



# SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

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## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

### PARISH CENTER

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**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
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Fax: 586-774-5528  
Website: [www.sjascscs.org](http://www.sjascscs.org)  
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### SCHOOL

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### FAITH AND FAMILY FORMATION OFFICE

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### ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

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Fax: 586-774-5528

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Fax: 586-447-3574

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Fr. James Grau

**Assistant Principal**

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**Exceptional Children**

Mary Cal  
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**Permanent Deacons**

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**Music Director**

Catherine Thomas  
cthomas@sjascs.org

**Youth Group**

Linda Lietaert  
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore  
dpastore@sjascs.org

**Anthems Director**

Eleonore Ellero-Groth  
eleonoraellero@gmail.com



### PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center foyer ONLY is open Monday -Thursday from 8:30am-5pm and Friday from 8:30-4pm. For mass intentions or any service we may be reached at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

For any urgent needs when we are not open, please call our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

**Baptisms:** Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form.

**Marriages:** Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

**Registration:** It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Weekdays**

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

**Weekends**

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

**Holy Day Masses**

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm

7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

**Reconciliation**

Saturday: 11:00 am in the Sister Carol Center adjacent to Church

**Holy Hour**

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

**Rosary**

Monday - Friday after the 7am mass outside by the Holy Trinity statue.

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, at this time please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone to get further information.

Once the Parish Center is re-opened please feel free to stop by and register in person.

### SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWS LETTERS!

If you would like to keep up with what is going on in the parish or if you need to update your email address go to our website at stjoan.church.





**My Dad's Final Journey:** When I wrote last week's column, I concluded by saying I hoped that by the time you read it, my family would have been on the mend, my parents would have been released from the hospital, and we were finally able to celebrate Christmas together as a family. Unfortunately, that wish and prayer never came true. My dad, quite unexpectedly, went home to the Lord on New Year's Day.

It was a wild journey. My parents were doing so well just before Christmas, and the hospital had already talked to me about transferring them both to a rehab center. I had two conditions that had to be met: 1) that they were together on Christmas Day, and 2) they had to be in the same room at the rehab center.

On Christmas morning, things changed. Shortly after celebrating the 8 AM mass, I received a phone call from the infectious disease doctor handling my dad's case. He told me my dad's breathing changed overnight, and there was a concern the COVID virus may have gone to his brain. He cautioned me that if the virus had gone to my dad's brain, there was no further treatment to help him. He also said that because his condition worsened, he finally qualified for Remdisivir and steroids. Our only hope was that his body would respond to the steroids, but the doctor cautioned me by saying, "I don't have a lot of warm and fuzzies about this one!" My heart sank, and I thought to myself, "Some Christmas gift." My dad was doing so well at this point. They started him on Remdisivir and steroids immediately, and I called my sisters to tell them the news. I purposely did not tell my mom because I wanted her to focus on her own healing. They both were in the same room at Grosse Pointe Beaumont, and she was doing a ton of worrying just watching my dad deteriorate before her eyes.

After receiving the first dose of steroids, my dad perked up almost immediately. It was a Christmas morning miracle. He sat up in bed, ate his first full meal in over a week, and was quite talkative on our family's Zoom Christmas call that evening. We were ecstatic. He continued to rally, and plans were set in motion for my parents to be transferred to Regency of Saint Clair Shores the Monday following Christmas.

My sister Jackie and I met my parents at the entrance to Regency as they were being "delivered" by ambulance on that Monday afternoon after Christmas. My parents were put in a first-floor room, so we had the

added benefit of being able to do window visits. While the Zoom calls allowed us to see our parents, the window visits revealed how weak they both were. I was astonished to see how little both could walk and maneuver. When we did our window visits, we would use our cell phone to talk back and forth, and my dad would do his familiar wave to us from his bed at the far end of the room. It was apparent this was going to be a long haul for both of them. In the days to follow, my dad got more quiet and sluggish. His white blood cell count started to climb, and they discovered he had a bad urinary tract infection. They started him on antibiotics, but he continued to decline. My mom was very worried at this point.

On New Year's Day, I decided after the 8 AM mass to bring them communion. I asked the nurse if she would take the pyx from me, bring it to their room immediately, and then I would pray with them from the window. By the grace of God, she looked at me and said, "Meet me at the side door. I'll do something better." She allowed me in, had me suit up, and walked me into my parents' room. I immediately called my siblings, who rallied the rest of the family, and we all jumped onto a Zoom call. As I'm not one to wait until the final moments to pray all the Church's prayers for the dying, I decided to do all those rituals, including the Apostolic Pardon, and bring my dad Viaticum. Needless to say, there was a ton of sobbing. My dad was responsive and participated. After we ended our Zoom call, my mom and I got my dad to drink some Ensure and some pudding. The nurse came in and noticed my dad's hands were a bit clammy, but he was alert. I wished I could have stayed the whole day inside that room, but I knew I had to leave. As I approached St. Joan just before noon on New Year's Day, my mom called crying, saying that they were calling 911 because my dad's vitals had changed drastically. I turned around immediately and went back to Regency. When they wheeled my dad into the ambulance, he was unresponsive, and his eyes were fixed toward the sky. I knew it wasn't good. I followed the ambulance to St. John Hospital, where I waited in the parking lot for someone to call me. I also called Fr. Joe Mahoney, the chaplain there, who came back to the hospital to help get me in. The ER doctor called me and told me to meet her inside the triage area. When I got inside, we went to my dad's side. She discussed a bunch of stuff with me, but it was very clear he was in critical condition. His foley had clogged, so urine had backed up into his system, causing his blood to go toxic. They had him on a nasal oxygen line, but they switched to a mask to help him breathe easier. We talked about intubating him, but all the doctors said he would probably never

survive. So, with my mom on the phone, we decided we would not intubate him but would give him the assistance of a BiPap machine. As they prepared him to be transferred to ICU, I noted his breathing got very shallow even with the BiPap. I called the doctor and nurse into his room, and they agreed he wasn't breathing as well on the BiPap as he did with the nasal cannula. As they were changing things back to the nasal cannula, his pulse dipped, as did his blood pressure. As I stood by him and held his hand, with Fr. Joe Mahoney as my side, I watched my dad take his final breath of life here on earth. I couldn't believe what was happening. It happened all too quickly. My dad had gone home to the Lord. I took my dad's wedding ring off and gathered his Father Solanus badge he was wearing. I now had to go back to Regency to tell my mom and sisters what had happened. It was all too surreal at this point. I made the trek back to Regency, and they allowed me back into the room so I could tell my mom in person and not through a window. My sisters noticed immediately through the window I had my dad's wedding ring on my finger. I told my mom what had happened, and she fell into my arms. Watching my dad go home to the Lord was tough, but telling my mom seemed worse. We then decided there was NO WAY my mom was staying inside that empty room by herself without all of us around her. So I signed the paperwork to "kidnap" her so we could bring her home to be in her own bed surrounded by all of her family. It was a very tough month, and indeed a tough year. But I was graced with the final gifts of giving him Viaticum and the Apostolic Pardon and commending him to the Lord. It was also grace-filled that my parents could be in the same hospital room at Grosse Pointe Beaumont and then at Regency, so they could spend their last Christmas and New Year's together. We were graced with the final gift that my dad didn't die alone and that he died as I held his hand. Blessed be God. My heart, all of our hearts, were broken. I couldn't help but recall and keep saying to myself, the all too familiar and only preface to the Eucharistic Prayer that I use at funerals, "Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven." God bless you, Dad! Rest in Peace. Love ya! We look forward to seeing you again, when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

Please keep my mom and family in your prayers.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org



## Ways to Give

**St. Joan of Arc**

Online Giving



Manage your  
Online Giving account  
with the app!

Download the Online Giving app  
today at [OLGApp.com](http://OLGApp.com)

Donations

Payments

Give online at  
[stjoan.church](http://stjoan.church)  
or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

**4719**



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We continue to raise funds in support of  
needed capital improvements and big-  
ticket maintenance items in our  
Maintaining God's House campaign.

[sjascs.org/gods-house](http://sjascs.org/gods-house)

## SPONSORSHIP APPEAL

Helps cover costs of items and services  
we rely upon throughout the year.  
Donors see gifts at work and it sheds  
light some of the daily expenses we  
face in our active parish.

[sjascs.org/sponsorship-appeal](http://sjascs.org/sponsorship-appeal)

## More on Marriage

### GRATEFUL FOR MY SPOUSE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage strong.

The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions

and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. What you get out of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will depend largely on where you are in your relationship on the Weekend you go. You will get whatever it is you need at that point in time. Every marriage deserves this kind of attention!

Virtual and in-person weekends are  
scheduled for 2021.

<https://encountermichigan.org>

## REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others – no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto:vac@aod.org).

In addition, the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at 844-324-3374 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or by email at [aginvestigations@michigan.gov](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

More information about the Archdiocese's efforts to address abuse may be found at [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org).



# GETTING FORMED: LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS

When was the last time you made a special effort to learn more about your Catholic faith? Do you remember a last time? Or did you graduate from your faith formation once you made your confirmation or received your diploma from a Catholic school? St. Joan of Arc's subscription to FORMED online is a great resource for learning, praying and growing more in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Life is busy. We live in a noisy world filled with distractions and diversions that easily take our minds and hearts off of God and on to the next item on our never-ending to-do list.

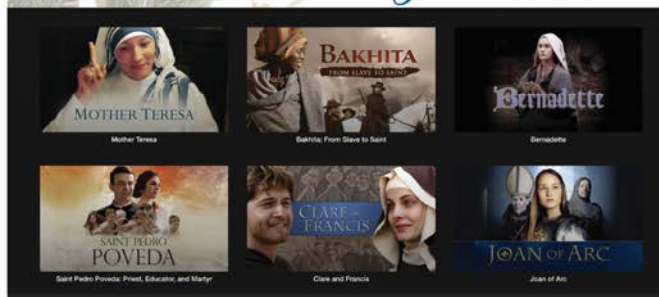
For the past few years, St. Joan of Arc's subscription to the online streaming service FORMED has given parishioners access to Catholic movies, programs, lectures and accompanying written resources to grow in faith. FORMED can be used on smart phones, tablets, computers and smart TVs with web browsing. The richness and depth of the FORMED library continues to expand.

Two programs for adults on reconciliation and Eucharist, *Forgiven* and *Presence*, beautifully accompany sacrament preparation materials the children in our parish use, and FORMED makes these rich programs available to all. The feedback from parents has been outstanding.

There are also children's favorites such as Basketball-playing *Brother Francis* and *Carlos the Caterpillar*, as well as the *Saints and Heroes* Collection.



*It's Movie Night*  
on FORMED



Sign up to get FORMED  
for free by visiting  
[formed.org](http://formed.org) and selecting  
St. Joan of Arc Parish.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETS ON FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS

Open to men of all ages, our men's fellowship group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. The group meets for prayer, to study scripture and for ongoing fellowship. Beginning in January, the Men's Fellowship will dive into CS Lewis' satirical and profound book, *The Screwtape Letters* - a tale of temptation and the resistance of evil told through the correspondence of an experienced devil to his novice nephew. For more information, contact Pat Adamcik at 313-477-3697 or [pjadamcik@wowway.com](mailto:pjadamcik@wowway.com).

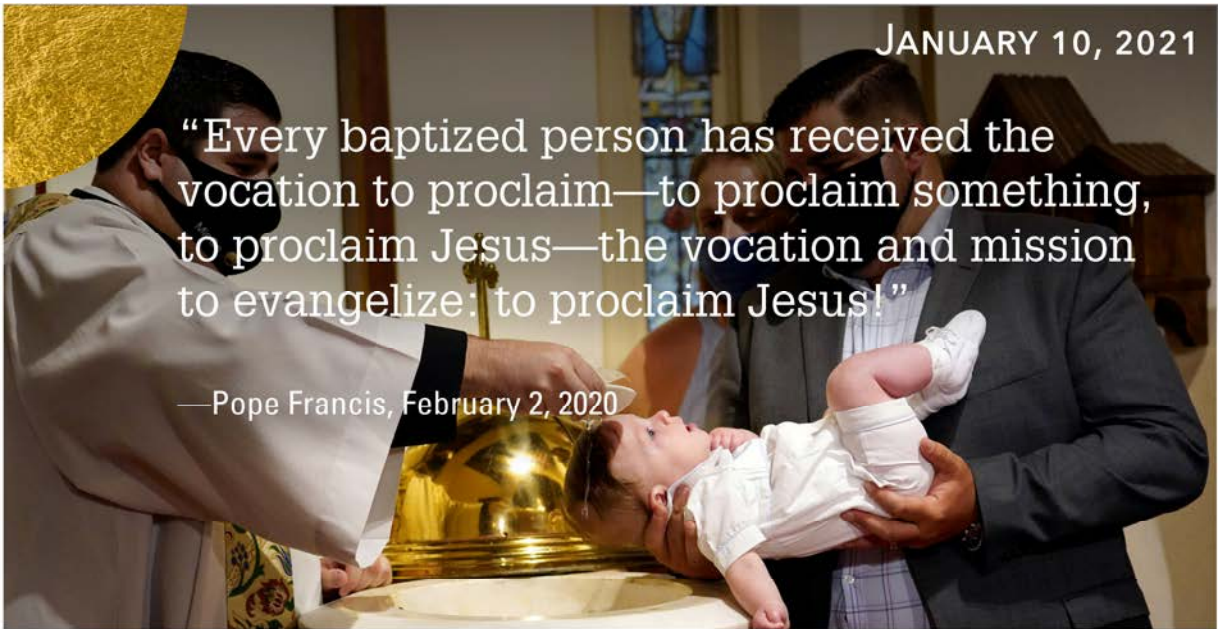


### The Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY 10, 2021

“Every baptized person has received the vocation to proclaim—to proclaim something, to proclaim Jesus—the vocation and mission to evangelize: to proclaim Jesus!”

—Pope Francis, February 2, 2020



Cetty Images

### Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord!

The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. “He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water” (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Liturgy of the Hours, I, 634).

Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 21—Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](https://9daysforlife.com)!



Catholic  
Current

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BULLETIN



## Weekly Calendar of Events

### Monday, January 11th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

### Tuesday, January 12th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

### Wednesday, January 13th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

### Thursday, January 14th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral Charles Miller

### Friday, January 15th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral for Mavourneen Mingo

### Saturday, January 16th

11:00 am Reconciliation

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

### Sunday, January 17th

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

### Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Though we have returned to public masses we will continue our Live Stream Broadcasts of all celebrations.

- Weekdays - 7 am Mass - (Monday thru Friday)
- Saturdays - 4 pm and 6 pm Masses
- Sundays - 8 am and 12 pm Masses
- Thursdays - 7 pm Holy Hour

Go to: [livestream.stjoan.church](https://livestream.stjoan.church) to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

## Words on the Word

### January 10, 2021 – Snow Place Like Home

Walkin' in a winter wonderland!

Christmas music has all but left local stores and radio stations, but one can't help but think of Dean Martin or Michael Bublé when reading of – or being in – massive snowstorms, such as the nor'easter that hit the east coast a few weeks ago.

Media across the country reported on the record-setting event, and many ran graphics that showed total snowfall amounts of almost 4 feet in some places. Much of the heaviest snow fell within a 24-hour period, and in many locations, even a yardstick wasn't enough to measure the accumulation.

It's a great, tangible reminder of the power of nature, created by the power of God, to serve as a means to the end of enabling the earth to sustain life, even if it's perhaps a bit difficult to navigate at times.

It's also a great metaphor for the abundant power of God's eternal word, which is how we hear it in one of the options for today's first reading.

“For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth,” Isaiah says.

“My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”

If the insights afforded by God's eternal truth were a snowstorm, that storm would probably look a lot like the one we saw in the northeast corridor a few weeks ago.

It's an avalanche, of sorts, but a good one. One that reminds us that it's good, in some cases, to stay close to home.

© 2021, Words on the Word

# Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

## Mass Intentions

**Monday January 11, 2021 Weekday (Green)**

7:00 a.m. Lynn Stacey

**Tuesday January 12, 2021 Weekday (Green)**

7:00 a.m. Kenneth A. Smith

**Wednesday January 13, 2021 Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Green/White)**

7:00 a.m. Joseph Allemon

**Thursday January 14, 2021 Weekday (Green)**

7:00 a.m. Leonard LeFevre

**Friday January 15, 2021 Weekday (Green)**

7:00 a.m. Johnny Spath

**Saturday January 16, 2021 Weekday (Green/White)**

4:00 p.m. Robert Boesiger, Jean Daudlin, Jerry Bodendistel, Bonnie Batche, Sophie Rupinski, Dan Vasquez, Janet Bellanca, and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and the Thomas Family

6:00 p.m. Dorothy Guigliardo

**Sunday January 17, 2021 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)**

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

12:00 p.m. Bettyjean and John Ahee, Katarina Marie Goitz

## Weekly Readings

**Monday, January 11**

Hebrews 1:1-6  
Mark 1:14-20

**Friday, January 15**

Hebrews 4:1-5,11  
Mark 2:1-12

**Tuesday, January 12**

Hebrews 2:5-12  
Mark 1:21-28

**Saturday, January 16**

Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 2:13-17

**Wednesday, January 13**

Hebrews 2:14-18  
Mark 1:29-39

**Sunday, January 17**

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19  
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a  
John 1:35-42

**Thursday, January 14**

Hebrews 3:7-14  
Mark 1:40-45



## 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.”

**George J. Bugarin  
Linda and Mike Kusmierz  
Marvin Weigand  
Kathleen (Kitty) Doak  
Giovanna Biondo  
Phyllis St. Amour  
Mavourneen S. Mingo  
Charles Miller**



“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



## Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



**"I shall make all things well":** As we approached the last couple of days of 2020, I heard of one of the saddest traditions I can recall hearing.

Apparently, New York City annually celebrates "Good Riddance Day." In a "normal" year, maybe not last year, people are invited to write down all the things from the past year to which they'd like to say "good riddance," and they are shredded and added to the Times Square confetti, as those people look forward to better times next year. 12 months later, I'm sure they are saying the same thing. So much of our experience is determined by our own attitude toward it. Tragedies notwithstanding, there is always something to be thankful for. If our hope is in some utopian experience in this present world, we'll be waiting until the Kingdom comes. We will only make sense of the events of the coming year if our hope is not in an ideal year with no trouble, but in the Lord.

I sincerely hope 2021 is a good year for all of us. Even more, I hope that it is a year we can all live with a thankful disposition. What if we could take off the blinders that stop us seeing what's on either side of whatever may be troubling us? I hope we can dare to remember that God has blessed us so much already and plans on continuing to do so. Do we ever consider that each one of us was a deliberate thought of God, Who willed us into existence? He maintains our life to the extent that if He no longer intended us to be here on earth, He would have simply removed His Will. Our lives would have been over by now. We would all do well to take a leaf from the writings of the 14th Century mystic, St. Julian of Norwich. Considering the mystery of God's love for us, Julian asked: "Ah, good Lord, how could all things be well, because of the great harm which has come through sin to your creatures?" Of the response she heard from God, she wrote: "And so our good Lord answered all the questions and doubts which I could raise, saying most comfortingly: 'I make all things well, and I can make all things well, and I shall make all things well, and I will make all things well; and you will see for yourself that every kind of thing will be well.' ... And in these words, God wishes us to be enclosed in rest and peace."

**Last of the Summer Wine:** Last weekend in my homily I mentioned my

grandmother, the royal family fan, would be rolling in her grave over the Netflix series, "*The Crown*." Over Christmas I had a chance to sit through a few episodes of a favorite TV show of hers and mine. It's a show by the name of "*Last of the Summer Wine*." At least one parishioner has told me that this is a favorite of his too. If you want to see where Fr. Andrew grew-up (or at least was raised.... my mom doesn't think I've grown-up yet), look-up this TV show. It's set in the little village of Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, just a couple of miles from my home. We would run into the film crews. It's where my love of the countryside comes from. That's one of the draws of the show for me and for many of its viewers—just the stunning surroundings of the location. The show has been aired on PBS now and then, but is also available on certain pay channels. I watch it through Amazon Prime video, but there are free episodes on YouTube.



The series is the longest-running sitcom of any show in the world. It ran for 37 years, 295 episodes. The remarkable part is that the show centers around 3 retired men who grew-up and attended school together and having gone their separate ways, have settled into their retirement in the same home-town they spent their youths. But many of the main actors remained active on the show for all or most of the 37 years, into their 80s and 90s. One is widowed, two never married and now they spend their days living a second late youth getting into mischief, having new adventures, "solving" the world's problems, philosophizing while lying on the grassy hills and generally doing nothing worthwhile. All the time, they reminisce about their younger days and those they knew, most of whom show up at some point, still gracing the same hills. There are illusions of grand pasts, countless opportunities for humility, loves and hopes still pursued, probably never to be fulfilled. With respect to shows like *Seinfeld*, sorry, but *Last of the Summer Wine* is the original show about nothing.

The series writers very deliberately fill

the show with a nostalgic old-world feel — the cars are always a couple of decades behind the times and there are always far more people on bicycles than even an English village could account for. A cast of supporting characters suffer and add to the mischief of the 3 men: Foggy, the former corporal sign-writer with endless fake stories of war-time heroism, Compo, who may have never held a job in his life and dresses the part, and Norman Clegg, the timid philosopher of the group.

It's such a gentle comedy, one I really could watch with my grandmother. Unlike many shows today, it's unoffensive and doesn't try to break new ground. It just basks in the idea of having time to breathe, time to enjoy the simple life— and bask in the natural beauty it shows off throughout the show. The gentle soundtrack is a nostalgic anthem that reminds the viewer of a perfect summer evening as these men live out their later years. I love the scenery and I love the wisdom of the ponderous philosophy that is scattered throughout if you listen for it:

**Compo, a little frustrated:** "Where's the glossiness in our lives?"

**Clegg, quite contented:** "At our age, there's a lot to be said for a plain matte finish..."

**The plain matte start:** Today, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we end our Christmas season and move into Ordinary Time in the Church calendar. It seems to go hand-in-hand with January, at least the January I always knew as a kid growing-up in *Summer Wine* country. The excitement of Christmas was over and gone, it was really foggy and wet, the summer was forever away. January gave me the blues. Ordinary Time has no melody. Nobody sends card for Ordinary Time. Nobody sings, "It's beginning to look a lot like Ordinary Time." But now I get it. It's in the Ordinary Time, in the plain matte finish of our lives. It's in the simple, unoriginal but blessed moments that we get to live-out the gift of grace first given to us at our baptism. Where we are called to continually renew through the sacraments.

We must leave the glossiness of Christmas, we must leave the grace of the font. It's in Ordinary Time that we become Saints.

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

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace.

Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass.

Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,*

*Come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there*

*And unite myself wholly to you.*

*Never permit me to be separated from you.*

Amen.



*Spend an hour  
with me.*

*-Jesus*

## HOLY HOURS

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First and third  
Thursdays include  
Praise and Worship  
music, second and  
fourth are silent.





## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 17 B

### Reading 1 – 1 Samuel

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again, the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

### Responsorial Psalm 40

**R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

**R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come."

**R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!"

**R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

**R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

### Reading 2 – 1 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

### Alleluia

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel – John

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.



Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

January 10, 2021

## The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 | Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9 |  
Mk 1:7-11

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

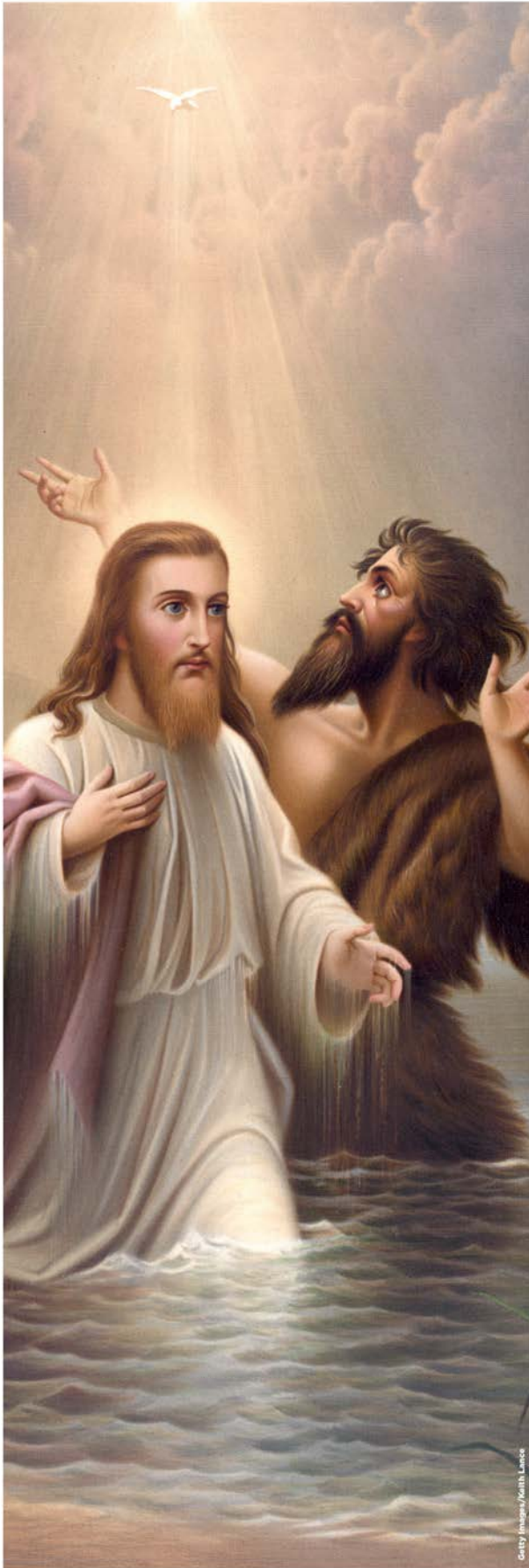
Those of us who are parents or godparents remember fondly the day of our child or godchild's baptism. I remember feeling the warmth from the congregation and from extended family and friends as they joined us in welcoming our beloved infant into Christ's Church. The smell of the chrism from the anointing of his head with oil, and the sound of the flowing waters served as visceral reminders of our precious child's birth into new, divine life with Jesus. Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we give thanks to Jesus, who at his baptism immersed himself into the enormous weight of humanity's sinfulness [while of course remaining sinless himself]. Marking the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus' baptism is the foundation for our own, inviting us to become God's own sons and daughters "in whom he is well pleased." Just as the Spirit descended upon Jesus and anointed him, the Spirit descends on us at our baptism, empowering us to follow Jesus' example and build up the kingdom of God.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Water and oil are two of the symbols of baptism, a third is the white garment [sometimes a bib placed over a small child] worn by the one being baptized. I know of a pastoral associate who embroiders the name and date of baptism on the white garments of every child or infant baptized at her large parish. As we read in the *catechism*, "The white garment symbolizes that the person baptized has 'put on Christ,' has risen with Christ." (1243) Gratitude is the proper disposition to thinking about our baptism, and the ones who brought us to it. How might our lives be different, and richer, if each morning, as we dress for the day, we pray in gratitude for the ability, and what it means, to, "put on Christ" in our daily lives?

**ACT** Express gratitude. Are your parents and godparents still alive? If so, call them or send a card thanking them for their presence at your baptism, and assure them of your prayers. If they are not alive, perhaps think of one or two people who have been there for you in your life as instruments of God's grace. And then extend your gratitude to them.





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Ted Barthel	Mary DiTrapani	Alleyn Hunt	Mark Moffitt	Ingrid Stemmerich
Atina Beaugrand	Marie DuPont	James Kammer	Toni Pantano	Donald Strobbe
Geri Beaugrand	Geri Ellis	Marilyn Kiefer	Fern Pascany	Paul Tatti
Michael Beaugrand	Louise Fetherolf	Pat Kohlitz	Frank Poeschel	Beverly Taylor
Theresa Bertelsen	Gerald Flint	Edward Krappmann	Ronald Pollack	William Taylor
Peter Bogos	Merrie Foerster	Delaney Kraemer	Salvatore Promesso	James Thompson
Aldo Cardosi	Florence Fournier	Al Kraska	Lawrence Radzowski	Janine Tomasello
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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](mailto:info@sjascs.org).

### PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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# Bringing Home the Word

**Baptism of the Lord (B)**  
**January 10, 2021**

## Stories as Windows into the Past

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When we were growing up, my siblings and I would often ask our grandmother to tell us stories about our mother when she was young. We liked listening to our mother tell those same stories from her perspective. The stories varied in some details, but it always felt like a veil was lifted on the past and we had some sense of where we came from along with some insight about our mother's personality.

She, of course, did the same thing for my daughters, making them giggle

at the story of my getting into her perfume bottle when I was three. Such stories connect us with the people we know. Old friends trade stories of shared experiences; young companions learn about the world from the stories of their elders and even from the stories their friends tell them about their lives.

In Acts, Peter appeals to his listeners by telling the story they know so well. He even appeals to their shared experience as he says, "You know..." (v. 36). Stories connect us to one another, opening the door to understanding each other a little more and a little better. In his story, Peter marks the baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his ministry. Our story in the Christian community begins with baptism as well. Peter records that Jesus went on "doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (v. 38). What would the story of our lives after baptism tell people about us? Would someone like Peter tell people that we went about doing good and loving God and neighbor? +

*Stories connect us, opening  
the door to understanding  
each other a little more  
and a little better.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

To baptize a child is an act of justice toward them. Why? Because at baptism we offer a treasure, at baptism we offer a pledge: the Holy Spirit. Baptism endows the child with the strength of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit that will defend and assist each of them throughout life.

—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord,  
January 12, 2020



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you tell children you know stories about your life that teach moral lessons?
- Do you look back on your life stories, and use lessons learned to draw closer to God?

## Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or  
Isaiah 55:1–11**

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am  
pleased.

**Acts 10:34–38 or John 5:1–9**

He went about doing good and  
healing all those oppressed by  
the devil.

**Mark 1:7–11**

[John the Baptist] proclaimed:  
"One mightier than I is coming after  
me. I am not worthy to stoop and  
loosen the thongs of his sandals."



# Our Great Mosaic

By Johan van Parys

A few years ago, our church hosted an exhibit of contemporary art. Some considered the art beautiful and engaging; others thought it ugly and offensive. Though acceptable for a gallery, contemporary art was deemed unfitting for our historic church. I was told a classical building should be adorned with classical art, not abstract.

I remembered the many churches I'd visited throughout Europe. Most had been built and rebuilt over the course of many centuries, with each century leaving its own distinctive mark. As a result, it isn't unusual for a church to have a Romanesque nave, Gothic adornments, a Renaissance facade, Baroque side altars, abstract windows, and contemporary appointments such as the altar and ambo. Regardless of their stylistic complexity, they evoke a sense of perfect unity and harmony. Often it takes a guide to remind a visitor that the building is the result of hundreds of years of labor and love.

I have often wished for a similar guide to point out that, similar to its buildings' art and architecture, the Church itself is complex and diverse and was not created all at once. But unlike a tour guide who easily elicits repeated oohs and ahs, someone pointing out the diversity in our Church may not experience the same reception. Many of us probably wish for a kind of cookie-cutter Catholic Church. Wouldn't things be easier if everyone believed and prayed exactly the same and



preferred the same art and architecture? In our search for ecclesiastical safety and security, do we readily confuse unity with uniformity and create a false notion of what it means to be a "true" Catholic?

The fundamental unity of the Church, after all, is not based on superficial uniformity. Rather, it is rooted in our shared belonging to the body of Christ, in which there are many different parts. Like its architecture, art, and music, for example, the Church has evolved and grown for more than twenty centuries into a complex and diverse reality while enjoying harmony and unity within its rich diversity. And as is the case with architecture and art, the differences between the many members of the

Church do not detract from the unity of the Church, but rather enrich, enhance, and strengthen our bond.

Addressing new metropolitan archbishops, Pope Francis said this about unity in our diversity: "In the Church, variety, which is itself a great treasure, is always grounded in the harmony of unity, like a great mosaic in which every small piece joins with others as part of God's one great plan. United in our differences—there is no other Catholic way to be united. This is the Catholic spirit, the Christian spirit: to be united in our differences. This is the way of Jesus!" +

*The Church is the result of centuries of labor and love.*



*Lord, help me to discern my gifts and talents and use them for the common good of all people.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 11–16

**Monday, Weekday:**  
Heb 1:1–6 / Mk 1:14–20

**Tuesday, Weekday:**  
Heb 2:5–12 / Mk 1:21–28

**Wednesday, Weekday:**  
Heb 2:14–18 / Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday, Weekday:**  
Heb 3:7–14 / Mk 1:40–45

**Friday, Weekday:**  
Heb 4:1–5, 11 / Mk 2:1–12

**Saturday, Weekday:**  
Heb 4:12–16 / Mk 2:13–17

Bringing Home  
the Word   
January 10, 2021

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
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