



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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29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mk 10:43-45

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

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

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
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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@sjascscs.org

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjascscs.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascscs.org

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascscs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascscs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjascscs.org

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith &

Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascscs.org

Exceptional Children

TBD

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 7a mass
outside in the school courtyard
(weather permitting).

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.



Monsignor said

Many years ago, Archbishop Vigneron introduced the Amazing Parish movement to the priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit. One of the founders of Amazing Parish is Pat Lencioni. Pat is a New York Times best-selling author and has worked with hundreds of CEOs and organizations to help them achieve success and build healthy leadership teams and organizations. He took his passion for organizational health and leadership and started to apply it to parish life and to help pastors become better pastors. What I have learned through the Amazing Parish and attending Pat's workshops and webinars has become invaluable to me!

During one of his talks on the dysfunctions of a parish team, Pat shared a fictitious story to hit home his point. He said one day a small group of parishioners asked their pastor his opinion about the new landscape in front of the parish. Father simply said, "I kind of like the purple flowers." Word quickly got out that Father liked purple flowers. Before long, purple flowers were found throughout the entire parish campus. Purple flowers adorned the sanctuary. Purple flowers were found out in the parish landscape. Father soon noticed all the purple flowers and one day asked his staff, "What's with all the purple flowers these days?" The staff looked at him with amazement and said, "Well, we were told you liked purple flowers." After all, "Father said...."

We have many versions around here of "Monsignor said...." Rather frequently, what "Monsignor" supposedly said is so far different than the original version or somehow was so misinterpreted that staff will come to me for clarification. The whole scenario is like that children's game Operator or Telephone. In the game, what one person says gets so distorted as the "story" gets retold to others that the last person's version is often indistinguishable from the original one.

A few months ago, during one of my staff meetings with Dina, our business manager, and our maintenance team, I noticed an agenda item that was simply labeled "Vacuuming." It caught my attention. I started to think that maybe we needed new vacuums, but if that were the case, I figured the item would have been

labeled "New Vacuums." I couldn't figure out what this item was all about for the life of me.

When we finally got to the "Vacuuming" item, I was asked if it were okay if the maintenance staff could vacuum the sanctuary in a pattern different than parallel to the steps. Right away, I thought to myself, "WHY in the world would I care HOW they vacuumed the sanctuary, as long as it got vacuumed." I was truly baffled! But I played along with the game and asked a question or two to help me figure out why they were even asking the question. When I finally said I didn't care HOW they vacuumed as long as they vacuumed, Dina blurted out, "I told you he didn't care." I was told that it was passed down among the staff for years that "Monsignor said" we could only vacuum the sanctuary in such a way that the lines were parallel to the steps. They were only doing as they were told because, after all, ... "Monsignor said...." Vern was thrilled to hear the news. He now reports his vacuuming tasks are much easier to accomplish since he doesn't have to do what supposedly, "Monsignor said."

Are you interested in being baptized or joining the Catholic faith? Are you an adult that needs to be confirmed? If your answer is YES to either question, please leave a message at the Parish Center (586-777-3670 or email rcia@sjasc.org) for information about our upcoming RCIA classes. The RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. While the title would imply it is only for adults, many children go through the program too but on a different track explicitly designed for them. We haven't started our sessions yet, so I figured I would put out one last "call" for candidates!

The whole RCIA process is a beautiful journey of conversion. Through instruction and dialogue led by members of our RCIA team and other presenters, candidates learn about the Catholic faith. Our group meets every Sunday after the 10 AM mass. Once we start, classes will go through the Solemnity of Pentecost.

The RCIA is intended for persons who have never been baptized and for those who were baptized in another Christian church who now wish to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church. It is also for those who may have been baptized Catholic at an early age but never received any formal training in the faith. The RCIA process reaches its culmination as candidates receive the sacraments of

baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

One of the concerns people surface is the fear of making the initial call. Even if you only want to make a casual inquiry about the program, give us a call. There won't be any pressure to join. We simply welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Also, don't worry about the time commitment. While we have a formal schedule, special arrangements sometimes have to be made due to work or home obligations. Another concern people sometimes present is that they go to Church every weekend with their spouse and family, and everyone assumes they are Catholic. As such, they are embarrassed to acknowledge they are not Catholic, and the thought of making that fact known publicly when they are so connected in our community is awkward. Don't worry; we'll take care of you too! So, if you are interested or have questions, contact Father Andrew, Father Rich, Deacon Tom, Deacon Dom, or me after Mass. We'll answer any questions you have and point you in the right direction.

Cell Phones in Church: Over the last several weeks, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of cell phones going off during Mass. We don't mind the occasional ringing, but lately, it seems like it's happening three, maybe four, times at every Mass! And, like clockwork, the ringing doesn't usually happen when we are singing or speaking the parts of the Mass. No, it tends to happen during the homily or the more quiet or solemn moments of Mass.

So the Leadership Team and I have decided that it would be a good idea to put back into the pre-mass announcements a note about silencing cell phones. We also thought it would be good to put something up on the screens before Mass like they do in the movie theaters. I even thought about accompanying the "slide" about silencing cell phones with some obnoxious ring tones to get people's attention! So let's do what we can to silence our cell phones when we come into Church. This simple action will help lessen the number of distractions at Mass.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org



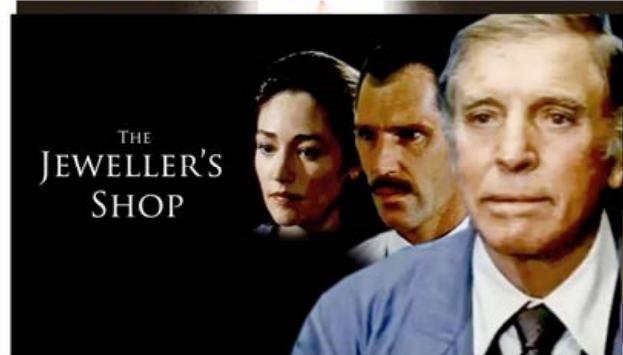
PICK OF THE WEEK

Oct 17, 2021

WATCH

THE JEWELER'S SHOP: A MODERN MYSTERY BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

Based on Pope John Paul II's best-selling book, this film tells of the struggles and triumphs in the marriages of three couples. A mysterious Jeweller (Burt Lancaster) acts as a mystical advisor to the couples, encouraging them to keep love at the center of their lives. Beautifully filmed with an outstanding cast that includes Olivia Hussey and Ben Cross. John Paul II called it "the best possible film based on my play."



LEARN

FORMED NOW: ST. LUKE AND THE EUCHARIST

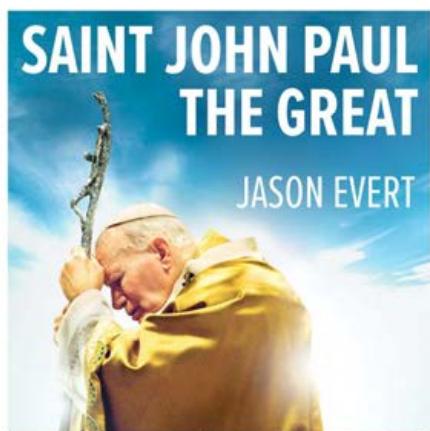


Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they dive into the joy of the Eucharist found in the Gospel of St. Luke the Evangelist.

LISTEN

SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT BY JASON EVERET

Discover the five great loves of Pope Saint John Paul II as Jason Evert, renowned Catholic speaker and author, shares remarkable stories about this saint's life from those who knew him, including bishops, students whom he taught, and Swiss Guards who interacted with him daily. Jason presents a wealth of insights about this holy man who promoted devotion to Divine Mercy and Marian consecration, helped defeat communism in Europe, wrote the Theology of the Body, and embraced young people like no other.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

St. Joan of Arc Pilgrimage

June 17-26, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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



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.

The Class of 2022



SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

Make all your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile!

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

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



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.

For those wanting individual prayers please be there between 6:30 – 6:55 pm

We hope that you can join us!



A PERFECT GIFT

Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they are.



Soon after the birth of my son Charlie, who has Down syndrome, a visitor asked whether he was “mild, moderate, or severe”—referring to his level of cognitive impairment. I knew the terminology, but the question shocked me. In my arms I held my beautiful baby boy, who defied easy categorization. Clinical labels may describe some aspects of an individual’s “functioning,” but they don’t tell the whole story. Labels could not describe how Charlie’s smile lit up a room or how the sweetness of his soul had captured our hearts so completely.*

Relationship Changes Everything

I have since come to understand that clinical categories also miss another important dimension of personhood: we are created to be in relationship with others. As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*), “Within the family each member is accepted, respected and honoured precisely because he or she is a person; and if any family member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive.”

Charlie does well because we love him and attend to him out of that love. We make accommodations to compensate for the challenges that arise, and his strengths become more apparent. He plays an integral role in our family’s happiness. For example, he is our most empathetic child—the first to notice and offer comfort when we are hurt.

People often say, “I could never handle a child with a disability.” But the beauty of parenting is that you aren’t given a child with a disability. You are given *your* child with a disability. Your child enters the world in a relationship with you, and that changes everything. You are not called to “handle” a disability. You are called to love a particular person, and caring for him or her grows out of that love. The challenges that come with his diagnosis make up only a small part of life with our wonderful little boy.

Stained Glass

I once read an article in which a woman discussed the reasons for aborting her child with Down syndrome. The deal-breaker was watching a boy with Down syndrome at a restaurant with his parents: they had to hand-feed him a slice of pizza and wipe his face with a napkin.

This hit home for me. We weaned Charlie off a feeding tube when he was seven, spoon-feeding him and often wiping his face afterwards. I wonder how many people saw us and decided a life like his isn’t worth living. Had anyone asked, I would have said, “It might look a little crazy from the outside, but he’s an amazing little boy, and it’s a good life.”

- [@usccbprolife](https://twitter.com/usccbprolife)
- [@ProjectRachel](https://twitter.com/ProjectRachel)
- [fb.com/peopleoflife](https://facebook.com/peopleoflife)

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

View, download, or order the
U.S. bishops' pro-life materials!

www.usccb.org/respectlife

It's like looking at a stained-glass window from the outside: the colors look dark, and you can't quite make out the figures. From the inside, however, with the sun shining through it, the effect can be brilliant. From inside our family, love illuminates our life with Charlie. What may seem dreary to others, perhaps even unbearable, is actually filled with beauty and color. We know, for instance, that Charlie worked hard to gain basic feeding skills that most people take for granted, and we are so proud of his valiant efforts.



Perfection

Many parents want perfect children, and our culture is obsessed with superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media depicts seemingly perfect lives. However, God calls us to seek perfection not in appearance or abilities, but in love.

Christians know what perfect love looks like—Jesus offering himself on the Cross. Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed, love in *any* family is messy; there are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It's natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much, but this is where the deep mystery of sacrificial love becomes apparent.

In our family, we have found that our hearts, rather than being weighed down, have become larger. Caring for Charlie has given us more patience, more compassion, and more love for others—especially those on the outskirts of society, whom Pope Francis so often calls us to care for.

A Fundamental Truth

Perhaps this is why so many families of children with disabilities, despite difficulties, often radiate joy. When I meet another parent of a child with Down syndrome, there is usually a moment of instant recognition and understanding. Our eyes meet, and we smile conspiratorially, as if we're in on the same secret: the fundamental truth that every life is a good and perfect gift.

Many know this on an intellectual level, but those who love someone with a disability see it in their loved one's face in a particular way. Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they are, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone. We also begin to understand our own worth, which depends not on our skills or appearance, but solely on the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God and loved by Him. Our lives—all our lives—are worth living.

*Name changed for privacy.

**The author has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology and has been advocating since the birth of her son Charlie* for children who are prenatally diagnosed with disabilities.

¹Pope St. John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 92.

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Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, October 18th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 pm Reconciliation Parent Meeting
Emmaus Hall

Tuesday, October 19th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, October 20th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
9:00 am Medicare Seminar - Mother Mary Rm.
10:00 am Funeral for William Brinker

Thursday, October 21st

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 am Funeral for Timothy Fox
7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, October 22nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, October 23rd

11:00 am Reconciliation
12:30 pm Baptism of Jillian C. Nelson
1:30 pm Baptism of Brooks M. Bates
2:30 pm Baptism of Delilah Dechy
4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, October 24th

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

October 17, 2021 – Rulers of Men

The former Michigan governor, a Republican, was reportedly making a presentation at the recent Republican leadership conference at the Grand Hotel.

According to media reports, the former governor was providing some of the context for the last time Michigan was in a similar situation with respect to political leadership across the various branches of state government, some three decades ago.

He then went on to describe the best strategic approach to take in order to win the next election, giving Republicans control, once again, of state government. As part of that strategy, he described the likely strong financial position in which the incumbent governor will be, and the level of spending she will be able to bring to the campaign.

Immediately, of course, Democrats weighed in on why the presentation was incorrect or unfair. And, if it hadn't already been, the state-level campaign season is off and running.

It's all important stuff, to be sure. Politics has its critically important place in our democracy, and that's as it should be.

But leaders and their constituents alike might take heed of Jesus' words in today's gospel. Rulers, he says, often let power go to their heads, and use their office to unfairly exert influence over others.

“You know that those who are recognized as rulers ... lord it over (others),” St. Mark quotes Jesus as saying, “and their great ones make the authority over them felt.

“But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.”

Back to today's political scenario, none of this is an attack on any particular individual or party, just an important reminder of what ultimately is most important.

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions		Daily Readings	
Monday	October 18, 2021 Saint Luke, Evangelist (Red) 7:00 a.m. Mary Ann Mecha & Neva (Annie) Hicks	Monday, October 18 2Timothy 4:10-17b Luke 10:1-9	Friday, October 22 Romans 7:18-25a Luke 12:54-59
Tuesday	October 19, 2021 Saints John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests and Companions, Martyrs (Red) 7:00 a.m. Barbara Gaines and Casey Zaranek	Tuesday, October 19 Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21 Luke 12:35-38	Saturday, October 23 Romans 8:1-11 Luke 13:1-9
Wednesday	October 20, 2021 Weekday Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest (Green/White) 7:00 a.m. George Bugarin and Crescenzo Fazi	Wednesday, October 20 Romans 6:12-18 Luke 12:39-48	Sunday, October 24 Jeremiah 31:7-9 Hebrews 5:1-6 Mark 10:46-52
Thursday	October 21, 2020 Weekday (Green) 7:00 a.m. Virgil Medley and James Kosakowski	Thursday, October 21 Romans 6:19-23 Luke 12:49-53	
Friday	October 22, 2021 Weekday Saint John Paul II, Pope (Green/White) 7:00 a.m. Anna Maria Dolunt and a Special Intention for Ryan and Nicole Hayes on their 17th Wedding Anniversary	<p>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."</p> <p>Mark Brys Betty Jean Scrivo William Brinker Virginia Rose Anthony Jill Anne Miller Paul Stanicki Fr. John (Jack) Child</p> 	
Saturday	October 23, 2021 Weekday Saint John Capistrano, Priest; BVM (Green/White/White) 4:00 p.m. Sr. Jane Maison, CSJ, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Siegel, Kateri Toenjes, Bonnie Batche, Anna Maria Dolunt, Betty Bennett, Matthew Debets, Joseph & Ardella Borri, Joseph J. Abdella, Betty Bennett, Shirley Popovich, Kent Meldrum, Thelma Bergen, Gloria Sadocha and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, and the J. Champine Family. 6:00 p.m. Josephine Dehelean	<p>"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."</p> <p> 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.</p>	
Sunday	October 24, 2021 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green) 8:00 a.m. For the intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners 10:00 a.m. Mary Hindle 12:00 p.m. Richard Robinette, John L. Joseph, the deceased members of the Salvatore & Antonieta Urso Family, Anna Maria Dolunt, Larry Vargo, Terrance McMahon, Grace Breen, Salvatore Ciaravino, Benjamin Villanueva, Concha Silva Usi and a Special Intention for Dolores Acosta and Ann Swanson	<p>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.</p> <p>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,</p>	

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



The Gift of Time:

The older I get, the more I have come to realize that “time is the greatest gift” is not just some cliché, but it contains more

than a handful of truth. When spent, time doesn't come back. There is just never enough of it. We could all use more time to accomplish the tasks of the day, and who wouldn't appreciate more time to sleep at night? We could argue about it being the “greatest” gift - perhaps sharing your faith or love with someone, or certainly the gift of the Eucharist are even greater, but you get the point – time is a very valuable commodity and so we guard it carefully. Yet all the time we have in this world was gifted to us by God Himself, and our gifts are to be shared, so that God's glory may be seen in His Kingdom on earth. Can any of us claim that we are here in the world because of something we did to put us here? And if not, then can we really claim that this day is ours to own and to keep for ourselves?

Call me old-school, but I still wear a watch. It's analog, not digital. And in my office I have a large hour-glass. It really is one hour's worth of sand. It was my theory in the seminary that I'd get my homework done faster if I was accountable to the hour-glass on my desk. It didn't work, but it's undeniable that it's a good visual reminder that time is not something we get back.



There are many ways in which the Lord calls us to serve Him by acts of kindness and mercy toward others. In so doing, we serve God. There are many worthy Catholic charities in need. We often have a choice to make – do I choose to help those

I meet or hear about who are lonely, hungry, sad, forgotten, poor? The other option is to say, “No, I will not help. Let someone else help.”

We are half-way through this month of October, this *Respect Life* month. We are called to do acts to up-hold the dignity of life. This is a good time for a review. Many of you generously offered your gifts to Leeland's family and to the baby bottle collection for Mary's Mantle. That generosity is always such a blessing. But have you given any of your gift of time back to God as a sign of your respect for the life He has given you?

If time is really one of the greatest gifts we have, it's surely then one of the greatest gifts we can give. Would you choose to give God your second best? Sometimes we might be willing to give money, but are we willing to give an hour to pray outside an abortion clinic or even to pray for an end to abortion at a holy hour? Are we willing to spend the time educating ourselves so that we can defend the Church's teachings on life?

Would you give the second-best option to your loved ones, to your children? Would you send them to the school that you considered could provide the second-best learning environment and education you could find and afford? Would you do only what was “good enough” to make your dinner guests feel comfortable in your home, or would you really want them to feel welcome?

If you want to know where your priorities really lie, what's really important to you? Two places offer a good clue: look at your credit card statement and your calendar. How are you spending your money, and how are you spending your time. How do they stack-up with the faith we profess at Mass every week? The words of the Creed are not casual words. They were agonized over by Christians who understood the significance of what each line meant. If we listen to ourselves professing those words each Sunday, they should act as a chance to check ourselves. Do I understand them? Do I believe them? If any of it troubles you, put the time into learning more. Part One of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is laid out specifically to map-out the Creed, line by line. It contains some beautiful reflections on the tenets of the faith. For instance, did you ever consider that it begins in the same way it ends, as a definitive confirmation of our faith—“I believe.... Amen (meaning “I believe”)? Perhaps those words are worth our time.

The Gift of Life: This Friday we will celebrate the memorial of Pope St. John Paul II, as much as anyone in modern times, a champion of life issues. Part of the reason for this was no doubt the suffering and cruelty he had encountered in Poland during Nazi occupation; but also, no doubt the knowledge that his own mother had refused to take her doctor's advice to abort him during a difficult pregnancy was not lost on the future Pope. His mother sacrificed her own health to save her child, knowing that there was no other moral course of action.

This gift of life is not a Catholic issue, though as Catholics we must speak-out against evil. It's not even a religious issue. So often it is conveniently presented in that way, but that's a fallacy. Abortion is condemned by all the world's major religious traditions: Catholicism, Protestantism, Hinduism, conservative and orthodox Judaism, and Islam. The basis for this universal agreement on the evil of abortion is not merely a religious, and certainly not a political one, but a philosophical one. Not all people share the same religion, but all people possess the same human nature. All people belong to the human race and are given the gift of reason and born with a conscience, an innate moral law that is God-given and natural, the basis for natural law. Whether we know God personally or not, we have the capacity to know right from wrong. A pro-life stance is not an attempt to impose, force or dictate ideas upon others. Nor is it a matter of private opinion or political leaning. The pro-life position is an appeal to reason, conscience, justice, and the divine authority of God as the final judge of this issue. The challenge is to keep-out the agenda of a culture and media that denies objective truth and seeks to play God and establish its own “truth,” and to keep our own pride at bay.

Pope John Paul II said, “A nation that kills its own children has no future.” The ultimate test of the greatness of a nation is the way it treats every human being it is responsible to, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones. If we want equal justice for all, and true freedom and peace, all hot-button issues of our day, we must defend life! All the great causes of today will have meaning only to the extent that we accept the right to life in the first place, and protect the human person.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjasc.org

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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 24 B

Reading One – Jer 31:7-9

Thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.

Responsorial Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Reading Two – Heb 5:1-6

Brothers and sisters: Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: *You are my son: this day I have begotten you;* just as he says in another place: *You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Alleluia – Cf. 2 Tm 1:10

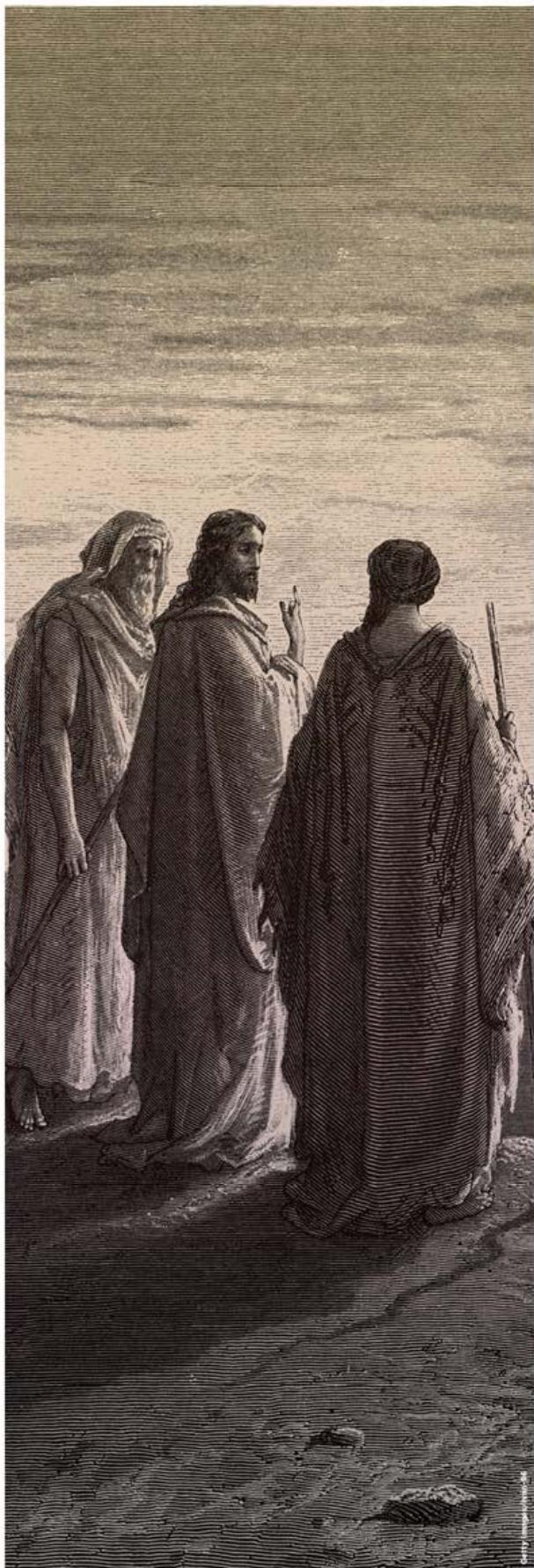
Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mk 10:46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.



October 17, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 53:10-11 | Heb 4:14-16 | Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

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

What do we do best? Some of us might be math whizzes, others can send a golf ball exactly where we intend. How do we get there? Practice, natural talent, and a good coach or teacher. Following Jesus, though, is another matter entirely. As today's readings remind us, we grow as Christians not by building ourselves up but by giving ourselves away. In Isaiah, we hear about the suffering servant who "did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." That suffering servant is Jesus, who admonishes the Apostles as they jostle for position as his right-hand man. Ultimately, the greatest among them will be "a slave of all," Jesus reminds them. His words challenge us to put as much energy and prayer into finding ways to better serve others as we do other areas of our lives. We can look to Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, and all the saints as role models.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I bet most of us can think of a friend who seems like a natural "giver." He shovels the neighbor's walk without being asked. She sends flowers or a meal during a difficult time. Serving others can take so many forms, from a simple hug or phone call to volunteering at a soup kitchen. In today's readings, Jesus invites us to bear witness to his sacrifice through humble service. It may not come naturally for all of us all the time, but that's where God's grace and the Holy Spirit come in. We can ask for the strength, creativity, flexibility – whatever we may lack – to recognize the needs around us and respond. Before we know it, our generosity will overflow and encourage others as they, too, seek to grow in Christian service.

ACTION Watching the news or even scrolling through your social-media feed can be overwhelming at times. Instead of tuning out, find a small way to help – through prayer, a donation to a Catholic organization, or a phone call or card to a friend going through a difficult time.

*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

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each month and
silent adoration
week 4.*

Prayers Needed

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Sharon Deller	Rich Hanselman	Charlotte Miller	Kathleen Smith	
Catherine DeRose	Alleyn Hunt	Dee Misuraca	Cathy Spindler	

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@sjacs.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

October 17, 2021

Contemplating Jesus

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The painting in the Vatican, *Christ the Redeemer*, is totally Christ-centered, as is our Scripture passage. He is the dominant subject placed dramatically in the center of Correggio's composition, seated on a throne of clouds. His kingdom is not of the world, and neither are his priorities: "Whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all" (Mark 10:44).

Jesus is strongly self-confident in his pose, yet sweet and inviting in his facial features. He is a king and a friend. His upper body is set, but his lower body is actively moving forward with his leg

stepping toward us. He sits to receive and rule but is willing to step down and wash the soiled feet of his disciples.

It's good to pause and reflect on this Jesus who calls us to follow him. As a man, he preached like no one before or since. Two millennia later we are still talking about him. He possessed such power and dignity that soldiers sent to arrest him wouldn't dare lay hands on him. Kings (Herod), politicians (Pilate), churchmen (Pharisees), lawyers (scribes), civil servants (tax collectors), simple laborers (apostles), soldiers (at the cross), hardened sinners (prostitutes), and the poor were overcome by his compassion, authority, and character. Religious and pagans, men and women, children and the elderly—all were enraptured by his purpose and passion.

This amazing figure is the one who calls you and loves you! Spend time contemplating the beauty and moral integrity of this Jesus and give thanks that he has set his eyes and heart on you. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 53:10–11

My servant, the just one, shall justify the many, / their iniquity he shall bear.

Hebrews 4:14–16

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way.

Mark 10:35–45 or 10:42–45

[Jesus said,] "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

It's good to pause and reflect on this Jesus who calls us to follow him. He preached like no one before or since.

A Word from Pope Francis

The way of service is the most effective antidote against the disease of seeking first place....

Therefore, as disciples of Christ, let us receive this Gospel passage as a call to conversion, in order to witness with courage and generosity a Church that bows at the feet of the least, in order to serve them with love and simplicity.

Angelus, October 21, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What aspect of the person of Jesus Christ most attracts you?
- What is it about you that attracts Jesus? Ask him.

Mountaintop Moments

By Kathleen M. Basi

One of my favorite hymns begins, “Tis good, Lord, to be here!” Text writer Joseph A. Robinson captured what it must have felt like to witness the transfiguration of Jesus. Peter wanted to build a memorial on the site; Luke, in perhaps the first recorded facepalm in history, simply writes, “But he did not know what he was saying” (Luke 9:33).

We’re a lot like Peter, really. We catch a glimpse of the glory of God, and it’s so overwhelming that we don’t know how to process it properly. It doesn’t fit into our neat categories: good, bad, happy, sad. All we know, as Robinson wrote, is that we want to “hold the vision bright and make this hill our own.”

Mountaintop moments happen when we’re pulled out of our ordinary. We encounter them on retreat, at parish missions, and in moments of fundamental transition: birth, death, an earth-shattering diagnosis. God seems closer. Life seems bathed in the glow of new insight. Everything seems so clear. So simple.

Yet we all know the hard part comes later, when it’s time to weave new insight into the well-worn routines—even ruts—that comprise our daily existence.

Some days we find ourselves exquisitely aware of God’s redeeming love. We understand what that means, and we know just what we must do to reflect that love and redemption out into our small corner of the kingdom.

The next day, the glory that seemed



so all-encompassing gets buried by lack of sleep, cranky kids (or spouses, or students, or bosses!)—even shifting hormones.

Small wonder that we, like the disciples, want to build memorials to the great spiritual highlights of our lives. We hope somehow it will help us hold on to that moment of clarity, a snapshot in time when seeing was believing and discipleship required only that we stand still and be present.

Unfortunately, that’s not how it works. Insight might happen on the mountaintops, but growth doesn’t. Growth happens when insight encounters resistance. If we enshrine our moments in a sterile place, untouched by

the messiness of the real world, they will grow stale and impotent.

Mountaintop experiences become powerful when they butt up against the murky valleys of life and shine some of that sublime glory upon the comfortable, familiar darkness. That is why the last stanza of Joseph Robinson’s hymn always moves me to tears:

*'Tis good, Lord, to be here.
Yet we may not remain;
But since thou bidst us
leave the mount,
Come with us to the plain.*

+



Lord, I am grateful for your gift of humility. Give me a humble heart so that I may imitate your compassionate ways with all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 18–23

Monday, St. Luke: 2 Tm 4:10–17b / Lk 10:1–9
Tuesday, Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17–19, 20b–21 / Lk 12:35–38
Wednesday, Weekday: Rom 6:12–18 / Lk 12:39–48

Thursday, Weekday: Rom 6:19–23 / Lk 12:49–53

Friday, Weekday: Rom 7:18–25a / Lk 12:54–59
Saturday, Weekday: Rom 8:1–11 / Lk 13:1–9

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