



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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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" - Mk 1:23-25

PARISH CENTER

22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528
Website: www.sjascscs.org
E-mail: sjainfo@sjascscs.org

SCHOOL

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

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

PastorMsgr. 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.netDeacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org**Anthems Director**Eleonore Ellero-Groth
eleonoraellero@gmail.com

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center foyer ONLY is open Monday -Thursday from 8:30am-5pm and Friday from 8:30-4pm. 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 and we will contact you by phone to get further information.

Once the Parish Center is re-opened please feel free to stop by and register in person.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWS LETTERS!

If you would like to keep up with what is going on in the parish or if you need to update your email address go to our website at stjoan.church.



A Typical Family Gathering:

As we always do, our family gathered last Sunday for dinner. We were at my sister's house in

Allenton. As our dinner was cooking in the oven (two scrumptious Costco chicken pot pies), most were in the family room watching football while others gathered around the kitchen table. Mom and one of my sisters were in my mom's room, putting the finishing touches on thank you cards from the funeral. It was a typical Sunday afternoon. The smell of dinner filled the air, and the snack table was full. I'm not sure why we have as many snacks as we do because we all complain we spend too much time grazing through the snacks, resulting in us not always being hungry for dinner.

Eventually, my mom and sister returned to the family room and declared they had finished the thank you cards. While all of this was happening, a conversation ensued about what we were going to do on Friday, January 29 (meaning this past Friday), which marked my Dad's 85th birthday. We knew we would get together, but what that gathering would look like still hadn't taken shape. Despite the lack of a formal plan as of that moment, we knew we were going to do a bunch of stuff Dad always loved to do. Now you have to picture a bunch of people in a family room watching football. Some were paying attention to the game; some were not. Some were gathered around the kitchen table while ONE was "grazing" through all the snacks (guess who)! Everyone had their rightful place, but we were certain everyone could multi-task as they participated in the conversation.

After acknowledging we would be doing all things Dad enjoyed, we started tossing out ideas. We knew we would begin our gathering at the cemetery. As we started talking about the cemetery, someone piped up, "But Dad never liked going to the cemetery!" Laughter filled the air. Okay, they had a point. He went to the cemetery when he had to, for example, to help with the annual laying of the grave blankets or to go to a funeral or burial. But it wasn't his custom to simply stop by a cemetery. Okay, we thought, we'll stop by the cemetery AND THEN fill the rest of the day with Dad stuff. We

all agreed the evening would include some gathering at the condo and food from Leo's Coney Island. Leo's was my Dad's default and absolute favorite restaurant. He loved going to Leo's or getting takeout from there. It didn't matter if all he wanted was a plain hot dog or his infamous fish and chips dinner, Leo's was HIS place, and all food tasted better if it came from Leo's. Mom decided she would order fish and chips just like Dad would usually do. We knew the evening would also include some cake and ice cream or, even better, the small single serving \$1 apple pies he would often get from Kroger. Now, my Dad was a diabetic, but he always knew how to work around his blood sugar readings to sneak in his desserts. And carrying out the long tradition, I'm sure someone will shout out at our gathering what we often heard before dinner, "It's time to take my BS" (meaning blood sugar reading). If it wasn't the single-serving apple pies he would be sneaking, it would be a bunch of Timbits from Tim Horton's. We agreed that the single apple pies and a cake would be on the docket for sure. We also decided we needed to bring a blanket and sneak in a nap at some point in the afternoon. Our Dad was famous for his afternoon naps. SO, to honor Dad, taking a brief nap sounded like the perfect "toast" to him. The afternoon plans were taking shape, and everyone was buying into the great day to "toast" and celebrate Dad and Grandpa on his 85th birthday.

Now that the plans were in place, there was a bit of silence in the room from the gathered crowd (albeit the football game's noise still filled the air). All appeared to return their full attention to whatever they were doing. In the midst of the silence, one of my sisters (let's just say for the sake of this article, she was the youngest) who was on the couch and in full ear range of the entire conversation for the last twenty minutes or so, piped up in a loud voice, "What are we doing for Dad's birthday on Friday?" Instantaneously, complete and utter silence filled the room. Heads spun toward her as if we were a room filled with owls. If the TV could have automatically silenced itself from the roars coming from the football game, it would have. "Are YOU SERIOUS," many said in unison. "We just spent the last twenty minutes talking about what we were doing for Dad's birthday," one of the siblings responded. "What were you doing? How could you have missed that ENTIRE conversation sitting right here in the midst of it all?" She shrugged her shoulders but was still utterly perplexed.

"Seriously," she started to say with a tinge of laughter, "what are we going to do on Dad's birthday?" We just rolled our eyes and re-hashed the entire game plan for the day. Obviously, someone can't multi-task! Ah, the joys of family gatherings; some things never change. It's probably a good thing though she asked, because come Friday, we would have been making phone calls to figure out why she didn't show up at the cemetery. And she would have been insistent we never talked about the plans. That would have been more embarrassing. Lucky for her, the smell of the chicken pot pie filled the air, and our attention quickly turned from her to dinner. It was time to pray and eat! But I'm sure many of us were still scratching our heads trying to figure out how in the world she missed that entire conversation!

Catholic Schools Week: This week, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week throughout the United States. This weeklong celebration is an opportunity to highlight the great work and ministry being accomplished in our Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools integrate faith and values into every part of the educational experience. Whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, or in church, Catholic School students learn to think and act according to the mind and heart of Christ. Giving students the resources they need to accomplish the task of thinking and acting according to the mind and heart of Christ is so vital in our complex world.

After my Dad's death, I was touched by HOW many kids went out of their way in the morning to let me know they were praying for my family and me. I was also touched by the beautiful words shared in the many cards I received from them. As I read those cards and reflected on the kind words the kids shared with me, I remember telling Mrs. Kalich and Ms. Brennan that these small gestures show me how much the kids really get it. It shows me the importance of a Catholic education in today's world. Catholic schools make a HUGE difference in the faith formation and education of our young people. Thanks for all YOU do to support our great school and Catholic schools in general.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org



St. Joan of Arc

Online Giving

Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

Download the Online Giving app today at OLGApp.com

Give online at stjoan.church or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID# **4719**

Donations

Payments

Google play

Download on the App Store



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We continue to raise funds in support of needed capital improvements and big-ticket maintenance items in our Maintaining God's House campaign.

sjascs.org/gods-house

SPONSORSHIP APPEAL

Helps cover costs of items and services we rely upon throughout the year. Donors see gifts at work and it sheds light some of the daily expenses we face in our active parish.

sjascs.org/sponsorship-appeal

More on Marriage

GRATEFUL FOR MY SPOUSE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage strong.

The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions

and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. What you get out of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will depend largely on where you are in your relationship on the Weekend you go. You will get whatever it is you need at that point in time. Every marriage deserves this kind of attention!

Virtual and in-person weekends are scheduled for 2021.

<https://encountermichigan.org>

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others – no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org.

In addition, the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at 844-324-3374 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or by email at aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

More information about the Archdiocese's efforts to address abuse may be found at protect.aod.org.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE



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.

SJA HEALTH MINISTRY

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month

"Glaucoma is called 'the sneak thief of sight' since there are no symptoms and once vision is lost, it's permanent. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing."

"More than 3 million people in the United States have glaucoma. The National Eye Institute projects this number will reach 4.2 million by 2030, a 58 percent increase."

Glaucoma is a very misunderstood disease. Often people do not realize the severity.

1. Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness.

Glaucoma can cause blindness if it is left untreated.

And unfortunately, approximately 10% of people with glaucoma who receive proper treatment still experience loss of vision."

2. There is no cure (yet) for glaucoma.

Glaucoma is not curable, and vision lost cannot be regained. With medication and/or surgery, it is possible to halt further loss of vision. Diagnosis is the first step to preserving your vision."

3. Everyone is at risk for glaucoma.

Everyone is at risk for glaucoma from babies to senior citizens. Older people are at a higher risk for glaucoma, but babies can be born with glaucoma (approximately 1 out of every 10,000 babies born in the United States)."

4. There may be no symptoms to warn you. Usually, no pain is associated with increased eye pressure. Vision loss begins with peripheral or side vision. You may compensate for this unconsciously by turning your head to the side and may not notice anything until significant vision is lost.

The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get tested. If you have glaucoma, treatment can begin immediately."

Sources: www.glaucoma.org/news/glaucoma-awareness-month.php and Glaucoma Research Foundation



*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm, Thursdays
in the Church*

**and streaming live online at
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, February 1st

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, February 2nd

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

Wednesday, February 3rd

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

Thursday, February 4th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Friday, February 5th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, February 6th

11:00 am Reconciliation

1:30 pm Baptism of Christopher Cubba

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, February 7th

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Baptism of Kennedy Waldrep

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

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 to watch all live

Words on the Word

January 31, 2021 – Take It To Heart

Pop Quiz:

If you knew in advance – maybe even years in advance – that you were on track to suffer a severe heart attack, your likely course of action would be to: A) worry, or B) take action to better monitor your cardiac health and make whatever changes were necessary.

Alas, many folks, if they're being honest, would probably answer "A," and even if they answered "B," would probably find themselves worrying about it to some extent anyway.

A story reported a few weeks ago out of Australia indicated that new studies are showing a simple type of aortic X-ray, supplemented by tools like CT scans, can help find calcification, especially in the abdomen, enabling medical experts to intervene with treatments.

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties," St. Paul writes in today's first reading to the Corinthians.

He goes on to discuss some of the spiritual mind-set differences between single and married men and women, and the ways in which they can direct their energies.

The bottom line, he concludes, is that, armed with knowledge and a strategy, we can be free of anxiety.

"I am telling you this for your own benefit," the reading concludes, "not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction."

The lesson then, would appear to be applicable to matters of physical and spiritual health, alike. Prudent people do what they can to be educated and armed with knowledge, data and truth, and then, based on what the reality shows, to take the actions warranted to bring about the right outcome.

In other words, to take the knowledge to heart, and to put their hearts behind doing the right thing.

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday February 1, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Deacon Eugene DiCresce and Elmer Gorde

Tuesday February 2, 2021 The Presentation of the Lord (White)

7:00 a.m. Michael Ciaramitaro and Guido Regelbrugge

Wednesday February 3, 2021 Weekday Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar Bishop (Green/Red/White)

7:00 a.m. George Bugarin and Joseph Black

Thursday February 4, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Mildred Lefevre and a Special Intention for Pauline Ciaffone on her Birthday.

Friday February 5, 2021 Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr (Red)

7:00 a.m. John Spath and Peg Shaughnessy

Saturday February 6, 2021 Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs (Red)

4:00 p.m. Bonnie Batche, Rebeca Sandoval, Mary Virginia Scannell and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and the Thomas Family, and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of SJA.

6:00 p.m. A Special Intention for Ericka Kolodziejewski and Family

Sunday February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

12:00 p.m. John Frahm, John G. Champine, Michael Forrester, Raymond VanBecelaere, Julian Ross, Nancy LaClair, Gaetano, Lucia and Averil Cottone

Weekly Readings

Monday, February 1

Hebrews 11:32-40
Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday, February 2

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 2:22-40

Wednesday, February 3

Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday, February 4

Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24
Mark 6:7-13

Friday, February 5

Hebrews 13:1-8
Mark 6:14-29

Saturday, February 6

Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, February 7

Job 7:1-4, 6-7
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39



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.”

Louis Mascia

Janet Sapanoro

Mary and Dave Davisson

Deacon Kevin Breen

Dorothy O'Neill Lang (mother of Mary Simon)

“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





Apologies to the Groundhog: This Tuesday, February 2 is Groundhog Day. Every year when Groundhog Day comes around, I start to feel sorry for the Groundhog.

I feel like there's an injustice being done. The whole nation is watching and like the weatherman, he really can't be wrong, but maybe he isn't even being given a fair chance to get it right. And even a groundhog might start to feel bad about himself after a while if he keeps getting it wrong.

Maybe the tradition of Groundhog Day is putting an undue burden on the poor sleepy rodent. If I'd been asleep for 4 months and you all gathered outside the rectory and started yelling my name (please don't do that!) at silly o'clock in the morning, I don't think I'd be on best form. And yes there is that big crowd of people, waking him up and expecting him to make an accurate weather prediction.

I think the odds are stacked against him even if he had a good nap. If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, we are to expect 6 more weeks of winter. But they put him on stage with floodlights all around him! What chance does poor Puxy have with all those lights trained on him, as though he's an escaping convict?! Of course he's going to see his shadow! The poor little mite doesn't stand a chance.

And we live in Michigan – of course winter isn't done with us yet! I recall one Groundhog Day in the seminary when we had about 10 inches of snow that day. Classes were cancelled, mass was moved from 7am to 11am, we played football in the snow and my formation meeting with Bishop Battersby was cancelled. I ran into the Bishop in the breakfast-line and remarked to him that I liked our new "forever schedule" - that since this had happened on Groundhog Day, I was guessing that this would now and forever more repeat as our new daily schedule and that all this surely meant that I was officially done with formation now? He stared at me for a moment, said nothing, and turned to grab a tray.

Anyway, Groundhog Day is a fun tradition; but since the 4th century, Catholics have placed a deeper meaning on the day that marks 40 days since we celebrated the birth of the Messiah. Actually, the Groundhog owes his

traditional wake-up to Tuesday's Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, thanks to German immigrants who wanted to keep alive the celebration of Candlemas. Traditionally, Candlemas celebrations would begin in a darkened church with people lighting candles from a single flame – God coming into the world. Around the same date, pagans across northern Europe celebrated midwinter, and the gradual turn towards spring. These celebrations varied widely in their rites, but many of them had a common feature—weather would be predicted based on whether or not the sun was out. When these pagans adopted Christianity, they kept the holiday on their schedule.

Tuesday's feast marks the moment Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. According to the Law, each firstborn male, in pre-exile Israel was to be offered to the Lord in service as His priest. That role had now been given to the Levites. The Law now only required each firstborn to be either be given to God in sacrifice or "redeemed" - bought back from Him. Since human sacrifice was illegal and immoral, all firstborn boys had to be redeemed, which was done by their father paying a priest five shekels. It's significant that in today's Gospel passage, Luke makes no mention of Jesus' parents paying the priest. Whether or not the redemption rite took place is somewhat irrelevant. The implication would be that Jesus was considered as still being consecrated to the Lord.

There were exceptions to the Law. Not only priests and Levites, but also Israelites whose wives are the daughters of priests or Levites, need not redeem their first-born. Joseph, in this case, was the husband of Mary, and Mary was a relative of Elizabeth, who was "of the daughters of Aaron" (Luke 1:5), and Aaron was a Levite, so perhaps Mary's lineage didn't require her and Joseph to have their Son redeemed. In that case, Jesus was presented at the temple in acknowledgement of his consecration to God. But even if the redemption rite did take place, Jesus remained totally consecrated to God and instead, it's **you and I** who are redeemed; not freed from God, but purchased back from a life of slavery to sin. Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*: "Evidently Luke intends to say that instead of being 'redeemed' and restored to his parents, this child was personally handed over to God in the Temple, given

over completely to God. . . . Luke has nothing to say regarding the act of 'redemption' prescribed by the law. In its place we find the exact opposite: the child is handed over to God, and from now on belongs to him completely."

As Malachi, the messenger of God prophesies in Tuesday's first reading, the Lord has come to His Temple, the Lord whom we seek. And why has He come? The author of the Letter to the Hebrews replies in the 2nd reading: "that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people."

Maybe there will be 6 more weeks of winter, maybe there won't. But one thing is assured, whatever the weather, the warmth of the embrace of the Lord is here, within His Church, for all those who confidently seek Him. Then like Simeon, may our eyes gaze upon the salvation prepared for us.



Caught in my trap on Labor Day a couple of years ago and "re-located" away from the tomato and basil plants! He wasn't as contented to be here as he looked. He had a lot of say about it. Sorry, Mr. Groundhog. It's a rough life: getting woken-up, being denied your fresh vegetables, and still being expected to predict the weather. Be careful when you wake the sleeping groundhog. He's hiding some pretty sharp teeth!

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.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 7 B

Reading 1 – Job

Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" Then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

Responsorial Psalm 147

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.
Praise the LORD, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him. The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit. The LORD sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Reading 2 – 1 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mark

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2019-2020

176 Catholic Dioceses With Catholic Schools

highlights

ENROLLMENT



TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

1,737,297

elementary/
middle schools

1,201,391

secondary schools

535,906



STUDENT DIVERSITY

21.8%

racial minorities

18.5%

hispanic/latino

6.4%

unknown



NON-CATHOLIC ENROLLMENT

331,648

19.1% of the total
enrollment

SCHOOLS



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

6,183

elementary

4,995

secondary

1,188



10

new schools opened

98

consolidated or closed

1,760

schools have a
waiting list for
admission

COEDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS



98.5%

elementary



70.8%

secondary

12.7%

MALE

16.5%

FEMALE

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PROFESSIONAL STAFF NUMBERED

152,730

■ **97.4%: Laity**

(Lay women: 75.1% Lay men: 22.3%)



■ **2.6%: Religious/Clergy**

(Sisters: 1.6%; Brothers: 0.4%;
Clergy: 0.6%)

The student/teacher ratio is **12:1**.



Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have legislation that provides some form of financial assistance to parents to help them choose a private or faith-based education for their children. Currently there are 65 publicly-financed programs (vouchers, scholarships, education savings accounts and tax relief) assisting more than **1.5 million families** with financial resources that enable them to exercise choice in their selection of a school for their children.

LARGEST DIOCESES BY ENROLLMENT

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Geraldine Atkeson
Emma Bailif
Ted Barthel
Atina Beaugrand
Geri Beaugrand
Michael Beaugrand
Theresa Bertelsen
Ardella Borri
Aldo Cardoso
Rose Marie Carroll
Ed Cole
Georgia Collamar
Mary Ellen Cooper
Robert Cooper
Victoria Cornwell
Joan DeDene
Nina Delisi
Anita Dembeck
Deborah Dembeck

Alan DePorter
Catherine DeRose
Nick DiCresce
Mary DiTrapani
Marie DuPont
Geri Ellis
Louise Fetherolf
Gerald Flint
Merrie Foerster
Florence Fournier
Giovanna Foresta
Nora Anne Francis
Jim Frank
Mark Franzel
Sylvia Gentile
Mary and Don Godfrey
Jane Gora
Larry Graham
Geoffrey Greve
James Gutowski

Deborah Hammersburg
Mary Harbart
Margaret Hartung
Ted and Gracie Hinz
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James Kammer
Bruce Kaselitz
Marilyn Kiefer
Pat Kohlitz
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Delaney Kraemer
Al Kraska
Genevieve Krembel
Maureen Lee Leija
Grace Litwinczek
Dotty Lubinski
Janet Malaski
Christopher Manning
Joan Mannino
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Karen McMahon
Lee Majewski
Vilma Marone
Mark Moffitt
Toni Pantano
Fern Pascany
Ronald Pollack
Salvatore Promesso
Lawrence Radzowski
Sr. Alice Riegel
Laura Rizzo-Andela
Suzanne Roland
Elena Roose
Jennifer Rose
Victoria Rydholm
Alex Scapini
Elizabeth Schaller
Mary Anna Sheldon
Dr. Thomas Sloan
Evelyn Smith

Kathleen Smith
Ingrid Stemmerich
Donald Strobbe
Paul Tatti
Beverly Taylor
William Taylor
James Thompson
Janine Tomasello
Eileen Wallace
Audrey Weekley
William Woodruff
Chuck Wolschlager
Helen Wrynn
Thomas Ziolkowski



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@sjases.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

January 31, 2021

Progress Isn't Always Easy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus' miracles and preaching were part of what convinced people that he was the Son of God. He spoke like no other and then backed up his words with amazing and wonderful actions. For example, he confronted evil spirits and cast them out. The people were amazed and saw this as evidence of his divinity, because no one had absolute power over evil—except God himself. This is a power the Church continues to practice today through the ministry of healing and exorcism.

Jesus did not want to see people suffer under the power of Satan but rather wanted them to live full and happy

lives. "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly," Jesus said in John 10:10. This strong desire of Jesus to heal and save drove him to tirelessly preach and do good. And because of this combination of goodness and power in his person, his fame spread. Yet the message he preached was challenging and demanding. Eventually many preferred to silence that good, powerful, but demanding voice.

Today, like Jesus, the Church still longs for nothing less than humanity's complete health and happiness. Yet, at times, the path to that human progress is not the easiest. Like temperamental children are chided by loving parents to eat healthy food rather than just what they like, so the good and powerful voice and actions of the Church are challenged.

We find our full flourishing as human beings and as Catholics by embracing Jesus' words and desires for us. +

Today, like Jesus, the Church still longs for nothing less than humanity's complete health and happiness.

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

If a prophet presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded, or speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.

1 Corinthians 7:32–35

I should like you to be free of anxieties.

Mark 1:21–28

Jesus...said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"...He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.

A Word from Pope Francis

We must never forget that true power, at any level, is service, whose bright summit is upon the cross.... Although man frequently equates authority with control, dominion, success, for God authority is always synonymous with service, humility, love. It means entering the logic of Jesus who kneels to wash the Apostles' feet.

—Address to International Union of Superiors General, May 8, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE2LION2 REFLECTION

- Have I ever been tricked into eating spiritually unhealthy "moral junk food"?
- Have I thanked God for times of health and happiness?

Beautiful Diversity

By Kathleen M. Basi

"...Grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ" (from Eucharistic Prayer III).

The term "relativism" gets a lot of attention in Catholic circles these days. The idea of not drawing a distinct line between right and wrong contradicts everything we believe as Christians. It's a dangerous threat.

But equally dangerous is the opposite: fundamentalism. We are often tempted to view every issue, conflict, and situation in black-and-white, defining right and wrong in circumstances where there is more than one right answer.

The beauty of the Catholic faith is its depth, complexity, and nuance. These characteristics make it possible for a richly diverse collection of humanity to unite under one Creed. But unity doesn't necessarily require strict uniformity. All too often, we try to apply fundamentalist principles to things that are not critical to the faith and, in so doing, create division instead of unity within the body of Christ.

Perhaps the clearest example is what is sometimes referred to as the "liturgy wars." Mostly they seem to swirl around music choices. The organ-and-chant crowd insists that guitars and drums are unfit for Catholic worship. Meanwhile, the guitar-and-drum group dismisses centuries of tradition out of hand.



Neither position acknowledges the fact that the diversity of the Church accepts, and indeed needs, both tradition and enculturation.

If you attend Mass in a place where everybody looks basically like you, it's easy to forget that we are a Church whose members span every race, language, and culture on the planet. Within that rich tapestry springs diversity even more beautiful and complex. Each of us is shaped by our nature and by life experiences too numerous to count. We all have our own job to do in God's plan, for which we are uniquely qualified by virtue of who we are, what we've learned, and what we've experienced.

When we consider all this, it should

be obvious that it's neither necessary nor desirable to try to force the entire body of Christ to walk in the exact same footprints. Yes, there are fundamentals that cannot be compromised. Yes, relativism is a threat we cannot afford to underestimate in our Church and, especially, in our hearts. But so is the opposite extreme. If we truly hope to "become one body, one Spirit in Christ," as the third Eucharistic Prayer says, we have to embrace not only what unites us, but also what makes us unique. +

*We must create unity,
not division within
the body of Christ.*



*Lord, you created me to live
in the freedom of your love.
Give me the courage to share
your love with all people.*

—From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 1–6

Monday, Weekday:

Heb 11:32–40 / Mk 5:1–20

Tuesday, Presentation of the Lord: Mal 3:1–4 /

Heb 2:14–18 / Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32

Wednesday, Weekday:

Heb 12:4–7, 11–15 / Mk 6:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:

Heb 12:18–19, 21–24 / Mk 6:7–13

Friday, St. Agatha:

Heb 13:1–8 / Mk 6:14–29

Saturday, St. Paul Miki and Companions:

Heb 13:15–17, 20–21 / Mk 6:30–34


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
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