



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

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

- Mk 9:7-8

**PARISH CENTER**  
**22412 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-777-3670  
Fax: 586-774-5528  
Website: [www.sjascscs.org](http://www.sjascscs.org)  
E-mail: [sjainfo@sjascscs.org](mailto:sjainfo@sjascscs.org)

**SCHOOL**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-775-8370  
Fax: 586-447-3574  
Website: [www.stjoan.net](http://www.stjoan.net)  
E-mail: [info@stjoan.net](mailto:info@stjoan.net)

**FAITH AND FAMILY  
FORMATION OFFICE**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-772-1282  
Fax: 586-775-8374  
E-mail: [repopffice@sjascscs.org](mailto:repopffice@sjascscs.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

#### Religious Education

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

#### Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin  
gmbugarin@sjascs.org

#### Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone  
dciaffone@sjascs.org

#### Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net

#### Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson  
adawson@sjascs.org

#### Principal

Kathy Kalich  
kkalich@stjoan.net

#### Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass  
khass@sjascs.org

#### Non-Resident

#### Associate Pastors / Weekend Assistants:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek  
Fr. James Grau

#### Assistant Principal

Mary Pat Brennan  
mbrennan@stjoan.net

#### Exceptional Children

Mary Cal  
mcal@sjascs.org

#### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz  
tstrasz@sjascs.org

#### Music Director

Catherine Thomas  
cthomas@sjascs.org

#### Youth Group

Linda Lietaert  
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore  
dpastore@sjascs.org

#### Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth  
eleonoraellero@gmail.com



### PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

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

**MASKS ARE MANDATORY WITHOUT EXCEPTION**

For mass intentions or any service we may be reached at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

For any urgent needs when we are not open, please call our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

**Baptisms:** Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request 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.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

#### Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

#### Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm

7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

#### Reconciliation

Saturday: 11:00 am in the Sister Carol Center adjacent to Church

#### Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

#### Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am mass outside by the Holy Trinity statue.

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, at this time please register at [stjoan.church](http://stjoan.church) and we will contact you by phone to get further information OR by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

### Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Though we have returned to public masses we will continue our Live Stream Broadcasts of all celebrations.

- **Weekdays -7 am Mass - (Monday thru Friday)**
- **Saturdays - 4 pm and 6 pm Masses**
- **Sundays - 8 am and 12 pm Masses**
- **Thursdays - 7 pm Holy Hour**

**Go to: [livestream.stjoan.church](http://livestream.stjoan.church) to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.**





## Do As I Say Not As I Do:

Throughout the campus, we have several Schlage keyless door locks. We have them in locations where it didn't

make sense to incur the costs of adding a door to our door lock system. While these locks operate by using a nine-volt battery, a key can also unlock them. My experience has been that the batteries usually last a year under normal use. Thankfully, there's a warning indicator when the battery is dying. I've found that the warning usually continues for a week before the lock completely dies (I have practice). Once the lock is dead, you need a key to unlock it. I'm forever on everyone's case to let us know when any of the locks start giving off the lower power warning. Usually, no one pays attention to the warnings. A lock is only discovered to be dead when the guy who's listed at the top left corner of page three of the bulletin (me ... the pastor) tries to use a dead lock that it's finally "discovered" to be dead.

This past week was crazy. As I was going in and out of my house, my side door lock gave off the lower power warning. Given my experience, I figured I had about a week before I had to tackle the task of taking the lock apart to install a new battery. The task is pretty simple, but it just requires a bit of time. Unfortunately, time isn't something that I have an abundance of especially on the weekends. All weekend long, though, I kept saying to myself, "You better change that battery, or else you'll be sorry." Can you see where this is going?

On Monday, in between running from one thing to the next, I had to run over to my house. I tried to enter my side door, but by the time I got to push the last number, the lock died. OH NO! I figured this wasn't a problem because I could use my front door. So, I went to the front door. But the storm door was locked or stuck in a closed position (just my luck). I could only roll my eyes. I then tried what I thought was every key on my keyring, but none of them did the trick. At this point, I was trying to figure out how I would break into my house without anyone noticing (good luck with that TALL order). I then went back to the Parish Center and, by an absolute miracle, found a set of house keys for the guy

who's listed at the top left corner of page three of the bulletin (you guessed it, me ... the pastor). As I walked back over to the house, I was already prepping myself for how I would pry open the storm door so that I could use my front door. Thankfully, the key worked, and I was able to get back into my house. I guess I have to lower my threshold of how many days I have to deal with low power warnings on those locks ... or even better, just change the battery when I first hear the low power warning. It was another Clark Griswold moment. Thankfully, I didn't have to break into my house. But it was a reason for me to be awarded the *You Big Dummy Award* for the second week in a row. UGH!

**Some Advice from a Parishioner:** At least once a year I publish the text from an anonymous letter I received in 2005 shortly after the First Sunday of Lent. The scripture readings each First Sunday of Lent tell the story of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan. The letter offers timeless advice, and it warrants being reprinted frequently. Usually, I toss anonymous letters right away, but this one escaped that fatal ending. By God's grace, this letter has touched the hearts of many people at SJA and beyond (you would be amazed how many times I'm asked for a copy of it). I encourage you to keep a copy AND to pass a copy around to your family and friends. I have posted a PDF copy of the letter on the homepage of our parish website.

"Fr. Bugarin, I was very moved by your homily on Sunday, February 13, 2005, regarding Hell, Satan, and the response of faithful people to temptation. I am the father of an adult son and daughter, and it pains me to think of the mistakes my wife and I made in raising our children. We thought we had a clever, well thought out solution to the dangers and evils of the world, but instead we were victims of our over estimation of our own perceived abilities and power. In so doing we neglected the saving power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"Knowing the evils and temptations of our world, my wife and I sought to shield our children through endless activity. Like many other parents, we got our son involved in hockey and our daughter in dance; our goal was to keep our children busy and thus not give them a chance to get in trouble. However, I now realize

that in engaging in a futile attempt to shield our children from battle with the Devil we were instead merely failing to equip our children for their inevitable battles with Satan. We attempted a human solution to a spiritual problem, and our human limitations and inadequacies resulted in failure. We failed to fill our children with Christ, and instead left a vacuum too easily exploited by Satan.

"In focusing our children on endless activity we created selfish, self-centered children. By failing to involve them in Catholic charitable works we taught them to believe they were the centers of their own universes. We replaced rosaries, adoration and bible study with ice time, games and recitals. We missed Sunday masses for tournaments and catechism for performances, and we rationalized it by asserting that it was 'for the best.' How wrong we were.

"Today, both of our children have left the Church. Our daughter is living with a man and has had an abortion; our son has experimented with drugs and regards the Church with contempt and cynicism. Our first priority should have been to pass on the faith and to teach trust in the Lord; instead, we relied on our human intellect and put our faith in schemes of this world.

"If I could only go back in time I'd make every Sunday mass as a family, lead my family in a weekly rosary, take my children to pray in front of an abortion clinic, lead them in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and help them volunteer at a soup kitchen. For despite our best efforts and intentions there still were times my children were alone and lonely, tired and weak, hungry and desirous. I failed to anticipate and prepare my children for those inevitable times of temptation, and the Devil had been patiently waiting.

"Father, please print my letter in the church paper. If it will serve as a warning to at least one family it may help them to avoid the pain and regret my wife and I have experienced. An Anonymous St. Joan of Arc Parishioner."

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org

# St. Joan<sup>of</sup> Arc

## Online Giving



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Download the Online Giving app  
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Give online at  
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REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

**4719**





## Christian Service Info

### St. Vincent De Paul Conference



#### MY LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE AT ALL CHURCH ENTRANCES AND EXITS!

Everyone is aware that the year 2020 presented many unexpected and difficult situations for people, businesses, schools and church related issues. It doesn't appear that very little has not been affected by the pandemic. We continue to live with the effects of the COVID 19 virus. Many lives have been lost to it; many families have had to adjust their way of living. School students have had their classroom experience changed in many ways. Much unfamiliarity in everyday life, and life in general, has changed. Mandates have been enforced, rescinded and mandated again.. The word "adjustment" has become the norm today.

While the world continues to adjust (if that is even remotely possible at the present time), the St. Vincent DePaul Conference of St. Joan of Arc Parish, continues its work and is available to help with food and paper goods if needed by persons who reside within the boundaries of our parish. Those in need can call 586-774-3598 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. Phone calls will be retrieved and calls returned.

When calling, please state

Family Name

Address

Phone #

Number of family members in household

When calling, please speak clearly and slowly so that we are able to record correct information and return your call.

We wish to thank everyone who donated to our St. Vincent DePaul conference during the past year. Your generosity continues to support our ministry for which we are very grateful. Thank you to the SJA students, parents, and staff for the Dec. 15, 2020 Paper Products Drive. Your twice a year drives keep us re-stocked. In addition we thank the Dan McMann family & friends who for the last 10 years have supplied us with carloads of canned and packaged dry foods. Together with donations from the school children and the McManns, we are fortunate to help many people in need from within our parish.

With sincere gratitude, we know that our loving God will bless each and every one for your goodness and sacrifice.

### 8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

The Class of 2022 is now responsible for the can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their events and Washington trip in 2022.

Bring your returnables in bags to the Parish Center - West SIDE DOOR - (near Father Andrew's House) please. There is a large plastic bin with a lid that they can be placed in..

Or you can arrange a pick-up by calling or texting Matt at 313-683-1972.

Thank you for your support.

The Class of 2022 ~



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Visit [FORMED.org](https://formed.org) or search for "Formed" on your favorite app store

*Spend an hour  
with me.*

*-Jesus*

## HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm, Thursdays  
in the Church*

**and streaming live online at  
[stjoan.church](http://stjoan.church) and on  
Facebook @sjascs**

First and third  
Thursdays include  
Praise and Worship  
music, second and  
fourth are silent.



## Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### Monday, March 1st

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Tuesday, March 2nd

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

8:30 am School Mass (5th –8th Gds) Live Streamed

#### Wednesday, March 3rd

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

8:30 am School Mass (1st –4th Gds) Live Streamed

#### Thursday, March 4th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm 1st Reconciliation

#### Friday, March 5th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross - Live Streamed

#### Saturday, March 6th

9:00 am 1st Reconciliation

11:00 am Reconciliation

12 pm Funeral for Elza Gross

1:30 pm Baptism of Joseph E. Jarvi

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

#### Sunday, March 7th

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

### Words on the Word

#### February 28, 2021 – Judge and Jury

Sometimes the case is clear and the punishment is certain.

Local media reported a few weeks ago on a former Macomb County legal official who recently pled guilty to obstructing justice. At its core, the case involved the alleged personal use of \$70,000 in campaign funds over almost eight years.

According to one account in *The Detroit News*, the case involved “the highest-ranking public official charged in a crackdown on public corruption in Macomb County.”

The story in *The News* indicated that sentencing is scheduled for April, and includes, at a minimum, disbarment and a \$70,000 payment, as well as the potential to serve a prison sentence, as well.

“I knew it was wrong,” the official was quoted as telling the district judge who heard the case, “and I did it anyway.”

The evidence has been heard, and the punishment is forthcoming.

As clear as this civil matter may be, it gives rise to other questions – ultimately more important questions – about the culpability each of us has when it comes to our own sins.

We know we are sinners. We often know, essentially, that what we do is wrong, and yet we do it anyway.

The good news: it is God to whom we answer in such circumstances.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” St. Paul asks in today’s second reading from his letter to the Romans. “He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?”

“Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died – or, rather, was raised – who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.”

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# Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

## Mass Intentions

**Monday March 1, 2021 Lenten Weekday (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Giuseppina Ciccone

**Tuesday March 2, 2021 Lenten Weekday (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Sue Krolkowski and Gertrude Shaw

**Wednesday March 3, 2021 Lenten Weekday, Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Sr. Silveria Conte, Robert Ziolkowski and Anna Putrycus

**Thursday March 4, 2021 Lenten Weekday, Saint Casimir (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Paul L. Daudlin

**Friday March 5, 2021 Lenten Weekday (Purple)**

7:00 a.m. Sr. Jean Lenore Twomey, CSJ

**Saturday March 6, 2021 Lenten Weekday (World Day of Prayer) (Purple)**

4:00 p.m. Thomas Dembeck, Ralph Marzdino, Bonnie Batche, Joseph Cueter, Paul Zeiger, Carl Rieger, Jim Lynch, Alma Wronski and special Intentions for the Thomas Family and the J. Champine Family; Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc

6:00 p.m. A special intention for Johnathan Baur

**Sunday March 7, 2021**

8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Joan of Arc Parishioners

12:00 p.m. Antonietta Mazzella, Dorothy O'Neill-Lang, Cynthia Burdi, John Barnier, Kevin Barnier

## Weekly Readings

**Monday, March 1**

Daniel 9:4b-10  
Luke 6:36-38

**Tuesday, March 2**

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20  
Matthew 23:1-12

**Wednesday, March 3**

Jerimiah 18:18-20  
Matthew 20:17-28

**Thursday, March 4**

Jerimiah 17:5-10  
Luke 16:19-31

**Friday, March 5**

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a  
Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday, March 6**

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Sunday, March 7**

Exodus 20:1-17  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25



## 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."

**Sr. Jean Lenore Twomey, CSJ  
Mary Harnett  
Evelyn Smith**



"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

## Can Tab Recycling

We are back to recycling can tabs. All proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

**How you can help:** Spread the word! Let your family, friends, co-workers, and classmates know that their small pop tabs, food can tabs all can make a big difference for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Donations can be dropped off in the buckets at church, brought to the Parish Center, or pick-up may be arranged by calling:

**Frank Poeschel at #586-776-8746.**







**Holy Land Pilgrimage:** Next weekend, March 6/7, St. Joan will welcome a couple of seminarians to the parish to speak to us at the end of

Masses in anticipation of their class pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the late-Spring. Every year, the Sacred Heart Major Seminary Theology I seminarians visit AOD parishes to ask for the support of parishioners to make this invaluable pilgrimage possible. They will be asking for any financial gift you are able to make, as well as your prayers. You will then be remembered in their prayers at the many masses celebrated at the holy sites they will visit. I was so blessed to be able to make this pilgrimage in 2014. The experience was quite profound. Visiting Jerusalem and beyond truly threw a perspective on the scriptures that none of us had been able to gain, no matter how much time we spent with the scriptures.

We arrived in Jerusalem late at night and woke-up at our retreat house the next morning, a quarter mile across the Kidron Valley from the walls of the Old City. The Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher were illuminated in the early morning sunlight. It was a scene I had seen many times on TV, but never imagined I would be there. The first day, we walked through the city toward the Holy Sepulcher, the site of Christ's crucifixion and tomb. These two most significant locations were once part of the same rock formation—the rock between them has since been blasted away to form two separate sites under the roof of the same Church. There is nothing in scripture that had ever indicated to me that these two places were only 50 yards apart.

What put everything in context for me was day 5 of the pilgrimage. The previous night I felt more sick than I had ever felt in my life and, sparing you the details, by the next morning I was totally drained and unable to join the group on the day's activities. I dragged myself out of bed around 1pm and went and sat outside, looking down into the valley and over the walls of the Old City. I was listening to an audio Bible of one of the Gospels and I heard all these places being described, the places Jesus was travelling with His disciples, I realized I was looking at them all in front of me. If anyone wanted to build the Holy Land theme park, I thought, this is what it would look like. You could

walk it in a day. Psalm 122 rang true: "Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact." Dead ahead was the Temple Mount and the Pinnacle of the Temple that Satan tried to tempt Jesus to throw Himself down from during His 40 days in the wilderness. The height of the Pinnacle over the road and the valley below made that part of scripture make so much sense. Over my shoulder was Bethany and the house of Lazarus. To my left was the Cenacle, where the last Supper took place and the Eucharist was instituted by Jesus. From there, Jesus walked to the Garden of Gethsemane, the olive grove where the Church of All Nations sits today, containing the rock where it is believed that Jesus sweated blood as He prayed to His Father. In the bottom of the Kidron Valley I could see a shepherd, herding his sheep, a scene that probably looked no different than it had 2,000 years ago. Up the side of the Kidron Valley is the set of crumbling stone steps, the Scala Sacra, that Jesus was marched across after His arrest, and taken to the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. Caiaphas's palace is marked today by the modern Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (meaning 'where the cock crowed'), and from the retreat house I could see that roof. Beneath the church, is a room hewn out of the rock that is believed to be the cell where Jesus was kept prior to appearing before the High Priest and the Sanhedrin at dawn. And to my right was the Holy Sepulcher, where in a few days we would celebrate mass, both on the elevated platform built around the site of the crucifixion and later inside Jesus' tiny tomb.

One of my classmates managed to find the sacristan of the Franciscan chapel inside the Holy Sepulcher and to get our names on his list—a somewhat informal and secretive procedure—and that allowed 9 of us to spend a entire night locked inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. I estimated that at any point during the day there may be 500-700 people packed into the church, but at 9pm every night, the Muslim family that has held the keys to the Church for 800 years arrives and yells at everyone to leave so that the Church can be locked. If your name is on the list of up to only 35 people, however, you can stay overnight. The enormous doors are then locked from the inside and the key-holder then climbs a ladder and steps through a hole high up in the door and climbs out and locks the door from the outside too. (Never heard of fire codes!)

Then the church is quiet and you barely run into another person. You are supposed

to keep vigil all night and not sleep. Two levels below ground is the chapel of St Helena. The chapel is located behind Golgotha and this is where the Roman Empress is reputed to have discovered the cross of Jesus, which was pushed off the rock into this area. It was a quiet spot where a couple of my classmates were able to sneak a couple of hours rest in sleeping bags. I went to read the Passion account from the Gospel of John, first on the mount by the cross, then underneath, in a small chapel. This marks the spot where it is believed the earthquake split the rock as Jesus died. You can clearly see the cleave in the rock behind plexiglass, behind the altar. One of my classmates headed directly for the tomb at 9pm. But I wanted to walk through the Passion first, before coming to the tomb. I arrived at the tomb about 11:40pm, and the tomb actually closes nightly at midnight. But still, I was so blessed to be there alone, in Christ's tomb for 20 minutes.

There were so many other incredible experiences in the Holy Land, from spending a night at the place of Jesus' Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor, two nights on the Mount of Beatitudes, overlooking Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee—maybe the most beautiful place I had ever seen—the boat trip on Galilee itself, to the Northern desert, the Qumran caves, where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. It also included walking through Hezekiah's Tunnel, a quarter mile underground water channel carved out of the rock by King Hezekiah in 700 BC to save the besieged city, Bethlehem and the birthplace of Jesus, Mary's house in Nazareth, St. Peter's house in Capernaum and the birthplace of John the Baptist in Ein Karem, on the western slopes of Jerusalem, site of Mary's Magnificat. It was just a breathtaking trip I believe has helped me so much in preaching the Gospel with a better perspective.

Many of you may have contributed to the trip the year I was blessed to go. Please consider supporting the seminarians to continue this good work and help them to have the opportunities I had. One day they may be your parish priest! The seminarians will be bringing envelopes next weekend for donations and there will be the opportunity to donate online even after next weekend. Thanks for your generosity.

You are in my prayers this week.  
Fr. Andrew adawson@sjascs.org

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace.

Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass.

Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,*

*Come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there*

*And unite myself wholly to you.*

*Never permit me to be separated from you.*

Amen.



### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 7 B

#### Reading 1 – Exodus

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers’ wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. “You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain. “Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.”

#### Responsorial Psalm 19

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

#### Reading 2 – 1 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

#### Gospel – John

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.



### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place



was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening

their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3*

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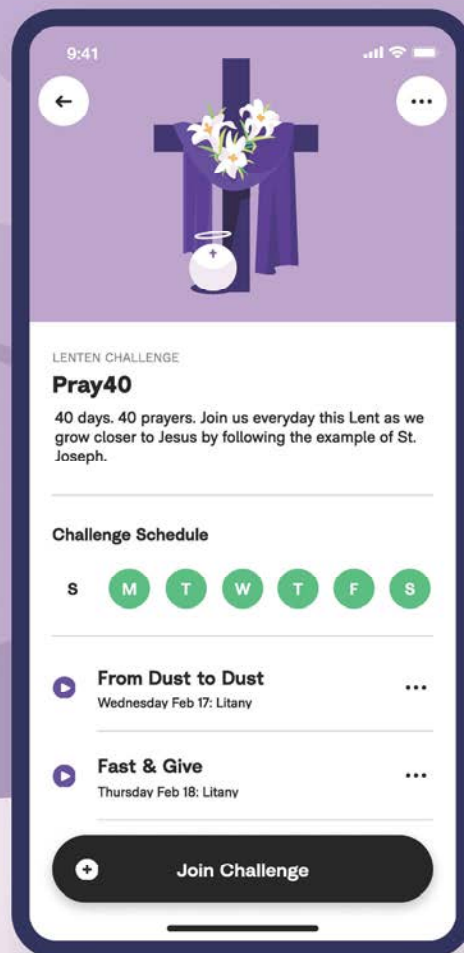
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February 28, 2021

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mk 9:2-10

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

Oh, the gloom! The view out my window on a typical Michigan winter day can be described as “grayscale monochrome,” a technical term for black-and-white photographs. Fortunately, the sun peeks out on occasion, providing a lovely sunrise or sunset that can lift my mood and remind me that spring will come. If such an ordinary thing can provide hope, imagine what the Transfiguration provided for the disciples who witnessed it? “His clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.” And even though they were so terrified, the voice of God came from a cloud, conveying comfort and truth: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” The disciples did not know what lay ahead, but this vision of Jesus and the Father’s presence in their midst would give them hope and foretell Jesus’ glorious resurrection. As we continue on our Lenten journey, we can turn to God, who will one day transfigure us in the same way Christ was, to strengthen us through the gray days ahead. And St. Paul’s powerful words that “God is for us” add solace and encouragement.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As Catholics, we are likely very familiar with the four Gospels, but I have to say I can’t get enough of Paul’s letters. Like a good coach, Paul encourages us to dig deep and trust God. In today’s reading, he reminds the Romans that God loves us so much that he did not spare his own Son. I’m struck by his assurance that Jesus not only died and was raised for us, but “indeed intercedes for us.” Lent is an ideal time to turn to Jesus in prayer, asking that he give us the grace to grow in faith and turn away from sin. At the same time, we can offer intercessory prayer for *others*, just as we do at every Mass. Perhaps as we continue our Lenten journey, we can make an extra effort to pray for the needs of other people: Those we know personally, such as friends and family members; and those whom we do not know, such as government leaders or Christians experiencing persecution in other countries.

**PRAY** I find that I often make prayer all about me! Yet, as the Church teaches, “in intercession, those who pray look ‘not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others,’ even to the point of praying for those who do them harm.” (CCC 2635) One way to practice intercessory prayer is to make a list and pray for the people and intentions on it once a day. For those of us who regularly pray the rosary, another practice might be to dedicate each decade to an individual in need of prayer.





## Prayers Needed

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**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](mailto:info@sjascs.org).

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# Bringing Home the Word +

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

February 28, 2021

## Let Go and Let God

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**A** Vatican mural by Raphael Sanzio, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, depicts the promised Isaac, the son of Abraham's old age, kneeling humbly on an altar. He was the answer to a prayer, a commitment by God that, through this child, Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars. Yet God was asking him to sacrifice that hope and promise. And Abraham, although surely not understanding, was willing to obey the Father. It represents the supreme test of faith. Abraham is called "our Father in Faith" for a reason.

### Sunday Readings

**Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18**

I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.

**Romans 8:31b–34**

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

**Mark 9:2–10**

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Abraham is looking up to God, not focused on the creatures, even as much as he loved his son. We also need to be looking up to God in order to rightly value the things below.

Abraham understands that no godly gift should take God's place in the human heart—even something as precious as his God-given child. When dealing with all the good things God gives us, even those he has promised and those we love most, we must be willing to submit to his plans. God doesn't always make sense to us and we are painfully aware that his ways are not always our ways.

Isaac is a young boy, but certainly big enough to put up a fight as his elderly father's plans become evident. Yet we see Isaac kneeling in acceptance of the sacrifice God requests. Although he wants to understand, he doesn't make the reason an absolute. Isaac foreshadows the trusting lamb led to slaughter, the ram whose head will be caught in a crown of thorns, and the Son who will not be spared by the heavenly Father. +

*Abraham understands  
that no godly gift  
should take God's place  
in the human heart.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

We learn from Abraham to pray with faith, to dialogue, to argue, but always ready to receive the word of God and to put it into practice. We learn to talk with God as a child with his father: to listen to him, respond, argue, but transparent, as a child with his father.

—General Audience, June 3, 2020



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

#### ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Are we willing to lay peacefully within God's plan, even if it means sacrifice? Do we trust his plans more than our own?
- Is anything more important than God's loving plan for us?



# Build a Strong Foundation

By Kathleen M. Basi

In the absence of clarity, the only way to hold the course is to stay in touch with the One who sees the big picture. Prayer is the foundation of a lived faith.

Sometimes I think past generations had an easier time following God. The Israelites had the finger of the Almighty carving commandments in stone. The early Church had flesh-and-blood encounters with the Son of God. We, on the other hand, have to make do by asking, “What would Jesus do?”

It seems like an easy question until you start trying to answer it. After all, Jesus never told us how to address terrorism, prenatal testing, or the hookup culture. Even perennial problems like poverty require us to distinguish between collective (governmental) and personal responsibility. As we consider the future, how do we discern a Christian response to sticky moral quandaries?

The answer is as deceptively simple as the question. The answer is prayer. But prayer is more than a shopping list tacked to a rosary or Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Asking God for what we need is good and holy, but prayer is a two-way street; we also have to listen. Listening requires quiet, and the paradigms that govern modern life leave little room for quiet. Lack of stimulus makes us nervous—we can’t exercise without earbuds streaming music. We can’t eat in restaurants without a widescreen TV in every corner. Smartphones ensure that the web is at our fingertips at all times.



In many ways, this is a blessing; however, it also means God has to shout to be heard. And although God certainly can shout, it’s not his preferred mode of communication.

God doesn’t inscribe messages on billboards; he speaks softly to pilgrim hearts (see 1 Kings 19:12)—those who seek to hear his voice in everything they encounter, who take time to “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalms 46:11). And therein lies the first challenge—to set aside the background noise that fills modern life.

It may not feel like it, but the moral conundrums of generations past were as much a muddle to the people living through them as ours are now. Their

problems look simple because we have the advantage of hindsight. The future will always be shrouded in uncertainty. Confidence comes when we humbly admit we don’t have the answers. It comes when we remove distraction and allow our hearts and minds to be molded into a clearer reflection of God.

If we reflect God, we can trust that we have direction in our stumbling—even if we can’t see the endpoint. +

*Prayer is more than  
a shopping list tacked to  
a rosary or Chaplet of the  
Divine Mercy.*



*Lord, you watch over me  
and love me as your child.  
Help me to see all people as  
your children and treat them with  
gentleness, love, and respect.*

—From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day*  
of Lent and Easter, Rev. Warren J. Savage  
and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 1–6

**Monday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Dn 9:4b–10 / Lk 6:36–38

**Tuesday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Is 1:10, 16–20 / Mt 23:1–12

**Wednesday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Jer 18:18–20 / Mt 20:17–28


**Thursday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Jer 17:5–10 / Lk 16:19–31

**Friday**, Lenten Weekday: Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a,  
17b–28a / Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

**Saturday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 / Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

  
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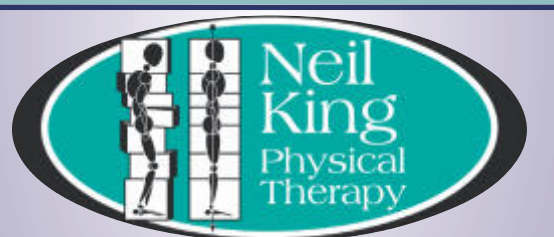


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