



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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THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. - Lk 2:46

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

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

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
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Website: www.stjoan.net

FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528

School

Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574

Faith Formation

Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

In-Solidum Priest

Team:

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Lead for SJA

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Msgr. Gary Smetanka
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Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am
Wednesday: 6:00 pm

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Wednesdays: 5:00 pm
Saturdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
in the Sister Carol Center

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am Mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is open:
Monday - Thursday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Friday: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that form.

Marriages: Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

Registration: It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity: 586-777-3670.

OCIA: Please call the Parish Center: 586-777-3670.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone. Or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

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

Go to: livestream.stjoan.church to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

Weekday Masses

Monday thru Friday @ 7am
Wednesday @ 6pm

Weekend Masses

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

Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm



The Great Christmas Cookie

Challenge: As I mentioned a few weeks ago, my two major culinary days during the year are when I cook

the turkeys for our family's Thanksgiving Day dinner and when I bake cookies for our Parish Center Staff Christmas Cookie Exchange. Do I have the time to bake cookies? NO! But I have an ulterior motive: What I give pales in comparison to what I receive!

Mary Pat Brennan organizes our annual cookie exchange. A signup sheet goes out right after Thanksgiving, and I'm always amazed at how 99% of the people not only put their names on the sheet but also have already figured out what they will bake. Not me! I sign up and I figure out later what I'm going to bake. I save all the stress for a day or two before the cookies are due!

The cookie recipe of 2024 was Swedish Cookies from Taste of Home. The site said, "Our Swedish cookies are reminiscent of a recipe called brunscrackers or bruna kakor. They're simple to make, and a nice change from the typical butter or shortbread cookie. Flavored with maple syrup, these turn golden-brown in the oven ... Don't be surprised if you want to make the cookies over and over." Prep time was 10 minutes with a 25-minute bake time per batch. They were listed as simple and only had six ingredients: butter, sugar, maple syrup, flour, baking soda, and confectioners' sugar. It sounded super easy, and the maple syrup ingredient made it a winner in my mind! With all my supplies, I went to town after the 6 PM Mass on Wednesday, December 11; our cookie exchange was the following day.

The recipe seemed simple. I did EXACTLY as the recipe said. I usually take my own shortcuts, but I had little room for failure. If my cookies failed, it had to be before 9:30 PM so I could run to Kroger and get some ready-to-bake cookies before they closed at 10 (I've had to do that before). In the past, I've also had the ingredients on hand for a backup cookie if cookie recipe number one failed me. But

this time, I only had the ingredients for the Swedish Cookies.

My sisters and mom would tell you that I'm not so bad in the baking or cooking department, but I'm a COMPLETE disaster in the keeping the kitchen clean department. I find a way to make a complete mess and use more utensils and pots and pans than you can imagine. Included here are some pictures. And this is just from 6 ingredients!

The dough came out as expected, and I rolled it into the 9-inch "logs" as scripted. I wasn't sure how the rolled cookies would flatten like the pictures on the website, and I was worried I was doing something wrong. Even though every ounce of me wanted to flatten out the dough, I followed the recipe as written.



I opened the oven at the 15-minute mark and was so happy to see the cookies flatten like they were supposed to. I was pretty geeked up things were going smoothly. Once the cookies were done, I cut them and allowed them to cool a bit before I took my first bite to sample the delicacy that had just come out of the oven.

I was so disappointed with my first bite. They. Had. NO. Taste! Nada! They were simply a hard dunking cookie like a biscotti. I was SO bummed. I had a complete disaster in the kitchen, and the cookies were hard and tasted so blah. Oh well, this is what happens when you're me!

The other members of the cookie exchange were kind and tried to lift my

spirits, saying this was my best yet! It didn't matter in the end. I did what I had to do to get some great cookies in exchange that would decorate my Christmas Eve dinner table! I just hoped no one would break a tooth with my contribution!

With that experience, my culinary days were over until Thanksgiving Day 2025. I can breathe a sigh of relief! But it may take me that long to clean the kitchen!

2024 Giving Tree Project THANKS: What an incredible year for our Giving Tree Project! We truly have so much to celebrate and, more importantly, so many people to thank. This wouldn't have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our parish families, the Saint Clair Shores Police Department and their Toys for Tots program, Allemon Landscaping and the Allemon Family, Corewell Grosse Pointe (Labor and Delivery, Step Down, and 3 NE departments), and seven amazing adopting families.

Together, you helped us raise an incredible \$11,000 in online and cash donations. On top of that, we collected \$6,000 in gift cards, 350 toys, and enough canned goods and non-perishables to bless 350 families at Munger Elementary School in Detroit. Every child at that school received a toy, a coat, and a box of food—because of YOU!

Your kindness stretched even further. We also supported St. Aloysius Parish, St. Raymond's Parish, St. Veronica Parish, Gianna House, and Father Murray Nursing Center. Through our Adopt-A-Family program, 12 families were adopted and given the Christmas they deserved.

Words can't quite convey my gratitude for every one of you. Your extraordinary kindness brought joy and hope to many who might otherwise have gone without. I wish all of you could have witnessed the joy of the recipients! This is what Christmas Giving is all about!

Thank you for making the 2024 Giving Tree Project such a phenomenal success.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy Holy Family Sunday!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 29, 2024



New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

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

Voiland's View

We humans are creatures of habit. We are most comfortable dealing with familiar things. Certainly, there are thrill-seekers out there, constantly looking for the next breath-taking rush, but most of us are happy knowing what's coming next. We don't crave new experiences all the time. So, for many of us, the dawning of a new year can be unsettling. Like any new year, 2025 brings with it many unknowns. Venturing into the unknown can even be kind of scary.

Fear of the unknown is an interesting thing. Why should we be fearful or uneasy about something which is literally *unknown*? After all, a completely new experience has the potential to be the greatest experience we will ever have. Nothing to fear in that! But a strange, new experience also has the potential to be miserable – confusing, dark, or overly-demanding. That's where the fear comes in. We feel uneasy with the unknown because we realize that evil of some sort might lurk in the experiences we approach.

Our awareness of evil in our world heightens with age. Once we get burned a few times by life's experiences, we can become a little gun-shy. Those fireworks going off to welcome the New Year can cause a sinking feeling in the pit of our stomachs. "Wow. I don't know if I can do this again. Last year was pretty rough. I don't see anything to indicate that this year will be any better." As time passes by, our awareness of evil in the world can be destabilizing. We are overcome by the presence of moral decay at every level.

Global, national, state, and local community news swirls around us. To be "news," it's usually "bad." Particularly when bad news erupts on a global scale – like war in Ukraine, Syria, the Middle East, and other areas – we feel impotent to do anything. And fear sets in. Even the unknown fallout from the recent national election keeps us on edge. No one really quite knows how things will play out with the transfer of political regimes in Washington. Then, to further heighten our anxiety, we have come to greatly

distrust long-established sectors within our political structure because they have demonstrated blatant ineptness, or downright corruption. And we are not people of influence who are able to correct the evil we see.

Even in our local communities and immediate families, we see breakdowns in relationships that threaten the peaceful coexistence of neighbors and family members. The temptation to give in to lives of selfishness leads to all kinds of unnecessary pain and suffering. We see evil in very real, everyday terms. And so, for some of us to want to crawl into a corner and avoid the future is understandable. But such cowering is not what we were created to do. We were created as God's children to live life boldly and happily in our own personal, unique way – not to give in to evil.

To this end, we are given a gift in Holy Scripture that effectively beats down our fear of the *supposed* power of evil in our world. By pulling ourselves far out of the world to give ourselves, not a bird's-eye view, but an angel's-eye view of life on planet earth, we can be at ease with whatever the future may bring. This *eternal view* of life is invigorated by Scripture's commentary on evil. Psalm 37 speaks in strong terms about the *insignificance* of evil:

"Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong. Like grass they wither quickly; like green plants they wilt away. . . . Those who do evil will be cut off. . . . Wait a little, and the wicked will be no more; look for them and they will not be there. . . . The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them; but my Lord laughs at them, because he sees that their day is coming. . . . Their swords will pierce their own hearts; their bows will be broken. . . . The wicked perish, enemies of the Lord; they shall be consumed like fattened lambs; like smoke they disappear. . . .

I have seen a ruthless scoundrel, spreading out like a green cedar. When I passed by again, he was gone; though I searched, he could not be found. . . . Sinners will be destroyed together; the future of the wicked will be cut off." [Read the whole psalm. It's great!]

Regarding the words of this psalm, if we remain anchored in the world, at ground-zero, we would readily say, "I'm not seeing any of this. Evil is blossoming like a nuclear mushroom cloud and overtaking the human race. Evil is having its day." In a certain limited (contemporary) sense it is; evil is taking ground. But in the bigger *eternal* sense, evil is in its death throes. Consider this: Hitler. Everyone's favorite embodiment of evil is Adolph Hitler. If we hate anyone or anything, it is Hitler. But where is Hitler? What remains of Hitler? What ultimate, enduring effect did Hitler have on *The Good*? The answer: none whatsoever. All of the carnage he brought, the venom he spewed, the hatred he enabled, the darkness he cast, has been distilled into a disgusting epithet people use in the 21st century to describe evil – "like smoke they disappear."

Such heinous evil does affect our earthly timeline, but it has no effect on the destiny of those committed to do the will of God. This is why our human efforts must be directed toward our eternity with God. We are not bound as slaves to worldliness. This calls for us to make a choice. Do we invest in the here and now, or the here and later? Do we embrace God or do we let evil squeeze us? This is the stuff martyrs are made of. We are made for God – not fear.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Bob



December 29, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Lk 2:41-52

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

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

These are the attributes Paul instructs the Colossians in today's reading to "put on" or to "clothe" themselves with. It's quite a list, isn't it? Paul goes on to talk about the virtues of the Christian family, which is fitting for today's Feast of the Holy Family. It is reasonable to expect, then, that the Gospel passage would follow through by expounding on the virtues of *the perfect family*: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Instead, in Luke's Gospel, we have the only story in all of Scripture of Jesus' childhood. The only one that shows the specific interactions of them as a family – it tells the story of Jesus at age 12 who stays in Jerusalem without Mary and Joseph knowing and who are unable to find him for days. Prayerfully reflecting on this unique glimpse of the Holy Family working through misunderstandings, fear, and hurt helps us relate even more to the true humanness of Jesus and the Holy Family.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the Holy Family, we see a model of relationship in human form. We are part of a holy family as well: we are children of God. And like Mary and Joseph, our family is enriched and strengthened when we are attentive to the presence of Jesus in our lives. Luke writes: "[Mary] kept all these things in her heart." Like Mary, let us strive to hold Jesus' words and commandments in our hearts so we can focus on God's divine plan for our lives. In the next line of Paul's letter offering us the "tools" for loving relationships (compassion ... patience) he adds, "bearing with one another and forgiving one another." In other words: love. We must put Jesus, who is love, at the center of our relationships and do everything in his name. Then our family, and our lives, will be holy indeed.

SING

Mary, mother of faithful love;

Joseph, gentle and humble man of God;

Jesus, Son of Mary,

Bless, guide and protect the families you created.



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 5 C

Reading One – Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading Two – Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for

your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia – Mt 2:2

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Where is Jesus?

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

July 26 is the feast of Joachim and Anna. Who are they and what do we know about them?

Answer:

Joachim and Anna are the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus, yet there is absolutely no biblical reference to them whatsoever. So where do we get their names, and what is their story?

Their names are found in an apocryphal (hidden) gospel known as "The Infancy Gospel of James." Apocryphal, or hidden gospels, consist of accounts of Jesus' life that were ultimately not accepted as inspired works, and thus were not included in the Bible. However, they sometimes captured the Christian imagination, spilling into the devotional dimension of the community.

James' infancy gospel begins with the parents of Mary and their desire for a child. In their prayer and petitions to God, they are heard and given the blessings of a child, whom they named Mary. While we have no idea who Mary's parents really were, the fact that we celebrate the feast of Joachim and Anna indicates that the bond of family love is important in the Christian life.

Long before Grandparents' Day was established, the church had a feast that honored the presumed grandparents of Jesus. While their names are part of non-inspired apocryphal legends, the fact of the Savior's human ancestry is not. Christ, the incarnate Word, dwelt among us in the flesh in a human family. In honoring the grandparents of Jesus we really proclaim our faith in the Incarnation — God becoming human!

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 or call the Parish Center at 586-777-3670

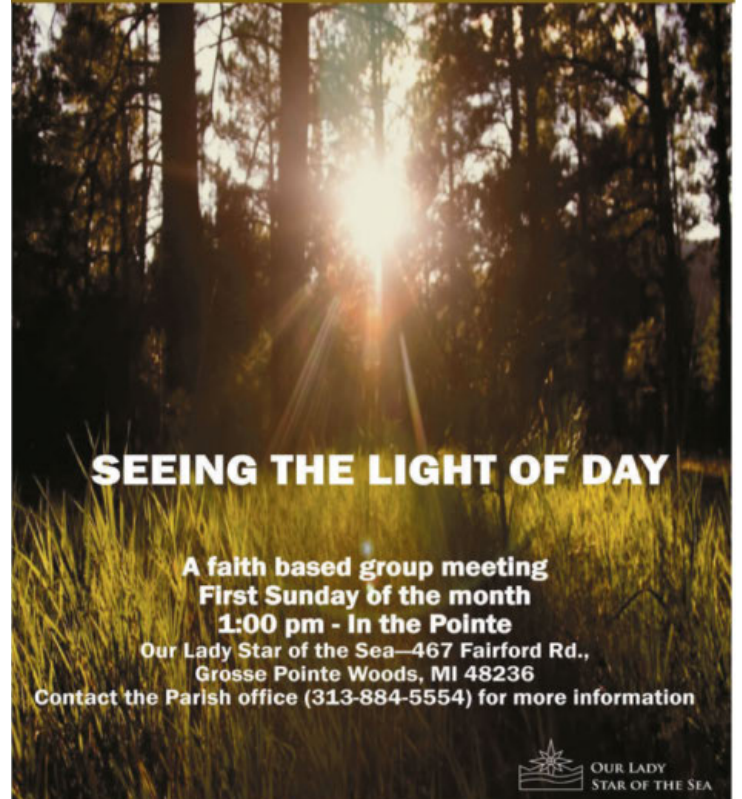
A prayer for conversions

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.

Bereavement Group



SEEING THE LIGHT OF DAY

A faith based group meeting
First Sunday of the month
1:00 pm - In the Pointe
Our Lady Star of the Sea—467 Fairford Rd.,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
Contact the Parish office (313-884-5554) for more information



Join us!

SJA Knitting & Crocheting Ministry

The St. Joan of Arc Knitting and Crocheting Ministry has crafted hundreds of afghans, hats, scarves, and baby items for veterans, seniors, hospitals, soup kitchens, and shelters. We'd love for you to join us! Whether you're experienced or just learning, we meet Wednesdays in Emmaus Fellowship Hall, 1-3 p.m., and provide yarn.



For more information,
contact Jo Gielniak
at 586-777-3359

... and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Save your can tabs!

Spread the word! We're collecting can tabs again.

Let others know that those little pop and food can tabs make a big difference for the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Drop off donations in the buckets in the church or at the Parish Center during business hours.

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Joan of Arc from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Sr. Carol Center.

Join us!

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, December 30th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, December 31st

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 1st

8:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed



Thursday, January 2nd

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM: Holy Hour

Friday, January 3rd

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 4th

10:00 PM: Funeral for Gloria Kwiatkowski

11:00 AM: Reconciliation

12:30 PM: Baptism of Levi A. Sapiano

4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 5th

8:00 AM : Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 AM: Family Mass - Live Streamed

11:00 AM: Family Faith Formation - Gym

12:00 PM: Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

December 29, 2024 – The Stuff of Memories

Most people are probably familiar with - or intuitively understand – the five stages of grief as defined decades ago by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

People generally agree that, while reality runs on its own timeline, and rarely is as linear as depicted in the model, it is nevertheless a reasonable illustration of what those in the grieving process experience.

That model, of course, is applicable to anyone grieving the loss of anyone else. A recent article published on an internet aggregation website, however, approached grief from a slightly different perspective. It explored the feelings experienced, specifically, by the adult children of recently deceased parents working through the process of clearing out their childhood homes.

The stages defined in this study: sentimentality, calculation, avoidance, disappointment, totem, and dumpster. It was, for the most part, an honest and sentimental examination of the cascade of feelings people in these circumstances experience, balancing the grief of loss with the realities of keeping, selling, or discarding a lifetime of accumulated parental belongings.

For those who have dealt with such circumstances, the grief and guilt are likely well remembered. For those who have not, the article served as a good reminder of how important it is to cherish parents and grandparents while they are still here, and to respect them.

“My son, take care of your father when he is old,” we hear in one of the options for today’s first reading from the book of Sirach. “Grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not in all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins – a house raised in justice to you.”

A fitting reminder that the Church, in her wisdom, offers on this feast of the Holy Family.

© 2024, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	December 30, 2024 Sixth Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (White)
7:00 am	Donnie Hunsucker
Tuesday	December 31, 2024 Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (White)
7:00 am	Bernard J. Champine
4:00 pm	David Damm, and a Special Intention for the Bommarito Family and Staff
Wednesday	January 1, 2025 The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (White)
8:00 am	Josephine Ciaravino
10:00 am	George Bugarin
Thursday	January 2, 2025 St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church (White)
7:00 am	Jean Ringwald
Friday	January 3, 2025 Christmas Weekday (White)
7:00 am	Valentin Solano
Saturday	January 4, 2025 Vigil for the Epiphany of the Lord (White)
4:00 pm	William Heythaler, Bonnie Batche, Michael Bowman, Gakobe Milton, a special intention for the living & deceased members of the J. Champine Family, and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc
6:00 pm	Sara Elizabeth Olivieri
Sunday	January 5, 2025 Epiphany of the Lord (White)
8:00 am	The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am	A Special Intention for the Family of Patrick Wearn
12:00 pm	John Gaines, Edwin Coatney, Richard Coatney, and Tina Calisi

Daily Readings

Monday, December 30

1 John 2:12-17
Luke 2:36-40

Tuesday, December 31

1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

Wednesday, January 1

Numbers 6:22-28
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Thursday, January 2

1 John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

Friday, January 3

1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

Saturday, January 4

1 John 3:7-10
John 1:35-42

Sunday, January 5

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



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.”

Tina Calisi
Germaine Bryan
Geoffrey Greve
Thomas Maier

“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.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1st

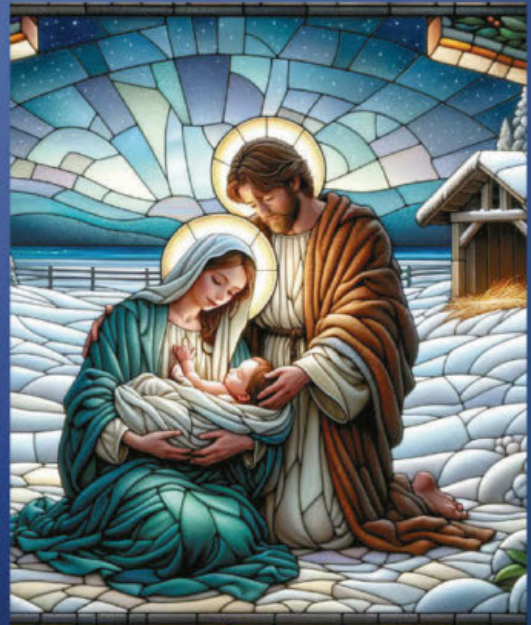
A Holy Day of Obligation

The celebration of Mary, Mother of God, is both a tribute to Mary and an acknowledgment of the mystery of the Incarnation. By agreeing to become the mother of Jesus, Mary played an integral role in God's plan for humanity's redemption. Her Fiat, her wholehearted "yes" to the angel Gabriel, allowed the Word to become flesh and dwell among us. The Catechism reminds us, "Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it" (CCC 964). This feast is not only a celebration of Mary but also a reminder of the importance of trust and faith in God's plan.

Mass Schedule:

New Year's Eve:
4 PM

New Year's Day:
8 & 10 AM



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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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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David Light
Lee Michael
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Daniel Sparkman
Tom Stevenson

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Frankie Kocis
Joseph Marable
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Leonardo Pastoria
Luciano Pastoria
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Bringing Home the Word

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (C)
December 29, 2024

All in the Family

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

So many television programs today feature the antics of dysfunctional families. They're often so well produced that we laugh at the blundering exploits, thus giving them credibility. The readings for today's feast show us what a healthy family looks like. Parents worry about the security of their children (Luke); brothers and sisters are told to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (Colossians); elders are respected and cared for in their need (Sirach). Even the psalm response

sketches the profile of a flourishing family as understood at that time.

We can only guess what the Holy Family must have been like. There is no indication that their neighbors saw them as anything more than an average family. Jesus learned Joseph's trade and would have been expected to take over the business after Joseph died. Instead, he launched out as an itinerant preacher. Even that does not seem to have been so exceptional for the time. Nor was Mary's widowhood reason for him to stay home. The gospels indicate that she was part of a protective family unit. This did not appear to be an exceptional family. But how exceptional it was!

The lesson is that even an average family has the potential to be a holy family. What we should do is pattern our lives after St. Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. If we live like this, we will discover that holiness is all in the family. †



*Even an average family
has the potential
to be a holy family.*

A Word from Pope Francis

To be sure, raising children is no easy task. But let us not forget that they also "raise" us.... Children need a sense of security that can enable them to have confidence in you and in the beauty of your life together, and in the certainty that they will never be alone, whatever may come their way.

LETTER TO MARRIED COUPLES,
DECEMBER 26, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do I show gratitude to my family?
- What can I do to make family life easier for those with whom I live?

Sunday Readings

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

[Hannah said,] "I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD."

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Luke 2:41-52

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.



Clothing Ourselves in Christ

William A. Anderson, DMin, PhD

The imagery used in this passage suggests the putting on and removal of clothing. The author speaks of taking off the old self, with its practices, and putting on the new self, which is being renewed in the image of Christ. When the Church celebrates the sacrament of baptism, a white robe is placed on the person, which symbolizes that the person is now clothed in Christ.

In his Letter to the Colossians, the author refers not only to putting on a robe but also to putting on all the virtues expected of Christians. Christians are to clothe themselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and, above all, love. During the sacrament of baptism, those being baptized clothe themselves in Christ, which means that they are now called to practice the virtues expected of Christians and to wear them externally and obviously, as though they were a robe.

Those who clothe themselves in Christ should seek the things that are above. The author of Colossians tells us that when Christ appears, his followers will appear with him in glory. With this in mind, the Church places a white covering on the casket of a Christian during the funeral liturgy, reminding us that the deceased who was clothed in Christ at baptism is now raised in Christ. The white covering reminds us of the baptismal robe. From baptism to death, Christians are called to keep their minds and hearts on the things of heaven. †

This excerpt is from *Paul's Early and Prison Letters* by William A. Anderson, DMin, PhD, Liguori Catholic Bible Study, Liguori Publications (821271). Visit Liguori.org for other Scripture commentary.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Twelve Days of Christmas with Thomas Merton"

It is most fitting to talk about Mary as a Queen and to act as if you knew what it meant to say she has a throne above all the angels. But this should not make anyone forget that her highest privilege is her poverty; her greatest glory is that she is most hidden; and the source of all her power is that she is as nothing in the presence of Christ, of God. It is because she is, of all the saints, the most perfectly poor and the most perfectly hidden, the one who has absolutely nothing whatever that she attempts to possess as her own, that she can most fully communicate to the rest of us the grace of the infinitely selfless God. And we will most truly possess him when we have emptied ourselves and become as poor and hidden as she is, resembling him by resembling her.

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 our families may be kind, hospitable, generous, and faithful, we pray:
Be born in us,
be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 30–
January 4

Monday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 2:12–17 / Lk 2:36–40

Tuesday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18

Wednesday, Mary, Holy Mother of God:
Nm 6:22–27 / Gal 4:4–7 / Lk 2:16–21

**Thursday, Sts. Basil the Great
and Gregory Nazianzen:**
1 Jn 2:22–28 / Jn 1:19–28

Friday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 2:29–3:6 / Jn 1:29–34

Saturday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
1 Jn 3:7–10 / Jn 1:35–42

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