



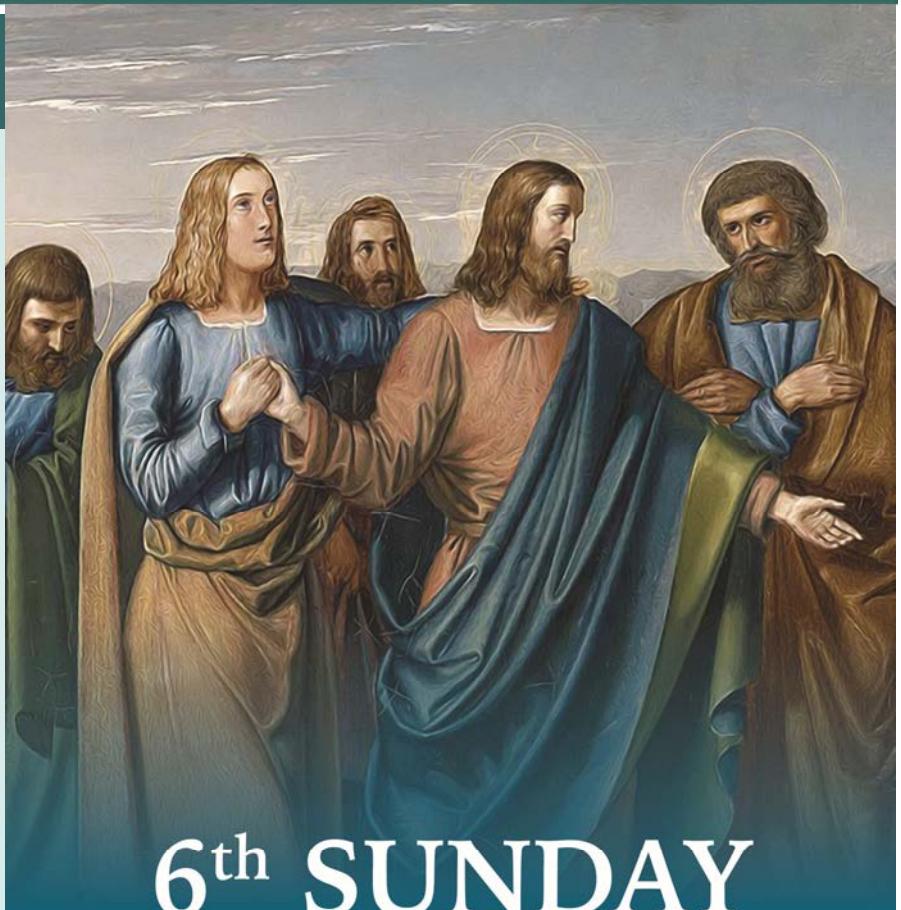
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” - Jn 15:10

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: reppoffice@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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am
& 12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays ~ 11:00am—12:00pm
in the Sister Carol Center (adjacent
to church)

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

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



Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjasc.org

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjasc.org

Non-Resident Associate Pastors / Weekend Assistants:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek
Fr. James Grau

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjasc.org

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjasc.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjasc.org

Principal

Kathy Kalich
kkalich@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Mary Pat Brennan
mbrennan@stjoan.net

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjasc.org

Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth
eleonoraellero@gmail.com

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith &

Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjasc.org

Exceptional Children

Mary Cal
mcal@sjasc.org

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

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

MASKS ARE MANDATORY WITHOUT EXCEPTION

For mass intentions or any service we may be reached at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

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

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

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

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

RCIA: Please call the Parish Center (586-777-3670).

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, at
this time please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you
by phone to get further information OR by calling us at 586-777-
3670 during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

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

- Weekdays -7 am Mass - (Monday thru Friday)
- Saturdays - 4 pm and 6 pm Masses
- Sundays - 8 am, 10 am & 12 pm Masses
- Thursdays - 7 pm Holy Hour

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



It's all RED:

Like most people of my parent's generation, each spouse had their specific roles. One of my dad's roles was handling all the finances and

taxes. While I thought I was pretty much up to date with my parent's accounts and passwords, I'm learning that wasn't the case at all. Thankfully, my dad was somewhat organized because I've been able to find most things amid the many piles in his loft office. But it's been a mighty challenge trying to reconstruct their financial world! With the help of my nephew JJ, we've been able to organize and sort through most of my parent's banking information. My dad handled all of this himself and rarely relied on others for help. He did all of his banking with the help of Quicken and all of his taxes with the help of Turbo Tax. I would be brought in from time to time for tech support, but he pretty much handled it all. My dad would call upon my mom only occasionally, and that was only when some financial document had to be signed, when the checkbook had to be reconciled, or when he wanted information about a charge on their debit card (like most spouses, my mom loathed these moments ... the infamous "day of reckoning").

My parents and I often talked about sitting down to go over their financial information if anything ever happened to my dad! I wish now that the talk had turned into some action on my part. Thankfully, I know most of my dad's passwords and have access to his infamous password book. With that information, I've been able to reconstruct and make some sense of their financial world. I recently had to find his 2019 tax return. I was proud of myself because I was able to log into his computer and figure my way through his filing system to find his 2019 Turbo Tax file. From there, knowing his usual passwords, I was able to gain access to his 2019 tax return and print a copy of it to help me with his 2020 return. But it all took time!

Considering all I've had to figure out, my earnest plea to people of my parent's generation is PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE share your financial AND login information with your spouse and a child or trusted relative or friend. Also, share or keep a log of your accounts. It will

make life so much easier for those who have to sort through or handle your financial matters after you've gone home to the Lord.

If you, like me, have thought about having this conversation with your parents but haven't done anything about it yet, DO IT NOW! Don't keep saying I'll do that tomorrow! That day will suddenly hit you like a brick wall, and you'll regret not having that conversation.

With passwords and account credentials, I'm a big advocate for Roboform. I know there are many password managers out there, but I like Roboform because you can assign emergency access to a few people. They don't have immediate access to your passwords and account information; they only get access after a predetermined timeframe you've established. I wish now I had taught my dad how to use Roboform (my mom is already an avid Roboform user). If I had done that, I could have requested emergency access to my dad's account. He would have received a notification that I was requesting emergency access. If he didn't respond to that request in the timeframe he established when he set me up for emergency access (let's say 12 hours, one day, one week, etc.), I would have gained access to his account automatically. Having those passwords and login information is GOLD!

With all that being said, I recently sat down with my mom to show her how to log in to one of their accounts. This wasn't a "day of reckoning" like with dad, but I wanted to show her how to navigate through this account to verify her charges. This account is tied to the debit card my mom uses most often. My mom has started a new hobby of painting and decorating unfinished birdfeeders and birdhouses. We've all been amazed with her outstanding work! With the growing demand for her birdhouses and birdfeeders, she may need to hire a few employees! She orders most of her supplies on Amazon because it's easy and given the fact they are about a half-hour to forty-five minutes away from most major stores. My nephew will often talk about the few boxes that came in for the family and the nine or so boxes that arrived for Grandma! She is keeping the Amazon delivery people busy night and day.

As we were going through the charges, my mom was somewhat amazed by all the

items I was scrolling through. She wasn't too close to the screen, so she couldn't see all the detail. She then moved in closer and asked what all the RED items were. "Mom, those are all your charges," I proclaimed. Her eyes became wide open. She then paused and said, "WOW. I guess I was an expensive wife!"

Happy Mother's Day: As we celebrate this special day dedicated to moms, we take a moment to thank and pray for our mother, who gave us life and showed us love. We pray for mothers who lost a child through death that they may continually turn to their faith to find hope and assurance their child is in the loving arms of the eternal Father. We also pray for women who care for the children they come in contact with daily even though they have no children of their own.

While looking for some reflections on Mother's Day, I recently came across this quote from blogger Elizabeth Duffy that spoke volumes to me: "If motherhood is hard at times, it's probably because it allows us, without going terribly far out of our way, to mimic Christ."

I also found this reflection from blogger Christy Wilkens: "Motherhood is a path for mothers to sanctify their families, and for mothers, in turn, to be sanctified by and through their families. And moms, in order to do this, God gives you the family that you need. I want to reemphasize that. He gives you the family that you need. He doesn't give you your neighbor's family, or your best friend's, or your frenemy's. He may not even give you the family you want, the family you hoped and prayed for, the family you dreamed of since you were a young girl. For many of us, it means a family bigger or smaller than we imagined. But He gives you the family that will sanctify you."

Finally, since so many call or email around Mother's Day seeking to find a copy of Father Rich's *Beatitudes of a Mother*, I decided to post a PDF copy of it on the homepage of our parish website. Consider sharing and/or reading it at your Mother's Day gathering!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers!
Happy Mother's Day!

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org



Online  Giving



Manage your
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with the app!

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today at OLGApp.com

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Payments

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or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

4719



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.

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.

More information about the Archdiocese's efforts to address abuse may be found at protect.aod.org.

SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

Make all your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile!

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



Can Tab Recycling

We are back to recycling can tabs. All proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

How you can help: Spread the word! Let your family, friends, co-workers, and classmates know that their small pop tabs, food can tabs all can make a big difference for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Donations can be dropped off in the buckets at church, brought to the Parish Center, or pick-up may be arranged by calling:

Frank Poeschel at #586-776-8746.



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4. Find your parish by name or zip
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8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

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

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their events and Washington trip in 2022.

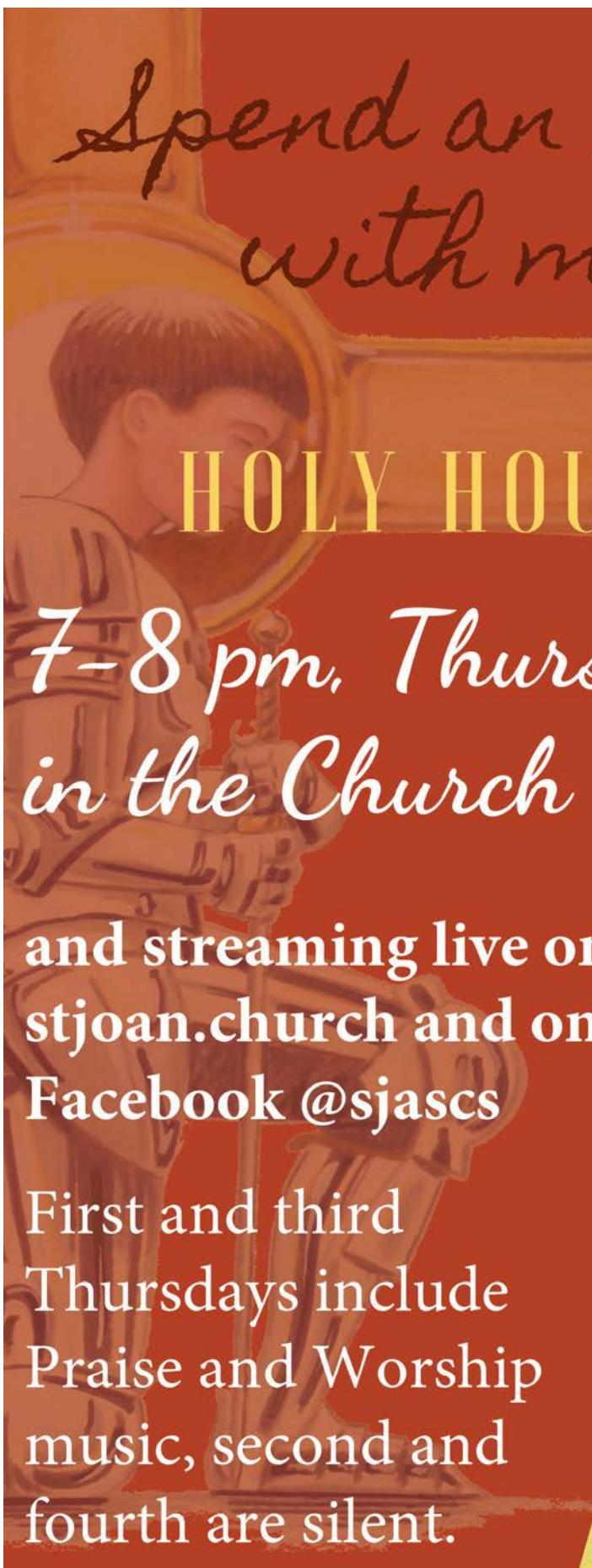
Bring your returnables in bags to the Parish Center - West SIDE DOOR - (near Father Andrew's House) please. There is a large plastic bin with a lid that they can be placed in..

Or you can arrange a pick-up by calling or texting Matt at 313-683-1972.

Thank you for your support.

The Class of 2022 ~





*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm. Thursdays
in the Church*

**and streaming live online at
stjoan.church and on
Facebook @sjasc**

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



Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, May 10th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 am Funeral Mass for Al Rogier- Live Streamed
7:00 pm First Communion Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, May 11th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
8:30 am School Mass (5th –8th Gds) Live Streamed
5:00 pm First Communion Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, May 12th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
8:30 am School Mass (1st –4th Gds) Live Streamed

Thursday, May 13th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, May 14th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed
12:00 pm Funeral Mass for William Richards - Live Streamed

Saturday, May 15th

9:00 am Funeral Mass for JoAnn Goodheart - Live Streamed
11:00 am Reconciliation
11:00 am Baptism of Harrison Kukuk - Live Streamed
1:00 pm First Communion Mass -Live Streamed
4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, May 16th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 am Sunday Mass (First Communion Mass) - Live Streamed
12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

May 9, 2021 – A New Path

The pandemic, to be sure, is not yet over. Not even close.

Positive tests continue. Social distancing is still in place. Illness remains. Some people continue to suffer emotionally and economically from the fallout.

And yet, we do know that there is some glimmer of hope. Stories have increased in frequency about the confluence of factors that are sparking optimism. Indeed, one recent story on an internet news distribution site observed how many people, particularly millennials, have latched on to the trends and changes to set a new course with their lives.

Under the general heading of “You Only Live Once,” the story documented how government stimulus checks, increasing numbers of vaccinated people and a recovering job market have emboldened many people not only to consider new or different jobs, but to put their collective feet down and demand the ability to work from home if they prefer.

Or, in the alternative, to leave the structured job market altogether to pursue an entrepreneurial course, or a passion of another kind, such as writing a screenplay.

All of this, of course, is fine, and a matter of individual choice. But the larger observation, one of which we should never lose sight, is that certain fundamental priorities must remain, namely, keeping God and neighbor at the forefront of our lives, regardless of what the outer trappings of our lives may entail.

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love,” Jesus says in today’s gospel passage from St. John. “If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be complete in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	May 10, 2021 Easter Weekday Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest (White)
7:00 a.m.	Josephine DiCristofara and Special Intention for Patrick Urso and Courtney Jurek
Tuesday	May 11, 2021 Easter Weekday (White)
7:00 a.m.	Jack Shaughnessy and a Special Intention for Ann Marie and Nick Cantrell
Wednesday May 12, 2021 Easter Weekday Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs, Saint Pancras, Martyr (White/Red/Red)	
7:00 a.m.	Daniel Brady and Peg and Jack Shaughnessy
Thursday May 13, 2021 Easter Weekday Our Lady of Fatima (White)	
7:00 a.m.	Tom Fisher
Friday	May 14, 2021 Easter Weekday Saint Matthias, Apostle (Red)
7:00 a.m.	Kevin Brys and Special Intentions for Michael and Tom Urso
Saturday	May 15, 2021 Easter Weekday Saint Isidore (White)
4:00 p.m.	Dorothy Shuder, Bonnie Batchee, Theresa Bellomo, Edward and Henry Blind, the deceased members of the Walsh Family, Irene and Art Tack, Glen Kucway, Special Intentions for the Wiszowaty Family, the Thomas Family and the J. Champine Family
6:00 p.m.	Dorothy Guiglardo
Sunday	May 16, 2021 The Ascension of the Lord (White)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Linda and Ed Hollern
12:00 p.m.	George Bugarin and Kevin Brys

Weekly Readings

Monday, May 10

Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Friday, May 14

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
John 15:9-17

Tuesday, May 11

Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Saturday, May 15

Acts 18:23-28
John 16:23b-28

Wednesday, May 12

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
John 16:12-15

Sunday, May 16

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23, 4:1-13
Mark 16:15-20

Thursday, May 13

Acts 18:1-8
John 16:16-20



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.”

**Reverend Jerome Walsh
Albert Rogier
Mary Louise Abel-Borrero
Simone Glowaz
Nicole Glowaz-Blausein
Patricia Higgins**



“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

Minnie Louise Haskins

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

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

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



We hope that you can join us!

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Tales of trails:

There was a time when I didn't want to ride my bike. My mom had to bribe me with baked goods to get me to practice. I'd

had a bike as a kid, with training wheels. It was a purple Mickey Mouse bike with solid rubber tires. Or so I thought... I think I was in my 20s by the time I put two and two together and remembered that my bike had been exactly the same color as the wood trim on my parents' house. "Waaaait a minute! You painted my bike with leftover paint." They admitted to it. And then the floodgates of revelation opened. My Mickey Mouse bike was not a Mickey Mouse bike at all! They had added those stickers to it and fooled me! Betrayal! But when I got my first training-wheel-free bike, I didn't want to learn how to ride it. Eventually I got it, and rode about 6,000 circles on the street outside our house until the street-lights came on that night. Since then, I've always had a bike and often crashed it.

A couple of weeks ago I was looking at my mountain bike and decided it was time to get it ready for the Spring/ Summer. It needed to be oiled and put some air in the tires, but not much more. But I was looking at the computer on the handlebars that records distance travelled and speed. It wasn't working last year. The batteries were probably dead. So I went online and ordered two new batteries. They are like watch batteries, about the size of a nickel. When I took the computer off the bike, it rattled, not a good sign. But anyway, the batteries arrived and I replaced the old ones and the screen lit up. "Great! It's working," I thought. I got on the bike and just rode to the end of the driveway, but the computer didn't register anything. I traveled there at 0.0 mph, apparently. As I was trying to figure this out, I noticed the sensor on the front fork, that senses the magnet on the spokes as the wheel turns; it had a little door on it. I didn't remember it because I bought it years ago. I opened the door and there was a battery in there too—no doubt a dead one. So I went online and ordered that one too. It arrived and I replaced the old one, rode down to the end of the driveway, and again... nothing. I played around with the set-up... still nothing. I guess that rattle was significant after all. Now I'm not *that* technically minded, but I do know that if you drop computers they tend not to like it. And I have, by misadventure, dropped this bike

many times. So I gave-up on the computer. At least the bike was up and running. A few days ago I went to visit a parishioner in the neighborhood. I was too close to drive, but too far to walk, so I went by bike and sure enough, the computer was still not working.

Last Sunday was a beautiful early May day. I took the opportunity to find a spot to hang my hammock and enjoy the sun for a few minutes in the afternoon. But I was feeling lazy just laying there.

Maybe it was the U-Haul truck from the clothing collection that did it — it was still parked the other side of the fence. It had a picture of a cyclist on the side.



So I decided I should take my bike out. I had dinner plans in Dearborn, but I had an hour or so before leaving for that, so I thought I'd just head up Marter Road and across Lakeshore to see the lake on this beautiful afternoon. First, I had to locate my bike helmet. I thought it was in my office, so I went and took a look. Nope. So it had to be in the house. It was, but why it was in the closet I found it in I have no idea. But helmet, sunglasses and I was good to go.

I actually had trouble finding a spot where I could get to the lake that wasn't private property, and I found myself at the end of Doremus St., cut-off from the lake by the Milk River.



But I stopped there for a few moments. While I was there I got a text from my friend in Dearborn. His wife was not feeling well so we needed to take a raincheck on dinner. So I had more time on my hands now and decided to ride on a

little more. I headed down Lakeshore, looking at all the huge houses. And I just kept going. Before long I was thinking this was a bad idea because it was pretty warm and I hadn't intended to be out long so I hadn't brought anything to drink. I didn't really want to turn around because then I'd be riding into the wind, which was pretty breezy. So I kept going. Then I realized I was almost to St. Paul on the Lake, so I called Fr. Colin to see if he was around, thinking I could stop in and say "Hi," but he didn't get my message until later. When I reached Moross, I figured that was a good route back inland so I took Moross to Mack and back home, hungry and thirsty. My short ride out to the lake turned into more like 10 miles, not a huge ride, but more than intended. I say "more like 10 miles" because how would I know? Not from my computer!



So sometimes the battery is only partly to blame. Sometime it's more about me crashing the bike once too many times. My bike and I have had many adventures, in different parts of the state and country and not without injury, but the computer is apparently a loss than will not heal. I think its time is up.

All I know is that I wouldn't have had this trouble on my fake so-called Mickey Mouse bike with its purple exterior mat house paint, solid tires, training wheels and no computer. And if I hadn't been bribed with all those baked items 30-some years ago, it might have been an easier ride. But I can't blame mom, not on Mother's Day. (Yes, I sent the card this time!)

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms! Thank you for all you do to raise us and encourage us. Thanks for bribing us with your baking, for removing the training wheels and teaching us to stand on our own two wheels. And thanks for patching us up when we crash. You are a blessing to us all.

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

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

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

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

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

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

*I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there
And unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.*

Amen.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – MAY 16 B

Reading 1 – Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

Responsorial Psalm 47

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

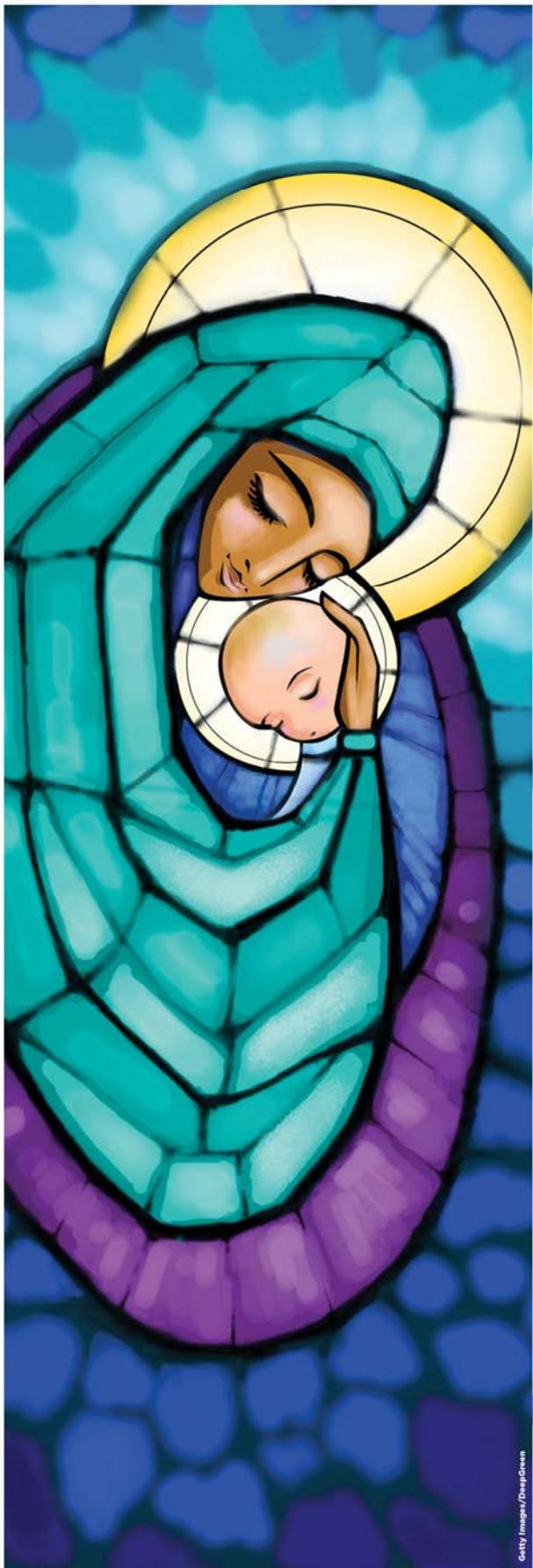
Reading 2 – Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Gospel – Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.



May 9, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 | 1 Jn 4:7-10 | Jn 15:9-17

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

I have 20/15 vision. I can see things in the distance as well as close up. But that doesn't mean I can see everything perfectly. Because of a difference in how each eye focuses, I can't find those hidden images in "magic eye" posters, and forget trying to watch a 3D movie! Seeing all things perfectly is not something many of us could claim, including Peter. And yet, with God's help, he understands a vision God gave to him: "In truth," Peter says, "I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation, whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." Through God's mercy and Jesus' redemptive cross, the kingdom of God has been prepared for all peoples. God's saving power has been revealed. With faith, and the help of the Holy Spirit in living out the commandments, we can fix our eyes on Christ - the revelation of God's love who came into the world that we might have life through him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

So much information comes to us every day, in all forms of media, there are now even shortcuts to the shortcuts for grasping the content. My personal favorite is the abbreviation, "TL; DR" which means, "too long, didn't read." Some might claim that we are dumbing down our culture with this type of shorthand notation, or we could argue that clear, concise, and straightforward is simply best. And that is what Jesus gives us today in his one commandment: "Love one another as I love you." He offers commentary for the commandment and gives reasons for why he is telling it to us, but the crux of it cannot be missed: *love one another*. It is a commandment both simple, yet complex; easy, yet at times exponentially difficult to live. So Jesus provides the key to fulfilling it by saying, "remain in *my* love" [emphasis mine]. Faithfulness to a sacramental life and participation in communal living give us the grace to remain in that love - which in turn transforms and enables us to share that love with others.

PRAY To honor the celebration of Mother's Day, pray the Rosary today for the intentions of our mothers, for those who have been motherly influences to us, and for those who long to be mothers.

Getty Images/DeepGreen

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"Remain in my love," and, "I call you friends," are powerful words that are found in John's Gospel. Most of us probably have them committed to memory or have at least heard them proclaimed dozens of times. They are words that can easily become trite and quickly glossed over without fully pondering and digesting their profound beauty. When we take the time to immerse ourselves in them, they can radically change our lives and our relationships. They can open up new doors of adventure and hold countless possibilities for meaning. The essence of love and friendship are things that can easily be taken for granted. They have always been there and are a significant part of our lives. Many would say that they could not live without love and friendship, and they put a great deal of care into preserving, deepening and sustaining them. Love and friendship share a mutual relationship with each other that deserves more reflection.

Where does love come from? We can consider relationships that have not succeeded and conclude that they were somehow due to our "failures in love." In doing so, we assume that human beings are the ones responsible for love, its success and also its failure. While our weakness, emotional composition and sinfulness can easily impact our ability to love, its origin is not human. God is love. God is love's author and



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origin. When we love, it is God who loves in and through us. It is because of this divine closeness that Jesus is able to call us friends! It is not because of anything we have done but simply because of who we are. Realizing and contemplating this awesome reality becomes a game changer across the board. It gives us reason to clear the table of anything that can adversely affect the way we love so that we can open the door for its author to shine forth.

Coming upon this truth is what leads folks like St. Francis of Assisi to leave that which is comfortable and worldly and live a radical life. They relate with the love of God that radiates in and through all living things and appreciate their sacredness. It was having an intimate experience of God's love and friendship that propelled St.

Francis and others to embrace simplicity, act nonviolently, pursue humility, love enemies, care for the earth and open up avenues for true justice. Understanding this profound truth will also help us find peaceful solutions to world's problems, restore relationships with our sisters and brothers, bring the grace of loving stewardship to creation and heal many wounds. Once we begin to see how wonderfully holy all of life really is, we discover joy. We lose our need for fear, develop a fierce fortitude, act prudently and seek justice. There is great power in love because it comes from God. It will never fail. It also enjoys the company of two other friends who are eager to become our friends as well: faith and hope. These are just as important to have and to share.

"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete."
- Jn 15:10-11

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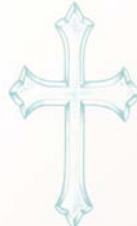
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Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

May 9, 2021

God's Generous Love

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The painting by Aldo Carpi, *The Madonna of the Poor*, shows the Virgin Mary bringing Baby Jesus to visit the poor. She doesn't make distinctions. Mary understood that Jesus didn't come just for the rich and powerful but for everyone.

Peter learns this lesson when speaking to Cornelius and his household. Until this time, the apostles were preaching to the Jewish people, but when Peter speaks to these Romans, the Holy Spirit comes upon them just as he had upon the Jews. They repent and believe. This for Peter was essential, because it

showed that Jesus wanted to send his Spirit and teachings to everyone, not just the chosen race. God doesn't show favoritism.

The same goes for us. It's natural to want to love our own: our family and those sharing our social status, political party, club, school, or parish. But our love has to spread to all peoples, especially those in the most moral, material, and spiritual need. God is love, and those who love show they come from God.

Another element of love is that it is free, wanting nothing in return. Recently, while sitting at an outdoor café, a woman walked up and gave me a small, wrapped gift. "I like to give gifts to complete strangers, just to make their day," she said. What a beautiful gesture.

We should also note that Cornelius accepted God's love, was baptized, and began following the Way. He and his family didn't take that free love of God for granted. They responded to it in joyful obedience. God's generous love asks for an equally generous response. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

They could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

1 John 4:7–10

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

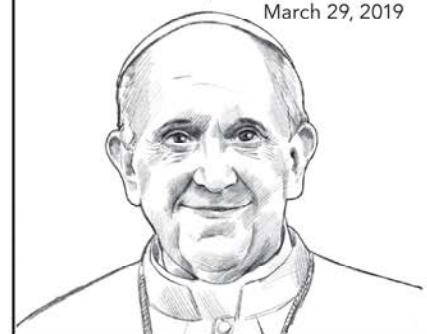
John 15:9–17

[Jesus said,] "Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

A Word from Pope Francis

Reconciliation itself is a benefit that the wisdom of the Church has always safeguarded with all her moral and legal might, with the sacramental seal.... It is indispensable for the sanctity of the sacrament and for the freedom of conscience of the penitent...that the sacramental conversation will remain within the secrecy of the confessional.

—Address to Apostolic Penitentiary,
March 29, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

It's natural to want to love our own, but our love has to spread to all people, especially those in most need.

- Do I help those who disagree with me or my beliefs?
- Do I understand that God's love requires a generous response?

How Are We Called?

By Kathleen M. Basi

Since the moment Pope Francis first appeared on the balcony at St. Peter's, he has been engaging the world. He energizes us and at the same time challenges us to actively participate in our faith. Most of us would rather practice our faith within the safety of a little box, where the Christian call is as clear-cut as praying the rosary, lighting a candle, and attending Sunday Mass. Pope Francis asks us to move beyond the walls of the Church and be a true witness to Christ in the world.

Like many faithful people, I always thought most issues had simple answers. However, after having a child with a disability, I realized that when the Christian call intersects with the real world, things become more complex—life isn't that simple.

Consider the pro-life cause, perhaps the most clear-cut issue imaginable. It's not enough to believe that children with disabilities have a right to be born. Their needs impose a heavy financial burden on their families: therapies, surgeries, orthotics, and so on. We have a moral obligation to support life at all stages, even when it requires societal intervention that runs counter to ideals about self-sufficiency.

Pope Francis has called us to confront complex questions and seek thorough answers. Using this thorough process, how can we address some of the questions we face?



As followers of Christ, we will always find ourselves being called upon to respond to situations that may not be as clear-cut as they appear on the surface. Although the path may be demanding, we have the support of the Church and Christ as an example of how to do the hard work. Pope Francis has called us to labor together.

Faith grows only when it is stretched. A call of faith is not a static request; to follow Christ means to get up, pick up your cross, and act. True discipleship—though difficult—is worthwhile, because it draws us closer to the heart of Christ, the source of our calling. +

Faith grows only when it is stretched.

- How am I *called* to respond to bitter conflicts within my extended family?
- How am I *called* to interact with the person who delights in goading me?
- How am I *called* to love the family member who is gay or lesbian?
- How am I *called* to help the homeless person at the corner?
- How am I *called* to interact with the person in a wheelchair whose speech is hard to understand?
- How am I *called* to alleviate the desperation that leads a woman to choose abortion?
- How am I *called* to honor human dignity, not only of crime victims, but of those who perpetrate the crime?



*Risen Lord, you command us to love one another.
Help me to show your love to all people.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 10–15

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:11–15 / Jn 15:26–16:4a

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:22–34 / Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 17:15, 22–18:1 / Jn 16:12–15

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 18:1–8 / Jn 16:16–20

Friday, St. Matthias:
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 18:23–28 / Jn 16:23b–28



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