



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 ~

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Parish Directory..... Page 2
- Liturgy Schedule & General Info..... Page 2
- TALLer Tales Page 3
- Grow + Go..... Page 4
- St. Michael's Drug Disposal Day Page 5
- Light of the Spirit Prayer Group..... Page 6
- Secular Order Discalced Carmelites.. Page 7
- Rachel's Vineyard..... Page 8
- Formed Pick of the Week..... Page 9
- Calendar of Events..... Page 10
- Words on the Word..... Page 10
- Mass Intentions..... Page 11
- Those Who Have Recently Died Page 11
- Tire Tracks in d'Arc Page 12
- Readings for the Third Sunday Page 13
- Vacation Bible School Page 14
- Prayers for the Sick & our Military . Page 15
- Bringing Home the Word Page 16



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

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

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PARISH CENTER
22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528
Website: www.sjasc.org

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574
Website: www.stjoan.net

**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528

School

Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574

Faith Formation

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

Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjasc.org

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjasc.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjasc.org

Deacon Dom Pastore

dpastore@sjasc.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjasc.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
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Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjasc.org

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
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Office of Faith &

Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjasc.org

Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm
In the
Sister Carol Center

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

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

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at **586-777-3670** during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: **586-777-1342**.

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that form.

Marriages: Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

Registration: It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity: **586-777-3670**.

RCIA: Please call the Parish Center: **586-777-3670**

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone

OR

By calling us at **586-777-3670** during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St. Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

Weekdays -7am Mass (Monday thru Friday)

Saturdays - 4pm & 6pm Masses

Sundays - 8am, 10am, 12pm Masses

Thursdays - 7pm Holy Hour

Go to: livestream.stjoan.church to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.



Sometimes it's the Smallest Thing:

Anyone who has ever attended an Easter Vigil knows it truly is an amazing and beautiful liturgy. But,

unfortunately, many people don't attend the Vigil only because they hear it's two to three hours, starts around 8 PM or later, is filled with all "those readings," has all that incense, etc. Trust me, so much happens at the Vigil that you'd never know you were in Church for two to three hours!

I recently saw a cartoon floating around where the lector just finished saying, "The Word of the Lord" after one of the Easter Vigil Readings. Then there is a picture of many people, young and old, all having something to say. The list went like this: "Thanks be to God." I've lost count. Was that the 21st or 22nd reading?" "Is it Easter yet?" "Is it July yet?" "You should have brought one of those airline neck pillows." "Will there be an intermission?"

The Easter Vigil Mass is also complicated because of all the different parts of the liturgy. Even with all the practicing and mental walk-throughs we might do, there is ALWAYS something that goes wrong or that you miss.

Father Andrew and I agreed to meet in Church at 6 PM last Saturday to finish setting up. One of the last items we talked about was the water for the font and the Baptisms. Given that we were going to fill all the fonts again with Holy Water after Mass, the fact we had two baptisms and the Sprinkling Rite, we needed plenty of water in the font to be blessed. But Father Andrew was good enough to remember that we better have warm water ready for the two school kids who would be baptized. Father Andrew also took into consideration that since the baptisms were at the halfway point of the liturgy, he could prep some hot water in a separate pitcher, knowing that it would be cooled off by the time we got to the baptisms; this way, the water used would not be really cold!

Right after the homily last Saturday, I moved to the baptismal font for the blessing of water. I remember freezing for a moment, trying to figure out what to do. The font was filled with water, but I also had the pitcher Father Andrew prepared. I couldn't figure out how to juggle my book with the prayers and the extra pitcher of

water, so I decided that I would pour the warm water into the font ... this way, ALL of the water would be blessed. No one would notice, so I thought!

The two who were baptized at the Easter Vigil were two of our school children. It was SO CUTE to see how excited Zoey (5th Grade) and Alec (3rd Grade) were that night. At our practice on Good Friday night, Alec asked what he was supposed to do at School Masses when they returned from Easter Break. He wanted to know whether he would still come up for a blessing or could he receive communion. "NO, Alec," I said, "you get to come up and receive communion at all masses after today." The smile on his face was precious!

At our Easter Vigil Reception, I asked Zoey what she liked best about the Easter Vigil. She rattled off a bunch of things; it was clear she was truly clued in and attentive to the various parts of the liturgy. However, after she cheerfully shared her list with me, she abruptly paused; she was trying to collect her thoughts or about to make a significant point. "I have ONE question," she enthusiastically started. "Did the water HAVE TO BE that cold?" Oops, I guess someone noticed!

Easter THANKS! As you might imagine, a ton of work goes on behind the scenes to make our Holy Week liturgies so beautiful and prayerful. There are many people to thank, and I would like to express my gratitude to them for their hard work and devotion.

Thanks go to Sandy and Pat Markielewicz for all the Palm Sunday decorations. The beautiful woven palm creations helped set the tone and helped our entry into Holy Week.

Thanks to Father Rich, Dina Ciaffone, Mary Garofalo, Anne Meliese, Ilona Higgins, Pat and Sandy Markielewicz, Abbey Markielewicz, Zach Markielewicz, Vern David, Greg Ruvolo, and Pete Ciaravino, who helped with all the decorations and getting everything into its proper place. Thanks to Mary Garofalo, who put together the Easter Vigil Reception.

Thanks to Catherine Thomas, our Director of Music, the choir, instrumentalists, and cantors. The Holy Week liturgies require lots of coordination AND expertise. I'm grateful to Catherine for all of her work in putting all of the music parts of the mass together. Thanks

to Eleonore Ellero, who helped cover the 6 and 8 AM masses on Easter Sunday morning. The music was AWESOME all week! Thanks also to our Lectors and God's Doorkeepers.

Thanks to Kristine Hass, who has been the producer and real power behind all the streaming that takes place, along with all the slides with the lyrics and text of the mass parts that were up on the screen or broadcasted online. Getting all of this ready is no easy task!

Thanks to our RCIA team led by Patty Chase and Kristine Hass, along with Lu Kempski and Josie Strasz. These wonderful and generous people serve as catechists and mentors to those preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter. I'm grateful we have an outstanding team that walks with our candidates throughout the year.

Then CONGRATULATIONS go to Zoey Gosse and Alex Rusak, who were baptized; to Jenn Corrado, who was received into the Catholic Church; and to Tina Aguirre, Lauren Delitka, Thomas Lewins, Cynthia Rusak, and Cameron Walker, who completed their Christian initiation with the celebration of Confirmation. In addition, the RCIA Class of 2022 had two other members who will be baptized in the weeks ahead. So, please keep Patricia Lopez and Chelsea Pranger in your prayers as they continue their preparation for the celebration of Baptism.

The crowds, both in-person and online, were IMPRESSIVE. Our masses were filled. It was SO GREAT to see so many people back in Church. Our online viewership was also impressive. Considering we had packed masses and about 1,200 unique views online for the Easter Masses, we had numbers unlike we've seen for many years! Then add a good crowd for Holy Thursday Evening (with 290 unique views online) and a packed Church for Good Friday (with 385 unique views online).

Our liturgies were beautiful, prayerful, and indeed honored Christ as we celebrated the great mysteries of His death and resurrection. God is good!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org



April 24, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 5:12-16 | Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 | Jn 20:19-31

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

In today's Gospel, Thomas gets singled out as the one who doubts that Jesus had risen from the dead. But the other Gospels reveal that the other disciples doubted too. I understand why they had trouble believing that Jesus was alive. To think that God loves us enough that he chose to become human to die for our sins is incomprehensible. To accept that he loves us this deeply is almost unbearable. It seems doubtful anyone can love us that much. It seems doubtful that we deserve to be loved that much. It is much easier to doubt than to believe. But Thomas was the first to publicly proclaim the man Jesus as also God: *My Lord and my God!* he says. The risen Jesus had come into the room, although the doors were locked, and called them back into belief. Through Christ, God shows the disciples – and us – the extent of his love and mercy. We are worth it, even when we doubt, even when we fail. His death and resurrection are testament to that. He will walk through whatever walls exist to tell us. No doubt about it.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles today describes the reaction to the apostles' joyful and confident proclamation that Jesus was Lord and God after receiving the Holy Spirit. The crowds drew near just to have Peter's shadow fall upon those who were sick. God's mercy has no bounds. How can we be like the first disciples? In what ways do our lives reflect God's mercy on us? Where can our own "shadows fall" so that God's goodness and grace can bring healing and comfort to others? Let us begin our days by giving "thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting," and trust that the Holy Spirit will both remind us of our blessings and continued need for mercy, and guide us to encounters with others who need the same.

PRAY During this Easter season, read a passage from the Acts of the Apostles each day and immerse yourself in the history of the early Church. End your time of reflection by praying the Apostles' Creed, the statement of beliefs of Christians in the first centuries after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Misc. Announcements

St. Joan of Arc

Online Giving

Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

Download the Online Giving app today at OLGApp.com

Donations

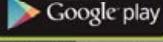
Payments

Give online at stjoan.church or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

4719



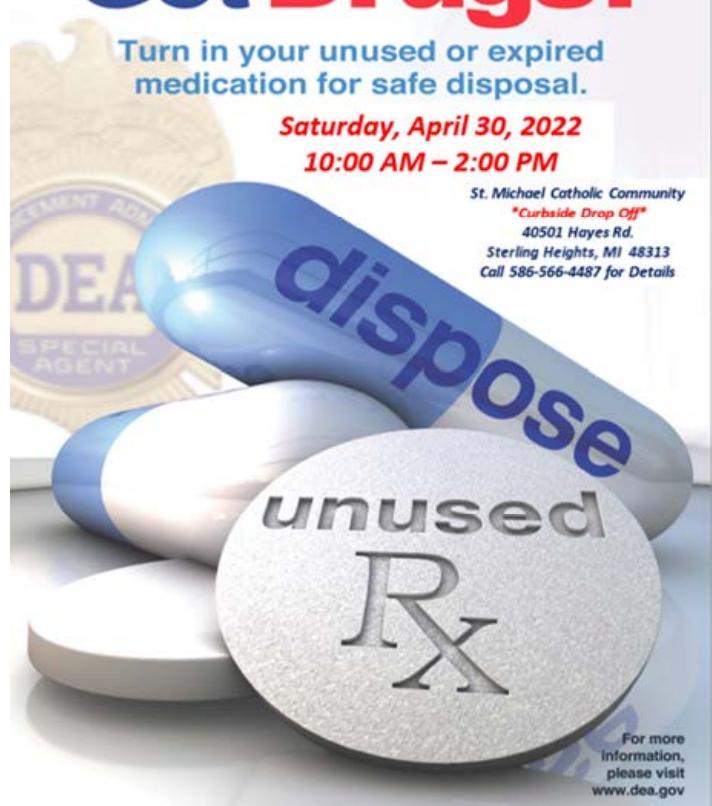
 

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal.

Saturday, April 30, 2022
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

St. Michael Catholic Community
Curbside Drop Off
40501 Hayes Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Call 586-566-4487 for Details



For more information, please visit www.dea.gov

8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

The Class of 2023 is now responsible for the can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their graduation events.

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 Erin at 586-321-0667.

The Class of 2023



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 during business hours.

Misc. Announcements

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group



**2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month
at
St. Joan of Arc**

**We pray the Rosary @ 6:30 pm, followed
by the meeting at 7pm.**

**April Meetings will be on
4/13 and 4/27**

We hope that you can join us!

SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

Make all your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile!

You can use your current Amazon account and search for St. Joan of Arc.



Visit smile.amazon.com there are no additional fees and .5% of all sales will be donated back to our parish/school.

St. Joan of Arc Knitting Group

The SJA Knitting Group will begin meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

The group will meet from 12pm - 3pm in the Mother of Mary Conference room in Church.

April meetings will be on the 13th and the 27th all knitters are welcome.

**If you are interested in joining or have questions please call:
Marie Byrski @ 586-943-0240.**



St. Joan of Arc Pilgrimage

June 17-26, 2022

Stay in Monasteries while visiting St. Joan's 'Deep France'

God willing, next June we will again lead a St. Joan of Arc pilgrimage/retreat to France. This will be our thirteenth opportunity for taking a group on this fascinating journey. Our travel philosophy remains the same - one of going back to the essentials, of simplicity, of quality time in some places instead of 'rush-rush' in many. Although we will indeed see and do much, we hope to travel first of all as spiritual travelers, rather than as consumers. Consequently, we will again purposely remain a small group. Each day we will gather for some combination of the following: prayer/meditation, information on activities of the day, addressing questions, *Question du Jour* discussions. Come and experience many of the places where St. Joan lived, visited, and prayed.

Sites will include: Orléans, Troyes, Domrémy-la-Pucelle, Vaucouleurs, and Reims, with quiet stays at monasteries in the heart of France. Please visit our website, with more information and photos: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com.

For any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or email:

Chris & Catherine Snidow
Phone: (214) 327-4579
Email: cowlind@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com

St. Joan of Arc parishioner:
Darryl Bryk
Email: brykd@hotmail.com



Learn more about the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order St. Joseph Protector Community

We are a community of practicing Roman Catholics, men and women, married and single (as well as secular priests and deacons) who are members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. We meet monthly to support one another in striving for a more intimate relationship with God under the protection of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

WHAT

Inquiry Meeting - An opportunity to meet with council members to learn more about us and join us for prayer and fellowship.

WHEN

May 22, 2022 at 12:30 P.M.

WHERE

St. Hubert Parish Activity Center in Harrison Township, MI.

TO REGISTER

Contact Margaret (586) 764-5128



*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,
Pray for us!*

Catholic Young Adult Speed Dating *with a twist!

Friday
April 29, 2022

Check-in + Social Hour // 6:30pm
Speed Dating // 7:30pm

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Plymouth, MI

Register with -----> Name + Age + Email
via email, social media, or Eventbrite by Wed, April 27



✉ hhcyagroup@gmail.com

✉ @hot_and_holy

✉ @hhcyagroup



Healing the pain of Abortion One Weekend at a Time

Rachel's Vineyard

Retreat Weekend - May 13-15, 2022



Where: The Augustine Retreat Center in Conway, Michigan.

The weekend is a chance to get away from daily pressures to focus on buried emotions of the past and walls that have limited our lives due to the effects of abortion.

Rachel's Vineyard provides a confidential, non-judgmental, safe, and caring environment for *men and women* seeking healing, restoration, and renewal. The weekend will help your soul find a voice, and transform the pain of the past into hope and love. The cost for the weekend is \$160 per participant, which includes two-night accommodations, meals, and retreat material.

To register or if you have questions, contact:

Jane O'Brien: 231-675-1715 or jobrien4611@gmail.com

Kristyn Lent: 231-838-8383 or klent@charter.net



PICK OF THE WEEK

April 24, 2022

WATCH

PRAYER: A SURGE OF THE HEART

Now that Lent is over, finding time to pray can be difficult. Modern life is very busy with so many distractions at every turn, and there's always another job to be done. This inspiring presentation challenges us to make more time for God in our lives and highlights the importance of an ever-deepening life of prayer.



PRAYER

A Surge of the Heart

FORMED LIVE!

Who is St. Catherine of Siena?

April 29th, 2020



LEARN

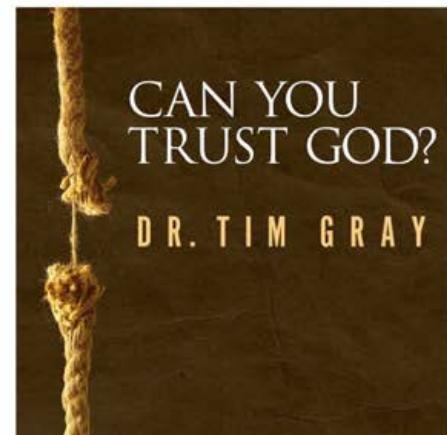
FORMED NOW! WHO IS ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA?

In light of St. Catherine of Siena's feast day, join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they celebrate this holy woman: a nurse and mystic with papal influence who became a doctor of the Church.

LISTEN

CAN YOU TRUST GOD? BY DR. TIM GRAY

To be a saint, we must trust God wholeheartedly. Since the fall of our first parents, however, humanity has been tempted to mistrust the Father's love for us. Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray takes us on a journey that addresses the pervasive misconceptions about God, showing us that there is no reason not to follow him.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, April 25th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, April 26th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Confirmation - Live Streamed

Wednesday, April 27th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, April 28st

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, April 29nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, April 30th

11:00 am Reconciliation

1:00 pm First Holy Communion - Live Streamed

4:00 pm Sunday Mass Vigil - Live Streamed

Sunday, April 24th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday Mass—First Communion - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

April 24, 2022 – No Pain, No Gain

Imagine being a 5-year-old child and falling off your bicycle, but not needing to go crying to your mom for a Band-Aid.

Or knowing that you have sinus problems, but never feeling the intense pressure of a headache.

Or accidentally bumping into a hot stovetop, but not feeling the excruciating pain of a burn.

A recent story out of France reported on the rare condition, and noted the reality it brings with it:

“A life without pain might sound like a dream come true but the reality is more like a nightmare,” the story said. “There are only a few thousand known cases of the condition worldwide. The low number is believed to be partly due to sufferers often not living into adulthood” since “pain plays a major physiological role in protecting us from the dangers of our environment.”

Wow. Now that is unusual.

Alas, the fact is that all of us live with pain of various kinds – emotional, spiritual, physical. And it’s equally true that the pain can – and usually should – be a trigger to take some kind of action.

Certainly, there were plenty of people in pain in the early days of Christianity; we hear such an account in today’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

“Thus they even carried the sick out into the street and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them,” the reading says. “A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.”

The discomfort of pain is all too real. We can take comfort in knowing, though, that the healing power of God is even more real.

© 2022, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions		Daily Readings	
Monday	April 25, 2022 Saint Mark, Evangelist (Red)	Monday, April 25	Friday, April 29
7:00 a.m.	A Special Intention for Monsignor Michael Bugarin	1 Peter 5:5b-14 Mark 16:15-20	Acts 5:34-42 John 6:1-15
Tuesday	April 26, 2022 Easter Weekday (White)	Tuesday, April 26	Saturday, April 30
7:00 a.m.	Virginia Robinette and Larry Szambelan	Acts 4:32-37 John 3:7b-15	Acts 6:1-7 John 6:16-21
Wednesday	April 27, 2022 Wednesday of Holy Week (White)	Wednesday, April 27	Sunday, May 1
7:00 a.m.	Raymond Lesniewski and a Special Intention for Father Andrew Dawson	Acts 5:17-26 John 3:16-21	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
Thursday	April 28, 2022 Easter Weekday. Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest (White/Red/White)	Thursday, April 28	
7:00 a.m.	Hugo Calisi	Acts 5:27-33 John 3:31-36	
Friday	April 29, 2022 Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (White)		
7:00 a.m.	Thomas & Gladys Langlois		
Saturday	April 30, 2022 Vigil for the Third Sunday of Easter		
4:00 p.m.	Peter & Louisa Sarra, Sam & Grace Valenti, Joseph & Averil Cottone, Bonnie Batche, Ray Johnson, Anthony & Anne Zynel and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, for the J. Champine Family and for Fred & Rose Cansiani on their 60th Wedding Anniversary		
6:00 p.m.	Joseph Paluzzi Junior		
Sunday	May 1, 2022 Third Sunday of Easter (White)		
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners		
10:00 a.m.	Geraldine Vanderhaegen		
12:00 p.m.	Salvatore Ciaravino and Frank Bradley		



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.”

Elsie Surmont
Mary Verlinde
Charles Erickson
Ronald Jed
Carl Seidl



“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.”



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse. Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Seeking Signs: The people of God are always looking for signs. And Jesus is always providing them. But sometimes, maybe they are

so squarely in front of us that we look right past them.

A day or two before Palm Sunday I came down with a stinking head cold. Monsignor Mike kindly took the mass for me on the Friday morning and on Saturday morning I was up and about and intending to get going again. I really wasn't feeling well, but was trying to convince myself otherwise. It was another busy weekend, with a funeral in the morning, followed by confessions and a baptism and then the Palm Sunday masses.

I went around to the Parish Center to print something and happened to arrive at the door at the same time as Fr. Fox. I opened the door and was in the middle of telling Fr. Fox that it was going to be a busy "Ash Wednesday," when Msgr. appeared from inside of the door. Msgr. said something to Fr. Fox and then said, "and he's going home," pointing to me. I said, "I needed to look someone in the eye and have them tell me that." So I went home, but I spent the next hour and a half arguing with myself, trying to persuade myself that *maybe* I'd be okay, *maybe* I feel better now. Then I finally saw the sign. It's not normal to be debating this with myself at 10:30 on a Saturday morning, while lying face down, buried in a blanket on the floor of my living room, with another blanket on top. Realizing this might be my sign, I finally had my answer.

I wasn't feeling too much better on Sunday, a little, but I made it over to set-up for the 8am mass, and made it through the day.

Sunday afternoon, I still wasn't feeling good but about 6pm I was heating-up some chicken soup in the microwave when I thought I was hearing the ice-cream truck. "Funny," I thought, "it's still not yet mid-April, but okay." I stopped the microwave to listen and it there was silence. I thought perhaps I was hallucinating, maybe a result of the

Mucinex I took for my cold! I started the microwave again, but how I could hear a ship klaxon! "Okay, I really need to read the instructions on this drug better!" Finally, I looked out the window and there was a car backing-up my driveway. It was my friend Fr. Chris and his brother Nick, who lives in DC, but was in town for a while with his new Tesla and was entertaining me with its fancy sound-effects! I went outside and he said, "Get in!" I said, "I really don't want to, I'm not feeling great." "Get in!" "Okay...." I relented. And before I knew it we were on I-94, with the door of my house still open! I'd never ridden in a Tesla before, but it seemed pretty complicated for a car that's supposed to drive itself. Fr. Chris kept asking Nick, "Is it driving, or am I?" I pointed out that this was not a comforting thing to hear being asked while you're being driven by someone... or something. Who's on first? But I distracted myself with the huge control screen on the dash, since there are no buttons to press anywhere else whatsoever. Before I knew it, I was watching the rear facing cameras as we were driving away from what I was seeing, and the screen showed we were driving Santa's sled, as Jingle Bell rock rang out! All of which made me wonder if, in fact, it really *was* the Mucinex. All I know is that I had been heating-up chicken soup and then I was kidnapped by a fully-autonomous artificial-intelligence version of Santa's sled.

On returning to the rectory driveway, I was treated to a light-show as the car played a symphony while flashing all its lights and opening and closing its windows and tailgate. Finally, most bizarrely to me, I "drove" the Tesla up my driveway while standing next to it.... Yes, there's an app for that! The world's biggest remote control car! Nick then took the car to the parking lot and had it chase him around, as he tried to run away from it. I guess we have not advanced much since the days of "Herbie Goes Bananas!"

My Jeep thinks I live at Kroger (see earlier *Tire Tracks!*) but the Tesla not only knows how to find you, but knows how to run you over too! What a useful feature...or maybe that's just a sign of the Mucinex speaking.

The Sign Of The Cross: Thomas was seeking a sign that the Lord was truly raised from the dead. I wonder how willing we would be to believe the accounts of the other disciples. Not only had Thomas not been present in the Upper Room, but none of the disciples had the benefit of having read the Gospels. None of them had the testimony of 2,000 years of the Saints to rely on. But there can be no doubt that the sign of the cross—not the one we make to begin and end mass—but the sign of what Jesus did in willingly accepting death, and then being raised to new life, is a sign of the inexhaustible love that God has for us.

The cross does not end for us at Easter. The cross is inseparable from the Christian life. But hopefully, seeing for ourselves—reading the scriptures, hearing them read at mass, receiving forgiveness and grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving Jesus' Body and Blood in the Eucharist, growing in our relationship with the Lord—all of this will help us to grow in willingness to pick-up our share of the cross in gratitude for all we have been given. May this Easter Season be truly transformative for us.

Tape Our Hands, Jesus: I mentioned on Good Friday that my 3 1/2 year-old Goddaughter sent me a text on Tuesday. She'd colored in a cut-out of Jesus and another figure on Palm Sunday.



She told her mom, "Mom, this is me... and this is Jesus. Tape our hands because we're holding hands. I'm going to help him with the cross."

That's the sign Jesus is seeking for from *us*. Are you as willing as this to help Him with the cross?

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjasc.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 1 C

Reading One – Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

When the captain and the court officers had brought the apostles in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them, “We gave you strict orders, did we not, to stop teaching in that name? Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man’s blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles said in reply, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

Responsorial Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Reading Two – Rev 5:11-14

I, John, looked and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: “To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever.” The four living creatures answered, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Gospel – Jn 21:1-19

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We also will come with you.” So they went out and got into

the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.” So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you just caught.” So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to Simon Peter a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” Jesus said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

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Prayers Needed

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Andrew Barth	Philip D'Agostino	Susan Hughes	Mark Moffitt	Robert Stasak
Geri Beaugrand	Nick DiCresce	Alleyn Hunt	Jennie Mooney	Virginia Stieber
Kenneth Beaupre	Grace Dickerson	Joan Ireland	Toni Pantano	Neal Stoneback
Carl Berndt	George Dickerson	Margo Javelov	Fern Pascany	Beverly Taylor
Gilbert Bousho	Julie Doty	Marilyn Kiefer	Wayne Pepper	Bernadette Thompson
Diane Brennan	Jane Doucet	Thomas Kler	Frank Poeschel	James Thompson
Lori Cardosi	Marie DuPont	Catherine Konen	Salvatore Promesso	Katelyn Tomasello
Rose Marie Carroll	Susan Federoff	Al Kraska	Tracy Rauch	Maxine Uniewski
Ed Cole	Louise Fetherolf	Concetta Leone	Sara Rybicki	Mary Ann VerVaecke
Mary Ellen Cooper	Taylor Fisher	Beverly A. Lievens	Sr. Alice Riegel	Eileen Wallace
Victoria Cornwell	Nora Anne Francis	Dotty Lubinski	Suzanne Roland	Audrey Weekley
Martin Crozier	Patricia Freund	Janet Malaski	Jennifer Rose	Joseph Whalen
James Czech	Jeanne Gainer	Ingrid Manalo	Victoria Rydholm	Marilyn Wicker
Steven D'Arca	Sylvia Gentile	Christopher Manning	Doreen Saur	Adrienne Weidebach
Ellen Dancy	Jane Gora	Joan Mannino	Lily Saith	Joyce Wiekrykas
Peter Dawson	Larry Graham	Ed Marosso	Dianne Schelosky	Margaret Wienck
Joan DeDene	Geoffrey Greve	Karen McMahon	Ann Simmonds	Eddie Zatyracz
Lucy Dedene	James Gutowski	Lois Mecha	Terri Smigels	
Sharon Deller	John Hanselman	Kathleen Mijal	Kathleen Smith	

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@sjascsc.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (C)

April 24, 2022

Sin Is Never the Last Word

By Fr. Mark Haydu

We're not defined by our weakness but created for greatness! Look at David, Paul, and the sinful woman. David was an adulterer and murderer, yet he wrote psalms and was Jesus' ancestor. Paul killed one of the first deacons, Stephen, yet became the greatest apostle to the Gentiles. The sinful woman's misdeeds were public, yet what is most remembered is her repentance and love.

Sin is not the last word. God's

recreating mercy is. God's mercy asks for a response so all that transformative power can be unleashed in us. The only thing that stands in the way of God's renewal rushing in and totally transforming us is our own lack of acceptance.

Sin wants to stand in the way of this Good News. The evil one tries to convince us we are too sinful, that salvation and happiness might be for others, but not for us. But David, Paul, and the sinful woman didn't let that sinister message sink in. David was moved to repentance by Nathan's words.

Paul accepted that he wasn't saved by his religious fervor or condemned for his errors. He was saved by letting Christ's merciful love embrace him. The sinful woman refused to be defined by her poor choices. She tearfully made penance at Christ's feet, and this act of her brokenness gave off a consoling aroma that filled the house.

Let the power of Christ's love be unleashed in you by forgiving yourself and others. Then your weakness will be the first step toward the greatness God has in store for you. +

Nothing but our own lack of acceptance stands in the way of God's renewal rushing in.

A Word from Pope Francis

The presence of God among [us] did not take place in a perfect...world but rather in this real world, which is marked by...good and bad, division, wickedness, poverty, arrogance, and war. He chose to live in our history as it is.... In doing so, he demonstrated...his merciful and truly loving disposition.

—General Audience
December 18, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**REFLECTION
QUESTIONS**

- How do I help others see the love of God?
- What blocks me from accepting the renewal God offers me?

Time for Fifty Days of Easter "Exercise"

By Kathleen M. Basi

On Easter Sunday, anything seems possible. The triumph of life over death and heaven over hell seems to resound throughout a world poised on the cusp of spring. But it's hard to hold on to the euphoria of resurrection for fifty days. White lilies fade and are discreetly removed from the altar while the rush of baseball and soccer starts. As the planet spins from one day to the next, we get caught up in ordinary life until one day that newness of purpose is gone altogether.

Faith is a like a muscle: healthier when exercised. In the years after the resurrection, the Church flourished because Christianity wasn't just something you did on Sundays and holidays. It was something radical—something so powerful, so threatening to the establishment that claiming it could get you fed to wild animals. That kind of commitment changes what you do and think and say every day.

You and I will probably never face execution for our beliefs, but the reality of the resurrection should still impact the way we live—not just on the holy day itself, but throughout the Easter season and beyond. It should illuminate what endeavors are worthwhile and which are not. It should challenge us to temper our anger and expand our willingness to sacrifice for others.

Nobody needs a longer to-do list. But living the faith doesn't require commitments of epic proportions.



Imagine what could happen if every one of us celebrated the fifty days of Easter by doing one thing each day to grow, demonstrate, or share our faith. It doesn't have to be earth shattering in importance. It just needs to be real. Set aside five minutes for quiet, contemplative prayer. Count to ten before reacting to that inflammatory tweet. Dig into the mystery of death and resurrection with your children. Read the Acts of the Apostles and figure out one concrete way you can imitate their fervor in the context of your life. Read a book about the saints. Pick up that fast-food bag blowing around the mall parking lot. Send a donation to a crisis pregnancy center. Buy a can of coffee

and deliver it to the homeless shelter.

Doing one thing every day may not change the world, but it will change *us*. Our souls and our bodies are made to work in harmony to reflect God's image. Our actions shape our inner reality. The more we act as Christ would have us act, the more our view of the world reflects his. In short, by doing as God does, we become more like God. And, that *can* change the world. +

*Imagine what could happen
if every one of us celebrated
the fifty days of Easter
by doing one thing each day
to grow, demonstrate,
or share our faith.*



*Lord, open my heart to believe
your word. Guide me as I learn
to play my part in creating
your vision of peace and love.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 25–30

Monday, St. Mark:
1 Pt 5:5b–14 / Mk 16:15–20

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:23–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, St. Catherine of Siena:
Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21

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