have I experienced today?
- Can I list three ways I can be a blessing to someone?





## La Fiesta!

Fr. Michael McAndrew, CSsR

The fiesta was an important part of our ministry at Casa San Alfonso. One of our *padrinos* said of Mexicans, “*Somos fiesteros*” (We are party people). When we began the Casa ministry, we celebrated birthdays, patron saint days, and all the feasts of the communities that our young people came from. We celebrated Church holy days and especially the feasts of Mary, *Posadas*, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. If there was no reason for a party, one would be created. Casa San Alfonso was a welcoming community for young people seeking a better life in Denver. What better way to receive the youth than to have a celebration—a fiesta?

Some Church ministers wondered if we would ever develop a serious ministry. We opened our doors to young people without families in the area. Many young men arrived in the United States to seek work to help their families back home. They could come to the Casa and find friends who knew their journey. These young people knew the Redemptorists in the Casa simply welcomed them as they were and did not push them into an unfamiliar religiosity.

To witness good news, we had to celebrate fiestas at Casa San Alfonso. One of the joys of my life as a missionary is to party with the poor. Often, when visiting a home unannounced, the woman of the house says, “Padre, come and eat.” Soon children, cousins, aunts, uncles, and neighbors arrive. The fiesta begins. People celebrate the arrival of a guest, especially if the guest is a priest or religious. If you walk with my people, always be ready for the fiesta.

This reflection is an excerpt from *Walk With My People: A Life in Migration Ministry* by Fr. Michael McAndrew, CSsR, Liguori Publications (828720). Visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) for other spiritual reading.

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “The Origin of Christmas Traditions: A Window to Our Faith” by Christopher M. Bellitto

Whenever and wherever the gospel was spread, first in the Mediterranean area and then throughout Europe in the first millennium of the faith, preachers and bishops often deferred to local customs. They adapted the people’s inclination to believe in the supernatural, cleverly redirecting it to Christian ideas. This process, known as enculturation, has a long history in the Church. The Christian celebration of Christmas, then, is a mixture of cultures—secular and sacred, ancient and modern—and it spans the entire planet. Some of our traditions are not rooted in Christianity, but that needn’t trouble us. Those traditions have, in a sense, been baptized, which is in line with Christianity’s goal to convert the world. As long as our rituals and traditions point to the essential truth of the Christmas feast—that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us—we can hardly go wrong.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) • 800-325-9521.



Lord Jesus, so that  
those who are lonely,  
ill, or in harm’s way  
may know the joy of  
this season, we pray:  
Be born in us,  
be born in our world.


The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 16–21

**Monday, Advent Weekday:**  
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a / Mt 21:23–27  
**Tuesday, Advent Weekday:**  
Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17  
**Wednesday, Advent Weekday:**  
Jer 23:5–8 / Mt 1:18–25

**Thursday, Advent Weekday:**  
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a / Lk 1:5–25  
**Friday, Advent Weekday:**  
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38  
**Saturday, Advent Weekday:**  
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Bringing Home  
the Word   
December 15, 2024

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