



# ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 6, 2020 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## WELCOME

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
closed for lunch 12-1:00 PM

### MASSES NOW

Saturday: 4:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 AM  
Spanish Mass is at 1:00 PM

### DAILY MASS

9:00 AM Monday-Saturday

## MISSION

*The Mission of St. Joan of Arc Parish is to put Jesus first in our lives by seeking to know Him in Scripture, Encountering Him in Prayer, Celebrating His Presence among us in praise and worship and uniting with one another in loving service.*

## NOTE

WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE TIMES LISTED ABOVE UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF DECEMBER. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. WE WILL ALLOW ONLY 50% CAPACITY FOR EACH MASS AND YOU MUST PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. THANK YOU. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

## From the Pastors' Desk

### First Sunday of Advent

In last week's first reading from Isaiah, the children of Israel realized their sinful mistake. They had turned away from God. They neglected their special relationship with the Lord. Instead of trusting in God the Father they put their trust in the ways of the world. They now regret their actions. As a result, the chosen children of Israel want to reestablish their covenant with the Heavenly Father.

These wayward people have come back from exile from Babylon. They recognize that the Lord is their Father and they are His children. They never should have wandered away from God. Even though they want a closer relationship with the Lord, they feel that at times, He is distant from them. They want God to break through the heavens and come down to them. They long to see the mighty deeds that God had performed during the Passover, when the Israelites had escaped Egypt.

The people of Israel now admit their sinfulness. They realize that God was justifiably angry with their lackadaisical attitude. They knew that they were unclean in God's eyes. Their good deeds must seem to God as nothing more than "polluted rags". They want God to know that they are remorseful and have changed. They now know that their true purpose in life is to serve God. God's hands are like the hands of a potter and they are like clay. God will shape them into the ideal people they were meant to be.

In last week's Gospel, Jesus tells us: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come". Jesus then tells a story about a man who travels abroad. He will be gone for some time. He leaves his home in the care of his servants. Each servant has a task to do. The gate keeper is ordered to be on watch. He must be prepared in case something catastrophic happens. No one knows the time or the hour. The traveler represents God and the servants represents us.

The point that Jesus makes is that all of us must be ready. Persecutions and tribulations will happen like wars, famine, disease and other natural disasters will occur. We cannot predict when these events will happen. They probably are not signs that the second coming is here. We cannot be nonchalant in thinking the second coming will not arrive in our lifetime. We have to live each day as if it is our last. If we are not prepared and Jesus finds us asleep, we will be placing our soul in mortal danger. If we are people who put our Lord in the center of our lives and put our faith into action by helping those in need, we will be ready. When we worship on the weekend, go to confession, pray to God every day then we will be prepared.

In the second reading, St. Paul gives thanks to God for all the gifts He has bestowed on us. We lack no spiritual gifts as we wait for the second coming of the Lord. God will protect us from every evil influence that could weaken our relationship with Him.

Advent is a time of "coming toward," or "coming to". It is a time to actively waiting that includes preparing. In preparing to receive Communion, we can make a new commitment to stay close to Jesus and act on His teachings.

### Observances for the week of December 6, 2020

**Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Monday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**Tuesday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Wednesday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

**Friday:** St. Damasus I, Pope

**Saturday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe

## NOTES FROM DEACON FRED

### *Filling those Potholes*

A road, when it is first built, has a smooth surface, and is striped perfectly with just enough signage and street lights to bring the traveler safely to their destination. As the road ages, the lines become faded, the surface hardens and becomes cracked, signage missing or dull in appearance, and eventually potholes develop. What was once a smooth ride has become challenging and unpleasant, unless the proper maintenance is undertaken. Filling the potholes, refreshing the striping and replacing worn signs and burned out lights is needed to keep the traveler safe over the years.

Many of us can say that it has been a few years since our Baptism (perhaps more than a few). We have aged and undoubtedly have acquired some bumps and bruises along the way. Many of us have experienced signs of aging and know very well that periodic maintenance is a must do. We need to keep our journey to God's Kingdom on the straight and narrow. We need to restore that which has faded or that part of our soul that has fallen into a state of disrepair. Advent is a time to fill those potholes which have developed in our souls by asking Christ with the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the grace to repair the hurts we have caused others or the hurts we have caused ourselves. It is a time of change. A time of renewal.

Some of us may be discouraged or remain skeptical that after all these years God would still invite us to become young at heart again... to be a new creation again. We hear today that God is patient. His desire and His glory, through His love for us, invites us to return to Him with all that we have and all that we are. We are His children. Would any parent stop hoping that their lost child would be found again? Would any parent not sacrifice all they held dear to give their child hope and a chance to live?

So it is with our God and our Blessed Mother. Would our Blessed Mother ever stop praying and interceding for us or our brother Jesus ever stop reaching out to us with a forgiving and healing heart?

A new beginning. A new hope. A new path is what Advent is all about...

Time to fill those Potholes!

## NOTITAS DEL DIÁCONO

### JOSE CRUZ

El lenguaje poético de Isaías nos ofrece el marco para prepararnos para la venida de Jesús a nuestra vida, ya sea como un bebé en la Navidad, en su gloria al final de los tiempos o sutilmente a nuestro corazón cuando menos lo esperamos. ¿Qué páramos ocupan mucho de nuestro tiempo y de nuestra atención? ¿Qué valles están abandonados y necesitan elevarse? ¿Qué aspectos de nuestra vida hemos elevado como montañas, que necesitan rebajarse? ¿Qué obstáculos escabrosos hemos puesto en el camino, que no permiten que nuestra fe nos guíe? ¿Qué partes de nuestro ser se encuentran ásperos e incompletos? Allanar estos baches y eliminar esos estorbos nos preparará para la llegada de Jesús.

La semana pasada escuchamos a Jesús decir: "Velen y estén preparados, porque no saben cuándo llegará el momento" (Marcos 13, 33). Hoy se nos recuerda que "para el Señor, un día es como mil años y mil años, como un día" (2 Pedro 3, 8). Es decir, la segunda venida de Jesús puede ser en cualquier momento y nuestra percepción del tiempo es muy diferente a la de él. "El momento" puede ser mañana o mil años más tarde. O dentro de un millón de años. Se nos advierte no aplicar nuestra perspectiva humana a los planes divinos.

Que Dios está de nuestra parte es en lo que insiste el autor de la segunda carta del apóstol san Pedro. Si nos parece que el fin del mundo se tarda, es debido a que Dios no quiere que nadie perezca, sino que todos se arrepientan. Que esto no nos lleve a un conformismo, sino que nos reconforte y nos dé esperanza mientras tratamos de vivir justa y santamente.

### **Pregunta de la Semana**

¿Qué acción concreta puedo llevar a cabo esta semana para prepararme para la venida de Jesús?



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS



Memorials are a beautiful way to remember

loved ones with Christmas Flowers at the Sanctuary.

Memorials are published in our January 10th bulletin. Envelopes are at the Welcome Desk.

A suggested donation is \$15.00 for each memorial. Please return envelopes by December 10th.

*Thank you to our Columbiettes for their very generous \$500 donation to go towards our APA.*

## STEWARDSHIP

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Attendance 367

Offertory \$8055.00

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### DRIVE THRU PICK-UP DINNERS

Paul's # 352 556-4606...Jim's # 352-650-2533

Meal is served at 5:00 pm on

Saturday drive thru at our Parish Social Hall (behind the church)

**ALL MEALS \$7.00 cash**

Please call by December 17th at 5:00pm to order your meal.

**SATURDAY • Dec 19**

Mashed Potatoes

Corn

**CHICKEN FRANCAISE**

Dessert



St Vincent de Paul THRIFT STORE & FOOD PANTRY, 1291 Kass Circle—Spring Hill 352-688-3331 (Food list 5)

Our SVdP Food Pantry collects these suggested items each month. Please donate based on the first letter of your last name to help those in our area.

**A,B**.....toilet paper, personal products, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes.

**C,D**.....canned vegetables, canned fruit, baked beans, instant potatoes.

**E,F,G**.....boxed cereals, powdered milk.

**H,I,J**.....peanut butter, jelly, All Fruit, canned fruit drinks.

**K,L,M**.....spaghetti meat sauce, dry spaghetti.

**N,O,P**.....beef stew, canned tuna, canned ham, Spam.

**Q,R,S,T**...chunky soup, clear broth, Ramen noodles.

**U,V,W,X**...Rice-a-Roni, macaroni & cheese,



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Each year we ask Friends of the Poor for a donation to help us serve Holiday packages to our neighbors in need. This unusual year, your help is needed more than ever, please help us bring hope and joy others with your donation. Mark check FOOD or TOYS as you wish, and mail it to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at 1291 Kass Circle, Spring Hill, FL. 34606. Thank you and may God Bless you this Thanksgiving and Christmas with His love.

**ATTENTION ALL MEN!!!**

At St. Theresa’s parish they are establishing a **Parish Honor Guard (PHG)** for all of our parishes, as a service opportunity. The public appearance of the **PHG** at functions is an important activity. Its role is as a ceremonial honor guard that adds dignity to the celebration and/or emphasizes the importance of the proceedings.



The **PHG** will provide an honor guard when the bishop comes for Confirmation, when we have 1st Communions, for the Corpus Christi procession, and other celebrations for all of our parishes.

To be part of the **PHG** you must:

- ◆ Be a male, at least 18 years old, and have received the 3 Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- ◆ Be a practicing Roman Catholic “in good standing with the Church”. To be “in good standing with the Church” means that the man must be living his Catholic faith on a daily basis. He must be attending Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation as long as it is humanly possible. If he is married, his current marriage must be recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.
- ◆ The man must be willing to make himself available for a minimum of 2 events a year and commit himself to attend practices to learn the procedures of the **PHG**.
- ◆ The man must provide all parts of his own **PHG** uniform except the sash. The uniform is: **either** a black tuxedo; **or** a black suit; **or** a black blazer and black dress trousers. White shirts, a black bow tie, white gloves and black shoes complete the uniform.

To be on the **PHG**, it is **NOT NECESSARY** to be a member of any organization in your parish. Members of other parishes are invited to serve on St. Theresa’s **PHG for this will be in service for all of our parishes.**

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If you would like to be on the **PHG**, fill out the slip below and either bring or mail it to your parish office or put it in the collection basket.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Patrick Rebel

Asst. Priests..... Rev. Edward Reiter  
Rev. Michael Kouts  
Rev. Dennis Kaelin  
Msgr. Joe Sobiesiak

Deacons ..... Deacon Fred LaPiana  
Deacon Jose Cruz  
Deacon Mike Ruffner

Parish Business Manager .....Anne Cofone

Director of Faith Formation ..... Mary Jo Waggoner  
Stjoanreled@gmail.com

Director of Junior High and Youth Ministry .....Nancy Lovelock  
Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Music.....Joyce Thorpe  
Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

## SACRAMENTS

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am & by appointment.

### BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Please call the Parish Office. (352) 688-0663

**MATRIMONY** IF YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING MARRIAGE AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH, PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT THERE IS A SIX MONTH PRIOR NOTICE REQUEST REQUIRED.

## PARISH INFO

### OFFICE EMAIL

Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

### FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

(352) 686-7864

### RCIA/RCIC

Rite Initiation into the Catholic Faith

### “IN HIS FOOTSTEPS” SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Served in our Parish Family Hall the 2nd Thursday of each month from Noon-2:00 pm & for our homebound, the 4th Thursday of each month.

### MARY & MARTHA’S GIFT SHOP (NOT OPEN AT THIS TIME)

Wednesday ..... 9:30 am-10:30 am

Saturday ..... 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Sunday..... 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Closed during all Masses & the month of August.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

(352) 556-3670

### NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(352) 683-0755

[www.ndcsfl.org](http://www.ndcsfl.org)

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