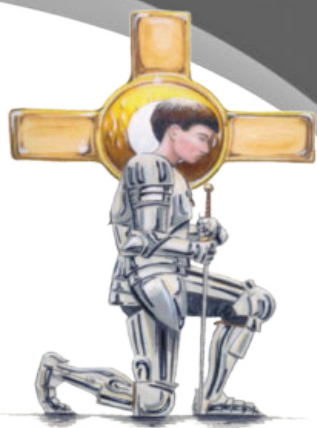




SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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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23rd Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:27

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

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PARISH CENTER
22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Email: Info@sjascs.org
Website: www.sjascs.org

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Email: Info@stjoan.net
Website: www.stjoan.net

**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Email: REPinfo@sjascs.org

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 - 4:00pm
Friday: Closed During the Summer

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



Would You PLEASE Go to Bed: A week ago, this past Thursday, my mom celebrated her 84th birthday! Yes, Happy Birthday, Mom! She is still

staying at my house as she recovers from her neck surgery and as we await the final repairs needed due to the water damage on her first floor and basement. Issues from a faulty roof replacement job last August caused the damage. With her staying at my house, she's aware of my comings and goings. It's never really an issue, EXCEPT when you're trying to sneak out the day before her birthday to buy flowers and gifts from her kids and grandkids. I've never had an experience quite like this: sneaking around to leave the house and then sneaking back in with the goods.

On that Wednesday before her birthday, I still hadn't made the trek to Costco to buy flowers and pick up her favorite K-Cup coffee. I also needed to stop at the Dollar Store for a balloon, a card, and some gift bags, and then grab one of those new Super Raffle Lottery tickets. After the 6:00 p.m. Mass, I came home, grabbed some dinner, and watched the evening news with her. At 7:35 p.m., I announced that I was heading to Costco to pick up some "things." She asked what time I'd be back because she wanted to go for a little walk. I told her I wouldn't be long since Costco closed at 8:00 p.m. (I was wrong—they actually closed at 8:30 p.m.). She looked at her watch, rolled her eyes, and said, "You'd better get going. It's already 7:35 p.m."

"Mom, I've got plenty of time. It only takes me 12 minutes to get there. I'll have plenty of time to get what I need before they close."

"What do you need?" she asked.

"Just some stuff! I'll be right back," I replied. I wasn't about to tell her I was shopping for her birthday.

After my mad dash to Costco, I stopped at the Dollar Tree to grab a balloon, a card, and some gift bags. Then I headed to the Kroger gas station at 9 and Jefferson to get gas and one of those Super Raffle Lottery tickets. When all was said and done, I returned home and told her I was still up for a walk if she wanted to go. She jumped at the chance, understandably, since she's

confined to the upstairs of my house most of the day. We took a little walk around the campus (it was a beautiful evening) and returned home. By this point, I was tired and eager to call it a night, but I really wanted to get her gifts out of my car and into the little sitting/TV room we'd set up on the second floor. However, she ended up watching a few episodes of "Anne with an E" on Netflix.

I putzed around doing a few things, but as it approached 11:00 p.m., I started to get impatient. My mom RARELY stays up that late (she's usually in bed by 9:30 p.m. to start her prayer routines on the Hallow app). Finally, at 11:00 p.m., I walked into the sitting room and asked, "Are you EVER going to go to bed?" Later, she told me the conversation felt more like an inquisition than a simple question. She couldn't figure out why I was so concerned about her bedtime since I usually just say goodnight and head to bed myself.

Eventually, I gave up and decided I'd sneak the gifts upstairs the next morning while she was getting ready for Mass. And that's exactly what I did. As soon as she started her morning routine, I dashed downstairs, grabbed the gifts, and whisked them into the sitting room for her to find later.

When she finally saw the flowers, card, and gift bags, she understood what I had been up to the night before. "I couldn't figure out for the life of me why you were so concerned about what time I was going to bed. Normally, you could care less," she said.

"Mom," I replied, "I felt like a parent waiting for the kids to go to bed on Christmas Eve. I kept grumbling under my breath, 'Would you JUST go to bed!'"

The Consequences of Living a Busy, Hurried Life (Part 7): Last week, I wrote about how our busyness affects our relationship with God and our connections with family and friends.

This week, I want to focus on the empty promises of a busy schedule. Unfortunately, the world would have us believe that busyness is a sign of success and accomplishment. We use our packed calendars and endless to-do lists as a way to validate our worth and existence. King Solomon, in the Book of Ecclesiastes (2:22-23), poses an interesting question we ought to ponder: "For what profit comes to mortals from all the toil and anxiety of

heart with which they toil under the sun? Every day sorrow and grief are their occupation; even at night their hearts are not at rest. This also is vanity." Isn't it ironic that his words echo across millennia, challenging us to examine whether our relentless pursuit of productivity truly satisfies the deepest longings of our hearts?

We love to schedule ourselves to the point of exhaustion! And it's not just adults who do this to themselves; parents do this to their children as well. We don't need to be THAT busy. Tragically, we have learned to fear silence and the spaces between appointments.

King Solomon understood this sense of emptiness firsthand. Despite achieving wealth, wisdom, and worldly success, he found it all to be vanity. We reach a point where every achievement and milestone only reveals the next mountain to climb. And where does it get us? The spiritual effects of this relentless activity and pursuit of things that ultimately lead nowhere are profound. We spend too much time building our earthly kingdom, forgetting that we are citizens of a heavenly one.

As I wrote in a previous segment, Jesus had a radically different approach to life. He took time to pray. Even though everyone was looking for him, he would go off to deserted places to pray to his Father. He invites us to share in that type of life when he says, "Come to me, all you who labor and find life burdensome, and I will give you rest." We must accept his invitation to come to him, and he will provide us with the rest we need. We need to anchor our identity in Christ's love rather than in our performance.

The challenge we face is finding the courage to say no to good things so that we can say yes to the best things, namely, a deeper relationship with Christ and His Kingdom. Only when we deepen that relationship will we find the true and lasting peace that satisfies our very souls.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org



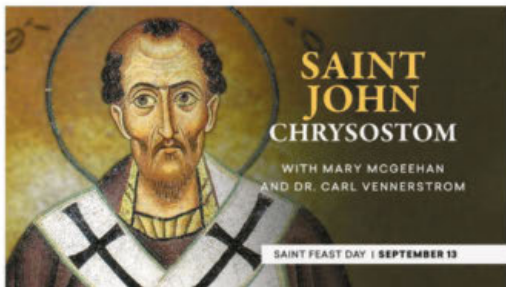
This Week on Formed

Week of September 07, 2025



The Boy from Milan

You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving "gamer saint" of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.



St. John Chrysostom | Catholic Saints

From Antioch, the political center of the fifth-century world, arose a golden-tongued preacher and bishop: St. John Chrysostom. Listen to Dr. Carl Vennerstrom and Mary McGeehan discuss the life and preaching of this great doctor of the Church who gave us countless powerful prayers and homilies.



Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer

"Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer" is a beautifully animated film that brings to life the inspiring story of Carlo Acutis, a modern teenager who used his passion for technology to share the Catholic faith with the world.

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

This week's article is prompted by suggestions/complaints/frustrations that a few different parishioners have aired to me. They spoke with or wrote to me in a spirit of charity and concern for their own spiritual well-being and for the good of our parish family. I believe their concerns deserve attention. The two issues they brought up are (1.) talking out loud in church before and after Mass and (2.) manner of dress at Mass. As simple as these matters are, they are complicated to address. The difficulty with addressing these topics is that there are sure to be people who are irritated by them being mentioned – as much as I don't believe there is reason to be irritated. Yet, some people may take my thoughts as personal criticisms, when they are, in fact, intended to be helpful instruction. Furthermore, serious thought about these behaviors calls for personal self-examination – and critiquing ourselves is not a favorite activity for most folks.

Take first, the matter of talking with others inside the church – more specifically, in the *nave* of the church. If you'll recall, a church is split up basically into three parts: *sanctuary*, *nave*, and *vestibule*. In older, traditional church layouts, the three sections were easy to locate: front, middle, and back. The sanctuary in the front of the church is the Holy of Holies, where Jesus resides in the tabernacle and where Jesus is present on the altar during Mass. The nave is where the pews are and where the People of God assemble for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The vestibule is the entryway where the people can get out of the weather before they enter the church proper. Here at St. Joan, our sanctuary is the area that is elevated by steps off of the main floor level. The nave is the area where all the pews are, where the people sit. Our vestibule is the gathering space between Emmaus Hall and the nave.

Conversations within the nave can be problematic. Many folks come to church before Mass to pray in the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. They come with troubles and joys of the heart which they want to express to

God. External noise can be a great distraction to our prayer. For most of us, it's hard enough to avoid distraction in our prayer even in quiet surroundings. But when our eyes, ears, or other senses are noticeably stimulated, it is tough to stay focused. We can be driven to give up on prayer. This is why many people come to church early – to get away from noise and confusion, to be in a holy place, in the Lord's presence, to block out the world, and to open up to God before Mass begins. If we get inside church and find it the same as the world outside of church, it can spoil our spirit of prayer pretty quickly.

In a similar but different way, how we dress for Mass also affects the overall spirit of the church environment. Although what we decide to wear is a personal expression of our individuality, it also affects the people around us. What we wear speaks volumes about the thoughts in our heads and the emotion in our hearts. What each of us *individually* expresses through our attire adds together to make a *cumulative* statement about the value of what we do at Mass.

To illustrate this point, consider this: If we all came to Mass on a hot summer day and EVERYONE in church (including the priest) was wearing shorts, a tank top, and flip-flops, what do you think the vibe would be like in the place? Would you notice? Would it have any bearing on how you participate at Mass? Where would your attention primarily be focused? Or how about this: Same summer day, full church, EVERY man is wearing a nice suit and tie, EVERY woman is wearing a stylish dress, priest is wearing his usual garb, and everybody has washed their face, combed their hair, and brushed their teeth. What is the vibe? Would you notice it? Would it have an effect on you? I contend that there will be two very different spirits in the church that will affect us in very different ways.

I further contend that, as most Mass gatherings currently go, we have a mixture of these two spirits in God's

house at the same time. If I could name them, I think one could be called "Laid-back and Chill," and the other one called "Tuned-in and Proper." Neither of these vibes is bad in and of itself, but they compete with each other. This is where the distraction factor comes in. This is where a parish member who is seeking to Tune-in will be pulled off course by Laid-back activity. That said, is one of these ways a better way to go? I suggest there is.

To make a good choice, I suggest a short exercise. Imagine walking through the front door of our church. You say 'Hi' to the greeters. You make your way through the gathering space into the main body of the church. As you walk toward the altar to get to your pew, you look up and there is a guy standing in front of the altar, looking out at the people coming in. He sees you . . . pretty much looks through you. He's about 6' tall, long hair, beard, wearing a flowing, white linen robe, barefoot – and he *literally* has a glow about him. You think to yourself, "If this isn't Jesus, nobody is." How do you feel about being in his presence? Does the way you present yourself to him matter to you? Might you feel *better* if you had worn something different to Mass? The thing is, if we believe what we say we believe, Jesus is *actually* present *every day* we walk into St. Joan. We are in the physical presence of the God of the universe. Would an outside observer think we are aware of that?

I'll admit, I miss the days when people dressed up for church. I am always delighted by those who still do. I like the feel of a place of sacred quiet where holiness seems to hang in the air. It is not a matter of stuffy rules or cold personalities. It is about otherworldliness. It is about escape from mundane 21st century "culture." It's about being in the presence of almighty God himself. God is amazingly special to us at Mass. It seems appropriate that we be special back.

God's blessings to you,

Fr. Bob



September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b | Phlm 9-10, 12-17 | Lk 14:25-33

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I am particularly struck by this line from Solomon's prayer in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom: "Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?" Solomon doesn't seem to be seeking direct answers to the questions he presents today, but rather, uses them as a sort of poem of praise to honor God in all his glory. In modern language, we could rephrase his questions: *What do we know that God has not instilled into our minds? What wisdom do we have that was not infused by the Holy Spirit?* There are many things that we cannot understand without the wisdom God gives us. May we, like Solomon, praise and thank God for this gift. Let us trust that where our feeble, corruptible humanity falters, our heavenly Father is our refuge in every age.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel is certainly one that we need God's wisdom to understand. This reading always makes me do a double take or a read-over. "*What did Jesus just say?!*" His words today are stark and can feel disconcerting. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." When I encounter a challenging Scripture such as this one, I try to immediately root myself in concrete truths about the Lord. First, I acknowledge that he is good and desires *my* good. He is all-knowing, all-powerful and all-loving. After centering on those realities, I can look at this Gospel again, but this time through a clearer lens. Ultimately, this Gospel is a piercing reminder of the radical renunciation desired by the Lord. It is a rubric for the narrow road and for sanctity. Jesus does not mince his words, nor does he seek to confuse or confound: to follow Jesus is to release our hearts from earthly attachments, to embrace our cross and to set our lives in proper order. Clear and direct? Certainly. Easy? Not at all. But doing this in union with Jesus? *Absolutely possible.*

REFLECT

Today, consider reflecting on your attachments – the places you cling to anything that is not Christ. As you go into these tender places, invite Jesus to gently reveal where he wants to grant you his freedom.

Getty Images/Wirestock



THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – SEPTEMBER 14 C

Reading One – Numbers 21:4b-9

With their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!"

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if any who have been bitten look at it, they will live." Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Responsorial – Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Hearken, my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter mysteries from of old.

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

While he slew them they sought him and inquired after God again, remembering that God was their rock and the Most High God, their redeemer.

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

But they flattered him with their mouths and lied to him with their tongues, though their hearts were not steadfast toward him, nor were they faithful to his covenant.

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

But he, being merciful, forgave their sin and destroyed them not; often he turned back his anger and let none of his wrath be roused.

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Reading Two – Philippians 2:6-11

Brothers and sisters: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

LEARN HOW TO
RESPOND TO GOD IN

Psalms

AN 11-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
JEFF CAVINS, SARAH CHRISTMYER,
AND TIM GRAY



WEDNESDAYS FROM 2-3:30

in the Sr. Carol Center beginning September 24

Learn more and register at sjascs.org/psalm-study

Spend an hour with me.
-Jesus

**HOLY HOUR
SONGS
& PRAYERS**

Join us for
Eucharistic Adoration
with music at 7 pm
every Thursday
in the church.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS MONDAY SEPT. 15

**Join our children's liturgical
choir *Grace Notes* for
students from our parish
and school in grades 1-5**

Weekly practices begin Monday,
September 15, from 3:30-4:15 pm in the
Church Music Room (off the parking lot
between the church and school).

**For details and to register, go to
sjascs.org/childrens-choir**

Contact Mrs. Catherine Trudell with
questions at ctrudell@sjascs.org or
call the Parish Center at 586-777-3670.



Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Studies

Morning and evening groups are starting in September

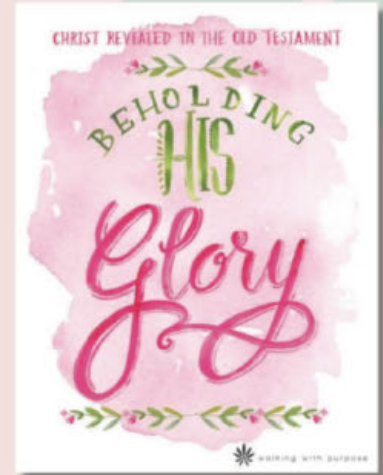
7-9 pm: *Beholding His Glory*

BEGINNING SEPT 15

As we study the people and events of the Old Testament, we'll encounter problems that only Christ will solve, needs that only He will satisfy, and promises that only He can deliver.

Beholding His Glory shows us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We'll learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives, His awe-inspiring majesty, and His desire for personal intimacy with each one of us.

- Learn how our Savior was first revealed in Genesis and how He is the answer to the issues of shame and fear.
- Understand important parallels between the lives of Moses and Jesus, and how they both led their people to freedom.
- Accompany Joseph of the Old Testament on his life journey. The God who proved faithful to Joseph will not disappoint us!



10 am-noon : *Beholding Your King*

BEGINNING SEPT 22

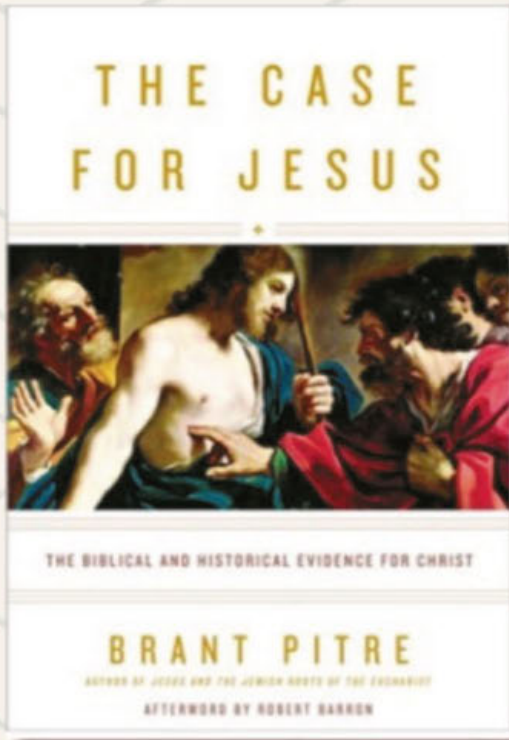
We live in a self-centered culture that all too often leaves us feeling empty and dissatisfied. A fuller view of God and His glory is the perfect antidote, which you will experience in *Beholding Your King*.

We'll study King David, select psalms, the temple, and many Old Testament prophets and see the ways in which they all point to the coming King of kings, Jesus Christ. This Bible study is the second part of a two-part series and is ideally completed after *Beholding His Glory*. What we'll discuss:

- Prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament and their effect on people past and present.
- Psalm 23, the most familiar of all the Psalms which has comforted people throughout the centuries.
- God's steady purpose in both the Old and New Covenants and the promises He kept to all of us.



Visit sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose for more information about these studies



Hearts Afire

STUDY AND PRAYER MINISTRY

Join us for 10-week journey into *The Case for Jesus.*

Thursdays from 2-3:30

Sept. 18-Nov. 20

***in the Emmaus Fellowship Hall
in the Sr. Carol Center***

Discover the historical and biblical evidence for Christ with Dr. Brant Pitre, author of *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*. Together, we'll explore the ancient Jewish context of the Gospels, refute the idea that they were anonymous, and uncover the divine claims of Jesus of Nazareth.

Come deepen your faith and strengthen your understanding of who Jesus is — and why it matters today. There is no cost for this study. Book purchase is optional.

Contact Susan Hughes at
313-410-9504 or Sandy Walters
at 586-241-8677 with questions.



sign up at sjascs.org/hearts-afire

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, September 8th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, September 9th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, September 10th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

1:00 PM: Knitting & Crocheting Ministry – #3

5:00 PM: Reconciliation

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, September 11th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM: Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, September 12th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, September 13th

11:00 AM: Reconciliation

12:30 PM: Baptism of Joseph G. Spiruda

1:30 PM: Baptism of Ella M. Saigh

2:30 PM: Baptism of Rami Anthony Hokayem

4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, September 14th

8:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

Sept. 7, 2025 – Garbage In, Garbage Out

When it comes to neighborhood maintenance, few things make people crankier than garbage that is not picked up. There can be any number of reasons why a collection company might be behind, but almost none of them are sufficient for folks dealing with an ugly, stinky mess on their curb.

The Detroit News a few weeks ago ran a story about a local contractor that handles many, if not most, of the area's suburban trash collection routes. According to the story, complaints from residents about delays in weekly pickups, or pickups that were missed entirely, have been causing considerable dissatisfaction.

The contractor, it was reported, acquired about a year ago waste management contracts for 73 area communities previously held by another company, along with about 600 former employees and almost 550 vehicles. It's a complicated operation.

"You can never expect 100% perfect performance when you're dealing with, you know, hundreds of machines that are complicated – simple tasks, complicated machines. And so you know, almost 1,450 employees, and then mechanical error and weather," the spokesman said.

Still, if the endgame for the contractor is customer satisfaction, shouldn't all those complications have been planned for?

As Jesus describes in today's gospel passage from St. Luke on far more important spiritual matters, we must be prepared to finish our job.

"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion," he asks. "Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'"

Trash talk aside, our job is seeking heaven. Let's be prepared to finish what we start.

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	September 8, 2025 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (White)
7:00 am	Eda Lucido
Tuesday	September 9, 2025 Saint Peter Claver, Priest (White)
7:00 am	Jesse F. Champine
Wednesday	September 10, 2025 Weekday (Green)
7:00 am	Catherine Reeb & Martha Gray
6:00 pm	James Spillan
Thursday	September 11, 2025 Weekday (Green)
7:00 am	Marlina DeLeon Sunga
Friday	September 12, 2025 Weekday; Most Holy Name of Mary (Green/White)
7:00 am	Dennis Fleming
Saturday	September 13, 2025 Vigil for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Red)
4:00 pm	Ann Marie Rogier, Bonnie Batche, Inez Belloli, Marion Malloy, Dennis Lex, Patrick & Sharon Lamkin, Marie Stahl, Harry Barkley, Lawrence Dominic Stefani, Pearl Doetsch, James Anthony, the deceased members of the Calisi Family who died in the month of September, Special Intentions for the living and deceased members of the J. Champine Family, for the Thomas Family, for the Pacini Family, for Primo Sandoval, for Sam Manalo and Sam Baur and for Mary Dobrzecowski on her 85th Birthday
6:00 pm	Tina Calisi
Sunday	September 14, 2025 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Red)
8:00 am	The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am	Mary Hobig
12:00 pm	Dennis Venuto, Louisa Sarra, Rose Fracassa, Mark Dangelo, and Special Intentions for Laurie Ruda, Sam Manalo, Sam Baur, for Beth Agnello and the Reeb and Gray Families

Daily Readings

Monday, September 8	Friday, September 12
Micah 5:1-4a Matthew 1:1-23	1 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 6:39-42
Tuesday, September 9	Saturday, September 13
Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 6:12-19	1 Timothy 1:15-17 Luke 6:43-49
Wednesday, September 10	Sunday, September 14
Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 6:20-26	Numbers 21:4b-9 Philomen 2:6-11 John 3:13-17
Thursday, September 11	
Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 6:27-38	

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.

**Lionel Montagne
Marion Yezbick**

“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.

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!



St. Vincent de Paul

CLOTHING Drive

This drive supports the SVDP Thrift Stores that help neighbors and families in need. For more information, call 586-774-3598.

Sat, Oct 11 from 10 am-6 pm
Sun, Oct 12 from 9 am-2 pm

You can drop off donations at the truck in the St. Joan of Arc Greater Mack Parking Lot. (Please do not leave donations prior to or after the scheduled truck.)



Needed: Gently used clothing for men, women, and children and **small household items.** (No furniture or large items, please.)

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Fred Barth	Geri Ellis	Laurie Krim	Julius Ohorodnij	Patty Stevenson
Geri Beaugrand	Frank Faiss	Carolyn Kunz	Alexa Peake	Cathy Sullens
James Belloli	Taylor Fisher	Rosalie Lewakowski	Joan Persichini	Bernadette Thompson
Kristen Benedict	Jeanne Fleming	Mila Lictawa	Art Pieper	James Thompson
Edna Burton	Larry Gehrke	Beverly Lievens	Connor Pieper	Jeff Trudell
Sarah Catanzaro	Anthony Genova	David Lott	Vicky Pranger	Linda Vitale
Maryann Carlin	Larry Graham	Randy Lyczynski	Carol S. Provencal	Eileen Wallace
Ed Cole	Chris Gretchen	Ingrid Manalo	Tracy Rauch	Elaine Walters
Toni Glaeser-Collins	Pam Haisenleder	Sam Manalo	Fe Reyes	Tom Ward
Joan Combellack	Judith Hasten	Ilene Manning	Sr. Alice Riegel	Larry Weber
Maura Corrigan	Pat Haver	Joan Mannino	Paulette Russia	Adrienne Weidenbach
John Crawford	Norman Heinrich	Marivic Massand	Jenna Rose	Robert Werthman
Olivia Crimando	Ilona Higgins	Sandy McCabe	Marilyn Rose	Joseph Whalen
Jerry Dedene	Gracie Hinz	Darina McCarty	Victoria Rydholm	Geraldine White
Anita Dembeck	Ted Hinz	Cyndy McMahon	Estelle Saelen	Marilyn Wicker
Debra Dembeck	Chris Janutol	Kevin McFarlane	Lily Saith	Joyce Wiekrykas
Grace Dickerson	Barbara Jarosz	Heather A. Miller	Barbara R. Scharneck	Loretta Williams
George Dickerson	Lorraine Jonas	Mark Moffitt	Dianne Schelosky	Jenny Wojcik
Ray Dinser	Rosemary Jonas	Nina Mondalek	Josh Schultz	Bonnie Wozniak
Liana Doe	Lorraine Kilroy	Jennie Mooney	Rosa Silva	
John Donovan	Catherine Konen	John Morrison	Kathleen Smith	
Michael Dowd	Delaney Kraemer	Rebecca Nehra	Cathy Spindler	
Jean Edwards	Shirley Kraemer	Rosemary Nickson	Wendy Stevens	

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

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

September 7, 2025

No Longer a Slave

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Paul urged Philemon to treat a runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ, not as a slave. He didn't ask Philemon to free the man. Nor did he encourage him to work for the eradication of slavery. Why not? The letter doesn't tell us. Yet, if we look deeply at this issue, we might discover that Paul was asking for something much more profound than a change in law.

The United States outlawed slavery more than 150 years ago. But that change did nothing to erase the political, economic, and social biases of many citizens. Some people still consider

African Americans and other people of color as inferior, untrustworthy, and dangerous. Laws cannot change thinking or prejudices.

Had Philemon simply freed Onesimus, would the slave's situation have been improved? In the ancient world, slaves were often branded, thus alerting everyone to their servile position in society. Might this have prevented him from living a full life as a free man? Even if the law had changed, would ancient Rome have provided for former slaves any better than contemporary America has?

Paul pressed Philemon to go deeper into his heart, to change his perception of Onesimus' status in his household. Paul is probably not talking about a blood bond, but the bond that joins Christians to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. If we really treat each other in this way, discriminatory customs will crumble, and there will no longer be any kind of slavery. †



Paul was asking for something more profound than a change in the law.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

In Gaza...children, families, and elderly are reduced to starvation. In Myanmar, new hostilities have cut short innocent young lives. Finally, war-torn Ukraine awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.... We implore [Our Lady's] intercession for the gift of peace, for support and comfort for those who suffer.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 18, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Is there any group of people I struggle to welcome as brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How can I pray for them?

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 9:13-18b

Scarcely can we guess the things on earth, and only with difficulty grasp what is at hand; but things in heaven, who can search them out?

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

So if you regard me [St. Paul] as a partner, welcome [Onesimus] as you would me.

Luke 14:25-33

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.



A Time of Surrender

Bonnie LeMelle Abadie

Sultry summer days surrender to autumn breezes. Lovely, leisurely days surrender to the frantic organization of schedules normally determined by classes, sports, and parish activities. The ordinariness of daily living surrenders to the unexpected: illness, natural disasters, or human-induced tragedies, such as 9/11. Though things happen all the time that call us to stop and notice what is going on, “surrender” is the word I most associate with the month of September. I think that’s because this month signals noticeable and sometimes drastic change.

We humans aren’t typically fans of change. We like things to be predictable and comfortable. Entering the unknown can trigger fear. It is much like paddling a boat through deep, dark waters on a moonless night. What will happen to me? Will I capsize and drown? Will all I’ve worked for be lost? But there are ways to navigate these waters in order to emerge as better versions of ourselves.

Surrendering to God is not easy. My stubborn independent streak can serve positive purposes, but it also can block me from asking for help from others when I need it the most and keep me from relying on God in times of difficulty. If that’s anything like you, I encourage you to consider these questions with me:

- Are we people of faith?
- Do we believe in a loving, redeeming, sanctifying God?
- Do we trust that God loves us unconditionally?
- Do we embrace the fact that Jesus died to save us and that the Holy Spirit guides us?

Fear robs us of our ability to trust and obscures the light shining forth from the heart of God. When we focus on faith, turn to God in prayer, and walk in trust, we surrender our lives to God. Then, we allow God’s grace to become like the waves of the ocean washing upon the sandy shores of our lives. We surrender to God’s presence, pace, and patterns. †

When we focus on faith and turn to God in prayer, we surrender our lives to God.

From *Liguorian*, September 2020.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Catholic Schools” by Elizabeth Bookser Barkley

As a teacher of college students over the past decades, I know that many young people have little grasp of the history of the Catholic Church or of the historical origin of many Church practices. But many tell me that they hope to have children and raise them in the Catholic faith. Knowing our collective history is important if we are to understand the Church today. You can’t open a...history book without [seeing] the Catholic Church inserting itself into almost every century: the origins of the papacy, the role of monasteries in preserving culture, art in Catholic spaces, the philosophical impact of the likes of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, or the influence of papal encyclicals on historical and modern thought. Some of Church history is nothing to boast of, but...there is much we can be proud of and can celebrate.

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



Good and gracious God,
encourage us in our work,
calm us in our rest, and
inspire us in our prayer.
We pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 8–13

Monday, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Mi 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 / Mt 1:1–16, 18–23
or 1:18–23

Tuesday, St. Peter Claver: Col 2:6–15 / Lk 6:12–19

Wednesday, Weekday: Col 3:1–11 / Lk 6:20–26

Thursday, Weekday:
Col 3:12–17 / Lk 6:27–38

Friday, Weekday:
1 Tm 1:1–2, 12–14 / Lk 6:39–42

Saturday, St. John Chrysostom:
1 Tm 1:15–17 / Lk 6:43–49

Bringing Home
the Word 
September 7, 2025

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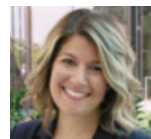
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