

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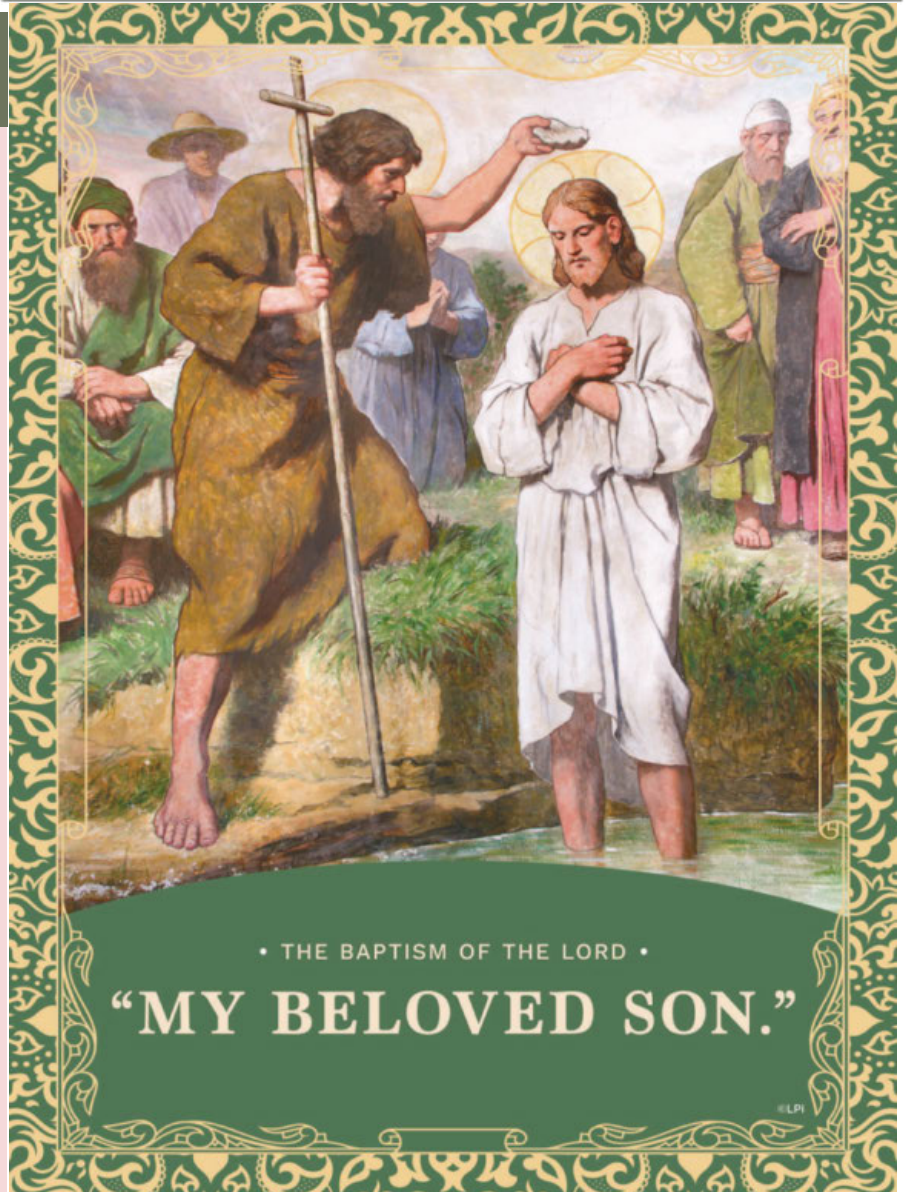
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PARISH CENTER
22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528
Website: www.sjascs.org

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574
Website: www.stjoan.net

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

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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

School

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

Faith Formation

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

In-Solidum Priest

Team:

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjascs.org
Lead for SJA

Fr. Robert Voiland
rvoiland@sjascs.org

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

Fr. Jim Commyn
parish@stlucychurch.com

Fr. Eric Fedewa
frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla
stveronicaeast@comcast.net

Non-Resident Priest Support

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Trudell
ctrudell@sjascs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

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

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

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

Holy Day Masses

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

Reconciliation

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

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am Mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

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

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

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

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

Weekday Masses

Monday thru Friday @ 7am
Wednesday @ 6pm

Weekend Masses

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

Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm

TALLer Tales



CHRISTMAS THANKS: I wish to extend my appreciation and thanks to all who helped with the Christmas liturgies and environment this year. The Church

and the Sr. Carol Center looked AWESOME! While the Church certainly looked AWESOME, it was also AWESOME to see the crowds in Church. We haven't seen that many people at ALL of our liturgies since before COVID. The 4 PM Christmas Eve liturgies were packed with standing room only. Even the 12:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day was packed!

Many people helped get us ready for Advent and Christmas, but I would like to single out a few individuals who went above and beyond to make it all so memorable for all of us!

First, I would like to give a massive shout-out to Fr. Rich for all his work designing and creating all the most spectacular Advent and Christmas decorations that decorated our sanctuary. I don't know what we would do without him!

Second, I would like to give another massive shout-out to John Umlauf, Dina Ciaffone, John Benoit, Pete Ciaravino, and Casey Zalewski, who helped put up all the wreathes and Christmas Trees and took direction from Father Rich to make it all happen!

I'm grateful to Anne Melise, and her adorable mother, Ilona Higgins, for all their work in painstakingly tending to all our plants and flowers in Church year-round. Can you imagine watering all those poinsettias?

I'm grateful to those who contributed to the flower collection. Your contributions help us buy some of the most beautiful plants and flowers. Thank You!

I'm grateful to Humble Landscaping Services, which was hired to put up all the lights outside this year. They did a phenomenal job! We got plenty of compliments for how beautiful the lights outside looked.

I'm grateful to Charlie Kaiser and Pete Ciaravino, who helped decorate the Athletic Field with lights. The light display

on the field is always spectacular. You may have noticed they added more lights to their creation this year!

I'm grateful to Catherine Thomas Trudell, our Director of Music Ministries, and to Kristine Hass, Eleonore Ellero, the Children's Choir, the Adult Choir, and all the musicians and accompanists who assisted with all the music during the Christmas season. The music was phenomenal and truly enhanced our Christmas liturgies!

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Mary Garofalo, the parents, and, most especially, the little angels who participated in our O Holy Night children's program and the Children's choir on Christmas Eve. Watching the little ones sing or take part in retelling the story of Christ's birth brings great warmth to any heart!

*Christmas
Thank You*

I'm grateful to Amy Pattie, Charlie Kaiser, our teachers, and administrators for all they did to help our school children keep focused on Christ as the reason for the season. In addition, I'm grateful to Lisa Mangan, who led our school Christmas Music Program, and all the students who participated in these great annual traditions at SJA School.

I'm grateful to Maria and Larry Krzesowski, Debbie Bigham, Jeanne VanEgmond, and Sandy McMann for all their work in making the annual Memorial Tree a reality. Maria and Debbie spend countless hours machine embroidering the ornaments that decorate the annual memorial tree to honor those who have gone home to the Lord over the past year. Rachel Gerard and Jeanne VanEgmond ensure all the names and dates are super accurate before and after the ornaments are made.

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Steve Hysick, Ed Raybaud, Dina Ciaffone, Fr.

Bob, and Jim and Marsha Jenkins for all their work handling the cameras for our streaming. I'm grateful to Kristine Hass, Catherine Thomas Trudell, Fr. Bob, Kathy Kalich, Mary Pat Brennan, Ida Abdelnour, Brian Wotta, and Jackie Bugarin-Scheuer for handling the technical and practical aspects of the slides in Church that display our songs and responses.

I'm grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Vern Dave, John Benoit, Pete Ciaravino, and Casey Zalewski for their extraordinary work in getting the outdoor Nativity set into place and for ensuring the Church and Sr. Carol Center are spotless for all our Christmas liturgies. John, Pete, and Casey also go out of their way on Christmas Eve and Day to show up between our Masses to ensure everything is spotless for the next liturgy. And then God bless Vern for opening up and getting the lights on in Church and School as early as 4:30 or 5:00 each morning.

Speaking of the outdoor Nativity set, I continue to be grateful to the Art and Mary Ann Van Elslander family for gifting us the beautiful Nativity set that once decorated their front lawn on Lakeshore! That precious gift enhances our front lawn for all to see. I'm grateful to the Allemon Family for donating all the bales of hay that were used in the Nativity enclosure.

I'm grateful to Mary Garofalo and her team, who helped in the Kitchen and ensured all our Advent and Christmas receptions and gatherings were extra special. They do extraordinary work!

I'm grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Rachel Gerard, Jackie Bugarin-Scheuer, Kathy Kalich, Mary Pat Brennan, and Patty Kesner for their hard work and efforts in taking care of the flurry of requests that came through the Parish Center during Advent and especially during the days leading up to Christmas. It's hard to keep track of the comings and goings of people (and boxes) and all the requests, but they do a phenomenal job and always do it with warm hearts and great smiles.

I'm grateful to my team of family members who, shortly after our Christmas Eve dinner, helped place all 2,000 tea lights outside during the 6 PM mass. We've done this now for five years in a row. I'm grateful to Mark and Sharon Dichtel, who took last year's tealights and helped prepare them for this year. We've never used them more than once before!

TALLer Tales Continued

We were all surprised that the 2023 lights were still good enough to use in 2024!

I'm grateful to Kristine Hass and Dina Ciaffone for all their hard work in creating and editing the special Christmas edition of the bulletin. The Christmas edition of the bulletin is created to be a tool for outreach and evangelization for all our visitors and guests, besides having the usual weekly information everyone is accustomed to seeing in the bulletin.

Speaking of stuffers, I'm grateful to those who give their time to prepare the bulletin to be mailed weekly to 900 families. That list includes Rachel Gerard, Ida Abdelnour, Barb Hendrick, Mary Pat Brennan, Kathy Kalich, Sue Mulrenin, Tony Latarski, Patty Kesner, Judy Deneweth, and Laura Sorget.

I'm grateful to the lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and our team of God's Door Keepers for their dedication and extraordinary ministry to all who came to SJA over the Christmas holidays.

And, finally, thank you to Fr. Bob, Fr. Rich, Deacon Dominick, and Deacon Tom for their extraordinary ministry around the altar of the Lord with the marathon of liturgies we had this year! We are so grateful for the team we have at SJA!

Our liturgies were prayerful and beautiful and led us to a deeper relationship with the Lord. It took a lot of people working together to make it all happen. It was another magnificent Christmas at SJA! THANK YOU!

Now You See Him ... Now You Don't; A Little Health Update: This coming Friday, I'll be undergoing foot reconstruction surgery. Yes, you read that right ... foot reconstruction surgery. Doesn't that sound like fun? Not really! While I've read all the technical terms describing what's about to be done to my foot, I've decided to spare myself of knowing all the details by Googling or watching YouTube videos about it.

Dr. Paul Fortin ... who is considered THE best foot and ankle surgeon ... will be handling the surgery. He's been very

honest, even blunt, about what I'm facing. This won't be a simple surgery, and it's going to be painful. On top of that, he's made it very clear that the success of this surgery depends heavily on my ability to follow his post-op instructions to the letter. UGH!

What does that mean? Well, it means 10 to 12 weeks of being completely non-weight-bearing on my right foot. For the first two weeks, I'm essentially homebound with strict orders to minimize movement. After that, I'll transition to using an iWALK device (you can bet that'll give me plenty of material for future bulletin



articles) or possibly a combination of a walker with the iWALK, knee scooter, and crutches. Eventually, I might graduate to a walking boot for another four weeks. It all depends on how my bones heal and how my foot and ankle respond to the new hardware.

Long story short, I don't expect to make any in-person appearances for the next three weeks. BUT I'm already plotting ways to Zoom or video-call myself into Church to make announcements at Mass, visit classrooms, or crash some meetings. Why? Because that's just me!

The Parish Center Staff, on the other hand, is a little uneasy about this whole "downtime" situation. They figure the first two weeks may give them a bit of peace, but after that, they're bracing themselves

for the inevitable royal pest phase. Imagine all the projects I'll be dreaming up!

Now, how did I end up here? It all started ten years ago, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. After finishing a meeting with a school parent, I didn't realize my foot had fallen asleep. When I stood up to walk the parent to the door, I ended up flat on my face ... or more accurately, flat on my foot ... and broke it in three or four places. At the time, the doctors didn't think surgery was necessary; they believed the bones could heal without it.

Fast forward to two years ago, and I started noticing that the top half of my right foot swelled up every day. I saw several doctors and specialists, went through numerous tests and procedures, but no one could quite pinpoint the issue.

Then I met Dr. Fortin. It only took him a quick glance at my x-rays to figure out the problem. It all stems from the improper healing of my breaks ten years ago, compounded by the wear and tear my foot endures daily. And to top it off, my size doesn't exactly help matters. By the end of most days, my right foot is incredibly swollen. People often assume I must be in pain. Truthfully, I'm not always in pain. Of course, when I tell people I'm not in pain, there's always a select group, mostly my mom, sisters, Fr. Rich, Dina, and a few others, who are quick to say, "Maybe YOU are not in pain, but it's painful watching you try to walk."

And so, Friday kicks off a new chapter of healing. I already foresee plenty of bulletin articles in the pipeline about this experience, especially once I start navigating life for 3 months with the infamous (and new) iWALK device! Wait until you see pictures of this thing! More on that next week!

Keep me in your prayers, and I'll be sure to keep you posted as things progress!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

Our church – the Catholic Church – is a **sacramental** church. We have *seven* Sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. No other religion has this number of sacraments. Nor do other religions that have practices resembling our Sacraments understand them in the same way we do – with the exception of Baptism, in some cases. The Sacraments are fundamental to our practice of Catholicism. We believe that is it through the Sacraments that we attain eternal life. Our focus on the Sacraments makes us very weird in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Our sacramental life draws us into the mystical aspects of human existence that make a lot of people uncomfortable. To live a life that embraces the profound mystery of supernatural realities forces us to sometimes answer hard questions with, “I don’t know.” We have to admit that to embrace faith in Jesus Christ has us living with one foot in the world and the other in divine life. Faith faces us with unknowns that only the Holy Spirit can help us manage. This inability to explain things in human terms is quite unpopular in our highly technical, “scientific” world. So, things like religious sacraments don’t go over well. Even among Christian religions, Catholic mystical practices push us believers to the social fringes. If only we would “just stick to the Bible,” others say, things might be more unified.

Much of Protestantism tries to reign in our ‘crazy’ Catholic ritual expression of Christianity. We have certainly heard the term, *sola scriptura* (scripture alone), or maybe seen the description “*Full Bible Church*” on the sign of a little church we pass by. The message there is that everything we need to achieve eternal salvation with God

is laid out right there in the Bible – if only we would study it and do it! To which we Catholics say, “Nope.”

Certainly, Holy Scripture is the inspired word of God. It is the inexhaustible source of written communication from God that guides us continually into deeper relationship with him. Indeed, we need it for our salvation. But we need *more* than Scripture. We need the *source* of Scripture. We need the Word himself – Jesus. Which means we need the Sacraments. So, what exactly *is* a sacrament?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this: “The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us” (1131). This is an excellent definition of a sacrament. But to distill it down a bit more, we could say that, “a sacrament is a visible sign of God’s invisible grace, instituted by Christ for our salvation.” Even more simply: a sacrament is a way for us to receive God’s grace. “God’s grace” is the operative term here. And here’s the kicker: *without God’s grace, we’re not getting into heaven.* Period. That’s precisely why the Catholic Church is a sacramental church.

“Grace is *favor, the free and undeserved help* that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. Grace is a *participation in the life of God*” (CCC1996-7). We can think of grace as a little piece of God himself, given to us to enable us to get to him. We receive those “bits of God” every time we receive one of our Catholic sacraments. Our Sacraments are not the *only* means of receiving God’s grace, but *Sacramental grace* is unique and powerfully effective. When we sin, we diminish God’s grace within us by turning our back

on him and doing our own selfish will instead of God’s loving will for us. Reception of the Sacraments brings us back into proper relationship with God and strengthens us to stay ever more strongly in union with him.

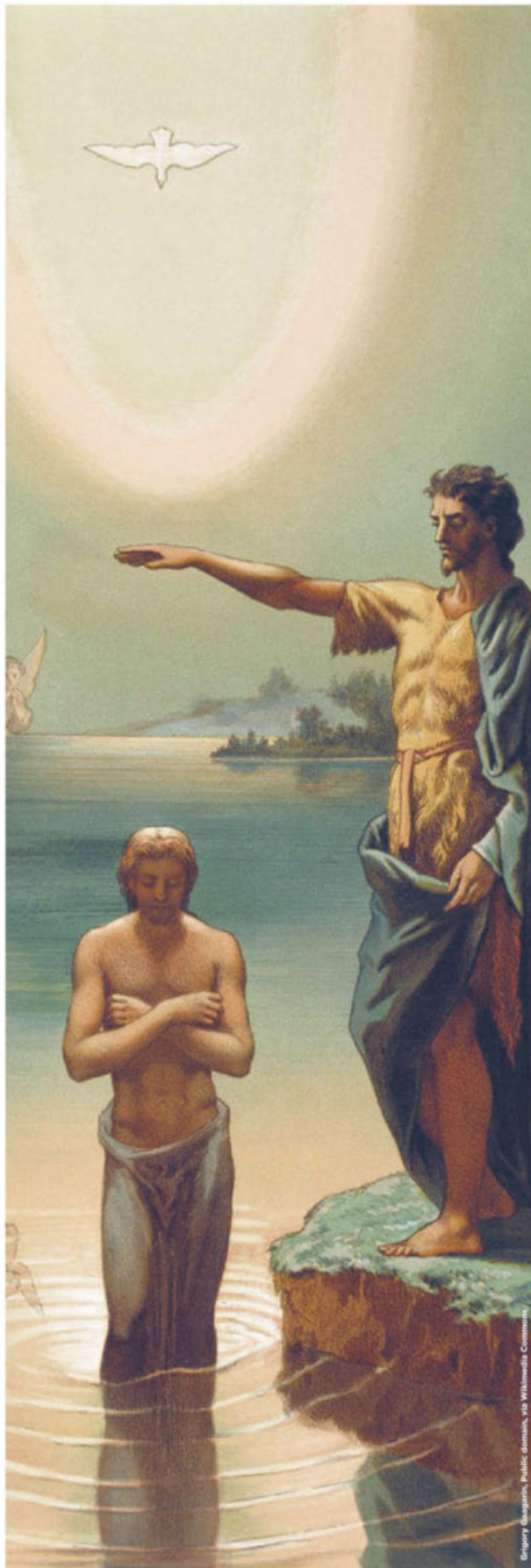
The beauty of our sacramental Catholic life is that living the Mysteries of Faith lets God be God. We acknowledge that we are not in the driver’s seat. God is – whether we like it or not. The trouble with any religion that *we* define is that it becomes a self-serving head game. Even if the standard we take is “the Bible alone,” the *truly* inspired word of God, we make it about ourselves.

When *we* individually decide Scripture’s interpretation, instead of the Church’s lived interpretation of it throughout time, we make it about *us* instead of its *Author*. Such behavior is an ego trip. As well-intentioned as we might be, we’re cruisin’ for a bruise. God and his Church are too big for us to get in his way without getting hurt.

God doesn’t want his children to be hurt. He gives us himself over and over again in his Sacraments. They are a readily-available opportunity for us to taste the goodness of God’s divine life while we are right here on earth. Jesus himself was baptized to bless the waters of the Sacrament of Baptism and he showed us how to do it. He gave us his very self to consume at his Last Supper. He instituted all of the seven Sacraments to embrace us with his divine love.

Praise God for his generosity! Praise God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – at all times, in all ways!

Fr. Bob



January 12, 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 | Acts 10:34-38 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

In many renditions of the Baptism of Jesus, artists connect the scene at the Jordan River with Jesus' death. A withered tree, for example, reminds us of the cross, or a mountain points to Mount Calvary. These connections show a real relationship between Jesus' baptism and his passion: his baptism marks the acceptance and beginning of his mission, which would ultimately lead to his crucifixion. For us, too, baptism is a decisive moment which destines us for – you guessed it – death! Not physical death (which will happen regardless), but a death to everything that is not of God. By making us part of God's family as his adopted children, our baptism summons us to "die" to our old life of sin and take on new life in Christ. This means turning away each day from sin so we can become increasingly fit to spend eternity with God. Like Jesus who rose both from the baptismal waters and from the tomb, we are meant, by our daily efforts to be faithful – to "rise" with him in the new life he won for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Jesus is baptized, two important events occur immediately: the Holy Spirit descends upon him while God the Father proclaims his delight in his Son: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Here we see the profound meaning of our own baptism and its effects. In addition to cleansing us from the stain of original sin, baptism: 1) gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit; and 2) welcomes us into God's family as his adopted children. Armed with the Holy Spirit and the assurance of God's fatherly care, we are equipped to engage in the daily struggle of dying-and-rising in Christ. We can always call on the Holy Spirit for strength when we face temptations or difficult decisions. Likewise, when we are discouraged or we confront our own weaknesses, we can look to the Father for help. Recall the words which the Father spoke to Jesus, and which he says to us in our baptism (and he doesn't take them back!): *You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. With you I am well pleased.*

CELEBRATE

Find the date (or approximate date) of your baptism and the baptismal dates of your immediate family members. Make a list of the dates and spend time thanking God for his fatherly care for you. Then, when someone's baptismal anniversary comes around, make sure to celebrate!



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 19 C

Reading One – Is 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.
Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.
Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.
Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and praise; give to the LORD the glory due his name!

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.
Worship the LORD in holy attire. Tremble before him, all the earth; Say among the nations: The LORD is king. He governs the peoples with equity.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Reading Two – 1 Cor 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another, the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another, mighty deeds; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, varieties of tongues; to another, interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

Alleluia - 2 Thes 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Jn 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of January 12, 2025



The Bible (Part 1)

Join Dr. Mark Giszczak as he answers the Internet's most-asked question about the Bible.



Interior Life

We all worship something, whether we know it or not. We are called to put God first, and that means giving him our time in prayer. The focus of this episode is developing a consistent prayer life.



A New Creation: The Mystery of Baptism

This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!

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



A foundation of faith and excellence.

stjoan.net

St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Thursday, January 30

OPEN HOUSE



5:30-6:30 PM - NEW VISITOR TOURS

6:30-8 PM - ALL FAMILIES

LEARNING FAIR & FUN FOR ALL

LIGHT A CANDLE AT THE 7-8 PM HOLY HOUR IN THE CHURCH

stjoan.net

22415 Overlake | SCS | 586-775-8370

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

Beneath the Surface

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, January 13th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
 10:00 AM: Walking with Purpose
 7:00 PM: Walking with Purpose

Tuesday, January 14th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 15th

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

Thursday, January 16th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
 7:00 PM: Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, January 17th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 18th

11:00 AM: Reconciliation
 12:30 PM: Baptism of Sylvia S. Fresard
 1:30 PM: Baptism of Viviana Marie Chapman
 4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed
 6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 19th

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

January 12, 2025 – National Priorities

As we get closer to Inauguration Day (one week and counting), people are getting either extremely anxious (excited) or anxious (worried), depending on their beliefs and priorities, about the new presidential administration.

Pundits and media are gearing up for the good, the bad and the ugly of what the change will bring.

One media outlet a few weeks ago did a deep-dive analysis of the major initiatives the incoming president will pursue, how they will potentially impact the various people and groups involved, and how fast such changes can be expected.

Meanwhile, headlines continue to be dominated by remarkable changes and upheaval in governments around the world, from Europe to right across the border in Canada.

Ultimately, changes are occurring and will continue to occur, as they always have, and there's little most citizens can do to impact the change and its ripple effects, other than to continue to pray – as we always have – that politicians and leaders keep the common good at the forefront of their decisions and actions.

“In truth,” we hear St. Peter say in one of the options for today’s second reading from Acts, “I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.”

The promise, then, come what may, is that it’s ultimately God who is in power, and it’s ultimately God’s perfect plan that will win.

“Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God,” we hear from Isaiah in one of the options for today’s second reading. “Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	January 13, 2025 Weekday; Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Green/White)
7:00 am	A Special Intention for Dr. Keith Khalil
Tuesday	January 14, 2025 Weekday (Green)
7:00 am	Christopher Damm
Wednesday	January 15, 2025 Weekday (Green)
7:00 am	Felipe Aleta
6:00 pm	Johnny Spath
Thursday	January 16, 2025 Weekday (Green)
7:00 am	A Special Intention for Joe Schotthoefer
Friday	January 17, 2025 Saint Anthony, Abbot (White)
7:00 am	Jerry Valeck
Saturday	January 18, 2025 Vigil for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (White)
4:00 pm	Germaine Bryan, David Damm, Bonnie Batche, Janet Babbish, the deceased members of the Calisi Family who died in the month of January, A Special Intention for Linda Dunn, and the living and deceased members of the J. Champine Family
6:00 pm	Raymond Strussione
Sunday	January 19, 2025 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)
8:00 am	The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am	A Special Intention for Dana Test
12:00 pm	Joseph Paluzzi, Daniel M. Bommarito, Frank Doetsch, Concetta (Tina) Calisi, and a Special Intention for Linda Dunn

Daily Readings

Monday, January 13

Hebrews 1:1-6
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 14

Hebrews 2:5-12
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 15

Hebrews 2:14-18
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 16

Hebrews 3:7-14
Mark 1:40-45

Friday, January 17

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, January 18

Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 2:13-17

Sunday, January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11



I Am The Resurrection & The Life

“Heavenly Father, welcome home those who you have called from this world and grant peace and consolation to their families.”

Rachel Allemon
Anthony Marino
Dennis J. McCarthy
Louise Stefanic
Bob Davis
“Baby” Maria Rose Mikula

“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.

High Schoolers, join us as we ponder BIG Questions



WHAT DOES GOD SEE WHEN HE LOOKS AT HUMANITY HERE ON EARTH? WHAT DOES GOD SEE WHEN HE LOOKS AT YOU?

WHAT INFLUENCES IN YOUR LIFE HELP REMIND YOU OF YOUR DIGNITY AND WORTH?

WHY DO YOU THINK WE IGNORE THE SUFFERING OF THOSE AROUND US?

WHAT DO JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION HAVE TO DO WITH THE WAY WE TREAT OTHERS?

And many more

Beginning Jan. 22 for 3 Weeks


We'll explore why we are priceless in God's eyes.



**St. Joan of Arc's High School Youth Group meets each Wednesday
from 7–8:15 pm in the Sr. Carol Center**

More info at sjascs.org/youth

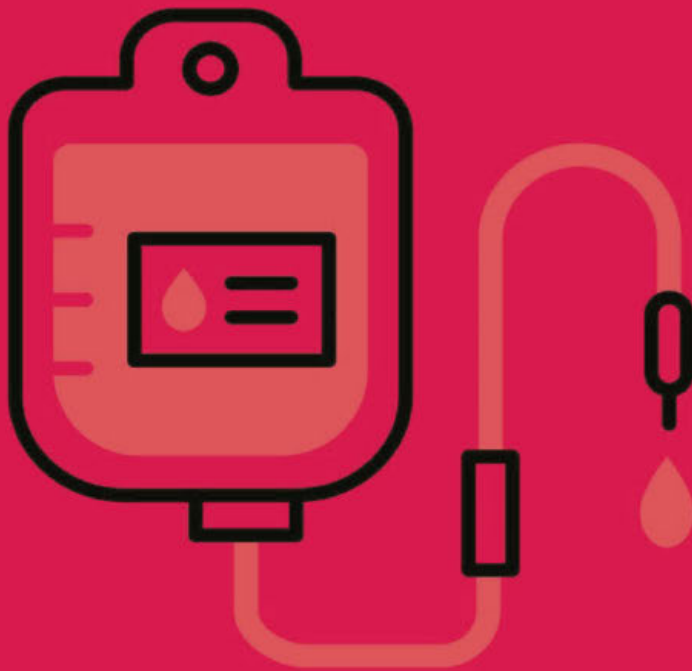


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Sunday

28th

January

2025

8 am - 2 pm

In the Sr. Carol Center

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

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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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Daniel Meagher
Kyle Richardson
Christopher Scholz
Mekhi Terry
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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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Richard Brown
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Michael Franklin
Christopher Rogers

NATIONAL GUARD

Robert Douglas III
William DuBay



Bringing Home the Word

The Baptism of the Lord (C)
January 12, 2025

Taking Up Christ's Ministry

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Before the Second Vatican Council, *ministry* was considered by many to be a Protestant word, and the religious leader who did it was called a *minister*. Catholics had priests and bishops who received and administered sacraments. Religious women did the Church's work in schools and hospitals. The council turned our understanding of Church ministry inside out. We've come to realize that with baptism—not ordination or religious profession—comes the responsibility of ministry. Catholics and Protestants alike understand that their

commitment to justice and peace is a genuine ministry that seeks to establish God's reign in our world.

Many interpreters believe that the account of Jesus' baptism points to the inauguration of his own ministry. The theology expressed is certainly Trinitarian (the Voice, Jesus identified as Son, and the Dove). However, the revelation of his true identity occurs as he begins preaching and healing. Some say his baptism was meant to strengthen him as he began his public life. Others believe it was meant to strengthen his disciples.

Today, we maintain that by baptism, we are all children of God. Vatican II has enlightened us as to what this really means. Pope Francis has reminded us that by virtue of our baptism, we are missionary disciples (see *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120). In other words, as disciples, we follow Jesus, learning from him. As missionaries, we go out to spread his Good News to others. It is now for us to take up the ministry where he left off, to be faithful servants with whom God is well pleased. †

Pope Francis has reminded us that by virtue of our baptism, we are missionary disciples.

A Word from Pope Francis

Prayer opens the heaven: it gives life oxygen; it gives a breath of fresh air even in the midst of breathlessness and lets us see things from a broader perspective. Above all, it enables us to have the same experience of Jesus by the Jordan: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father.

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 9, 2022



Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or
Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11**

I, the LORD, have called you for justice, / I have grasped you by the hand.

**Acts 10:34–38 or
Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7**

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

[John said,] "I am baptizing you with water, but...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How am I living the life of a baptized child of God?
- What more should I do to reflect God's love?

Baptism Makes Us God's Instruments

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Baptism unites people from all nations into God's flock. In this flock, many suffering children need our immediate attention and care. We learn about these children—many of whom are close to death—in newspapers and magazines and on TV documentaries. In Africa, where there is widespread famine and drought, little children cry out for food and drink. In Haiti, where there is widespread HIV/AIDS, orphaned babies are desperate for medical resources. In the Middle East, where conflict and violence coexist, frightened, displaced children search for safety, security, and peace. In the United States, where everyone has the right to a good education, poor, illiterate children want to learn to read and succeed in life.

All over the world, there are motherless



and fatherless children, homeless and abandoned children, and children dying of famine, disease, violence, and war. These vulnerable children are God's lambs in need of a shepherd's care. They need committed, compassionate persons to feed them, to gather them, to carry

them, and to lead them to a place of safety, security, and peace. In baptism, we are configured to Christ, the Good Shepherd. Our baptism makes each of us God's instruments of compassion, love, and peace. The Spirit of God empowers us to use the gifts God has given us to work for justice, to help rebuild broken lives, and to offer people hope.

Ponder: Who in my life needs a shepherd's care?

Prayer: Lord, give me a shepherd's heart so that I can show your love and compassion to someone in need.

Practice: Today, I will make others aware of the plight of children living in poverty and make a commitment to do my part to eradicate global poverty. †

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "21 Days of Self-Care with Biblical Inspiration" by Paige Byrne Shortal
The Gospel tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Self-care is not selfish. "Selfish" people are solely self-focused. Self-care ultimately benefits others as well as ourselves. Self-care is what we do when we follow the flight attendant's instructions and place the oxygen mask over our own nose and mouth before we do so for our children or anyone else. We cannot serve others if we are gasping for breath. And that is how too many people live—hurried, anxious, and gasping for breath.... Please remember that we have in Jesus a Savior who understands, who sympathizes with our weakness, and who knows what it is to be tired, hungry, sad, afraid, and lonely (see Hebrews 4:15–16). None of us is alone.

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



Father God, open our ears to hear your voice, our minds to know your truth, our hearts to embrace those you call us to love, we pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 13–18

Monday, Weekday:
Heb 1:1–6 / Mk 1:14–20
Tuesday, Weekday:
Heb 2:5–12 / Mk 1:21–28
Wednesday, Weekday:
Heb 2:14–18 / Mk 1:29–39

Thursday, Weekday:
Heb 3:7–14 / Mk 1:40–45
Friday, St. Anthony:
Heb 4:1–5, 11 / Mk 2:1–12
Saturday, Weekday:
Heb 4:12–16 / Mk 2:13–17

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