



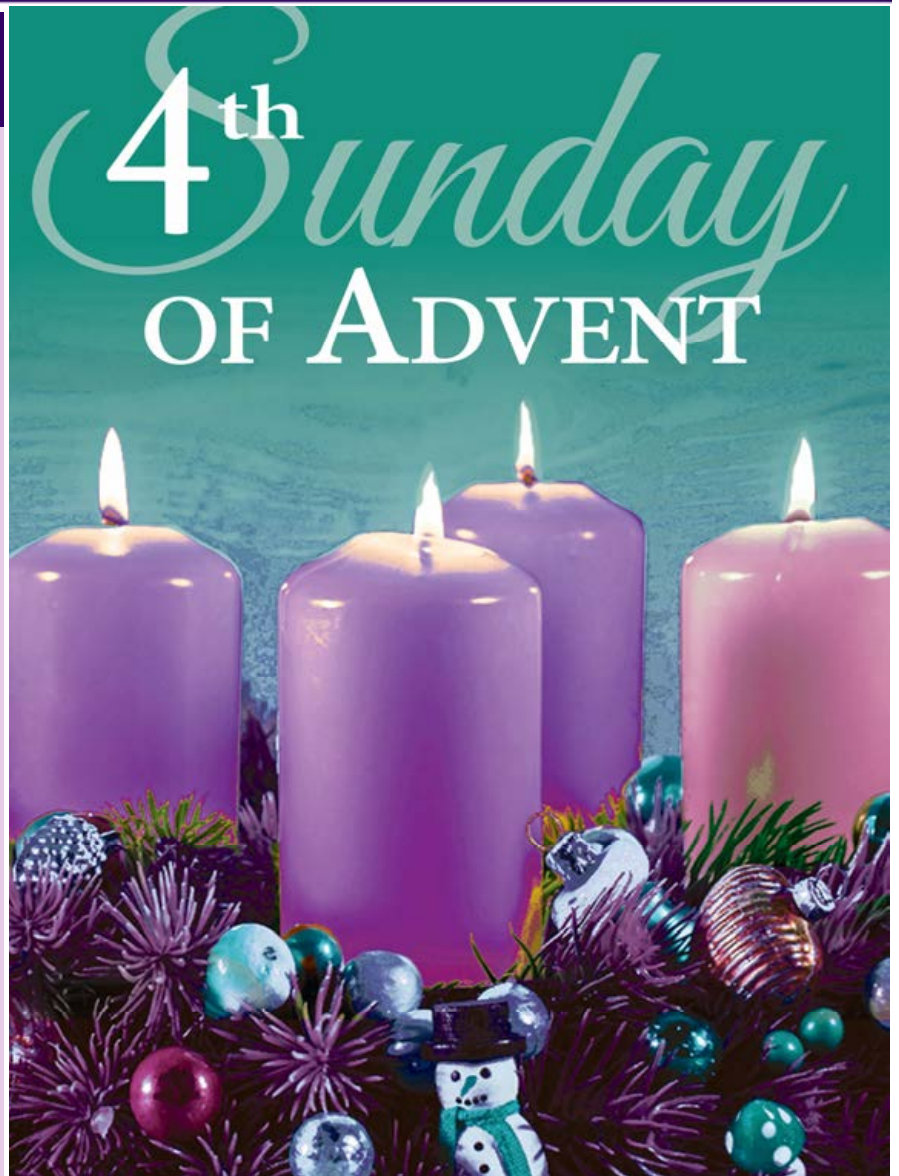
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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 ~

WHAT'S INSIDE

Parish Directory.....	Page 2
Liturgy Schedule & General Information	Page 2
TALLer Tales	Page 3
FORMED Pick of the Week	Page 4
SJA Miscellaneous Announcements	Page 5
Community Announcements.....	Page 6
Parish Center Holiday Hours.....	Page 7
Calendar of Events	Page 8
Words on the Word.....	Page 8
Mass Intentions.....	Page 9
Daily Reading	Page 9
Those Who Have Recently Died.....	Page 9
Tire Tracks in d'Arc.....	Page 10
Walking with Purpose	Page 11
Readings for Feast of the Holy Family ...	Page 12
Grow + Go	Page 13
Dear Padre	Page 14
Prayers for the Sick & our Military	Page 15
Bringing Home the Word.....	Page 16



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

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

**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374
E-mail: repopffice@sjascscs.org

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528

School

Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574

Faith Formation

Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascs.org

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjascs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Exceptional Children
TBD

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjascs.org

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org



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.



What FedEx or UPS Knows Stays with FedEx or UPS! The old saying “What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas” can undoubtedly be changed and

applied to many other aspects or circumstances of life. Considering the following story, the saying can be adapted to say, “What the FedEx person knows stays with the FedEx person!”

As a young kid growing up, I remember there would be many shopping excursions with Mom where we would find all kinds of ways to sneak packages into the house without Dad ever knowing about them. Sometimes we would play the “Distract Dad Game.” Other times we would hide the packages in the garage until Dad was gone. The “game” has certainly changed over the years. Now that so much comes by US Mail, UPS, or FedEx, people have to find “new ways” to sneak packages into the house. I’ve learned around the office and school that some of the married persons in our midst enjoy having their packages delivered to the PC! Sure, it’s convenient and safe, but I often wonder if it’s more for the sake of sneaking packages home! Just sayin’

As my sister Jackie knows, package deliveries get complicated nowadays when the non-shopping spouse arrives home much earlier than the shopping spouse most nights. It’s also complicated because package deliveries can now happen until maybe 9 PM. Jackie always dreads hearing the infamous sounds of those delivery trucks slowing down in front of their house when the two of them are watching TV in the evenings. Jackie will cringe as she hears the sound of brakes in front of her house. Lonnie will then look at her with that look and say, “WHAT did you buy now!” Being the quintessential Lucille Ball type of person, Jackie will just smile and say something to win him over. But imagine the conversation the day Jackie got deliveries from UPS, FedEx, and US Mail all in a matter of an hour of each other ... and Lonnie was home for it all!

Now Jackie has her own side business as a consultant for Paparazzi Jewelry. As a result, she has packages coming and going all the time! One day, not too long ago, Lonnie was working outside on his truck.

The familiar sound of a delivery truck could be heard coming down the street. Sure enough, the brakes got applied, and the truck came to a halt in front of their house. The delivery guy gathered a bunch of packages and started to walk up Jackie and Lonnie’s driveway. Lonnie met him halfway. As the handoff was happening and Lonnie was putting his signature on the electronic gizmo, the delivery guy said with some exhaustion, “Do you realize how many times I stop at this house?” “Believe me, I know,” Lonnie said with a grin. “THAT’s my wife,” he announced with a laugh. The delivery guy continued, “But, don’t you see her doing all that shopping on Amazon?” “Oh, she does all that stuff after I go to bed at night!” I can just see Jackie patiently waiting for Lonnie to go to bed at night. The moment Lonnie is off to bed, I’m sure Jackie’s iPad magically appears in her hands, much like a hummingbird magically appears at its target. But I wonder if Jackie needs to change her methodology a bit. Maybe she needs to start having those packages arrive at the Parish Center instead. But then again, based on what I know and have seen, she’d need a bigger car some days to take her stuff home! Poor Jackie!

Christmas Mass Schedule: Given that Christmas is on a Saturday this year, our mass schedule for Christmas and that weekend will take a bit of a change from our usual practices.

The schedule for Christmas Eve will be 4 PM, 6 PM, and 10 PM. The schedule for Christmas Day will be 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 Noon.

All of our masses will be live-streamed. And, as we have done in the past, we will have two 4 PM Masses. Father Andrew will be the celebrant of the 4 PM Mass in Church, and I will be the celebrant of the 4 PM Mass in the Emmaus Hall. It’s hard to know what attendance will look like this year. With the rise in COVID cases, it may not be as “back to normal” as we had hoped. And, as you will note, there will be no Midnight Mass. Instead, the Midnight Mass has been “moved” to 10 PM. This proved to be pretty popular last year ... and indeed a welcomed reality for the staff who have to turn around and be back in Church first thing on Christmas morning. And, please note, there will be NO Saturday evening masses on Christmas Day for the Feast of the Holy Family. We

will only have our regular masses on Sunday at 8 AM, 10 AM, and Noon.

Christmas Thoughts: As we enter into these waning days and hours of Advent and the pace of life gets rather hectic with the final preparations for Christmas, please remember to keep your priorities in mind. It’s all too easy to lose sight of what’s essential as we try to accomplish sometimes an unquestionable amount of activity this time of year. It will be another odd holiday as we forge through another COVID surge in Michigan. Let’s again use technology ... and let’s be safe. Let’s do what we can to stay in touch with family and friends and still carry out many of our traditions. Many people will continue to be cautious, and gatherings might be smaller than usual once again. We may be apart, but we can still create an environment where we are together in some way or another. In the end, it’s all about the great gift that God the Father has given us in the person of Jesus Christ. May we keep our eyes fixed on Him as we celebrate His birth; may we also keep our hearts and souls fixed on the reality that Christ is still walking with us. Yes, it will be a different experience .. AGAIN. But it will still be Christmas, and we will once again celebrate the great gift that God has given us in the beautiful birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Blessed be God.

Christmas Greetings: Since next weekend’s bulletin will be our special Christmas edition, I want to take the opportunity now to extend my Christmas greetings and prayers to you, our faithful and regular parishioners. I am truly grateful for the many ways you share your time, talent, and treasure around the parish. Through your extraordinary generosity, we are changing many lives and doing so much to deepen people’s relationship with the Lord! It’s incredible to realize all the great work and ministry that is being done at our parish. Thank you for all that you do that makes us such an amazing parish!

May the Christ child, the Prince of Peace, enlighten your hearts and homes with the warmth of his light and love! Know you will be remembered in my prayers and masses this Christmas

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

FORMED[®]

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 19, 2021

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

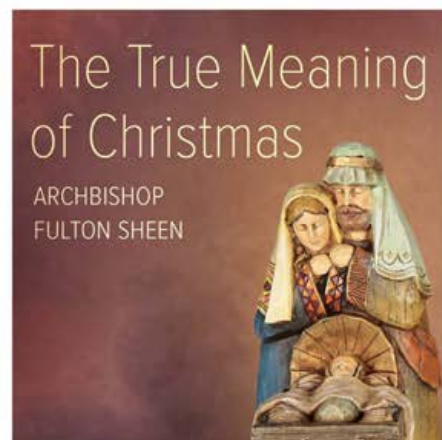
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS BY FULTON SHEEN

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

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.

8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

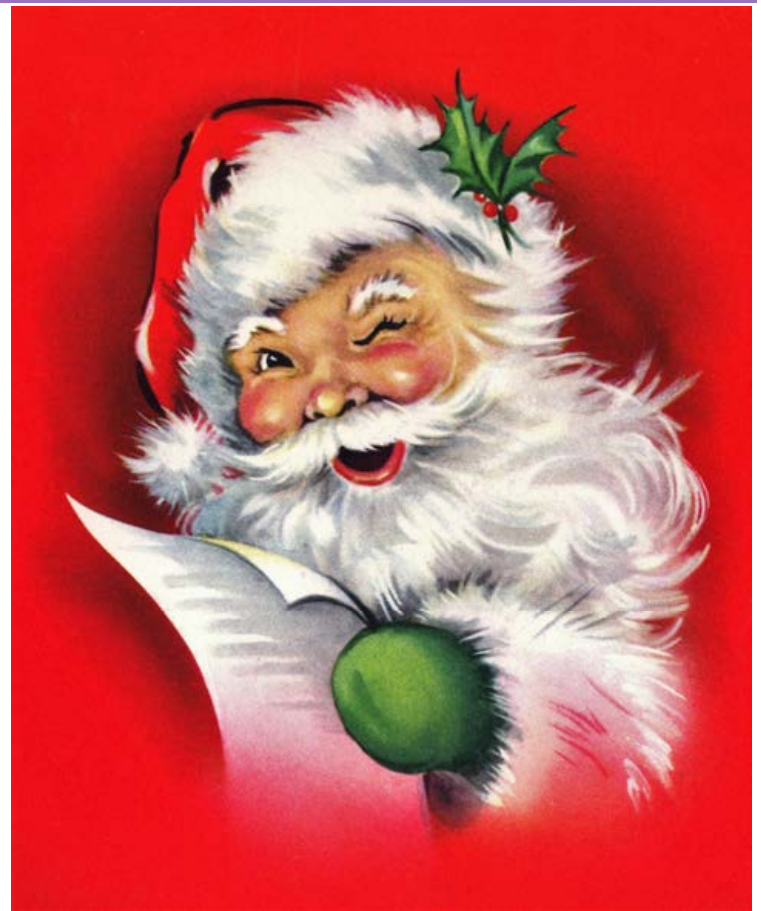
The Class of 2022 is now responsible for the can and bottle drive.

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



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!

Community Announcements

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: cwring@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com

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



Celebration of Winter Solstice



All are invited to welcome the season of winter with a ritual, *Winter Solstice: A Sacred Time*. The virtual celebration, facilitated by Sister Esther Kennedy, OP, is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST Sunday, December 19, 2021.

The celebration includes reflections on our turning from darkness to light as the days begin to grow longer, and from the past to this new moment. We will cultivate our own capacity as beings of light to shine our light and love as fully as possible upon one another and our world.

A Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan, Sister Esther is a retreat leader and spiritual director who conducts a monthly Day of Mindfulness at Weber Center.

The celebration is free and open to all. Registration is not required. To participate, join the live stream at <https://webercenter.org/seasons>. For information, call the Weber Center at 517-266-4000.

St. Joan of Arc
Online Giving
Manage your Online Giving account with the app!
Download the Online Giving app today at OLGApp.com
Donations
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Give online at stjoan.church or from the app
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Download on the App Store

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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.

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Christmas Parish Center Hours

Mon. Dec 20 - 8:30 am - 5 pm
Tues, Dec 21 - 8:30 am - 5 pm
Wed, Dec 22 - 8:30 am - 5 pm
Thurs, Dec 23 - CLOSED
Fri, Dec 24 - CLOSED
Mon, Dec 27 - CLOSED
Tues, Dec 28 - 8:30 am - 5 pm
Wed, Dec 29 - 8:30 am - 5 pm
Thurs, Dec 30 - CLOSED
Fri, Dec 31 - CLOSED
Mon, Jan 3 - CLOSED
Tues, Jan 4 resume regular hours

For pastoral emergencies
please call 586-777-1342

Merry Christmas and
a Blessed New Year
from the
St. Joan of Arc
Parish Staff

 **St. Joan^{of} Arc**



Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, December 20th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral for Patricia Kohlitz

6:15 pm Faith Formation 7/8th Grade

Tuesday, December 21st

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

8:30 pm All School Christmas Mass

Wednesday, December 22nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, December 23rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, December 24th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, December 25th



8:00 am Christmas Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Christmas Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Christmas Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, December 26th

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

December 19, 2021 – Christmas is Close!

The countdown to Christmas is picking up speed. Weeks dwindle to days, and days to hours, as we make our final preparations for the big holiday.

One internet portal posted a slightly tongue-in-cheek summary several years ago of the emotional stages that people go through as they anticipate and experience the day then adjust to its aftermath. The stages start with “anticipation,” and progress through “excitement,” “satisfaction,” “weakness” (related mostly to our propensity to eat too many cookies), and, finally, depression when it’s all done.

It's worth noting that even our Blessed Mother, and those closest to her, had their own version of pre-Christmas anticipation:

“Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth,” we hear in today’s gospel passage from St. Luke. “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb...”

Clearly, John was the first child to be giddy with Christmas anticipation.

The events surrounding and following that first Christmas, of course, were much more profound than the events surrounding and following our own Christmas celebrations. But just as Mary and the entire early Christian community would have experienced their own feelings of anticipation, excitement, satisfaction, and concern – and became the better for them – so too can we use the events of this upcoming Christmas season to make us better disciples of Jesus Christ. Even if it hasn’t already started during Advent, it’s not too late to use those feelings of anticipation to sharpen our prayer lives. And then to use Christmas day as a starting point for more profound prayer and service.

Christmas is less than a week away. How are we making use of the heightened emotions of the season to bring about the Kingdom?

2021 Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday December 20, 2021 Late Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Kathleen H. Doak & Edward Rago

Tuesday December 21, 2021 Late Advent Weekday, Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Paul Rothrock & George Bugarin

Wednesday December 22, 2021 Late Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Steve Wright & Raquel Kosebutzki

Thursday December 23, 2021 Late Advent Weekday, Saint John of Kanty, Priest (Purple)

7:00 a.m. William Dobrzecowski

Friday December 24, 2021 Late Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Frank Shuder & Mary T. Hobig

4:00 p.m. Marie Champine, Frank Shuder, George & Sophia Rupinski, the deceased members of the Zaranek, McQuillan & Walters Families, Joseph Kronibus, Joan Weber, Alice & Albert Czekaj, Anna Maria Dolunt, George Bugarin, Jill Ann Miller, Charles L. Miller, Fran McCarron, Joseph & Irene Fontecchio, Sam & Grace Valenti, John W. Ashford, Antoinette Barone, Robert & Mary Ann Fannon, Maynard & Ann Seneski, Primitivo & Rebeca Sandoval, Larry & Sharon Seneski, Dolores Acosta, Humberto Sandoval, Rebeca Drummond, Special Intentions for Natividad Mallare, Rosemary DeYonker Turchin, the Everett Family, Joan Kowalewski, Peggy McCarron, the Bommarito Bakery & Staff, Alfred & Margie Sandoval & Joan DeDene

6:00 p.m. Ralph Marzalino

10:00 p.m. Josie Dehelean & Timothy Fox

Saturday December 25, 2021 The Nativity of the Lord (White)

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

10:00 a.m. Stancel Mecha

12:00 p.m. Cornelius B. Thelen, the deceased members of the Rogier & Dettloff Families, Ron Lagodna, Joseph & Florence Semany, Marguerite & John L. Joseph, Kevin Brys, Stanley & Frances Brys, Bonnie Batche, Geri Doak, Anna Maria Dolunt,

Saturday December 25, 2021 The Nativity of the Lord (White)

12:00 p.m. David Curcuru, Julian Ross, Mark Brys, George Lombardi, Maria Lombardi, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, the Mordovanakis Family, the Mallare Family and Tracy & Jerry Rauch

Sunday December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (White)

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

10:00 a.m. JoAnne, Helen & John Joseph Gleason

12:00 p.m. Clara M. Champine, Anna Maria Dolunt, Richard & Suzanne Kaminski

Daily Readings

Monday, December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 21

Song of Songs 2:8-14
Luke 1:39-45

Wednesday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28
Luke 1:46-56

Thursday, December 23

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Luke 1:57-66

Friday, December 24

Isaiah 62:1-5
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

Saturday, December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Sunday, December 26

Wisdom of Ben Sira 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52



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.”

Thomas Campau
Judy Kniffin
Marie Wurzinger
Judy Ostasiewicz
Christopher Sellers
Charles English
Edward Graney



“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



Writing On The Wall: From time to time, and maybe this happens to all priests, someone will come to me and recount a dream they've

had and ask if I thought there was any spiritual significance to it. My answer is usually about the same, something along the lines of, "Well, if it's helpful to you then that's a blessing, but I wouldn't make any life-changing decisions on that alone without running it by someone else first." Can God speak to us in our dreams? Sure He can! Are most of our dreams more likely to be a crazy collision of the inner thoughts of our minds and the events of the day? Yes, probably most of them. Sometimes, if I thought too hard about my dreams I would question my own sanity..... Exploding hamsters and existential dreams about the existence of a shoe....

But sometimes maybe there is a hint of something true lurking in the background. You tell me if you spot this one.... I had to tell Msgr. Mike this week about a dream I had. Parish dreams or liturgical nightmares are probably a reality for most priests since we are often going in so many directions thinking about those things that sometimes they get jumbled-up, with reality and fiction all mingled together. I dreamed that I was up north on vacation with my parents (odd to begin with, since they live 3,500 miles away) and I realized I was not too far from Marquette. I thought perhaps I could go and visit my friend Jack who lives in Marquette and then return to resume my vacation with my parents. It was raining really hard so it didn't sound like a fun drive, so I was mulling over the idea, when Msgr. Mike texted me. He was busy gathering bids from companies to build a new "security wall" on campus, (whenever that is) and had received a number of different proposals. Msgr. Mike asked if I could spend some time looking over the bids and give some feedback. However, he asked that I pay particular attention to one specific proposal that he thought might be the one. He said he was a little unsure about the plans for the inner part of this construction, because it was brick rather than concrete, which may not be as solid, but the outside of the wall was made of milk chocolate, and he thought that was a good idea.... So.... Any ideas where the nugget of truth might have found its way into my crazy

brain waves? Monsignor.... We're onto you! If anyone sees a new "security wall" anywhere on campus soon, please let me know and I will begin to research caramel paint products.

So, maybe I have my doubts about all that occurred in that dream, and maybe not all our dreams are profound messages from God, but at other times the Lord speaks his word very clearly. And many times, that word comes in the form of actions. In our Gospel today, Elizabeth says to Mary, *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."* The Lord spoke to Mary through the angel Gabriel and both Elizabeth and the unborn John the Baptist in her womb confirm that what the Lord has spoken has come to pass. They are aware of the presence of Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Mother. Elizabeth cries out with joy and amazement that she has received this blessing of the visitation from Mary, the mother of her Lord, and from Jesus Himself, through the generosity, humility and abandonment of Mary's "yes" to God. What an example for us of how our "yes" to God can be such a blessing not only to us but to others. When God speaks clearly... when He speaks by His actions, we do well to listen and to trust. God's Word is the best "security wall" we can ever hope for in our parish.

Hot, Purple, Holy Chaos: Last Week we had our Advent Taizé Holy Hour. I am usually not around on Thursday when the regular Holy Hour takes place with Eucharistic Adoration so I'm not quite sure of exactly how the deacons do everything. I am familiar with Exposition, of course, but the setting-up off camera I haven't seen here at St. Joan. As I was setting-up, I was questioning how they ensure the charcoal will last an hour until Benediction at the end. Some charcoal coals will last an hour, others burn out more quickly. I thought I could be clever and light two charcoals in the thurible before the start and put a third up against the side, inside the thurible so it would be there to light just before Benediction. Well, I knew I was in trouble at the start of adoration when I went to incense the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance on the altar. I picked up the thurible and all 3 coals were well aglow. Apparently I learned nothing from the 1666 Great Fire of London that destroyed the city. You can't put flammable object too close together! Fortunately, as I tried to ignore this problem for the rest of the hour, the

coals kept burning and were still lit for Benediction.

I had felt quite proud of myself for figuring out how to set-up the spotlights that flood Jesus on the sanctuary wall in light for the holy hours. But just at 6:59pm, with a minute to go, Kristine Hass came running into the sacristy, (having presumably jumped over the wall of the choir loft to save time?). She'd just discovered that Msgr. Mike wasn't going to be operating the cameras this week, so she was in the midst of multi-tasking cameras and singing. But now she appeared in the sacristy with one of the spotlights in hand. "I'm just going to set this to purple for Advent," she said. But she'd misread her watch and had now just realized there was literally a minute to go. I was confused. "That wasn't purple?" I asked. "No, it's red!" she replied. "Oh!" I said, "That's what happens when the colorblind guy sets-up the lights. It looked the same as last week to me!" It wasn't working for Kristine, so the lights stayed whatever color they were!

As the holy hour got underway, the computer displaying the words on the screen crashed and had to be rebooted. Then as Catherine Thomas was singing the Latin refrains of "ubi caritas" she texted Kristine (I don't know how Catherine is able to text and play piano at the same time, but she is!) and asked, "Do you have this in English?" So Kristine, while singing ubi caritas, got onto the computer, creating slides of the English words before those verses came up.

And so somehow, by the grace of God (that I'd just preached about) we made it to Benediction time. I knelt to incense the blessed Sacrament... there is smoke... all is well, so I go to put the thurible back on its stand and it swings into my arm. After an hour on fire, let's just say a brass thurible is hot.... I flinched from burning my arm, but I'm not sure I had enough of my voice back yet for my high-pitched "yelp" to be audible.

And apparently none of these calamities were visible to anyone but us. As I always said, "when in doubt, look devout, and all just seems to work out!" Roll with it!

All by the grace of God!
You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjascs.org

*All women are invited
to join us for our next*

**Walking with Purpose
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beginning

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Two Sessions available - at 10 am and 7 pm

Join us in the Sr. Carol Center for a cup of coffee and to learn about the fruits of these beautiful weekly Catholic Bible Studies written especially for women. All women are welcomed and invited to bring a friend. Each group is doing a different study. Feel free to drop in on the first session - there's always an open seat. No experience necessary!

The morning group is revisiting the first study in the series - *Opening Your Heart*, and the evening group is starting with *Keeping in Balance*.

Visit sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose for more information about these groups and studies.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – DECEMBER 26

Reading One – Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins — a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading Two – Col 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a

grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Gospel – Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

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December 19, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4 | Heb 10:5-10 | Lk 1:39-45

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

"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah

too small to be among the clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me

one who is to be ruler in Israel;"

We do not have to go see the most recent superhero movie or binge-watch a streaming TV series that celebrates the underdog to feel the elation that comes with overcoming evil. We need only to look at our own lives, and God's plan of salvation for us, to understand what it truly means to be triumphant. From tiny little Bethlehem – a town of no consequence – would arise the Savior of the world. He would be the One who came to do God's will, and thus consecrated us to God through the offering of his own body as sacrifice, once for all. This is the One Mary carried in her womb and whom Elizabeth's unborn child – we know to be John the Baptist – recognized. He is the child-most-vulnerable who would become King of the Universe, "stand[ing] firm and shepherd[ing] his flock by the strength of the Lord." This is the God we serve: the One who became like us so that we may one day be like him. We shall soon celebrate the anniversary of his birth, while also waiting in joyful hope for his coming again. In this time of preparation, then, we pray for the grace to know the Lord more fully and to appreciate with gratitude the Savior he truly is.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, now is the time many of us will begin to gather – as families, friends, and faith communities. What an ideal opportunity to renew our relationships with one another and with Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the presence of God in our lives and in others. Micah's prophesy from today's first reading endures: "His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace." Let's do our part to share the peace and joy of Christ with those we encounter, witnessing to his saving grace in our lives, and offering others an opportunity to be a part of the greatest story, ever – of God's saving action.

INVITE/PRAY Invite visiting family members to your parish or faith community for a concert, worship or other Advent activity. If that's not possible, pray the O Antiphons together at home.



Dear Padre,

I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

One Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus born in Bethlehem.

In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country. They worshiped Jesus and

brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

Fr. John Murray, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE / BOB ROLLER

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10–14
Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Wednesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Thursday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Friday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Saturday

DECEMBER 25
Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
1:1–5, 9–14

Sunday

DECEMBER 26
Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24
Lk 2:41–52



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 24, 2019

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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@sjascs.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)
December 19, 2021

True Love Means Sacrifice

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

God is often present in the little, hidden things of life. Take for example the small town of Bethlehem. This place barely appeared on the maps of the time. Yet in this dull town, overlooked by all, God wished to be born. God isn't into bling.

Look at the Vatican painting *Annunciation* by Gentile da Fabriano. A ray of light in the painting shines from the upper left window directly down onto Mary's womb. She carries in her the Light of the World, but it happened in a way unbeknownst to anyone. He is

the Light of the World, shining to catch our attention, but he does so in silence, humility, and intimacy.

There is a second aspect of the Incarnation to learn here. Christmas was about a real sacrifice. Mary and Jesus offered their very selves. Hebrews says it wasn't an animal or a wheat offering but Jesus' very body and blood. The same for Mary, as it was her life, her virginity, her very intimacy, that she was opening to God when she agreed to be the mother of the Lord. It's easy to be generous when it doesn't touch too close to home.

So, try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence. And imitate Jesus and Mary by giving of your very self. It's not about a fast, a donation, or extra prayers—as good as those Advent practices are. But all of this prepares us to give our very selves to him in trust through the hidden acts of love of every day. +

Try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence.

Sunday Readings

Micah 5:1-4a

But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah / least among the clans of Judah, / From you shall come forth for me / one who is to be ruler in Israel.

Hebrews 10:5-10

We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45

[Elizabeth] cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

A Word from Pope Francis

[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.

Christmas Midnight Mass,
December 24, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What hidden acts of love can you offer during this upcoming Christmas?
- Are there ways you can point out to your children God's presence in the little things?

Let Us Kneel

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

We were all packed onto a busy East Harlem street corner when a Puerto Rican man rushed into traffic, catching the attention of all who were waiting to cross. When he reached the other side of a sea of trucks and cars, he knelt down right there in the street at the feet of an old woman pushing a grocery cart. Leaning on her cart, she stood over him and made the sign of the cross on his forehead, shoulders, and chest. Then, holding her crossed fingers up reverently, the man kissed them. He knelt for a blessing from his godmother in the street, a common gesture for children and young people in Latin American countries, but a grand expression for a grown man.

The part of the Good Friday service most people dread is the Universal Prayer. As we pray for everyone in ten different petitions, the deacon or cantor calls out, "Let us kneel....Let us stand." It's tedious and painful for some knees, and tiring to many, so some priests invite people to either remain standing or be seated. Maybe it's because sinking to our knees is too awkward or strange. Some don't like to kneel. I've visited churches where the kneelers have been removed. What might that mean? In prayer, kneeling is an act of adoration and supplication, but it's also a sign of powerlessness and defeat; it can be seen as a way to show humility in a physical way.



A woman told me her mother used to make her kneel on uncooked rice as a form of punishment for backtalking, disobedience, or lying. A common sight in the oft-crowded Mexican sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the procession of pilgrims walking on their knees in penance for themselves or loved ones. Remember the horrific scenes of people positioned on their knees before ISIS executioners just moments before they met an untimely death? There's a lot that can bring us to our knees—penance, prayer, punishment, and protest. Kneeling is a powerful statement. It took the publicized kneeling of a pro football player to get us to notice.

Many are offended by those who kneel during the national anthem. Why? Is it to admit that our nation has been brought to its knees by terrorism and a pandemic; by racism and police brutality; by Harvey, Irma, and Maria; by a killer in Las Vegas; by a broken immigration system; by bipartisan paralysis and self-serving politicians? Much has proven to be beyond our power and ability to change. We've been humbled and humiliated, and the icon of our powerlessness is represented by an NFL player kneeling on the field of play.

When you kneel in church next time, pray that America can rise above the hate. The rhetoric. The prejudice. Let us kneel. +

Many are offended by those who kneel during the national anthem. Why?



Lord, your Word gives me life, joy, hope, and peace. May your Word find a home in me and inspire me to live a life rooted in gospel values.

From Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 20–25, 2021

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38


Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

Friday, Advent Weekday:
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67–79

Saturday, Nativity of the Lord (Christmas):
Is 52:7–10 / Heb 1:1–6 / Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Bringing Home
the Word 
December 19, 2021

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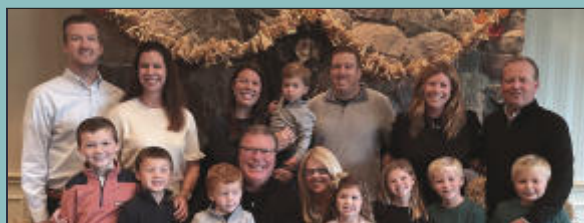

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