



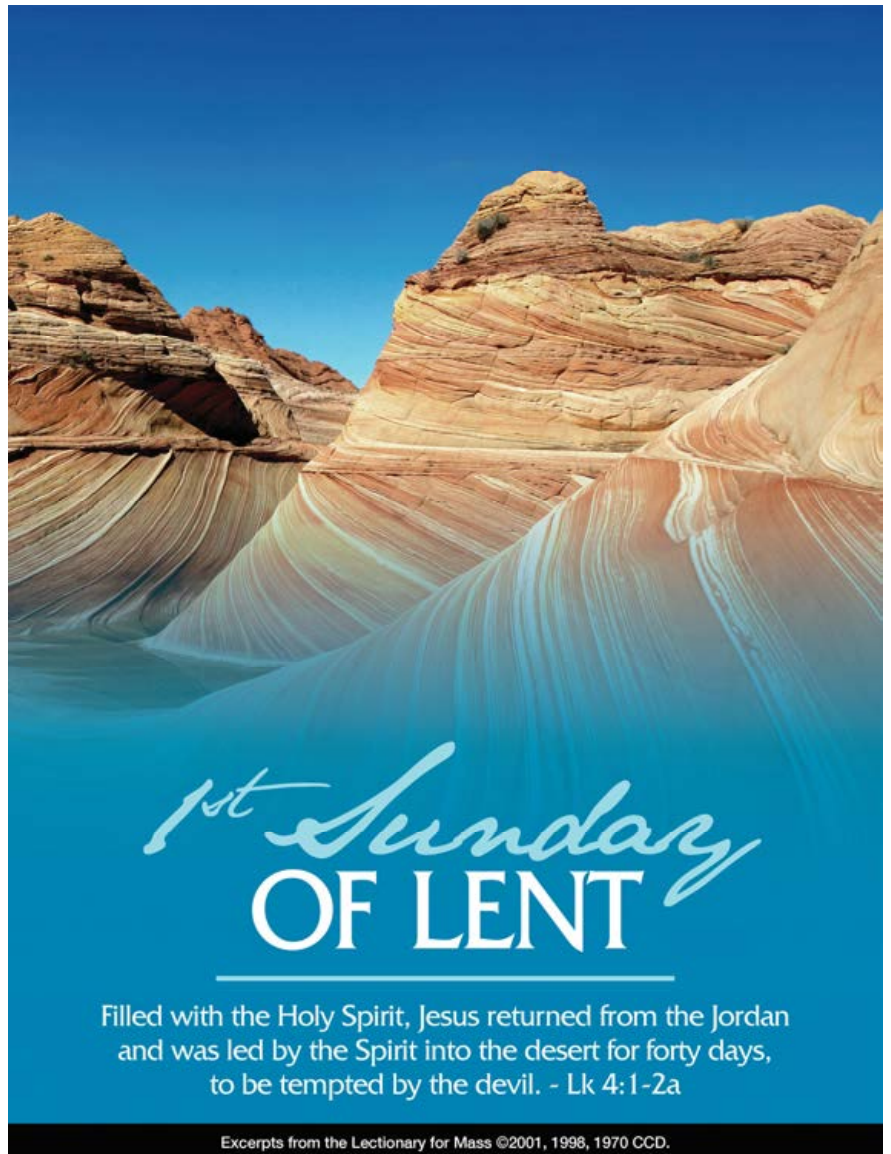
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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

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 7am mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is open
Monday - Thursday from 8:30am-5pm
Friday from 8:30-4pm

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at **586-777-3670** during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: **586-777-1342**.

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that form.

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

Registration: It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity: **586-777-3670**.

RCIA: Please call the Parish Center: **586-777-3670**

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

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

OR

By calling us at **586-777-3670** during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

Weekdays - 7am Mass (Monday thru Friday)

Saturdays - 4pm & 6pm Masses

Sundays - 8am, 10am, 12pm Masses

Thursdays - 7pm Holy Hour

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



Driving Ms. Daisy: Shortly after my dad's death in January 2021, you may remember that Father Rich offered a challenge and a charge to me at

the end of a 4 PM Saturday Mass to start taking Fridays off and spend them with my Mom. I'm grateful he planted me firmly in this direction. I have to admit, I've been pretty faithful to it. Granted, I usually don't leave the parish until 11 AM or thereabouts, but it still gives us most of the day to deal with things at the condo, do some errands, and, more importantly, have lunch or dinner together.

Now that the condo renovation project is nearing completion, the number of trips to Floor and Décor, Costco, Home Depot, Lowes, and Shelby Design Center are not as frequent. Oh, I still sneak in some journey to one of the stores mentioned above, but it's more of a casual shopping experience than rushed. Early on in the renovation project, we would cram in a ton of errands each Friday to meet the barrage of deadlines with the condo. As a result, we would fly in and out of these stores just to keep moving. If I'm not dealing with any immediate deadlines, I enjoy taking my time shopping. Of course, the worst place to rush a shopping experience is at Costco. But then again, as we all know, the longer you're there, the bigger the bill!

Most Fridays, my Mom and I will meet up at the condo, check-in on things there, and then plot out our strategy for the rest of the day. For the rest of the day, I become her chauffeur ... and thus, find myself ... driving Ms. Daisy!

This one particular Friday, my Mom had an eye appointment across the street at Metropolitan Eye Center. As a result, she decided to spend the weekend with me. As it was a regular check-up exam, they dilated her eyes. But, even with dilated eyes and donning sunglasses, it didn't stop my Mom from evaluating my exquisite driving practices that day.

This particular Friday, I was a bit more rushed than usual (who am I kidding, this is a daily occurrence), and was feeling it, so I found myself trying to cut corners and hurrying along to get a ton of stuff done that day. But, as my family and staff will tell you, when I get in one of these moods,

it's better to "move over to the right and let me fly by." I'm told, my pace and the "thud" of my feet hitting the floor give it away!

As we were driving down Hayes Road toward the condo, I got too close to a car in front of me. My car (which is equipped with all the tech you can imagine) wasn't giving me a collision alert, but a yellow car icon appeared on my dashboard to let me know I was too close to the car. Before I could even take corrective action, Ms. Daisy spoke up! Yikes, I knew I was in trouble. "You know, you're awfully close to that car. You should slow down a bit." I paused a moment and replied, "I don't think you're seeing too well; after all, your eyes are dilated, and you're wearing sunglasses." Without missing a beat, my Mom came back and said with a smile, "YES, my eyes are dilated, and YES, I'm wearing sunglasses. BUT that's not preventing me from seeing CLEARLY how close you are to that car. Slow down!" So much for Driving Ms. Daisy. "Yes, Mom!" The little car icon on my dashboard returned to a green color. I was clearly outnumbered and got the message both electronically and from Mom. There was no winning this discussion! As I think about it, I wonder how much she really saw that day!

Led into the Desert: Every year, as I reflect on this weekend's Gospel, I'm always struck by one line: "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert" Matthew and Luke's version says "led;" Mark's version says, "The Spirit drove Jesus into the desert ..." Just as the Spirit LED Jesus into the desert, we too find ourselves being led into our own deserts probably more often than we wish. Here we are called to face our temptations and strive to turn our lives and hearts more completely to God. And, just as much as Jesus emerged from the 40 days in the desert and went and proclaimed the Gospel in Galilee, we too are called to emerge from the desert as Easter people ready and willing to proclaim the Gospel to all we meet on our journey.

While many of us have never been in a desert and don't comprehend the harsh environment it entails, we know that if you remain still, your chances of survival are minimal. In order to survive, you must traverse the desert. You cannot remain still.

During this Lenten season, we enter our own desert(s). Sometimes the deserts we

face are frightening and overwhelming, like dealing with a terminal illness or helping a spouse or parent with Alzheimer's. Some deserts might be the fear of losing a job or health care. Some deserts might be the reality that a college education for our child may no longer be a possibility because of finances. Some deserts might be the same as those in years past; it might be the desert of addiction or sinful behavior. It could be the desert of isolation caused by the pandemic. Whatever the desert, we are called to traverse it with God's help and emerge from it as risen people!

Too often in the deserts of our lives, we lose sight of the "promised land" or the oasis we seek. Sometimes, we even forget that God NEVER leaves us orphaned or abandoned. We need to realize that God is present in our desert experiences and that it is only with his help that we get the courage and strength to keep moving toward better land.

Yes, we may have been led into a desert we didn't expect. We may wonder why we were led down this road. Lent is about facing the deserts of our lives. It is not about asking the question WHY but rather HOW this desert experience might be calling us to conversion and repentance. Lent is about doing something to traverse the desert in order to emerge as changed people.

The question remains then what helps us traverse the desert. First, we must realize that the Spirit is present, and much like with Jesus, angels are present to minister to us. Second, we need to orient our hearts and minds toward God. You need a strong compass/GPS, and you need to keep focused. You need to know where you are going. Without a compass or focus, you can wander for a long time. If you want to go someplace, if you truly want to emerge from your desert, you need the proper tools. For Christians, the ultimate tool is a relationship with God. Without THAT relationship, without THAT prayer, without THAT compass, we may never find our oasis. Prayer then becomes our GPS to help us get out of the deserts of our lives.

Happy Lent. Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH MISSION

thy Kingdom Come

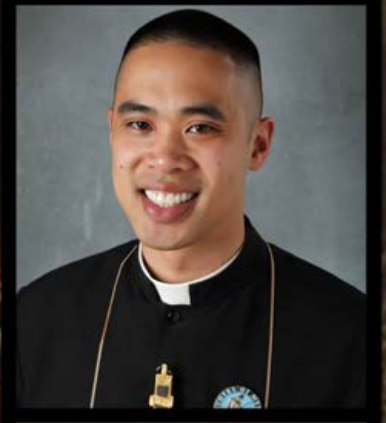
March 6th - 10th, 2022

- Confessions: 6pm
- Presentation: 7pm
- Confessions: 8pm

Topics:

- +Confidence in God & St. Joseph, Patron of the Church
- +God, the Father of Mercies
- +Lukewarmness is the Devil in Disguise
- +The 4 Last Things
- +Humility: The Path to Heaven

21100 Madison St.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081



Presented by:
Fr. Jewel Aytona, CPM

Misc. Announcements

St. Joan of Arc SVDP Lenten Folders



The Lenten Folders with Quarter Coin slots are available starting this weekend at all Church entrances and exits and at the Parish Center.

All proceeds go directly to the SJA Chapter of St. Vincent DePaul to serve the needy in our area.

This is an easy way to donate \$10 - to SVD during Lent -one Quarter per day!

Folders can be returned in the collection boxes at Church and at the Parish Center.

Thank you for your generosity!

8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

The Class of 2023 is now responsible for the can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their graduation events.

Bring your returnables in bags to the Parish Center - West SIDE DOOR - (near Father Andrew's House) please. There is a large plastic bin with a lid that they can be placed in..

Or you can arrange a pick-up by calling or texting Erin at 586-321-0667.

The Class of 2023



St. Joan of Arc Knitting Group

The SJA Knitting Group will begin meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

The group will meet from 12pm - 3pm in the Mother of Mary Conference room in Church.

March meetings will be on the 9th and the 23rd all knitters are welcome.

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



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

St. Joan of Arc parishioner:
Darryl Bryk



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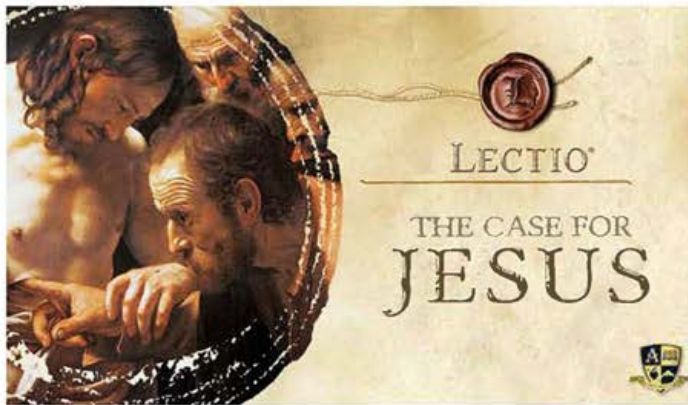
PICK OF THE WEEK

March 6, 2022

WATCH

EVERYDAY HEROES

Heroism isn't restricted to decorated soldiers or persecuted saints. It's something achievable for all of us even in our ordinary lives. In this documentary, see how the Knights of Columbus have embodied this everyday heroism!

**LECTIO: THE CASE FOR JESUS**

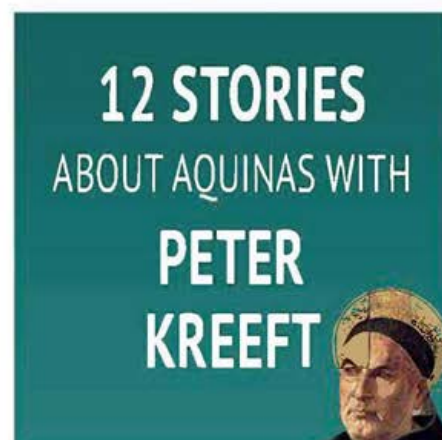
In nine sessions, Dr. Brant Pitre answers the key question of faith: Who is Jesus? Dr. Pitre presents evidence from early Christian and non-Christian writings that attest to the authenticity of the Gospels. Timed to lead up to the Triduum, Dr. Pitre looks in-depth at the accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion and Resurrection and his proclamation of divinity.

LEARN

LISTEN

12 STORIES ABOUT AQUINAS WITH PETER KREEFT

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the equivalent of 500 books, all with a quill pen! Join Dr. Peter Kreeft, an influential teacher of Catholic thought, as he shares some entertaining anecdotes from the life of this genius saint!



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

Jesus: Image of the Invisible God

program on the Shroud of Turin

This Lent, discover Jesus, the source of our salvation. Having been tested like us in every way, Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses and understands our sufferings. We will deepen our appreciation of the historic reality of Jesus' conquest of suffering and death through His Passion and Resurrection by focusing on the message left behind on the Shroud of Turin.

7 pm Tuesdays, March 8, 15 and 22

Join us at St. Joan of Arc, in person and by livestream, presented by David J. Conrad, M.A. Theology. livestream.stjoan.church

March 8: 7-8:15

The Message of the Shroud

Its History; Scientific Analysis; The Imprint it Makes on Our Lives

March 15: 7-8 pm

Praying with the Shroud

Sung meditation on the Passion of Our Lord employing the scripture passages that correspond to the wounds of the Man of the Shroud.

March 22: 7-8 pm

The Empty Tomb and the Shroud

Take a journey through time at the site of Jesus' death and resurrection, from the discovery of the empty tomb and the burial cloths lying within, to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which houses the locations of these historic events.



With over two decades in full-time parish ministry, Mr. Conrad has been serving as Pastoral Associate and Director of Faith Formation at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia since 2003. At the same time, Mr. Conrad serves as a part-time instructor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary

(since 2009), and Coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue for the Archdiocese of Detroit (since 2017).



Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, March 7th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

6:15 pm Faith Formation Gds. 7/8th

Tuesday, March 8th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sr. Card Club - St. Perrigin Rm.

7:00 pm Shroud of Turin Retreat -Live Streamed

Wednesday, March 9th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Knitting Group - Mother of Mary Rm.

Thursday, March 10th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, March 11th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, March 12th

11:00 am Reconciliation

12:00 pm Funeral for Anthony Meda

4:00 pm Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, March 13th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed



Words on the Word

March 6, 2022 – Peak Performance

The winter Olympics have been finished for a few weeks, so snow-covered mountaintops are off the radar for most folks.

But not, alas, for a Dominican priest from Oregon who climbed 19,347-foot Mt. Kilimanjaro, where he celebrated mass in February.

According to a story that appeared in an online Catholic newsletter before the climb, the priest planned to bring “a 19-pound portable altar, metal chalice and paten, vestments, stoles and altar cloths” up the summit.

A tweet by a well-known nun on Twitter appeared shortly after the climb had been completed, verifying its success, and including a picture of the 20,000-foot-high place of worship.

Among other benefits, the accomplishment provides a contemporary reflection for today’s gospel passage from St. Luke, in which the devil takes Jesus to a mountainous setting “and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant.

“The devil said to him, ‘I shall give you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.’

“Jesus said to him in reply, ‘It is written, you shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.’”

And that, alas, is what the Dominican priest demonstrated with his climb; God should be our highest pursuit.

“I am very serious about bringing everything I possibly can...,” the priest is quoted in the article. “The kids ask, ‘Why do you bring all that?’ I tell them, ‘Because I love the Lord, and this is the way I show affection.’”

He then puts the challenge in the context of peer pressure, an echo, perhaps, of the pressure exerted by the devil on Jesus: “I ask them what they are willing to do for our Lord.”

© 2022, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday March 7, 2022 Lenten Weekday (Purple)
Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

7:00 a.m. Antonietta Mazzella and Jerrie Savin

Tuesday March 8, 2022 Lenten Weekday, Saint John of God, Religious (Purple)

7:00 a.m. David Pochmara and Carol Krolikowski

Wednesday March 9, 2022 Lenten Weekday, Saint Francis of Rome, Religious (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Katherine Titus

Thursday March 10, 2022 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Robert Bidigare

Friday March 11, 2022 Lenten Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Phyllis DeMars

Saturday March 12, 2022 Second Sunday of Lent, Vigil (Purple)

4:00 p.m. Josephine Lucchese, Marie Champine, Salvatore & Antonietta Urso, Bonnie Batche, Joan Linden, Lee Fallieres, Joan Jakubiec, Nancy Kwatera and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, for the J. Champine Family and for Adrienne Weidenbach

6:00 p.m. Janice Altadonna

Sunday March 13, 2022 The Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)

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

10:00 a.m. Dorothy Shuder

12:00 p.m. Thomas Weinbeck, Peter & Louisa Sarra, Madeline Howell, Dee Misuraca, Felix Chua, and Special Intention for Katelyn Tomasello, for Patrick Driscoll, and for Adrienne Weidenbach

Daily Readings

Monday, March 7

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday, March 8

Isaiah 55:10-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday, March 9

Jonah 3:1-10
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, March 10

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday, March 11

Ezekiel 18:21-28
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday, March 12

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, March 13

Genesis 15:5-12
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28b-36



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.”

Ray Johnson
Phyllis DeMars
Richard Krausmann
Bernard Loren Sr.
Dr. Lori Karol
Shirley Monaco
Anthony Meda
Rebekah Pewelczyk



“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

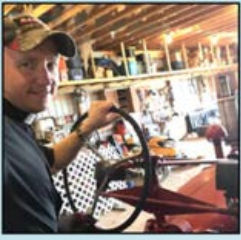


Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse.

Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.



Lots to Pray About: Like all of us, I have been sickened to see the images on the news recently of the war in Ukraine. Those images can trick us into thinking

it's a conflict so far away, but it's really not, especially not if you have friends in Europe, and some who have experienced living behind the Iron Curtain.

I was reminded of a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills a few years ago. I was accompanying a group of 8th graders on a school field-trip. There's no dressing-up what occurred in the Holocaust and in the death camps. It was the worst of human evil, human sin, of the power of the strong over the weak, of nationalism over natural law.

The Nazis' first victims were the weakest members of society: disabled children. Officially, they were known as "life unworthy of life"; a cruder term was Ausschussskinder—"garbage children." Physicians administered overdoses of sedatives which "put them to sleep," as one physician who participated in the euthanasia of children put it.

Our group was blessed to hear the testimony of an 83 year-old survivor of the Holocaust. His entire family went into hiding, in safe-houses. His mother arranged for him to live with other families in their native Holland for months at a time and would return periodically to move him to another host family. Each time he would take on a new name and learn to follow whichever religion the family belonged to, so that no-one would discover his Jewish identity. He would listen to and study their prayers and learn how they prayed grace before meals. He was just 4 years old when his family had fled the Nazi's who were rounding-up Jews in his town.

After the war, his family became US citizens and he continued a normal childhood. He eventually married and had a family of his own. But 40 years later, he realized that neither he nor any of the other survivors ever seemed to talk about what they had experienced in the Holocaust. He was curious about this reaction, so he studied and became a psychologist so he could understand the reasons better. And he realized how profoundly he and others were affected by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Why, he wondered, was the most educated and technologically advanced society of its day, in Germany, able to carry out such a

campaign of horror, a genocide, against fellow human beings? He posed an open-ended question to our 8th graders: *If this can happen in the most educated and advanced society on earth, what difference does education make to our moral behavior?*

One answer to the question might be to differentiate between worldly knowledge and knowledge of God, from whom all moral teachings come, even if these teachings are only known to some people by natural law. Knowledge of God is not purely on an intellectual level, however – this is not sufficient to form a morally upright person. What is needed is knowledge of God in the heart – acceptance of His law based on God's sovereignty. Hardness of heart is a friend of immorality.

So what of today? What of our highly-educated, technologically-advanced society. Do the same "Holocaustal" attitudes exist here? Watch what is happening in our country and in many other nations. So many lessons have been forgotten in the last 80 years. In China today, conservative estimates report that a million people are being held in unofficial "Re-education Camps" to "correct" their faith beliefs. Some reports say as many as 3 million have been imprisoned behind barbed-wire fences.

In the US, there is still much support for our own nation's campaign against our society's Ausschussskinder—"garbage children." It is a deep stain on our way of life, described by St. Mother Teresa as *"the greatest poverty I have ever seen."* We need to take seriously St. John Paul II's assertion that *"A nation that kills its own children has no future."*

As we begin this Lenten season, and as we are asked to deepen our prayer, to gain a greater knowledge of the heart of God, I can think of no greater need in our country and world than prayer for a conversion of heart. There is no way to dress-up or justify what is the Holocaust of today. Whatever else we are called to do this Lent, prayer would be a great place to begin.

God's New Beginnings: The 7th and 8th graders at my school door last Monday did not look happy. They all seemed to be wearing their "Monday faces." So I stopped most of them and wouldn't let them into school until they had listened to my impromptu presentation on how Monday in the "Hero Day of Our Week." I ranted on about how Monday is the day that steps-up before all the other weekdays and says, *"Okay, I'll be the one! I'll do it. I'll go first. I'll put myself out there to face whatever's coming... get behind me Tuesday, Wednesday, Thurs..."* And week after week

it does this when all the other days hang back and want to stay in bed. And Monday never gets credit for it's brave efforts, poor Monday! The students Climb from their parents' vehicles looking like Monday stole their weekend, rather than brought them a new beginning.

I'm not sure they bought it, but they were at least kind enough to humor me.

Lent is God's ongoing offering of a new beginning to you and me in our day and time. Once again, we are invited to renew and to live in covenant relationship with God who is present in word and in sacraments and who desires to be active in our lives.

Psalms 91 today offers us perhaps a most timely reassurance that we need to hear at this moment in history: *"You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the LORD, 'My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust.'"*

And St. Paul in his letter to the Romans consoles us with the words, *"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

When Jesus enters the desert for 40 days it is not for a vacation or a life of ease. He invites us to join him in the battle of prayer and fasting. The desert is the place where Jesus is prepared for his mission to suffer for our faults and weaknesses, the righteous -one suffering and dying for the sake of his beloved people, the unrighteous, that he might lead us to God.

The desert is the place where Jesus stakes his claim on the victory over Satan that will be won on the cross. Here he gives warning of his intent and his will, that he will not be overcome by evil.

Our Lenten observances are daily paths to grow in the life of grace we received at baptism when we were first made new creations in Jesus Christ. Should there be a challenge involved? Absolutely. It's through our willingness to endure trial that we give notice to our intent to rise from the ashes of Ash Wednesday and show Satan that he holds no power over us.

As the world continues to struggle through so many crises, this Lent is a graced time to bring to God our fears, anxieties and weaknesses in the confident hope we will receive an abundance of mercy.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjascs.org

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

One of the greatest temptations human beings face is leaving the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them in pursuit of more personal satisfactions. When we consider all that desires our attention in a given day, there are many lures that attract us to illusions about ourselves. We can easily find ourselves distracted or tired, preoccupied with preserving our status in life, social relationships, current trends, and corporate demands, and intrigued by pursuing what we perceive to be the “path of least resistance.” The daily concerns of life can quickly take our eyes off of our truth, making the empty promises of worldly accomplishments and ideologies seem so attractive. What is at risk in giving into this temptation?

We cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige. We replace the true God with a “pet” one. While many do not totally dismiss the idea of



God and pretend to remain at least remotely connected, they do not invest themselves heart, mind, and soul in the relationship either. That is why we are so easily swayed. If something attractive comes along, we lunge for it. After all, having a position above and over everyone else is a good thing, isn't it? In more honest moments, many have to admit that they believe this to be true. The Evil One is very convincing. But he can only gain control if we allow him to.

About temptation, St. Basil remarks, “As the pilot of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation.” And here is found the reason for Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. It is also a time for some honest reflection rooted in prayer, fasting, and selfless giving that can bring us to temptation's remedy: love. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” - Lk 4:1-3

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MARCH 6, 2022

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 13 C

Reading One – Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

Responsorial Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me. Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek. Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant. You are my helper: cast me not off.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD with courage; be stout hearted, and wait for the LORD.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Reading Two – Phil 3:17–4:1

Brothers and sisters: What does Scripture say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* — that is, the word of faith that we preach — for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the Scripture says, *No one who believes in him will be put to shame*. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Verse Before The Gospel – Cf. Mt 17:5

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

Gospel – Lk 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.



March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Lk 4:1-13

Written by
THE
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DISCIPLE

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

If you are anything like me, you may still be deciding what to give up or do for Lent even though we're already five days in. I know ... "Stop procrastinating!" Today's readings can help us enter more deeply into this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. They are a reminder that Lent isn't primarily about us, as if it were a self-improvement project, but about taking the opportunity to go deeper into our relationship with God. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are ways of reducing distractions in our life and focusing on God's mercy, his sacrifice for us, and his generosity and love. I am one who likes to control things and make plans, so the readings challenge me to look beyond myself, beginning with prayer, and ask the Lord to help me grow in faith. Paul writes, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Jesus exemplifies this dependence on God, allowing himself to be led to the desert by the Spirit. Each time the devil tempts him, he responds and in turn shows us how to respond: by turning to God and God's words, the source of our strength. As we choose how to observe the next 35 days, we are reminded to ask God to help us find those things that help draw us closer to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

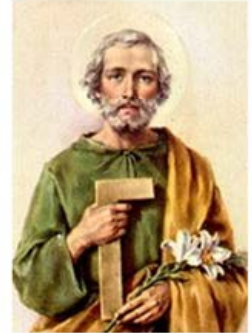
What comes to mind when you picture a desert? I imagine sand, heat, thirst. It's more challenging to examine the landscape of my personal desert - barren places of prayer or too much focus on the details of everyday life. Lent, however, presents a rich opportunity to pause and reprioritize our lives based on Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can help us do that, reminding us of our dependence on God and helping us shift our focus from ourselves to God and others. How we observe and experience Lent will differ for each of us. Whatever our personal desert looks like, we can rest assured that God will help us find our way back to him.

ACCOMPANIMENT Find an accountability partner for Lent who can help you stay the course these next 40 days. Perhaps you can pray together each day, or simply send a text sharing how God is working in and through you in this penitential season.

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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

First Sunday of Lent (C)
March 6, 2022

Learning from Jesus' Temptations

By Fr. Mark Haydu

Every Lent, priests, nuns, monks, and many laypeople pray the following: "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus encountered this truth in his temptations in the desert, another place in his ministry where he experienced the struggle of humanity.

The temptations begin, "If you are the Son of God..." All our temptations begin by doubting and challenging

Jesus to prove himself. Although Jesus is all-powerful and all-good, we struggle to make sense of suffering and tragedies.

The temptations continue as Jesus is invited to satisfy himself, impress others, and skip suffering. But Jesus responds repeatedly in humility. In the desert he doesn't turn stones into bread. He later does something far greater; he turns bread and wine into himself. When tempted, we cry out to him to soften the hard realities of our lives. And Jesus does just that. He suffers in his passion, dies, and rises again to become life-giving bread for us. He becomes manna in our desert.

When we wish for power, Jesus promises we will reign with him if we also let him suffer for us and we with him. The devil would have us take matters into our own hands, doubt God, and make him prove himself by our measures. Yet if we listen to Jesus, look at his answers, and learn from his life, then true power will be ours. +

*All our temptations begin
by doubting and challenging
Jesus to prove himself.*

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Then the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders.

Romans 10:8-13

There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him.

Luke 4:1-13

When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

A Word from Pope Francis

Fasting makes us share the situation of many people who face the torment of hunger and makes us more attentive to others; almsgiving is a blessed opportunity to collaborate with God's providence for the benefit of his children.

—Address to Pro Petri Sede Association,
February 16, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What makes me question God the most?
- How can God's word and Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection respond to that doubt?

Signed, Sealed, Delivered

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

An illustrated *Catholic Guide to Ashes* by Bill Donaghy comically identifies the different shapes and sizes of the dark smudge we receive on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent. Examples include a neatly formed ashen cross as “First in Line,” an amorphous spot as “The Blob,” and an oversized, heavily stroked cross as “Father’s Revenge.”

While ministering in New Orleans, I observed people on Ash Wednesday bearing on their foreheads what may be mistaken for a flattened palmetto bug. However, I wouldn’t attribute this splotch to “Father’s Revenge” but to the aftermath of “Father’s Revelry” on Mardi Gras the day before! (I speak indulgently from experience.)

In 1949, British author Evelyn Waugh had his own observations about New Orleans: “Ash Wednesday: warm rain falling in streets unsightly with the dragged survivals of carnival. The Roosevelt Hotel overflowing with crapulous tourists planning their return journeys....But across the way the Jesuit Church was teeming with life all day long; a continuous, dense crowd of all colors and conditions moving up to the altar rails and returning with their foreheads signed with ash....All that day, all over the lighthearted city, one encountered the little black smudge on the forehead which sealed us members of a great brotherhood who can both rejoice and recognize the limits of rejoicing” (*Life* magazine).



Lent is the penitential season to rejoice within limits: “For you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). We recognize our short lifespans and limitations, but we rejoice assuredly that the dust to which we shall one day return is glorified in Christ without limit! “The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ’s victory over death....It might be good stoicism to receive a mere reminder of our condemnation to die, but it is not Christianity” (from *Ash Wednesday: Spiritual Medicine* by Thomas Merton).

Thus, ashes are both a sign of mortality and purification in Christ. Before the charred remnants of last year’s palms take fuzzy form on our foreheads, the holy chrism oil first

marked the spot at our baptism! “The person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark...of his belonging to Christ” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1272). Moreover, “The faithful Christian who has ‘kept this seal’ until the end, remaining faithful to the demands of his Baptism, will be able to depart this life ‘marked with the sign of faith’...in expectation of the blessed vision of God...and in the hope of the resurrection” (CCC 1274).

So, if the cross is a little disfigured on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, let its distortion represent a desire to reconfigure ourselves to Christ in Lent. Now’s the time to give alms, do penance, and amend our lives! +

We recognize our short lifespans and limitations, but we rejoice assuredly that the dust to which we shall one day return is glorified in Christ without limit!

PRAYER

Lord, give me the courage to accept the painful, ugly realities of life and become your advocate of truth and justice in the world.

—From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 7–12

Monday, Lenten Weekday:
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 / Mt 25:31–46
Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:
Is 55:10–11 / Mt 6:7–15
Wednesday, Lenten Weekday:
Jon 3:1–10 / Lk 11:29–32

Thursday, Lenten Weekday:
Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25 / Mt 7:7–12
Friday, Lenten Weekday:
Ez 18:21–28 / Mt 5:20–26
Saturday, Lenten Weekday:
Dt 26:16–19 / Mt 5:43–48


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