



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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3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



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. - Jn 21:12-13

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
ckaiser@stjoan.net

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
mrusso@sjasc.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, 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.



Read. The. Instructions.:

Now, really, who reads all the instructions. And, I mean all the tiny print and precautionary notes someone drafted about how

a particular item is to be put together or how some product is to be used. Doesn't everyone have fun putting something together only to find out you put one panel on backward or forgot an important step only because you failed to read the instructions or fast-forwarded through YouTube instructional videos? I can tell you this much, my projects wouldn't be fully authentic if they came out perfect the first time! As one of my sisters likes to comment about my DIY work, "In the end, it may look great; you just have to ignore the holes that need to be patched and repainted in the process!" Come on, I have to live up to my Clark Griswold image!

Off what we call "The Great Room" in my mom's condo is a small den-like room that was my dad's TV room. The room had dark green paint and wallpaper, so it was always called "The Green Room." My dad liked watching his sports and news shows there when my parents weren't watching something together in The Great Room. With the condo renovation project, my mom had the wallpaper removed, and she had all the walls painted a dark green in honor of my dad. The room continues to be known as The Green Room today!

One of my more recent tasks at the condo has been putting up my mom's pictures and artwork. While I know people who will pound a nail into a location and call it a day, my approach is more tedious and precise. I will measure and re-measure not only the wall and space but the artwork too. I will then decide if I will use two hangers or one or more fancy French cleats for heavier items. Besides my drill and hammer, my level is also an essential tool for these projects. I have this trusty 12-inch level I carry around in my Bosch drill case, but I decided it was time to get a 48-inch level. After all, EVERY DIY project requires a NEW tool. So off to Home Depot I went that day. As I think about it, my DIY projects would take a lot less time to complete if I wasn't heading out to Home Depot and Lowe's all the time!

I was careful (so I thought) to purchase a new level that wouldn't leave too many marks on the wall. For this very reason, an aluminum level was out of the question, so I settled on a bright yellow plastic Stanley

level. It was perfect.

After getting back to the condo, I began the meticulous process of figuring out how I was going to hang this four-season quadriptych painting (each season was its own canvas, and we wanted two inches in between each canvas, and then the whole quadriptych was to be centered over the new reclining console loveseat). Measuring this out took all the brainpower I had! Next, I meticulously made all of my markings on the wall using my new level. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any pencils in the area, so I used my ink gel pen to mark my spots. I figured the spots would be easy to "erase." After getting all of my markings on the wall, I used my level again to ensure the final line would be level and all the pictures would be in the right spot for it to be centered over the loveseat. I then looked at the wall and gasped. My level left ALL KINDS of marking on the wall. I was pretty irritated, but I figured I would use a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser to clean up all the markings on the wall. I've had great

success with these "magic eraser" sponges in the past, so I anticipated the same success this time. After getting all the hangers up, I hung each of the canvas paintings and made sure all was okay before I took them down to begin the task of erasing my ink gel markings and the markings left behind by the level. I grabbed a Magic Eraser, wetted it down, grabbed a few paper towels, and headed back to the wall. I started on a spot to the left of the quadriptych. With a bit of muscle power, I tried cleaning up an area about 3 inches long. I let out another gasp. UGH. The Magic Eraser wiped out the paint. I couldn't believe what I saw. It looked terrible. Figuring I must have done something wrong with my Magic Erasing technique, I tried it on another area above the quadriptych hanging line. I made it worse! I looked at the Magic Eraser and realized the quaint little white sponge was now tainted green! I was now screaming in my mind. I put the canvas paintings back on the wall and looked in dismay at my mess. I eventually showed my mom and assured her I would do some spot painting to clean it up in the next week or two. She told me that Brain, our painter, said you couldn't spot paint the darker flat accent walls. Instead, the whole wall would have to be repainted. Then my mom asked the infamous question: "Did you not read the Magic Eraser instructions that you are to TEST these sponges in an inconspicuous area?" I'm sure I had this blank dumbfounded stare. "OF COURSE, I didn't read the instruction," I thought to myself. Well, I guess "Clark" will be repainting the whole wall soon! In the meantime, we just can't turn on the lights in

The Green Room because doing so only highlights the mess I created! Way to go, Clark!

Festival 2022 – May 20-22, 2022: As I wrote in my letter that accompanied the annual raffle tickets that were mailed to every registered parishioner and many friends of SJA, this year's "festival" will again be a food truck and raffle event only. We did give serious thought to expanding a bit to an entertainment tent for two of the nights, but I gasped when I saw the costs to rent the needed tents, white picket fencing, porta-pots, tables, chairs, etc. Then add the costs for security, setting up the electrical and networking, added liability insurance, and the needed repairs to the parking lot. In all, we were approaching \$70,000 in costs. As much as we would have liked the community atmosphere and getting back to some sense of "normal" after the pandemic, it didn't make any business sense to move forward with such a plan. We were doing great with just the food trucks and raffle tickets.

There is NO DOUBT we need some family and community events, but we can begin to plan these out so they take place throughout the year. In addition, we are working on bringing back what was once called the Parish Life Committee. If you have any interest in helping, send me an email!

We also know that Festival Weekend has to be redefined to fit our mission and vision as a parish. And this work still needs much discussion; we just didn't have enough time this year to "redefine" things after seeing the staggering costs we would have incurred by adding the entertainment tents.

Some have asked about the future of the rides. With sadness, I report that the days of the big rides are now a thing of the past. Every year brought more challenges and more liability with the rides and the crowds. We tried the approach with the perimeter fence, but that only had limited success. As I said when we put up the perimeter fence, I repeat again, we will not be deterred by all the issues! Festival Weekend just has to be redefined; and redefined to fit our mission and vision as a parish. It took until now to see clearly the road ahead. Now that we know the path, we can start redefining and building the future of SJA's Festival Weekends.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb

gmb@sjascscs.org



A MULTITUDE OF FISHES.

May 1, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 | Rev 5:11-14 | Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

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

The accounts of Jesus' appearances to the disciples after his resurrection often puzzle me, and today's reading is no exception. There stands Jesus, within sight, yet the Apostles "did not realize that it was Jesus." Hello?! I know we're in the midst of a daylight saving time debate, but I'm fairly sure "dawn" meant the sun was up. Yet as soon as Jesus speaks and they follow his instructions, they realize he is their Lord. Simon Peter wastes no time; he dives into the sea and makes for the shore. Peter and the disciples show us that while it is important to recognize Jesus, it's what we do next that matters. As we learn in Acts, they boldly say his name despite the Sanhedrin's warning, and most will go on to be martyred for the Church. Thanks to them, we recognize Jesus – in the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in Tradition, and on the crucifixes in our homes and churches. Peter challenges us to "dive in," moving from faith to action. The specifics will differ for each of us, but we can study the lives of the Apostles and the saints to find inspiration.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Is it a Catholic thing or the fact that I'm a closet introvert? I sometimes struggle with talking about Jesus. Which is why today's reading from Acts challenges me. The Sanhedrin had warned the Apostles not to even speak Jesus' name. Yet they don't cower in fear or simply go back to the relatively quiet lives they led before they met Jesus. They rejoice to be found worthy "to suffer dishonor for the sake of [Jesus'] name." Their commitment challenges us to be bold – not only with our words but with our actions as well. In the same way that teaching another person math or spelling helps us learn, witnessing to our faith by sharing it with others helps us deepen our faith and answer God's call to be his disciple, striving to build his kingdom on earth.

STUDY This week, look up the feast days and read about the saint of the day. What can we learn from their example?

RIGHT TO LIFE MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE



There will be a Right to Life Flower Sale on Mother's Day Weekend after all Masses (May 7th and May 8th) at the Family and Youth Center exit.

The suggested donation is \$1.00/ Carnation. We're looking forward to seeing you!

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

SJA Senior Card Club

The Senior Card Club is trying to determine interest in regular monthly play.

The group will start with monthly games the first Tuesday of the month from 11:30 am –1:30pm.

May's Card Club date is May 3rd.

The Club will meet in the St. Peregrine.

If you have questions please call Denise at 248-431-6406.



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.

May Meetings will be on
5/11 and 5/25

We hope that you can join us!

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. May meetings will be on the 11th and the 25th all knitters are welcome.

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



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!*

LET MI KIDS LEARN Petition Drive



LET KIDS LEARN.
EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY BACKGROUND.
EVERY COMMUNITY.

Now is the time to support Michigan's low-income students (in both public and nonpublic schools), to give parents more control, and to provide additional educational opportunities. The **Michigan Catholic Conference**, on behalf of the **Catholic Bishops of Michigan**, supports this nonpartisan effort, which is why we can circulate the petitions in Catholic churches and schools.

What The Proposal Does

- Creates "student opportunity scholarships" to low-income families for their out-of-pocket educational expenses. Scholarship Organizations would provide funds to qualifying public and nonpublic school students for tutoring, school supplies, computers, and tuition among other expenses.
- Creates a state tax credit for donations to scholarship organizations, including existing Catholic school foundations.

With 340,000 signatures, the Legislature can pass these two measures without requiring the signature of the governor, who unfortunately vetoed similar bills last fall.

What Can I do?

- **Volunteer to help with the Signature Drive.**
- **Prayerfully consider signing the two petitions to create the scholarship program and the tax credit.**
- **Take 5 minutes and sign!**



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



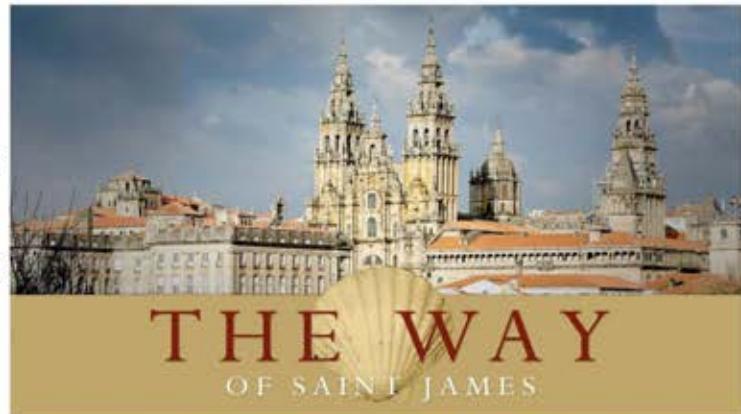
PICK OF THE WEEK

May 1, 2022

WATCH

THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith but are united in their journey across the Camino de Santiago. Each of them is traveling toward the shrine of St. James the Apostle, whose feast day we celebrate this week.



The
ACTS OF THE
APOSTLES



THE CHURCH LEARNING TO BE THE CHURCH

LEARN

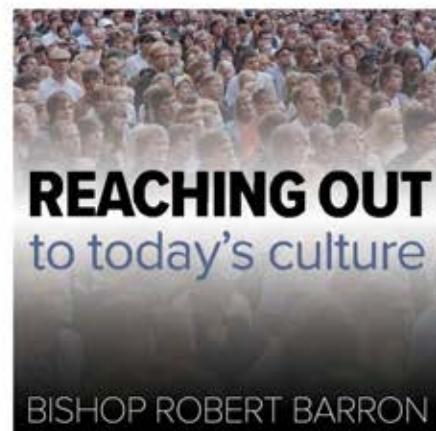
**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
WITH MARK HART**

The feast day of Saints Philip and James reminds us of the impact that the Apostles made on the whole world. With Philip, James, and all the Apostles in mind, join Mark Hart in this refresher on the Book of Acts.

LISTEN

**REACHING OUT TO TODAY'S CULTURE
BY BISHOP ROBERT BARRON**

Saints Philip and James each lived extraordinary lives of missionary zeal. In this insightful talk, Bishop Barron shares his advice on how to live similar lives of mission within a culture dominated by media and misconceptions about faith.



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

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, May 2nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 pm First Communion - Live Streamed

Tuesday, May 3rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
5:00 pm First Communion - Live Streamed

Wednesday, May 4th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, May 5th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, May 6th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 am Funeral for Arthur Wilhelm

Saturday, May 7th

11:00 am Reconciliation
10:00 am Funeral for Charles P. Eriksen
12:30 pm Baptism -Ava Grace Bahr - Live Streamed
1:30 pm Baptism -Remington Maison Lewicki-L.S.
2:30 pm Baptism -Mila Grace Dragotta -L.S.
4:00 pm Sunday Vigil Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 pm Sunday Vigil Mass -Live Streamed

Sunday, May 8

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 am Sunday Mass- Live Streamed
12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

May 1, 2022 – Bearing Witness

It's remarkable how much the action in today's first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, plays like a television crime drama.

"We gave you strict orders, did we not, to stop teaching in that name?" asks the high priest of the disciples. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us."

"That name," of course, refers to Jesus.

And the "criminal" heat that Peter and the others were facing had everything to do with their insistence on spreading the Gospel message to which they personally bore witness.

It's not unlike the circumstances many people of good will find themselves in today on any number of issues. Abortion, of course, continues to be one of the most contentious. Headlines were made again a few weeks ago when some Michigan politicians started positioning themselves as advocates of abortion rights, trying to get out ahead of what they anticipate will be upcoming Supreme Court decisions on the issue.

Those on the pro-life side of the debate responded with arguments and legal moves of their own. And, predictably, commentators on the abortion rights side of the debate quickly took to social media to question the reasoning and motives of those who would defend life.

Perhaps the thing to keep in mind at this juncture is that, regardless of what the Supreme Court does or does not decide – and regardless of what does or does not happen in Michigan – we are urged to continue to boldly bear witness to the truth, come what may, as the apostles did shortly after Jesus' death and resurrection.

"The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them," the reading continues. "So they left ... rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name."

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	May 2, 2022 Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (White)
7:00 a.m.	A Special Intention for Father Rich Bartoszek and for the Mordovanakis Family
Tuesday	May 3, 2022 Saints Philip and James, Apostles (Red)
7:00 a.m.	John Richardson
Wednesday May 4, 2022 Easter Weekday (White)	
7:00 a.m.	Virginia Murphy and a Special Intention for the Family of Tina Calisi
Thursday	May 5, 2022 Easter Weekday (White)
7:00 a.m.	Mary T. Hobig
Friday	May 6, 2022 Easter Weekday (White)
7:00 a.m.	Phyllis DeMars, Veronica and Homer Recor and Ralph Wales
Saturday	May 7, 2022: Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Easter
4:00 p.m.	Josephine Lucchese, Barbara DelGrosso, Sam & Grace Valenti, Evalene Elliott, Mark Brys, Bonnie Batche, Sophie Rupinski, Alice Czekaj, the deceased members of the Hage Family, John Burasinski, Charles Eriksen, Edward & Henry Blind, Frank Bradley and Special Intentions for the Jarek Family, for the J. Champine Family, for the Thomas Family, and Prayerful appreciation for the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc
6:00 p.m.	Richard Adamcik
Sunday	May 8, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	A Special Intention for the Winn & Novikoff Families
12:00 p.m.	Virginia Murphy, Antonietta Mazzella, Bianca Calisi, Geraldine Rogier, Gary A. Rossi, Louise Sarra, Pearl Doetsch, Charlotte McQuillan, Juliette Zaranek, C. Pat Walters, Florence Semany, Virginia Prill, Rita Snyder, Gerri Doak, Marguerite Joseph, Mary Ann Fannon, Rebeca Sandoval, Ann Seneski, Doreen Oster, and Special intentions for Rebeca Drummond, for Rosalina Guerrera, for Dolores Acosta, and for Margie Sandoval

Daily Readings

Monday, May 2	Friday, May 6
Acts 6:8-15 John 6:22-29	Acts 9:1-20 John 6:52-59
Tuesday, May 3	Saturday, May 7
1 Corinthians 15:1-8 John 14:6-14	Acts 9:31-42 John 6:60-69
Wednesday, May 4	Sunday, May 8
Acts 8:1b-8 John 6:35-40	Acts 13:14, 43-52 Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5 Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 John 10:27-30
Thursday, May 5	
Acts 8:26-40 John 6:44-51	



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."

Frederick (Freddie) Orlando Sr.
Charles P. Eriksen
Doreen Oster
Lynne Doyal
Anthony Viviano



"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



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



The Day of the Triffid: Some eight years ago, I bought a *little* house-plant from Meijer (note the deliberate) emphasis on “little”). A *little* greenery for my

seminary room, I thought it would be dead and gone within a few months, at best, I thought. I never manage to maintain house-plants for very long. If you ever saw the dead cactus in my house, it would testify to that. This *little* plant was a Coffea Arabica plant, native to Ethiopia and Tropical Africa, needing relatively humid air to thrive. What chance did it stand at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, the building with the driest air known to humankind? But my *little* plant grew.... a *little*...not much, but a *little*. It actually survived the semester and even then a change of room. It was apparently hardy enough to survive the move and enjoyed travelling south to its new home... 40 ft south anyway, clearly a much more humid and warm environment. I waited, anticipating an abundant crop of coffee beans, but it grew none. Then I noticed that the label in the soil said it would not grow beans until it was 5-6 years old. Pah.... ! Some chance! The idea that a plant could endure 5-6 years in my care was ridiculous. Oh, well, it's green, so I thought I'd keep it until it was not. I even put plant food in the soil on occasions. The plant had several stalks but sometime in that second year, most of them died. Just two weedy stalks remained, but somehow they survived year two, and shock of shocks, year 3!

Then seminary was finished and the plant survived another move, over to the West side. Another year passed, no coffee beans, and another year... no coffee beans... and finally, year six, the year of much promise. Would I finally be brewing my own tasty mug of Ethiopian coffee...? Nope. No beans. Oh well, by this time, I had decided that the fact that I could see no signs of beans was at least a sign that I was looking, which suggested that it was still alive, so on some level it had already surpassed expectations. But it was also still a *little* house-plant.

Then I moved to St. Joan, and along came said little house-plant. My first summer here, I went on vacation and forgot to ask anyone to water the plant.... I got back to find a shriveled-up, dried and crispy plant, whimpering pathetically. I slowly coaxed it back into life, but it lost most of its leaves. Still, there was soon signs of new life... new leaves, but no coffee beans. Almost two

years later it has retained one or two of its healthy, but slightly crispy-edged leaves as a cruel reminder of my negligence. But last summer, after that previous near-miss, I asked our business manager, Dina to look after my *little* house-plant. Never one to take on a task half-heartedly, Dina welcomed my plant into her office. The rest, as they say, is history. Or not so much history, but a new chapter! Since July of 2021, *little* coffee plant has become a giant triffid of a plant that practically doubles in size daily (I exaggerate just slightly). Dina insisted that my plant needed re-potting because the tub has too small. She kindly took care of that, only to announce two days later that it needed re-potting again!

While all this energetic growth is encouraging, if bemusing, I'm not sure I'm ready for all this responsibility of being the care-giver for a giant man-eating rainforest of a plant. What happened to my *little*, easy to move, sits on the corner of a desk and make the room green, kind of plant? I had no idea what I was taking on 8 years ago. I thought a plant for just for a semester, not for life. I mean, am I expected to pay for it to go through college? Set it up with a retirement fund? When does this end?! I feel like I'm over-invested now! If it does ever die, I had been planning on throwing it out, but now maybe I'll be organizing a burial too. And others are invested too—would I have to send out invitations? When Dina said it could go on the floor in my house now, I could only wonder, “How did this happen to my *little* house-plant?!”

The Yolk Of Obedience: Today's readings remind us of the authority God has to lead us and they challenge us to check our obedience to Him over any other voice. Often even the voice of logic may shout louder, but that doesn't mean that God is not the voice we should listen to.

Simon Peter had every reason to think he knew better when Jesus tells him to cast the net over the right side of the boat. Who is this stranger yelling instructions from the shore? Who does he think he is? Doesn't he know I'm a fisherman. But by the grace of God, something speaks louder to Simon Peter than this voice. Something tells him that this is the right thing to do, so he casts the net again. And his obedience not only brings an abundance of fish, but it confirms for Simon Peter that the stranger on the shore is the risen Jesus. This recognition draws Simon Peter into a new encounter with Jesus, who He last saw as Jesus was being led away for trial after Peter had denied knowing Him: “...and the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows

today, you will deny me three times.’” (Luke 22:61).

Imagine how crushed Peter must have felt in that moment, as Jesus looked him in the eye. But now Jesus has come and sought him out and offers him the chance to express his love for Jesus and to undo the wrong he had done. Despite everything that has gone before, Jesus has a special mission for Peter, to “feed my sheep,” to “tend my sheep.” And ultimately Peter will be obedient to Jesus to the point of his own martyrdom.

Last Saturday I was blessed to be able to attend the ordinations of six new deacons, 5 for the Archdiocese of Detroit and one for the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity (SOLT). One of the deacons actually entered seminary the same day I did, back in 2011. He studied for two years, then discerned out. Five years later the voice of God was still working on Him and he re-entered seminary. The voice of God is persistent and is louder if we are listening well. But I was also attending because one of the other deacons, Dcn. Michael Bruno was a parishioner at my previous assignment. Michael has a pretty neat story, but the obedience theme in the readings reminds me of a funny story about Michael. He's from India and came to Michigan to study at Lawrence Tech. He got his first cell phone there, but had no vehicle yet, so and was walking one Sunday, following the GPS, trying to find a Catholic church. He found one and that became his home parish. One Sunday he was helping the Knights of Columbus with a pancake breakfast and they were running short of eggs, so Michael, still not knowing the area, was dispatched to go buy more. “Michael, we need you to go buy some eggs from Heartland,” someone said, meaning the local market half a mile away. So off he went. But when he didn't arrive back until an hour and a half later, everyone was bemused as to why buying eggs was taking so long.

“Michael, what happened? Where were you?!?” Michael was apologetic... “I'm sorry, I used my GPS, but Hartland is quite far.” Michael had not gone to the local market, but followed the instructions he heard and drove a 60 mile round-trip to buy eggs from Hartland, MI. He thought it was a very specific instruction that the eggs must come from Hartland, MI, but ever dutiful, he was obedient to the end!

May we all be willing to show such obedience when the voice is the voice of God speaking to us.... But buy your eggs locally!

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjasc.org

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Easter



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 8 C

Reading One – Acts 13:14, 43-52

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, *"I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth."*"

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful song.

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Know that the LORD is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends.

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

The LORD is good: his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness, to all generations.

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Reading Two – Rev 7:9, 14b-17

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Alleluia – Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Jn 10:27-30

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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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 Dancey	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

Third Sunday of Easter (C)

May 1, 2022

His Love Casts Out Fear

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

When we receive the power of the resurrection and experience its effects, then we become transformed Christians. Somehow we like to hold on to our fears and failures. They are what we know, and in some way they can make us feel strangely secure. Yet Jesus wants to free us from old fears and set us on a mission motivated by love.

All of the apostles, after encountering the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit, show new courage in proclaiming his name. Whether before politicians, church leaders, or before their fellow Jews, they had no fear of the consequences of

preaching the Way. Why? Because Jesus showed them death wasn't something to fear. He had received the fullness of evil's wrath and, by rising victorious, proved love is stronger. The apostles had seen him tortured and dead, and then they saw him alive. Jesus had promised that same power to his followers. It is with this confidence and trust that they travel throughout Judea and all of the Roman Empire. Perfected love casts out all fear.

Although the apostles had failed Jesus and denied his friendship, each had experienced his mercy and forgiveness. Jesus didn't blame them for their sin. He reassured them of his confidence in them. Once we have experienced love, there is no stopping us. We have seen it in a small way when we have fallen in love with someone or set our hearts and minds passionately on a goal. Once our hearts have been captured and we believe, everything else is absorbed into that gravitational pull. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

Revelation 5:11-14

And [the angels] cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."

John 21:1-19 or John 21:1-14

So [Jesus] said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something."

Jesus wants to free us from old fears and set us on a mission motivated by love.

A Word from Pope Francis

Mutual forgiveness is the fruit of an interior resolve that comes to maturity in prayer.... It is a gift born of the grace poured out by Christ upon married couples whenever they turn to him and allow him to act. Christ...is always waiting for you to open your hearts to him, so that he can sustain you....

Letter to married couples for the "Amoris Laetitia family" year, December 26, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**REFLECTION
QUESTIONS**

- Do I need to forgive someone? What stops me?
- Is there someone whose forgiveness I need to seek? What is stopping me?

The Freedom of Forgiveness

By Joy McCuen

It was 1980. Since the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists, many refugees had arrived in the United States. Commonly called "boat people" because many fled Vietnam by boat, the refugees escaped to camps in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. They then were relocated to various countries.

Some boat people came to Philadelphia and were temporarily housed in a condemned seven-story apartment building in the city's Logan section. They had no jobs, spoke no English, and mostly had just the clothes on their backs as their only possessions.

Supported by our church, my husband and I left our home and moved into the seventh floor of this building. We had a toddler and I was pregnant. The elevator was broken, so we climbed the stairs to get to our apartment. Some called us crazy, but God immediately gave us an incredible love for these refugees who had come so far and had suffered so much.

With interpreters, drawings, and charades, we began to learn the stories of the people we came to help. One woman said her sister's hand got chopped off because the soldiers wanted the jade bracelet she had worn since she was small. Other survivors told of dangerous journeys on overcrowded, unsafe boats. While escaping, they faced constant danger from storms and pirates. Some described treacherous treks through



dense jungles. Torture, rape, and devastating losses were also common. Almost everyone had witnessed loved ones killed by the Communist regime. Most survivors we talked with had spent many months in stark, dangerous conditions in refugee camps. Each individual tragedy felt overwhelming.

In the relative safety of north Philadelphia, we began to help our new friends learn English and navigate the city. We shared our Christian faith, telling of Jesus' love for them and that through him they could find peace. We also discussed a central tenet of Christianity—forgiveness, a difficult concept in this circumstance.

How do you forgive a man who cut off your hand? How do you forgive

a mob of soldiers who gang-raped you? How do you forgive officers who murdered your parents before your eyes? How do you forgive a government that took all you owned? How could we ask people to forgive those who committed unthinkable wrongs against them?

Forgiveness never lets the wrongdoer off the hook. Forgiveness frees the forgiver. Forgiveness releases us from the bitterness and anger that come from gripping the hurt and anger. Jesus showed us we must forgive those who have hurt us. While dying on Calvary, he forgave those who falsely accused him, beat him, and nailed him to that cross.

As this truth became clear to our Southeast Asian friends, they slowly began entering a place where they could forgive. It wasn't easy. Days were filled with weeping and unimaginable pain. But gradually we began seeing once-hardened faces soften through God's healing miracle of forgiveness. We felt blessed to witness firsthand the power of forgiveness under horrific circumstances. +



Risen Lord, you share with me God's gifts of peace and forgiveness. Open my heart to share your peace and forgiveness with all people.

*From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney*

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 2–7

Monday, St. Athanasius:
Acts 6:8–15 / Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday, Sts. Philip and James,
Apostles: 1 Cor 15:1–8 / Jn 14:6–14

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 8:1b–8 / Jn 6:35–40

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 8:26–40 / Jn 6:44–51

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 9:1–20 / Jn 6:52–59

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 9:31–42 / Jn 6:60–69



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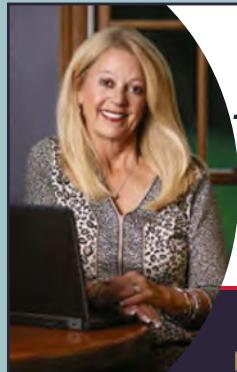
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