



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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THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed for many." - Mk 14:24

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: repoprofice@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

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 Pastors / Weekend Assistants:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek
Fr. James Grau

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjasc.org

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjasc.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
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Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Music Director

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Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth
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Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
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Office of Faith &

Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjasc.org

Exceptional Children

Mary Cal
mcal@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 (adjacent
to church)

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7a 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.

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, 10 am & 12 pm Masses**
- **Thursdays - 7 pm Holy Hour**

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



Complicating a Simple Project:
I'm such a novice
Do It Yourself-er
(DIYer)! As I
type this, I
couldn't help but
think that it
would be quite a
documentary if I

had videos of all of my failed projects!

For several weeks, I've been assessing what I needed to do to plant flowers at the five graves where we already have headstones in place at Resurrection Cemetery. Only four graves are occupied right now; the fifth headstone is at my mom's future resting place. Buried in our little "family section" are my dad, my mom's parents, and my mom's sister. While we're good with grave blankets in the winter, I'm not so good with flowers the rest of the year. But this was going to be the year I would change that habit. Of course, I couldn't simply square off a little section above the headstone and plant flowers. NOOOOO, I wanted to bury a window box flush to the ground. I think most novice DIY people like to complicate their projects! I'm a master at that! The idea was to find this two-part planter system I've seen at other graves. You first bury the "holding" container; the second piece then slides right into that first piece. This way, you can plant and arrange the flowers at home and then simply drop the planter in the buried "holding container." I've searched high and low for this two-part grave planter system and have had no luck finding it. The two-part planter makes for easy swapping of flowers at the change of season. But since I couldn't find this two-part system, I decided to settle on some window boxes I could bury.

I've also learned through this little project not to convince your mom that your idea is the ultimate idea so that when things don't go as planned, you can easily back out of your not so brilliant idea without anyone knowing about it. But, be as it may be, I had my mom convinced we would bury these five window boxes with ease! Well, there was no "ease" with this project!

So last Sunday, we decided to venture out to Lowes and English Gardens to find all that we needed to plant flowers at the graves. Since our family was gathering for Memorial Day, everyone was on their own for that Sunday. So my mom and I decided to attack this little project. The

first task was to find the window boxes we needed. The regulations allow for a planter no greater than 24 x 10 inches. We eventually found what we needed at English Gardens. Next, we ventured over to Resurrection Cemetery with a car full of window boxes, potting soil, and plants. By this time, it was already 5 PM. Once we got all of our supplies up to our little family section, my first task was to start digging out enough dirt to plant my first window box flush to the ground.

My dad's grave was the test case. It didn't take long to realize I'd never make it as a gravedigger. Good heavens, the ground was tough, and while I was trying to fling the dirt onto this tarp I placed on the ground, my aim wasn't so good as my mom caught dirt wandering onto nearby graves. Now, I only had to go 7 inches deep, but it took me close to a half-hour to dig one 24x8x7 hole. With time and lots of tweaking, I finally got one of the planter boxes flush to the ground. I made sure to unplug the existing drainage hole but decided more holes were needed. So, I went back to my car and grabbed my drill. Using the biggest drill bit I had in my car (a standard rotary bit rather than a spade bit), I started to drill away. "This was going to be easy," I thought to myself. The plastic was so hard I could have used my impact driver! With the first hole drilled out, I went to the opposite end and started to drill again. I got through the plastic with ease this time, but then the damp clumpy dirt from below forcefully "grabbed" my drill halfway to China before I realized what was happening. By the time I released the trigger, my drill bit and half of my drill was through the plastic and left a hole as big as the front of my drill. As the peanut gallery was watching and laughing behind me, I heard, "I guess there'll be enough drainage now."

With the planter in place, we planted the flowers and got things arranged the way my mom wanted them arranged. At this point, I was ready to call it quits, but I had to haul the dirt away, pack things up, and try to figure out how I was going to water these newly planted flowers. Of course, we didn't bring a watering can or anything, so getting water up to the site would be a challenge. I ended up using one of the unused window boxes to haul some water, but I wanted to get a watering can. So, I convinced my mom we would quickly run over to the nearby ACE Hardware store to get a watering can and then return to the cemetery to water the flowers and say all of our prayers. Before

we left the cemetery, we decided to stop by the office for a quick bathroom break. When we got back into our car and saw how late it was, we decided to return to the graves and improvise with what we had on hand to water and soak our flowers. As we approached our section, I could see a small box on the right hand side of the road. We both couldn't figure out what it was until I was nearly on top of it ... and then my heart sank. It was my drill case! Good heavens. I propped it up against the back wheel of my car as I was packing everything up and never saw it there as we sped away to get a watering can. I could only roll my eyes at myself. Thankfully, no one took it! It was bad enough that the clumpy damp dirt almost grabbed my drill halfway to China, but then it almost got left behind at the cemetery. But then again, who uses a drill to plant flowers at a cemetery other than a DIYer who likes to complicate his own projects! UGH! And to think, I have four more of these things to plant!

CSA 2021: FUEL the MISSION:
This weekend marks the beginning of the annual *Catholic Services Appeal* for our parish. This year's CSA theme is FUEL THE MISSION. Your contribution to the annual CSA helps "Fuel the Mission" of the Archdiocese of Detroit as it responds to the needs of our six counties in southeast Michigan.

I hope you take the time to consider prayerfully what you can give to this year's CSA. While one-time gifts are rather popular, **I encourage you to consider a ten-month pledge to the CSA.** Speaking from my own experience, I can give a much larger gift to the CSA by pledging over ten months. **Our goal this year is \$217,002. As of today, we have raised \$41,175 from 196 donors.**

To make a gift to the CSA, please complete the form found at the bottom of your CSA letter and return it along with your initial pledge payment (made out to the Archdiocese of Detroit - CSA) to the Parish Center or mail it as noted in your CSA letter. **You can also give your gift online by going to <http://sja.aodcsa.org/>.**

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascscs.org



Online  Giving



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Payments

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stjoan.church
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REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

4719





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.

SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

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You can use your current Amazon account and search for St. Joan of Arc. Visit smile.amazon.com there are no additional fees and .5% of all sales will be donated back to our parish/school.



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.



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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 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 Matt at 313-683-1972.

Thank you for your support.

The Class of 2022



*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 @sjasc

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, June 7th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, June 8th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

5:30 pm Schrage Baptism - Live Streamed

Wednesday, June 9th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

8:30 am All School Mass Live Streamed

Thursday, June 10th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, June 11th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, June 12th

10:00 am Funeral Mass for Stella Milewski

11:00 am Reconciliation

12:00 pm Baptism of Ella Mallon and Mila Mallon

1:00 pm Baptism of Beau Daniel Carroll

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, June 13th

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

June 6, 2021 – Perfect in Practice

Perfection, as we all know, can be an elusive goal. For most, it's rare, if not impossible. For others, it is a height that can, indeed, be achieved.

Our Lord, of course, created and achieved perfection with his human body, as a tabernacle, as we hear in today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

"Brothers and sisters: When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be," the reading begins, "passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."

That, to be sure is the most profound perfection, and it sets the bar high for us.

It was nice, then, when some local media reported a few weeks ago on a high school senior from Macomb County who achieved perfection on his SAT exam. Literal perfection – a score of 1600.

The story, reported on the WWJ Newsradio 950 website, indicated that the student planned to attend Harvard Law School, with the ultimate goal of someday becoming president. Doing so, he said, would enable him to emulate Abraham Lincoln, with a service ethic grounded in his faith and family.

"You have to dedicate yourself to serving the people around you one way or another," the student was quoted in the story as saying. "Politics just seemed like a good outlet for me to do that."

Indeed, this young man may or may not find that political life is the right outlet for his urge to serve, but one has to admire his mindset. And the fact that his goal to serve clearly is consistent with the goal that Jesus so perfectly met.

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	June 7, 2021 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Joseph Cueter and Showket Garmoo
Tuesday	June 8, 2021 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Thomas Lucchese and Kevin Brys
Wednesday	June 9, 2021 Weekday Saint Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church (Green/White)
7:00 a.m.	Deborah Moss Capaldi and Alice Libres
Thursday	June 10, 2021 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Martha Fox
Friday	June 11, 2021 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (White)
7:00 a.m.	The Deceased members of the Rogier and Dettloff Families and a Special Intention for Ed Marroso
Saturday	June 12, 2021 The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (White)
4:00 p.m.	Dee Allor, Bonnie Batche, George J. Bugarin, Tony D'Aleo, Nancy and Ben Evola, the deceased members of the Rogier and Dettloff Families and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family and the J. Champine Family
6:00 p.m.	Giovanna Biondo
Sunday	June 13, 2021 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	A Special Intention for Linda and Ed Hollern
12:00 p.m.	Rita Snyder, Antonietta Mazzella, Antonio Calisi, Saint Anthony, Maria Tomasello, Teodora Marchlowska, the deceased members of the Pasquale Urso Family, the deceased members of the Giroux and Carroll Families, Elizabeth Okunic, Lawrence Schenden, Sarah Estralia Luana, Johnny Quinones and Special Intentions for Kayla Stypinski, Eugenia Buczynski and Cathy Spindler

Weekly Readings

Monday, June 7	Friday, June 11
2 Corinthians 1:1-7 Matthew 5:1-12	Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9 John 19:31-37
Tuesday, June 8	Saturday, June 12
2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Matthew 5:13-6	2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Luke 2:41-51
Wednesday, June 9	Sunday, June 13
2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Matthew 5:17-19	Ezekiel 17:22-24 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 Mark 4:26-34
Thursday, June 10	
2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1, 3-6 Matthew 5:20-26	



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.”

John Trudell



“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

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at

**St Basil the Great
Community Room
22851 Lexington Avenue
Eastpointe, MI 48021**

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



We hope that you can join us!

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Finding direction: I don't know if I consider this progress or not, but I was on my way back from Clinton Twp. on Friday last week. It was that day that was

raining most of the day, the day Michigan reminded us that it was still May and we returned from the 90 degrees of the start of the week to 46 by Friday. I was headed back to the parish on I-94 and my Jeep GPS started telling me to take the exit onto 10 Mile Rd. "Well, that's silly!" I thought. "I don't live on 10 Mile." Now, I'm very used to Bobbi Jo Jr. (all my vehicles have names) sending me by different routes for no apparent reason. I've never been to Resurrection Cemetery by the same route as I've returned. They say all roads lead to Rome. I'm not sure all roads lead to Resurrection Cemetery, but most seem to. Anyway, that's a tangent, I wasn't on my way back to the Cemetery, but still, I was not surprised that my GPS was throwing me a curveball. I decided to ignore the suggestion. But then there were brake-lights ahead and the traffic began to slow.... Then crawl. Then I realized as far ahead as I could see were brake-lights. It was 2:15pm and I didn't really intend to spend the next hour sitting on the freeway. So, okay, I'll move over one lane and see what happens. Then another lane, as the exit approached. But traffic was all backed-up to the exit. I hadn't decided to take the exit yet but I was trying to keep all options open. Bobbi-Jo didn't know this. She always assumes I'm listening to her advice, until it becomes obvious that I have stubbornly disregarded her ideas. That wasn't obvious yet, so she was still suggesting the 10 Mile exit, and I moved over one more lane. I was beginning to think maybe she'd seen this whole traffic jam ahead of time and was actually trying to help me for once instead of her normal attempts to trick me for her own amusement.

On one occasion I asked Bobbi-Jo to stop navigating, since I knew my way. Her response was, "We don't appear to be navigating anywhere. If you'd like directions to 'Anywhere,' say, 'Give me directions to 'Anywhere.'" This was nonsensical, but I thought I'd play along with her game and see what would happen. So I said, "Siri, give me directions to 'Anywhere.'" I think I called her bluff on that one and she got confused. So did I, so I gave up on that project. Anyway, I digress into another tangent.

Okay, there was the gap in traffic, so I moved over one more lane into the exit lane and I took the 10 Mile Rd ramp. Bobbi-Jo seemed contented with that. And as I drove up the ramp and over the freeway on 10 Mile, I saw the lines of traffic stretching down the freeway. So apparently, Bobbi-Jo had done her good deed for the day and had the best of intentions, and hey diddly, what d' y' know, I had listened for once and it all worked out.

That got me thinking about this Feast day of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. That's right, I'm going to make that leap. Yes, my whole article has been a shameless tangent all along!

There was a time when I was being given frequent directions: I was working for a Catholic charity, attending daily mass, talking frequently with Catholic priests through my job, visiting Catholic Churches around the state on the weekends, my best friends were all Catholic and people were telling me I should become Catholic. But I had a better route.... I thought. I thought the people telling me to join the Church were "being Bobbi-Jo;" I thought they were misleading me and I knew better. And that went on for several years.

I've told the story of my conversion in this article previously, but it was the Eucharist that was the biggest stumbling block for me. How could what looked like bread and wine be Jesus' Body and Blood? How could it be? Because I had no answer, I assumed the question was a moot point. Why try to understand something that I believed I already understood... and that I understood differently to the Church. Ultimately, despite learning over time what the Church taught, the "how it's possible" part was always missing, but that was still the part I thought I needed to have before I could assent to believing it. I was wrong - on two counts. First, I was wrong about the Eucharist. It is the actual Body and Blood of Jesus, sacramentally present under the form, under the "accidents," the appearance of ordinary man-made bread and wine. But secondly, I didn't need to understand how that happens. And not understanding, but still believing is not blind faith. My moment of conversion, before the Eucharist, at Mass one day, spoke deeply to me on the level of the heart. It was a voice telling me that there was much more there than I realized and that although I needed to go and learn more, the power and mercy present in the Eucharist was already tangible and

something I could sense, even without the answers to my questions.

It comes down to some very human traits. I can be stubborn. I can be prideful. I can be rational-minded. But what is irrational is to think that a stubborn and prideful human being could have all the ways of God worked-out. What is truly rational is to place your faith in the God who gives us all He has and will never stop using His people to reach those who do not believe. As the letter to the Hebrews says, "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

When I was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2006, receiving the Eucharist for the first time brought me to tears. Why? Because I had had to search for faith. It was work, but I knew it had been worth it. Now I had the most precious gift God has ever given to us. I'm struck by the beautiful words of the Corpus Christi sequence from the liturgy today:

*"This the truth each Christian learns,
Bread into his flesh he turns,
To his precious blood the wine:*

*Sight has failed, nor thought conceives,
But a dauntless faith believes,
Resting on a power divine.*

*Here beneath these signs are hidden
Priceless things to sense forbidden;
Signs, not things are all we see:*

*Blood is poured and flesh is broken,
Yet in either wondrous token
Christ entire we know to be."*

That moment of genuflecting behind the altar at the consecration at mass is such a powerful moment for me. It's a moment of professing to God that I know that I didn't do what has just happened on that altar. That consecration of the gifts of bread and wine in to the Eucharistic Body and Blood of Jesus was the work of God. I recognize in that moment that I didn't get there by following my own directions. It was only by listening to the directions of God that I found my way home. May we never receive the Eucharist casually, without pondering the precious gift we have among and within us.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjasc.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.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 13 B

Reading 1 – Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD: I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar, from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot, and plant it on a high and lofty mountain; on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it. It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, and become a majestic cedar. Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it, every winged thing in the shade of its boughs. And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom. As I, the LORD, have spoken, so will I do.

Responsorial Psalm - 92

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, Most High, to proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow. They that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be, declaring how just is the LORD, my rock, in whom there is no wrong.

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Reading 2 – 2 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will live forever.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mark

Jesus said to the crowds: “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.



June 6, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Ex 24:3-8 | Heb 9:11-15 | Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

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

It takes only a few moments of holding one's breath to realize how desperately we need oxygen to survive. If only we were always as cognizant and mindful of the importance of the Eucharist for the same reason! I, for one, confess to approaching the altar with fervent belief in the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, but also at times doing so while distracted or not fully appreciative of the gift being given to me. But today's solemnity is a powerful reminder not to take the Eucharist for granted. It is the Church's formal and official homage to Jesus Christ who, "with his own blood" obtained for us eternal redemption. St. Thomas Aquinas offers this description of how wonderful, precious, and important the Eucharist is with the following words: "The only-begotten Son of God, wishing to enable us to share in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that by becoming man he might make us gods." (Opusc. 57, 1-4) Like the disciples on the night of the Last Supper, we, too, receive the body and blood of Jesus under the appearance of bread and wine. He dwells within us, intercedes for us, and through grace he transforms us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Spending time with our Lord at Eucharistic adoration is a profound opportunity to open our hearts to him. Just as we know that we cannot love others well if we don't love ourselves, likewise we cannot share the love of Christ with others well if we don't take time to allow Christ to enter our hearts and our lives. By taking the time to talk to Jesus and listen, we can, in turn, witness to his love to others. We can use this time to pray for a specific person, seek help with a personal dilemma, or ask the Lord to show us where we need repentance and conversion in our own lives so as to be more like him. The more we are conformed to Christ, the better we can bring Christ to the world.

STUDY Draw closer to the Lord through meditation on the meaning of the Eucharist by reading these "basic questions and answers" about the Real Presence: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/the-real-presence-faqs.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

As our world faces so much turmoil and change, it is now more important than ever to remember who God is, who we are and where we are going. It is easy to get distracted and lose focus, especially when we are being pulled in so many directions. We can not only lose sight of God but one another. Maintaining our well developed and mature relationships with God and one another is essential to continuing to live, healthy, happy, and focused lives. In a message to young people, Pope Benedict XVI said, "the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist." What is true for those who are younger is even truer for those who are older. Regardless of how the particulars of life change over time, human beings are still hard-wired to seek the fullness of life and happiness. How we embark on this journey and what we choose along the way will indicate whether we meet success.

There is so much brokenness and pain in our world. Many people are lost, feeling lonely, anxious, marginalized, victimized, isolated, oppressed, and abused. Every time we receive the Body of Christ, we have an opportunity to become what we eat. The power and presence of Christ in the Eucharist becomes present in us and effects change in ourselves and in the lives of those we meet. We are given the



grace to become temples of justice and peace, carrying God's sacred Presence within us wherever we go. Our faith community is ignited with the fire of God's love and stands out as a beacon of hope in a world that is lost. This is the only way we can discover peace-filled resolutions to violence and create innovative solutions to what is fueling its need in the first place. True happiness, for the young and old alike, becomes an obtainable goal.

St. John Maria Vianney says it so well. "There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, he would have given it to us." Only the Eucharist has the ability to connect, sustain, strengthen, and properly orient us,

not only on the road of this life but the road to life eternal. Knowing this, when life gets challenging, unsettling, and difficult, we can rely on and cling to this gift we have in the Real Presence of Christ. This actual encounter with God celebrates God's unconditional love for us and grounds us to the truth of who we are in a way nothing else is able to do. Because through the Eucharist we really do become the Body of Christ, we are also bonded together in a most perfect way to one another as that Body. Nourished, united, and strengthened by the Eucharist, let us individually and collectively, bring this wonderful gift to all we meet, especially the poor with whom we have a special connection.

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." - Mk 14:23-25

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FUEL THE MISSION

Dear Friends in Christ,

In St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, he urges them "Whatever you do, do from the heart" (Colossians 3:23). These words are particularly meaningful since he wrote them from prison, facing persecution and hardship. The faith community at Colossae was facing its own hardships as they strove to live the life Christ called them to whatever their circumstances. Being rooted in the Lord would serve them well as they continued to grow as a faith community, and as the Church continued to grow throughout the world.

Like St. Paul and the Colossians, we too face our own hardships today. But we can also find great wisdom in his words to act from the heart. As an archdiocesan community, we know in faith that even with today's challenges, our mission gives us great hope. In recent years, we have seen our parishes and archdiocese embrace our mission identity in new ways. We have seen the Holy Spirit abundantly at work through our shared work of *Unleashing the Gospel*.

To continue this work of the Holy Spirit, our 2021 Catholic Services Appeal seeks to *Fuel the Mission* of our present moment. Each year, the CSA raises critical funds that support more than 100 ministries, services, and programs that fuel the mission. This mission is critical so we can respond to the material and spiritual needs of individuals and families throughout Southeast Michigan. This is how we act from the heart, putting Christ and his mission above all else.

I am deeply grateful for the support you have shown to the CSA in the past. Because of the urgency of our mission, I ask you to prayerfully consider renewing your gift this year, and if you are able, increasing your gift to the 2021 CSA. With your sacrificial commitment, you help us to fuel the mission in each parish in our archdiocese and serve thousands of individuals and families throughout Southeast Michigan. Every gift makes a difference in our mission.

Entrusting you to the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, Detroit's own priest Blessed Solanus Casey, and our beloved patroness St. Anne, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
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Pray for the Sick List: Please note that we regularly clear the "Pray for the Sick List" because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don't always hear from people when they've gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at info@sjasc.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (B)

June 6, 2021

Jesus' Amazing Gift

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The beautiful painting, *Lament Over the Dead Christ* by Giovanni Bellini, shows the great care and reverence with which Joseph, Nicodemus, and Mary Magdalene place the body of Christ in the tomb. Yet it is also a symbol of the delicacy and devotion with which we should receive Jesus, who comes down to us on the altar at Mass.

His Body and Blood were shed to create a New Covenant, a new pact of love between God and people. In the Old Testament, God ordered that the blood of sacrificed animals be sprinkled on the

people as a way to seal a pact with him, thus gaining forgiveness of their sins. As if to say, may I be as this calf or goat if I ever fail to obey and live up to your commands.

In the New Covenant, God sent his own Son to be the sacrificial victim to seal our covenant of love with the Father. Before the blood was sprinkled, we consume his Body and Blood in the Eucharist as Jesus commanded: Do this in memory of me. Take this, all of you, and eat. Take this, all of you, and drink. If goat blood could express a covenant in the Old Testament, how much more powerful to unite us with God is the blood of his only begotten Son! How much more powerful to forgive us and communicate God's overpowering love!

Jesus lays down his life sacramentally again in this Mass. Let us receive his Body and Blood with purity and devotion, aware of the amazing gift and the miracle that happens in our presence. +

Sunday Readings

Exodus 24:3–8

[Moses] took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you."

Hebrews 9:11–15

He entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Mark 14:12–16, 22–26

[Jesus said,] "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."

Christ's Body and Blood were shed to create a New Covenant, a new pact of love between God and people.

A Word from Pope Francis

The Eucharist satisfies our hunger for material things and kindles our desire to serve. It raises us from our comfortable and lazy lifestyle and reminds us that we are not only mouths to be fed, but also his hands, to be used to help feed others.

—Corpus Christi Homily, June 14, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How well do I prepare my heart and mind to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Do I take time to visit him in the tabernacle or at adoration to show him my love and gratitude?

With God, Keep It Real

By Kathleen M. Basi

When my husband and I found out we were expecting our first child, a friend wrote us a note. "Your life is forever changed," she said. "You will learn a whole new meaning for prayer. I never prayed so much and so hard as I do now that I have children."

She was right, but the way it plays out in my life is quite different from the picture my mind drew when I first read those words. Her comment evoked a mental image of deep breaths, long pauses, and fervent, eyes-closed, knees-to-the-carpet prayers for my children.

That is not how my life looks.

With four children in three schools, volunteer commitments, and working from home, I rarely have time to retreat to a quiet corner and kneel in prayer. Rather, I feel the presence of God as a quiet partner standing by my side, ready to leap in at a moment's notice. On any given day I toss a variety of mental whispers over my shoulder:

- *What should I tackle next?*
- *Grant me patience!*
- *What is the "natural" consequence to THAT behavior?*
- *Give me the right words.*
- *Help me to be bigger than myself.*
- *That was amazing, God. Just amazing.*



The hallmark of a healthy relationship is authenticity. Our human relationships are not based on one form of communication. Depending on what is going on in our lives, we may interact with our closest friends in person, by phone, or on social media, and each of those encounters has a unique character that enriches us.

The same is true of our relationship with God. I sometimes feel guilty about those prayers I toss over my shoulder. How dare I, a lowly human being, talk

to the Creator of the universe out of the corner of my mouth? Shouldn't I carve out more time for traditional, more concentrated forms of prayer? Yet in those encounters, God is with me in a way that is wholly authentic for this season of my life.

Too often we try to put prayer—and God with it—in a box. We think of him as out there somewhere rather than looking for his presence close at hand. God wants us to seek him out in all the circumstances of life—not just when the stars align for concentrated, knees-to-the-carpet time. And if that means prayer takes on an unconventional form, that's OK. As James said in his letter to the tribes of Israel: "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8). +



Lord, out of brokenness and weakness you saved my life.

Help me to embrace my weakness so that I can walk in solidarity with the poor and suffering.

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

The hallmark of a healthy relationship is authenticity.

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 7–12

Monday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:1–7 / Mt 5:1–12

Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:18–22 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 3:4–11 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, Weekday:
2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Hos 11:1, 3–4, 8c–9 / Eph 3:8–12, 14–19 / Jn 19:31–37

Saturday, The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 2 Cor 5:14–21 / Lk 2:41–51



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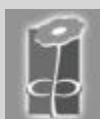
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