Fourth Sunday of Lent | March 14, 2021

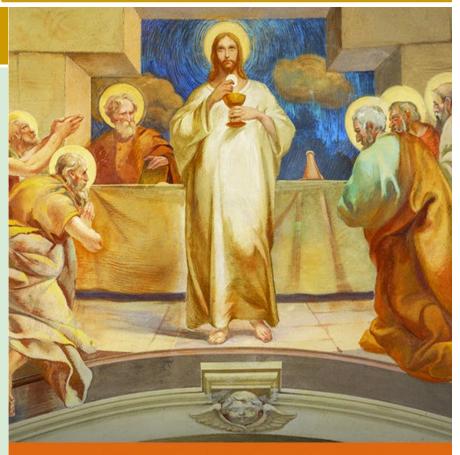


The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

What's Inside

Parish DirectoryPage 2
Liturgy Schedule and Information Page 2
Live Stream InfoPage 2
TALLer TalesPage 3
Online Giving Information Page 4
Christian ServicePage 5
Parish Nurse Health MinistryPage 5
Taize' Prayer ServicePage 6
Calendar of EventsPage 7
Words on the WordPage 7
Mass IntentionsPage 8
Those Who Have Recently DiedPage 8
Tire Tracks in d'ArcPage 9
An Act of Spiritual Communion Page 10
Readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent Page 11
Grow + Go for the 4th Sunday of Lent Page 12
Hallow AppPage 13
Holy HoursPage 14
Prayers for the Sick & MilitaryPage 15
Bringing Home the WordPage 16



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Gio

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21

PARISH CENTER

22412 Overlake Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

Phone: 586-777-3670 Fax: 586-774-5528 Website: www.sjascs.org

E-mail: sjainfo@sjascs.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: repoffice@sjascs.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

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson adawson@sjascs.org

Non-Resident Associate Pastors / Weekend Assistants:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek Fr. James Grau

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz tstrasz@sjascs.org

Deacon Dom Pastore dpastore@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone dciaffone@sjascs.org

Principal

Kathy Kalich kkalich@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Mary Pat Brennan mbrennan@stjoan.net

Music Director

Catherine Thomas cthomas@sjascs.org

Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth eleonoraellero@gmail.com Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass khass@sjascs.org

Exceptional Children

Mary Cal mcal@sjascs.org

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 & 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.

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.

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, at this time please register at 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 to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

TALLer Tales



Drunken Raisins: A few weeks ago, vou may have seen a story in the news about a 105-yearold New Jersey woman who survived a battle with the

coronavirus. The story that circulated in media outlets and throughout the internet was pretty cute. Part of the story was about what she credited her long life to, and the other part of the story dealt with what she believed helped her win the COVID-19 battle.

As to the question about what her secret was to long life, she responded, "Prayer, prayer, prayer, AND avoiding junk food." I have the prayer part down-pat for the most part. The junk food side of the equation is where I would lose the battle!

As to the question about her secret to winning the COVID-19 battle, she accredits her victory to "Drunken Raisins." She indicated she has eaten nine gin-soaked raisins each morning for most of her life. After hearing the story and people talking about it, I found that the "drunken-raisins" medicinal remedy is more popular than I thought. I did a bit more research after listening to one lector in the sacristry (for the sake of this story, let's say her name was Ann) provide her testimony as to the efficacy of drunkenraisins in battling arthritis pain. I then started on a quest to learn more about this so-called medicinal remedy.

My research pointed to the fact that you have to use Gordon's Gin. No other gin will work. You also have to use GOLDEN and only golden raisins. One of the ingredients in Gordon's Gin is juniper. Supposedly, the juniper berry is often thought to be an essential component of the remedy. With my research complete, I shared the news with my mom, and we set out on a path to gather the necessary ingredients to get some raisins drunk.

A week ago this past Friday, of the many errands on my "Fridays with Mom" day, I made a stop at Kroger's to gather the necessary supplies. I first picked up a bottle of Gordon's Gin. With the gin in my hands, I went on a search for raisins. I was amazed at how hard it was to find bulk boxes of raisins; it shows you how often I shop for raisins. I was up and down many aisles before I saw a ceiling sign for raisins. Thankfully, I found big

boxes of golden raisins. Now, I had to find the perfect jar. I knew I wanted a Mason jar with one of those locking latches. With my little cart now full of the necessary supplies to get some raisins drunk, I went through check-out and returned to the condo with the required supplies.

Once my mom and I finished our many errands, we returned to my sister's house. I couldn't wait to get these raisins drunk. With my mom and nephew watching from the other side of the kitchen counter, I filled the Mason jar with the two big boxes of raisins. I then opened the Gordon's Gin and started pouring. It took half a bottle to do the trick, but those raisins were now soaking in the gin. I gave it a little stir and was happy with my work. I decided to text a picture of my work to our lector Ann. She immediately responded that I needed to drain off some of the gin; I guess the raisins are supposed to "swim" in the gin ... not drown in the gin! With my mom taking a video of my work, I decided to start scooping out some of the gin from the Mason jar and put it back into the gin bottle. I was doing all of this with a spoon, and the pour mechanism still in place on the bottle. Needless to say, I was creating a royal mess. Not only was I getting gin all over the counter, but now the gin was contaminated with raisin juice (the gin started turning cloudy almost immediately as I started pouring the gin from the Mason jar back into the bottle). We shared a few laughs over my delicate work. Knowing that the raisins had to swim in the gin and not drown in it, I wanted to make sure I was creating drunken raisins and not dead raisins. This was tricky work.

It was now time to latch the lid close and wait the prescribed nine days for the raisins to get drunk. Given that the prescribed remedy is that the raisins have to swim in the gin for NINE days, and then you have to eat NINE a day ... I think some Catholic conjured this homemade remedy up. After all, I guess they could also be titled "NOVENA" raisins. With the prescribed nine-day swimming period ending this Sunday, it will only be a matter of time before we know if this works ... as long as I didn't accidentally drown those poor little things!

Halfway through Lent: Believe it or not, folks, but we've passed the halfway point of our Lenten Journey. If the realization that Lent is practically half

over hasn't jolted you, the thought that we've already started Daylight Savings Time should bring it home too.

As we mark this halfway point on our Lenten journey, we need to ask ourselves the question: How are we doing with our Lenten retreat? What about all of those Lenten resolutions? I am sure many of you have faithfully fulfilled those resolutions. Others may be in my camp where you have fallen a little (or a lot). No matter what side you're on, this is the time to start anew if needed.

A simple resolution could be to spend more time in prayer. Prayer is such an essential aspect of a Christian's life. Yet, the busy lives so many of us lead can often pull us away from the good intentions to be people of prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that "Prayer in the events of each day and each moment is one of the secrets of the kingdom.... It is right and good to pray so that the coming of the kingdom of justice and peace may influence the march of history, but it is just as important to bring the help of prayer into humble, everyday situations; all forms of prayer can be the leaven to which the Lord compares the kingdom (CCC, 2659-2660)."

We need to follow the example of the Lord, who often went off to a deserted place to pray not only before significant decisions in his earthly life but also in the midst of his busy day. If you have 15 minutes, then give those 15 minutes to prayer. If you only have 5 minutes, then give those 5 minutes to prayer. If you have an hour, then, by all means, spend that time in prayer. Your day will be greatly blessed because of your commitment to prayer. Don't let the activities of the day become an excuse for not spending SOME time ... even 10 minutes ... with the Lord!

Your prayer could be silent and just sitting in the presence of the Lord. Your prayer could be time spent reflecting on the readings of the day. Your prayer could be listening to sacred music. Prayer ultimately can take on many forms. It doesn't have to be the same form each time you pray either. It's just important that you pray!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb gmb@sjascs.org

St. Joan of Arc





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Payments

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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!

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

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.

SJA Health Ministry



March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

"While screening is the most important step – you may be able to lower your colorectal cancer risk with some simple lifestyle changes."

Eat well: "Diets high in vegetables, fruits and other plant foods reduce risk for many diseases, including colorectal cancer. Plant foods can also help us maintain a healthy weight – also important in reducing risk of colorectal cancer – because many are lower in calories. Try to keep your red meat intake to 18 ounces (cooked) per week or less. Processed meats, on the other hand, should be avoided if possible. Avoid processed meats including hot dogs, ham, bacon, sausages, that increase cancer risk even with low consumption."

Get your exercise: "Research consistently shows adults who increase their physical activity, either in intensity, duration, or frequency, can reduce their risk of developing colorectal cancer by 30 to 40 percent. Exercise also helps you to maintain a healthy body weight, which reduces your risk for colorectal cancer. In fact, studies show people who are overweight or obese are more likely to develop colon polyps, a possible precursor to cancer, and higher weights are associated with higher polyp risk."

Know your family health history: "A family history of colorectal cancer puts you at an increased risk. If you have a family history, you may need to be screened at age 40, or 10 years before the youngest case in your immediate family, whichever is earlier. "

Avoid alcohol & cigarettes:" Alcohol is known to increase cancer risk. According to the National Cancer Institute, people who regularly drink 3.5 drinks per day have 1.5 times the risk of developing colorectal cancer as nondrinkers or occasional drinkers."

"Long-term cigarette smoking is also associated with increased risk of colorectal cancer. The longer a person smokes, the greater the risk."

Source: https://www.ccalliance.org/screening-prevention/ healthy-living

Taizé

Lay Your Burden Down

Listen. Sing. Be Still.

Lay down your burden before the mercy of God

Tuesdays 7 pm March 16th and 30th

Lenten music & prayer service in the church and livestream

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, March 15th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, March 16th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

6:30-8 pm Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 17th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

1-2:30 pm Reconciliation

Thursday, March 18th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Friday, March 19th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral of Jennie Buffa

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross - Live Streamed

Saturday, March 20th

11:00 am Reconciliation

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, March 21st

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

Words on the Word

March 14, 2021 – A Dramatic Rescue

Sometimes real-life drama can rival the material one sees in the movies.

Numerous recent media stories detailed the latest chapters in the saga of gymnast abuse that played out in the courts over the last few years. In the latest developments, another individual was implicated in the wrongdoing; this time a former U.S. Olympics coach with ties to the former Michigan State University doctor who has been serving prison sentences that commenced a few years ago.

In the events of a few weeks ago, the former Olympic coach had just been named in charges brought by the state's attorney general. He was then found a few hours later at a Michigan rest area after taking his own life.

And all of this, yet again, brought to the surface the suffering and anguish of the numerous assault victims over the years.

The entire sequence of events is, to be sure, tragic.

"And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil," Jesus tells Nicodemus in one of the choices for today's gospel passage, taken from St. John. "For everyone who does wicked things hates the light ... so that his works might not be exposed."

The events tied to this story are wicked and evil in the extreme. And yet the lesson for all of us is that, beyond our comprehension – and through God's grace - a rescue mission has already taken place. For everyone.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," we hear in the passage, "so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday March 15, 2021 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Leona Mecha and Dorothy Guiglardo

Tuesday March 16, 2021 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

George J. Bugarin and John Kaliszwski 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday March 17, 2021 Lenten Weekday, Saint Patrick, Bishop (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Aniello Mazzella and Joseph Calus

Thursday March 18, 2021 Lenten Weekday, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Joseph Calus

Friday March 19, 2021 Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (White)

7:00 a.m. Rosie Squillace and Jose Silva

Saturday March 20, 2021 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

4:00 p.m. Joseph Snyder, Teresa Marzolino, George J.

Bugarin, Edward and Henry Blind, Guido Fracassa, Primitivo Sandoval, Nellie Hernandez, Ann and Joseph Niemczyk, Bonnie Batche, Marie and Robert Fleming, and special Intentions for the Thomas Family, the J. Champine Family and Joan Kowaleski

6:00 p.m. Joan Weber

Sunday March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Parishioners

12:00 p.m. Charlotte and Lewis McQuillan, Lou Mascia,

Alma Wronski and a Special Intention for

Cathy Spindler

Weekly Readings

Monday, March 15 Friday, March 19

Isaiah 65:17-21 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 John 4:43-54 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

Tuesday, March 16

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 John 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 17

Isaiah 49:8-15 John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 18

Exodus 32:7-14 John 5:31-47

Saturday, March 20

Jeremiah 11:18-20 John 7:40-53

Sunday, March 21

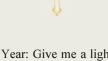
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33



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."

Brother Robert Carnaghi, FSC **Reverend Donald Sopiak** Maria Avellino Jennie Buffa



"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

St. Joan of Arc School PTG Spring Fundraiser

Look for our full-page ad next week about our partnership with Foertmeyer and Sons Greenhouse.

Sale starts 3/9 and Ends 3/21 @ Midnight!

Pick up will be 5/17 from 1p-5p.

Visit www.fundraiseit.org and enter the unique Parish web sale code C2C84 to place your order!

Questions: Call Sarah Willey at 313-286-3402

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Taizé Services: I am very excited to tell you that this Lent, beginning this week, St. Joan of Arc will be hosting two Taizé evenings of prayer and music. I invite

you all to join us.

The Taizé community is a monastic community located in the Burgundy region of east-central France. It was founded in 1940 with the vision of a community combining the traditional monastic order of prayer, work and poverty. Today this small group of brothers living in a remote French village has over 100 Catholic and Protestant monks drawn from 30 countries around the world.

Over the years the community has become a popular destination for spiritual seekers. It is estimated that over 100,000 pilgrims from around the world visit Taizé each year.

Today, Taizé Prayer is the prayer of all Christian denominations. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Songs like "Jesus, Remember Me", prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment and allow the worshipper to enter deeply into their own heart and find the beautiful presence of God within. The music of Taizé centers around simple scriptural refrains, repeated over and over, gradually overlaying additional accompaniment while the worshippers continue the simple refrain. It's the one of the most beautiful and peace-filled forms of music and prayer I have ever encountered. Those present are free to join in singing the refrains, or simply let them soak-in and sit in the company of the Lord.

You may recall some of this music from past Taizé Stations of the Cross at St. Joan. Friday Stations will continue, but I invite you all to come Tuesday, March 16th & March 30th at 7pm, and experience Taizé, especially if you have never been to such a service before. I am always telling people that the Catholic faith has such a rich tradition of prayer and worship. There are so many ways to pray and this is one more that could help to focus your Lenten season all the more. As Catholics we are familiar with the idea of meditating on the mysteries of the rosary or meditating on the Stations of the Cross of Jesus. The

beauty of Taizé is that it takes this element of Catholic tradition and places it within a calming environment of music and candlelight and allows us to simply meditate on the presence of God within and around us.

Taizé prayer is a deliberate stripping away of some of the "complications" we can add to our prayer and focuses us on what is most important in prayer - the purpose of prayer - to allow us to connect to the object of our prayer, Jesus Christ. The Taizé community describes this musical form of prayer like this:

"These songs sustain personal prayer. They can continue in the silence of our hearts when we are at work, speaking with others or resting. In this way prayer and daily life are united. They allow us to keep on praying even when we are unaware of it, in the silence of our hearts."

So come on Tuesdays, March 16th and 30th for an hour of music, scripture, reflection and prayer. See you there!

The Chosen: A couple of weeks ago, we finished-up our 8-week watch-party for the first season of *The Chosen*. If you have not seen it, I would highly encourage you to seek it out on YouTube or The Chosen app. The series explores the life of Jesus at the beginning of His ministry, as a cast of biblical figures, including Mary Magdalen, Simon Peter, Matthew, Andrew and Nicodemus first encounter Jesus and then one-by-one experience Jesus calling them to join Him and follow Him in His ministry. The series so beautifully weaves together scriptural stories with fictional events, using the imagination of the director to develop the characters and to tell the story of how they are all knitted together in the hidden and mundane moments that scripture does not record. Those parts are purely conjecture, but they allow the viewer to see not only the ordinary humanity of Jesus, but also the very ordinariness of the people Jesus called. We see their struggles and flaws, their doubts and challenges of faith, and we see examples of how Jesus can use those parts of us and still call us to respond. And in their ordinariness, we see ourselves, our struggles, our doubts, and know that none of them need be obstacles to finding Jesus and following Him as a disciple. It's for those who struggle that He has come; it's for those needing a Savior that He has come.

We also see how following Him is always a call, but never an obligation - Jesus

allows those who choose to stay behind to do so. I think most of us watching the series had moments in which we found ourselves identifying with or being drawn to particular characters. I certainly did. I will avoid the spoiler alert (although it's in the Bible already!), but one of the characters struggles to the end to accept Jesus' call and perhaps for me the most wrenching moment of the series was to see this character weeping behind a wall as Jesus prepares to leave town with those who have accepted His invitation. Jesus looks toward this character and says quietly, "You came so close." What a moment of anguish. There are so many good moments, profound moments and glances between the characters and Jesus. It is so beautifully filmed and scripted and was all funded by donations. There are funny moments, thought-provoking moments, self-revealing moments and so many good one-liners. One line that caught my attention in particular was spoken by Jesus when one of His disciples was questioning His choice of one of the Twelve. The disciple thinks that this situation is so different from his own call by Jesus that it just can't be a good decision. Jesus' response is simply "Get used to different."

In our discussion after the episode, I said that was the best evangelization slogan I'd heard in a while and that would show-up in a homily one day. Little did I know that there were already T-shirts carrying the quote!

I'm looking forward to Season Two, but in the meantime, might Jesus want you to get used to different this Lent? Is there something Jesus wants to help you change? He never stops calling us, and even after we've started to follow Him, He continues to call us daily to be His disciples in the ordinariness of our lives. These are the daily moments that no-one recording the story of our lives would think to write-down. But these are the moments that connect us to our more profound encounters with Jesus, and that connect us to each other. If we constantly respond to the daily call to follow Jesus, we will need to "get used to different."

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

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.

Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

St. Joan Arc

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 21 B

Reading 1 - Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

Responsorial Psalm 51

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Reading 2 - Ephesians

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Verse Before the Gospel - John

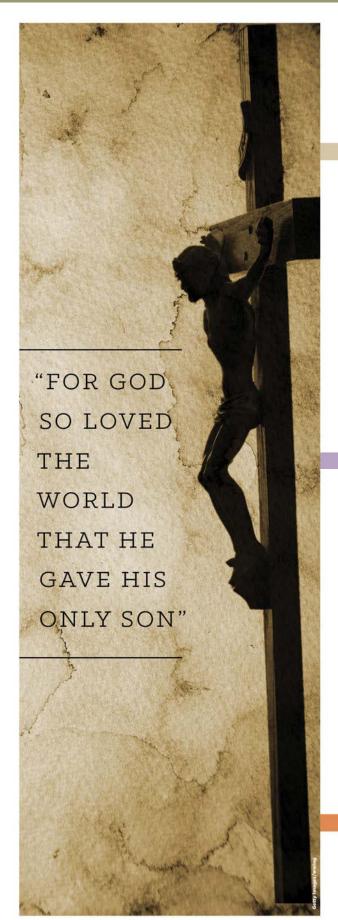
Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Gospel - John

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it. and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Grow + Go for the Fourth Sunday of Lent



March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 | Eph 2:4-10 | Jn 3:14-21

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

We all have mementoes that we treasure - a handmade Mother's Day card, a delicate glass sculpture inherited from a relative, perhaps a fine piece of woodwork or beautifully woven quilt. We treasure them because they remind us of someone we love. Now, think about that we are God's "handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance"! Our God, rich in mercy, rich in love, treasures us so much that he created each of us in his image and gives each of us grace - a pure, free gift. As we look in the mirror, we may be tempted to see only our imperfections. But Paul reminds us that if we look at ourselves the way God does and accept the gift of his love and grace, and cooperate with it working in us, we can live in Christ in the here and now, by extending love and mercy to others, and in eternity, in God's loving embrace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading the news and social media, the phrase in today's Gospel that "people preferred darkness to light" seems as true now as it was in John's time. Sinfulness and evil still cause great harm in our societies. The good news is that it is also as true for us as it was then that God sent his only Son, "not ... to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." Clearly, the world is a work in progress. We are a work in progress. Yet today's readings remind us that we can choose light over darkness by accepting the gift of faith and grace that our patient and merciful God bestows on us. It doesn't mean that we should turn off the news or hide from the world, but instead do our part to bring light to the situations we encounter. We know the kingdom of God won't be built in a day, or even a millennium, but we take a step toward building the Kingdom when we allow God's light to enter our hearts and then share that light with others through our witness, words, and prayer.

GIVE Choose light! Respond to a troubling event in your community or state by seeking a concrete way to help - donate to a local Catholic Charities or relief organization, or contact your parish about possibly organizing a donation effort.

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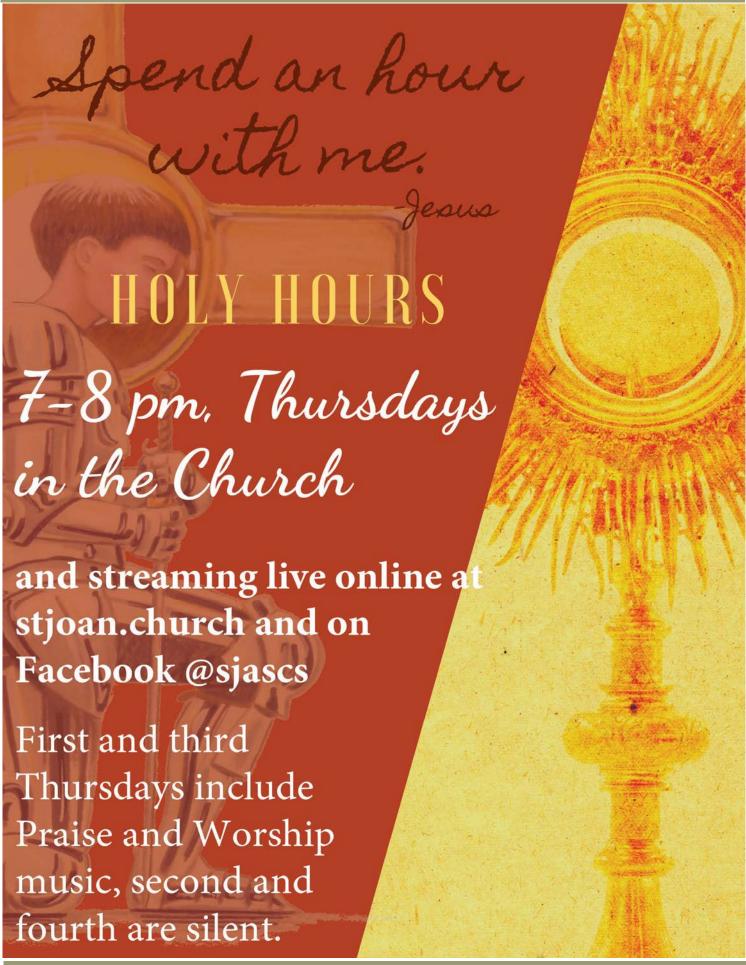
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Elizabeth Schaller Mary Anna Sheldon Dr. Thomas Sloan Kathleen Smith Cathy Spindler **Ingrid Stemmerich** Donald Strobbe **Beverly Taylor** William Taylor James Thompson Janine Tomasello Eileen Wallace Lynn Walton Audrey Weekley William Woodruff Chuck 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@sjascs.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B) March 14, 2021

Healed through His Wounds

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

esus refers to the story Michelangelo painted into a corner of the Sistine Chapel, The Brazen Serpent. It is about the time the Chosen People were attacked by serpents and many were dying. God instructed Moses to place two serpents on a staff and lift it up over the people. All they had to do was look at the serpents to be miraculously healed of their bite wounds.

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes, or we can be victims of other's sins. Yet sin and suffering doesn't

Sunday Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

They mocked God's messengers, despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the LORD's anger against his people blazed up.

Ephesians 2:4-10

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the aift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

John 3:14-21

[Jesus said,] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

need to have the last word. We can overcome if we choose to look at Christ crucified and learn his lesson of love. Jesus teaches us to not be defined by our ugly choices or the wounds we suffer. Our wounds and weaknesses can become the place of our healing. Jesus wants to heal us. That is why he let himself be lifted up!

To embrace this healing is simple yet challenging. First it requires simple faith to believe you are loved by the Father, no matter what. Second, we need a constant, often-denied effort on our part to sincerely repent and work with God's grace to transform self-limiting attitudes and habits into virtues.

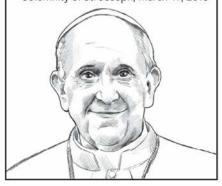
Even if you feel dead in your transgressions now, Jesus has already secured your path to life. Grace awaits you. The first step is to accept the love from he who is lifted up with arms outstretched to receive you. +

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes.

A Word from **Pope Francis**

Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

-Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19, 2013



REFLECTION

- Do I have any unspoken beliefs that I am unlovable?
- Can I repent from attitudes or actions that distance me from God's love?

Conscience-informed Speech

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

ur high school forensics team didn't win many awards, if memory serves. However, we did learn a lot about speaking in public. We studied and put into practice simple rules for public speaking and debate. We were told to check our content and make sure it was accurate. We were warned about misinterpreting and fabricating information. We were taught the skill of being adversarial and competitive without name-calling. Debate is public, not private or personal. We were instructed that it is never appropriate to demean, belittle, degrade, or dehumanize the opponent. What we didn't know was that we were being taught to reason and think critically and exercise sound judgment.

High school forensics taught me that I shouldn't say everything that I think. There is a difference between personal thought and public opinion. And while personal thought can contribute to the formation of public opinion, some personal thoughts should remain just that, personal, internal, and most importantly, unspoken. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians encourages this: "No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29). Many parents have said it this way, "If you have nothing nice to say, say nothing at all."

Say nothing. That's the key. How



many of us speak and then regret what we've said? How many people in public life have been caught in the act of misspeaking, exaggerating, mixing truth with lies, and fabricating stories about themselves or others? Saying nothing is a valid response—at times the most appropriate response. It's even a holy response, especially if the alternative is a lie or words that will wound.

It is very important to stop and think about the language we use when speaking about people, especially in terms of race, immigration, human sexuality, religion, and politics. I am not advocating political correctness. Sometimes political correctness runs and hides from the truth. I'm looking for a place in the

middle of the road, somewhere between the shield of political correctness and license that permits unapologetically brutal and inflammatory expression.

That place is called conscienceinformed speech. It goes beyond selfcensure, beyond reasoning and critical thinking; it goes even further than the exercise of sound judgment. Conscienceinformed speech asks one to stop and weigh the moral value and implications of one's words. It means speaking with moral judgment enlightened by God and the Word, especially in important moments: political debates, campaign speeches, teaching, preaching, and conversations in the public square. We should not underestimate the ethical responsibility of the speaker. There is a duty to say the right thing or say nothing

Sometimes the best response is no response.



Lord, you are the source of love, peace, and justice in the world. Help me to live in communion with you and all people.

-From Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 15-20

Monday, Lenten Weekday: Is 65:17-21 / Jn 4:43-54 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:

Ez 47:1-9, 12 / Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday: Is 49:8-15 / Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, Lenten Weekday: Ex 32:7-14 / Jn 5:31-47

Friday, St. Joseph: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday, Lenten Weekday: Jer 11:18-20 / Jn 7:40-53



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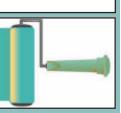
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