



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 18, 2021 | 18 DE ABRIL DE 2021

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 MAY 2021.

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 EASTER

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day." - Lk 24:45-46

FROM OUR PASTOR FR. PATRICK REBEL

If we want our children to be generous then we have to set the example. We see this in today's first reading. In that reading from Acts of the Apostles the first Christian Community shared all that they had. There was no needy person among them.

Unfortunately, in our country, we see that the gap between the rich and the poor is growing at an alarming rate. The rich are getting richer while those living below the poverty line is increasing. This is especially true during this pandemic. Many people like minimum wage workers, bartenders, Waitresses are being laid off. We as Christian people need to respond to these people who are in need. We can also teach our children to be sensitive to those who are not as fortunate as we are. We as adults have to lead by example.

We can teach them that there are those in the world that need our help. We can reach out to those who are struggling. We can begin by donating food, clothing toys and money to those who need the help. We can show our children how important it is to volunteer our time in a soup kitchen. Maybe we can encourage them to use part of their allowance to sponsor a child in a poor country. We can show them that we can use our time to volunteer at a nursing home, or a local St. Vincent de Paul store or even at a local Catholic Charity. We can lead by example. We can imitate Christ. If you recall the reading of St. John 13:1-15 Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. He told them to imitate what He did. He told them that He came to serve and not to be served. As disciples, they must do the same. As His followers we can do the same.

At the same time we can teach them the importance of voting. When they reach 18 and are able to vote, we can teach them to be informed. Where do candidates stand on various issues? Are these candidates sensitive to the needs of the poor? They will be able to learn the facts, speak their minds on issues like healthcare benefits, welfare payments unemployment coverage and job training programs.

In the first reading from Acts of the Apostles, we see how the early Church was moved by the Holy Spirit. They put the interest of others before their own. They used their own personal resources for the benefit of the whole community. As a result, no one in the community suffered from a lack of necessities. For example Christians Believers would sell their property and give the proceeds to the Church. The Church would then use this money and distribute it first to those in most need.

It was the Apostles who helped guide the early Church. Their witness to the resurrection gave a positive influence to the early Christian Believers. They inspired the faithful to display a high standard of service for the kingdom of God. As you can see the Christian Community held the apostles in a high regard.

In the Gospel of John, we see how the disciples barricaded themselves behind locked doors after Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. They were afraid that the authorities would come after them like they did Jesus Christ. They did not want to suffer the same kind of death. Then all of a sudden Jesus came through those locked doors and wished them peace. It was an authentic type of peace that they knew nothing could harm them. They knew it was truly The Lord after Jesus showed them His wounds. They then rejoiced and realized that they were not seeing a ghost. The real Jesus took the form of The Risen Lord.

Jesus immediately commissioned them. He gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit. He then breathes of them; giving them new life as God did to Adam in Genesis 2:7. Jesus gave them another gift. That gift was the power to forgive and retain sin. This is where we get the Sacrament of Confession,

When all this occurred, Thomas was not present. When the other disciples told Thomas that Jesus appeared to them, Thomas became skeptical. He did not believe them. This is why he has been given the nick name Doubting Thomas. In all honesty, no one in the past has ever risen from the dead on their accord. This would be difficult to accept. At the same time all Thomas wanted was to have the experience lie the other apostles.

However, when Jesus appeared the second time, Thomas was with them. Jesus did not have any problems with Thomas' concerns. Thomas knew that it was truly Jesus. He did not have to touch Jesus wombs. Thomas professes a profound faith in his Lord and his God.

This reminds me of a conversation I had with a priest friend of mine concerning this gospel. He asked me, have you ever played the game, 'Where's Waldo?' with a preschooler?" He told me that the premise is rather simple. You have to find the character Waldo somewhere in a densely drawn cartoon. Despite the simplicity, it can hold your interest.

That priest then told me that today's gospel encourages us to play, "Where's Thomas?" The other apostles, disoriented and frightened, have locked themselves in hiding. The risen Jesus then appears to them. But where's Thomas? Did he go grocery shopping? Did he check the empty tomb? Did he go out for a walk or just simply need to get away.

He misses the appearance of Jesus. When the apostles tell Thomas about it, he does not believe them. He does not see any changes in the other apostles. They are still locked up in that room. They are still afraid, still in despair. It is the other apostles that Thomas doubts. Does Thomas go out again in frustration due to their lack of joy and happiness? Did he go to the temple to pray?

The second time Jesus appears and this time Thomas is there. Thomas sees and believes. The Holy Spirit will come to them on Pentecost Sunday. He will then send them preaching God's mercy in foreign places. Tradition has it that St. Thomas went to India and was martyred there. Let's end with a prayer:

Lord, help us to realize that you gave us faith not to be kept to ourselves but to be shared with others.
Help us share our faith in you as the Apostles in the upper room shared their faith with Thomas.
Help us become a spark of Easter light in a world still filled with Good Friday darkness.

The Good Teacher

During this pandemic we have learned to appreciate many of those gifts that we took for granted. A good education being one of those treasured gifts. A good education requires a good relationship between a student and their teacher. Face time with a good teacher is priceless to a child as they explore new ideas and expand their reality.

All of us had the experience of a favorite teacher during our formative years. Given the opportunity, we love to talk about that experience with others. The knowledge that was gained and the relationship that developed could not have been achieved without the extra-ordinary care and interest of our teachers in our well being. If we look back and remember those who helped us on our life's journey, we might wonder how our teachers had the patience and fortitude to keep at it. Despite our acting up at times, and despite our rebellious behavior toward authority or responsibility at our young age, they reached out to help us. Where does that teacher perseverance and dedication come from? There is no profit to be made. There is no extra pay to be earned. The answer transcends earthly values... it is a matter of the heart... a calling.

Jesus knew that He needed face time with his disciples. He knew that his disciples needed to understand the revelation of His resurrection. Resurrection has never been experienced before. There was nothing the disciples could draw on to understand this event except for their faith and their love of our Lord. They were frightened.

Jesus gradually re-entered their lives. First as a stranger talking about His passion, death and resurrection, as He walked with two of His disciples to Emmaus. Now standing before them, "Peace be with you". It is a ghost they thought. Jesus carefully and lovingly asked them to touch His wounds and asked them for some fish to eat, which He ate in front of them. Once Jesus re-established His relationship with them. He began to teach them and open their minds to the possibility of eternal life with Him.

They began to experience the revelation of Jesus. They began to understand the message that Jesus asked them to spread throughout the world. Repent of our sinfulness and seek the revelation of Jesus. Seek the teacher. Not on zoom but in prayer before the Eucharist. Face time with our Lord is so very necessary to grow in our faith. We are not in a virtual relationship but a real relationship with all of our challenges. Jesus is very patient with us. His perseverance and love for us transcends all earthly values, and invites us to enter the world of His Fathers' house.

Pedro es un modelo para el discípulo cristiano, pues desafía a la gente para que se arrepientan de sus pecados, pero lo hace con comprensión y compasión a la vez que las va guiando hacia una conversión del corazón. Aunque los acusa de ser responsables por la muerte de Cristo, también les dice: "Ahora bien..., ustedes han obrado por ignorancia, de la misma manera que sus jefes" (Hechos 3, 17). No excusa el papel de ellos en el mal que hicieron, pero les ofrece una explicación: ellos seguían a sus líderes y hasta tal vez fueron intimidados por esos líderes. Él conoce esa clase de debilidad. A fin de cuentas, él abandonó al Señor aquella noche fatídica en que fue intimidado por unas gentes que hubieran podido delatarlo a las autoridades. Pero, así como conoce la debilidad de ellos, también sabe del perdón que viene con el arrepentimiento. Por eso se empeña en ofrecerles la oportunidad de una conversión.

Tal como sucede con el arrepentimiento y el perdón, conocer a Dios y ser fiel a sus mandamientos van de la mano. Aquellos que conocen la bondad de Dios, que conocen su misericordia y que conocen su amor desean cumplir sus mandamientos, ya que vivir de acuerdo a esos mandamientos aumenta la bondad en nuestra vida y en el mundo, nos consuela con la misericordia cuando pecamos y hace posible que "el amor de Dios [llegue] a su plenitud" (1 Juan 2, 5). Algunas veces será difícil o doloroso cumplir los mandamientos de Dios, sobre todo si esperamos una satisfacción a corto plazo. Pero la satisfacción a largo plazo de una vida bien vivida excede cualquier felicidad temporal.

En aquel tiempo en que Jesús les habló a sus discípulos, aún sus palabras y acciones no se habían escrito. Pero él les dijo que ya de él se había escrito mucho antes de haber nacido de María; se refería a las palabras en la ley y los profetas, y los salmos. Al establecer la nueva alianza Jesús cumplió todas esas palabras. Puede que los discípulos no hayan entendido por sí mismos, pero tal como Jesús les abrió los ojos en la fracción del pan, así también "les abrió el entendimiento para que comprendieran las Escrituras" (Lucas 24, 45). Que seamos bendecidos de la misma manera cada semana en la Liturgia de la Palabra y la Liturgia de la Eucaristía.

Pregunta de la Semana

¿Cómo puedo dar testimonio del perdón que he recibido de Jesús?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

How to Fail Your Way to Heaven

You know what are some of my favorite moments in Scripture? The little “Easter eggs” of Jesus’ humanity, things like Jesus falling asleep, Jesus drawing in the sand, Jesus playing with kids. And how about Jesus rising from the dead, appearing to his disciples and saying, “So, have you got anything to eat?”

It’s right for us to always keep in mind that Jesus is God. But we also have to remember that he was man. He got hungry. He cried when he felt sad and laughed when he felt happy. He got tired. He got bored.

Because he was God, none of those feelings ever led him into sin, like they do us. He never spent a car ride trying to pass the hours by seeing how annoyed he could make his older sister. He never smacked Peter over the head for saying something really stupid. But he did unleash some Biblically righteous anger on those traders in the temple, didn’t he? And he wasn’t shy about calling Peter “a Satan” when his friend tempted him to take the easy way out.

It’s the tightrope walk we all try to balance every day, honoring our human emotions while still answering God’s call to be better. Being perfect isn’t the domain of the Christian — that’s the domain of Christ only. Trying and failing, then trying again (and failing again) and again and again? That’s the domain of the Christian.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

GOSPEL MEDITATION

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don’t always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life’s challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their “aha” moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our “aha” moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our “aha” moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, “peace be with you,” and we feel secure. It’s all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God’s goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

Remember in your prayers all those affected by the Coronavirus throughout the world.



Compassionate and Loving Father, in the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence. In You allow us to find hope and healing. Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands. Be with those who lead and give them Your Spirit of wisdom. Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart. Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love. Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet. We ask this in Your name. Amen

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The Rachel's Vineyard Weekend retreat utilizes the concept of Living Scripture to give comfort to women and men hurt by abortion. It is designed to allow them to experience the goodness and forgiveness of God.

It is an opportunity to listen to the Word of the Lord, which echoes His tenderness.

The action and reflection during the retreat include imagery designed to help the participants experience God's undiminished love for them individually.

The biblical readings connect topics that are relevant to the situations they face.

The prayers and meditations help participants internalize the Word of God to feel it in their hearts and believe it in their souls.

The Rachel's Vineyard Retreats have been available in the Diocese of St. Petersburg since 1998. Retreat is limited to 10 participants.

Cost is \$200.

There is a \$100 non-refundable registration fee with final payment of \$100 due one week prior to the retreat weekend.

We do not offer on-line registration.

Simply call the Project Rachel resource line
813-924-4173

All calls are held in complete confidence. To read testimonies and get more information concerning Rachel's Vineyard Retreats across the nation go to:

www.rachelsvineyard.org

**Next Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat
Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fl.**

July 9-11, 2021

Clearwater, Fl.

Readings for the week of April 18, 2021

Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

Observances for the week of April 18, 2021

Wednesday: St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: Earth Day

Friday: St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr

Saturday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr

Next Sunday: World Day of Prayer for Vocations

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

9:00 AM † For the Souls in Purgatory

4:00 PM For a Special Intention req by Leah Wellman

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 AM † George Drobina req by Mary Ann Drobina

11:00 AM † Gastano Rojo req by loving Family

1:00 PM For our Parish community

MONDAY, APRIL 19

9:00 AM † Aline Patane req by Loving Husband

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

9:00 AM Healing for Donovan Lovelock

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 AM † Elizabeth Chapyak req by Family

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

9:00 AM † For the Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

9:00 AM † Maria Sanvenero req by Pat Crowley

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 † For the Souls in Purgatory

4:00 PM † Danny Tartamella req by Family

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 AM For our Parish Community

11:00 AM † Dorothea Graca req by Loving Husband

1:00 PM † Nereida Vasquez req by Guillermina Cruz

No Taxpayer Money for Abortions

Americans' tax dollars are in real danger of being used to pay for abortion. The Hyde Amendment, contained in the federal government's annual appropriations legislation, prohibits federal funding of most domestic abortions. It is a bipartisan provision that has been part of federal appropriations for 45 years and has been credited with saving 2.5 million lives.

Despite having supported this bipartisan provision prohibiting federal funding, President Biden, Speaker Pelosi and House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro are now committed to its repeal. The USCCB is working to mobilize a largescale response to meet this threat.

Keep your tax dollars from going to abortion! www.notaxpayerabortion.com

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

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

(352) 686-7864

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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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