



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 13, 2020 | THIRD 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.

3rd Sunday OF ADVENT



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

- Jn 1:26-27

From the Pastors' Desk

Reflection on Second Week of Advent

In last week's reading from Isaiah, God gives comfort to His people. He states, "Comfort, give comfort to my people. Speaking for the Lord using the metaphor, Isaiah tells Jerusalem to go up a high mountain and cry out to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God". God has even won a reward. What is that reward? Like a shepherd, God is bringing the lambs (God's people) back to Judah. His chosen people are coming back home from exile in Babylon.

Israel's enslavement in Babylon is now coming to an end. Israel has paid a price for their sins. These people are now coming back to Jerusalem. They will receive a blessing from God. The Lord will lead His people back home. God will take care of His people like a shepherd who takes good care of his sheep.

In last week's Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist began his ministry in the dessert. He proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This is not a Christian Baptism. This was a Jewish form of preparation for the coming of the messiah. John encourages the people to change their lives by seeking forgiveness from God. This commitment to reform their lives was symbolized through Baptism. Because John was charismatic, he was able to get big crowds from Jerusalem and the surrounding area.

John the Baptist was compared to Elijah in the Old Testament. Like Elijah, John was a great prophet. He also lived in the dessert. His clothing and diet were similar. He was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist: just like Elijah. He also ate locust and wild honey, like the prophet.

However John had a different mission and message. In John's preaching he points to someone who is mightier than him. John comes before Jesus and serves as a messenger to the Lord. Even Jesus' Baptism is superior to John's Baptism. John only Baptizes with water. Jesus Baptizes not only water but with The Holy Spirit. Jesus' Baptism is also more empowering. Through Jesus' Baptism people become Christian, children of God and heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the second reading from Second Letter of Peter, we also see an Advent theme. The letter talks about the second coming of Jesus. In the message Peter discusses the delay of the second coming of Jesus. Many people during Peter's day had doubts because Jesus had not returned. Peter states that the reason is because the divine time of Jesus is different than earthly time. Jesus knows the proper time for the second coming. This is a sign of God's patience. Through this delay we are given the opportunity to repent and become holy.

Advent is a time in which we seek comfort from God. It is also a time to turn away from worries. We simply need to let go and let God. It is also a time to rejoice that God wants to find new ways to come into our lives. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for His sheep.

Make a Difference

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and other necessities. Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses, " say a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for so little pay. Your gift today to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps thee communities bridge the gap, offering support f0r medications, nursing care and others necessities. Please be generous. Envelopes are on our welcome desk. Please make your check to Str. Joan of Arc and one check will be mailed. Thank you for your generosity.

Observances for the week of December 13, 2020

Monday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

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NOTES FROM DEACON FRED

LA LUCE CHE TU HAI

Have our hearts ever been lifted up unexpectedly? Have we ever experienced a moment where we see so clearly that there is a place that is so much better than where we are today? These are moments of grace. As we live our lives, sometimes we fall into routines that are so familiar, and we need to be pulled out of our routines to be reminded that there is so much more. These moments of grace lift our hearts so as to taste and feel what is heaven. Hope lives within these moments.

The people who traveled into the wilderness to listen to John, heard more than a strange man uttering strange words. They heard a message. They heard and felt that something greater than themselves was about to happen. They heard in his voice echoes of Isaiah.. He is coming to announce a year of favor from the Lord.... To bring good news to the lowly... To heal the broken hearted... To proclaim freedom to those imprisoned by poverty, drudgery, sinfulness and all types of affliction or oppression. In their listening, they experienced a moment of grace.

Remember those moments we experienced on our life's journey... when our hearts and spirits were lifted up by a message we heard, a healing we or someone we know received. When God reached out to us. Not a trumpet blast, but a whisper, which caused our hearts to leap for joy. These moments of grace come in many different ways, tailored to deliver the message exactly as God intended.. to each of us.

There was a song written by Carole Sager, music composed by David Foster and performed so well by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion which for my journey is such a moment... every time I listen to it... Carole tells us that it embodies everything she looked for her whole life... David tells us for him it was a moment.. that song was a moment for sure. In part.... *"The Prayer"*

"I pray you'll be our eyes and watch us where we go. Help us to be wise in times when we don't know. Let this be our prayer when we lose our way. Lead us to a place. Guide us with your grace to a place where we'll be safe".

NOTITAS DEL DIÁCONO JOSE CRUZ

El pasaje de Isaías que escuchamos hoy fue escrito durante un tiempo de gran esperanza. El pueblo judío había sido liberado del exilio y por fin podía regresar a Jerusalén. Isaías invoca "el año de gracia del Señor" un año de jubileo durante el cual toda propiedad se restituía al dueño original (Isaías 61, 2). En el sentido definitivo, el dueño original de todos los bienes de este mundo es Dios, quien los distribuye generosa y equitativamente. Jesucristo, el Mesías, es el cumplimiento de este año de gracia prometido, que trae júbilo, libertad, justicia y alabanza. Es más, puesto que él está siempre con nosotros, cada año es un año de gracia. Lo que en el tiempo de Isaías fue una emancipación del exilio y una esperanza por el regreso a la ciudad santa se ha convertido con Jesús en una emancipación del pecado y en una esperanza de la vida eterna.

"¿Quién eres tú?" es la pregunta que le hacen repetidamente a Juan, a lo cual él primero responde diciendo quién no es él. No es el Mesías prometido ni Elías, cuyo regreso muchos anticipaban, ni tampoco un profeta como Moisés, que era uno de sus antepasados. No, él es el mensajero, el que prepara el camino del Señor. Así como Isaías preparó el camino hacia la ciudad santa, Juan prepara el camino hacia nuestro corazón.

Juan les dice a los líderes religiosos que "en medio de ustedes hay uno, al que ustedes no reconocen" (Juan 1, 26). A lo largo de todo el ministerio público de Jesús, muchos de esos mismos líderes tampoco lo reconocieron a él. Nuestro desafío ahora es reconocerlo a él. ¿Lo reconocemos en el más pequeño de nuestros hermanos y hermanas? ¿Lo reconocemos en nuestra comunidad, cuando dos o tres nos reunimos en su nombre? ¿Lo reconocemos en la Eucaristía, su cuerpo y su sangre entregados por nosotros? ¿Lo reconocemos en los momentos difíciles y de incertidumbre?

Pregunta de la Semana

¿Cuándo y dónde reconozco la presencia del Señor en el mundo?

The Christmas Giving Tree is now up!

Please help us take all the tags off of the Christmas Giving Tree. There are so many bears left, representing many children who rely on us to give them a happy Christmas. If you have not yet taken a tag, please consider taking one and buy for a family in need. Please return the envelopes to the office. We will get your envelopes to the family.

Inside, for your generous donation to help a family in need, please insert **gift cards** for groceries and gifts for the parents and the children. We are asking a \$25.00 minimum gift card for food and a \$25.00 card for a gift. If you only give \$25.00, God will still bless you.

Your food card can be from Publix, Winn Dixie, Target and even Walmart. The families then will be able to buy gifts for their children and have a Christmas meal. Thank you for your generosity.

No wrapped or unwrapped gifts will be accepted, only gift cards please. I know it takes the fun out of shopping for these children but it is for your safety and the safety of the recipient families. *Thank you for your generosity.*

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54
[Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,
8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19
and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and
10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
[cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/
Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-
17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Help save a child's life: Option Line Alternatives to Abortion- Call: 1-800-395- HELP (4357)

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 am † Mary Trojanowski
req by Family

4:00 pm † Irene Perosino req by
Loving Daughter

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

GAUDETE SUNDAY

8:00 am † Liliane and Warren Trachtman
Req by Mario and Yanick Tryfonos

11:00 am † Jane Giulini req by
Frank and Marie Stabile

1:00 pm For Our Parish Community

MONDAY DECEMBER 14

9:00 am † Bridget McManns req by
Anne McGovern

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 am † Julia Rebel req by SJOA Columbiettes

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00 am † Souls in Purgatory req by
Barbara Brush

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 am † Ed Coyne req by
SJOA Knights Of Columbus

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving for our Baptism into
the Holy Roman Catholic Church

req by Mary Jo Waggoner

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 am † Mary Aufiero req by
Charles and Judy Cipriani

4:00 pm † Philip McGovern req by
Anne McGovern

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 am For Our Parish Community

11:00 am † Aline Patane req by
Husband, Ed

1:00 pm † Angel Falcon req by
Juan Carlo Falcon

LA NOVENA DE AGUINALDO (16-24 DIC.)

¡Dulce Jesus mio, mi Niño adorado! ¡Ven a nuestras almas! ¡Ven, no tardes tanto! En algunos países de América Latina, los preparativos para la Nochebuena no son completos sin rezar y cantar desde el 16 de diciembre hasta el 24 de diciembre la *Novena de Aguinaldo*, también conocida como la *Novena del Divino Niño Jesús*. **Les invitamos a todos** nuestros feligreses, sus familias, sus amigos y sus vecinos de preparar con rezo y villancico para la venida del Niño Dios (la “Navidad” del Señor) **desde miércoles, 16 de diciembre hasta el jueves, 24 de diciembre en nuestra iglesia a las 18h (6 p.m.)**. Presidirá la novena el Padre Arthur F. Rojas del Bronx, Nueva York, quien es hijo de nuestra feligresa Sra. Theresa Rojas. Además, por la estadía del Padre Rojas hasta enero en nuestra zona, se celebrará la Santa Misa en español **el 25 de diciembre (Navidad) y el 1ero de enero (Fiesta de María, Madre de Dios) a las 11:30 a.m.** *¡Celebremos CON Cristo estas magnas fechas!* Le agradecemos a nuestro párroco, Padre Patrick Rebel, y al nuestro diácono hispano, Dcno. José Cruz, por su disponibilidad a la venerable religiosidad popular de 500 años de herencia católica hispana en nuestro hemisferio.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO PRAY AND SING THE “NOVENA DE AGUINALDO” (DEC. 16 TO 24)

In parts of Latin America, the preparations by Catholic families and individuals of Advent for Christmas intensify from December 16 to 24 with praying and singing of the *Novena de Aguinaldo* (also known as the *Novena del Divino Niño Jesús*) in the evening from December 16 to December 24. **Our Hispanic brothers and sisters invite all of our parishioners**, their families, friends, and neighbors to partake of this venerable, joyful, and reverent devotion followed most especially in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Puerto Rico **from Wednesday, December 16 to Thursday, December 24 at 6 p.m. in our church**. The Novena will be led by Fr. Arthur F. Rojas, from The Bronx, New York, who is known to some of our English speaking parishioners as well as our Hispanic community. **Enhance your preparation this Advent for the coming of Christ to us and among us at Christmas with prayer and song.** The support of Fr. Patrick Rebel, our pastor, and Dcn. José Cruz, for this devotion is most appreciated.

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time.

Please consider online giving.

Go to our website: www.StJoanofarcfl.com

and click on Online Giving.

Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Attendance 395

Offertory: \$7917.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$295.00

Religious Brothers and Sisters: \$10.00

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRIVE THRU PICK-UP DINNERS

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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 for SATURDAY • Dec 19

Mashed Potatoes

Corn

CHICKEN FRANCAISE

Dessert

Advent Men's Retreat

Father Chuck Dornquist, Director of Vocations, is offering an Advent Men's Retreat on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 10:00 am - 7:30 pm at the Bethany Center, 18150 Bethany Center Dr., Lutz. Men, ages 15 to 35 are invited to attend. There is no cost to you, however, you will need to RSVP to hlv@dosp.org. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Vocations at (727) 345-3452.

The retreat will be led by Father Rob Cadrecha and seminarians from the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

**To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under Heaven.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1**

“... a time to die ...”

Please pray for the deceased of our parish, who recently passed away. Especially for:

*Lucille I. Antonacci, David Little,
Margaret Terry and Angelo J. Rendace*



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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 ManagerAnne Cofone

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

Director of Junior High and Youth MinistryNancy 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

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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.

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