



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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2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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." - Jn 1:38-39a

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

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22415 Overlake
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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
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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

Religious Education

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

Kathy Kalich
kkalich@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Non-Resident**Associate Pastors / Weekend Assistants:**

Fr. Rich Bartoszek
Fr. James Grau

Assistant Principal

Mary Pat Brennan
mbrennan@stjoan.net

Exceptional Children

Mary Cal
mcal@sjascs.org

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

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.



Timing is Everything: As I mentioned in last week's column, my dad's death happened so quickly. Even though I had an idea things

weren't going well when they took my dad by ambulance from Regency to St. John Hospital, I wasn't so prepared for how fast everything would unfold.

As I held my dad's hand and watched his breathing grow shallower and shallower, it wasn't hitting me right then that my dad was dying in my midst. I then saw his blood pressure and heart rate plummet. It was happening all too quickly, and it was all too surreal. I then distinctly remember the nurse and doctor saying "1533." At first, I wasn't comprehending what they were saying. And then it hit me. My dad had died, and they were pronouncing the time of death. 15:33 (3:33 PM). That will be a scene etched in my memory.

On the day after my dad's funeral (last Friday), many of us gathered at the condo to be with my mom and to just sort through a bunch of stuff. I was very much aware of the fact it was a week since my dad's passing. I also wanted to stop whatever we were doing at "15:33" to say a prayer as a family. I set an alarm on my phone so I wouldn't forget. When the time came near, I gave everyone a "two-minute" warning to come down to the Great Room (the living room), so we could gather and say some prayers for my dad. We turned off the TV, joined hands, and said our prayers. It was hard to believe that a whole week had passed since his death.

Almost immediately after finishing our prayers, I went to check something on my mom's computer. She had her email up, and the email at the top of the list (the newest one) waiting to be opened caught my attention immediately. I did a doubletake and then started howling with laughter. I couldn't believe it. I called out to the family gathered in the condo so they could see what I was seeing. My mom joined us and started to laugh as well. The email was from eharmony.com, and it was promoting eharmony.com's senior dating services! Timing is everything. We laughed about that email all afternoon.

THANKS! My family and I want to thank you for all the prayers, kind words, and support you have shown us. It's been an interesting journey, but the support and kindness from the SJA community, and our family and friends, have been such a blessing. Because of the COVID related restrictions, we could not broadcast the details about the wake service and details about the funeral Mass too widely. It was odd not to share that information, but for everyone's health and well-being, we didn't want the funeral to turn into a COVID spreader event. Like so many funerals over the past ten months, we had to rely on our streaming capabilities as the primary way for people to join us. It was a beautiful funeral, and my mom, sisters, and all of our immediate and extended family thank you for all the love, prayers, and support you showed us. Thanks from the bottom of my heart!

The Card at the Top of the Pile: I'm just now going through some of the cards I received from the school children. The card at the top of the pile made me laugh and also helped put things into perspective. The card was from William Steil, a fourth-grader at our school. William's dad, Captain Kenneth Steil, a 20-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department, died as the result of gunshot wounds sustained while chasing a subject who attempted to carjack a vehicle back in 2016. Captain Steil's funeral was celebrated at SJA in late September 2016. The card had an angel on the cover and a huge heart on the inside. And it simply said: "Dear Monsignor Mike. I hope you and your family are doing well. I bet you my dad and your dad are partying in heaven. Well, I hope you're okay. From William Steil." Yes, William, I'm sure your dad and my dad are partying in heaven!

Welcome Catherine Thomas – SJA's New Director of Music Ministries: This weekend, we welcome Catherine Thomas to SJA as our new Director of Music Ministries. For the last seven years, Catherine was the Director of Music Ministries at St. Kieran's Parish in Shelby Township. She was intrigued by the posting for SJA because of the parish and what we are trying to accomplish by enhancing our Sunday liturgies, AND the fact her daily commute to the parish would be cut in half. She lives in a historic home in Detroit, and the drive one way to Shelby Township is about 45 minutes. So the parish and the shorter drive were selling features for her.

For the Leadership Team, and those who participated on the search committee, Catherine's resume spoke volumes. The email that accompanied Catherine's CV summed things up well: "I began my musical training at age 4, entered my first competition at age 6, began college music studies at Syracuse University at age 7, continued onto Florida State University (BA music) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After grad school, I taught music in the school systems for 7 years before leaving teaching to pursue Broadway." Throughout her career, she has worked in various music ministry roles at St. Kieran, Shelby Township; St. Anastasia, Troy; St. Sebastian, Dearborn; Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; St. Luke Catholic Church, Lake Worth, FL; and Incarnation Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL.

Since we embarked on the Amazing Parish movement, one of our parish's guiding principles is that EVERYTHING we do needs to be transformative. We want our Sunday experience to be transformative so that when you leave Mass you feel as if you've had a profound and transformative encounter with Christ that will nourish you for the work Christ is calling you to embark upon for the sake of the Kingdom of God. One of Catherine's references wrote to me and said that if we were truly looking to have transformative music at our masses, Catherine is THE person for us.

So, we welcome Catherine to St. Joan of Arc Parish as our new Director of Music Ministries. Obviously, because of COVID, it will be some time before our choir and other music ministries can begin again. Still, we will continue to build upon what we have so that our liturgies will be transformative ... from the music, to the homilies, to the greetings from the God's Door Keeper ministers, to the proclamation of the Word, to the environment. We are truly blessed to have Catherine, with all of her gifts and skills, help us in our endeavors to make our liturgies transformative and help us bring people to a deeper relationship with Christ the Lord.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org



St. Joan of Arc

Online Giving

Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

Download the Online Giving app today at OLGApp.com

Give online at stjoan.church or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID# **4719**

Donations

Payments

Google play

Download on the App Store



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

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

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.

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.

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.

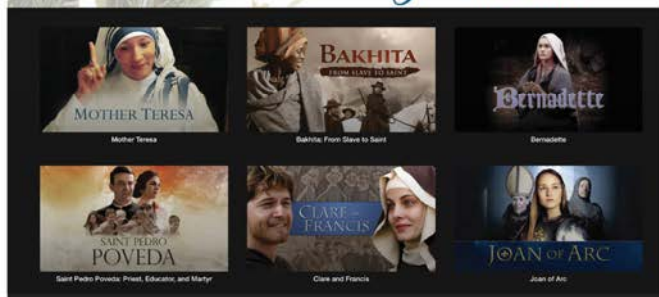
For the past few years, St. Joan of Arc's subscription to the online streaming service FORMED has given parishioners access to Catholic movies, programs, lectures and accompanying written resources to grow in faith. FORMED can be used on smart phones, tablets, computers and smart TVs with web browsing.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



Catholics can Receive Pfizer & Moderna Vaccines

From the *Detroit Catholic*

(While this story was originally published in late December, it is being reprinted again as a help to the faithful as the vaccine rollout continues.)

LANSING — It is morally permissible for Catholics in Michigan to receive the coronavirus vaccines developed by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, the state's seven Catholic bishops said Dec. 18 in a joint statement addressing ethical questions surrounding the vaccines' development.

However, a third vaccine candidate developed by AstraZeneca, which has not yet received approval from the federal Food and Drug Administration, is morally problematic because of its close connection with cell lines derived from tissue taken from an aborted baby, the bishops said.

The Michigan bishops said Catholics have a responsibility to call for the development of vaccines without a connection to the sin of abortion.

"Abortion is a grave evil, and we must avoid complicity in abortion. Let us also pray for God's peace, healing, and mercy for all those who have had abortions," the bishops said. "Our consciences must not be dulled, nor may we imply in any way that abortion is acceptable."

The vaccines developed by Pfizer, which gained approval for emergency use by the federal Food and Drug Administration on Dec. 11, and Moderna, for which approval appears imminent, have "remote" connections to such cell lines, but the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has indicated Catholics may receive the vaccines given the lack of available alternatives and the "severe health risks" associated with the pandemic.

"Neither of these vaccines have used cell lines originating in tissue taken from aborted babies in their design, development, and production," the bishops said. "However, both the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccine did use such a cell line in the confirmatory testing. This connection to the abortion is very remote, however, and it is important to keep in mind that there are varying levels of responsibility."

Greater moral responsibility lies with the researchers than with those who receive the vaccine, said the seven bishops, who include Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, Lansing Bishop Earl Boyea, Saginaw Bishop Robert Gruss, Grand Rapids Bishop David Walkowiak, Kalamazoo Bishop Paul Bradley, Marquette Bishop John Doerfler and Bishop Walter Hurley, administrator for the Diocese of Gaylord.

The bishops' statement echoes the position of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which issued its own guidance on the COVID-19 vaccines Dec. 14.

While Catholics may receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines as an act of charity toward others and the common good, they are not morally obligated to do so, the bishops stressed.

However, "if one were to choose not to be vaccinated, one would have a moral responsibility to embrace the necessary precautions to avoid spreading the disease to others," they said.

The development of the AstraZeneca vaccine is a cause for greater concern because of the way it was developed, the bishops said.

"It did utilize in the design, production, development, and confirmatory testing a cell line that originated from tissue taken from an aborted baby. This vaccine may be received only if there are no other alternatives," the bishops said. "If one does not have a choice of vaccine and a delay in immunization may bring about serious consequences for one's health and the health of others, it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine."

The AstraZeneca vaccine is "somewhat similar in production to the Rubella vaccine, which the Pontifical Academy of Life indicated could be received for grave reasons and if there are no other alternatives," they said.

Both Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines were developed using mRNA technology, a new style of vaccine that effectively trains a person's immune system to detect the infamous "spike" protein of the COVID-19 virus and mount an immune response. Both companies say their final test results showed their vaccines are approximately 95% effective at preventing severe COVID-19 symptoms. Both vaccines require two shots, spaced approximately a month apart.

Pfizer's vaccine, which is the only one so far to receive FDA approval, began shipping nationwide last week, and has already begun to arrive in limited quantities at some of southeast Michigan's hospitals. Health care workers, including those at Catholic hospitals such as St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac and Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit, will be among the first to be vaccinated.

It is expected the Moderna vaccine will receive FDA approval in the coming days.

The Michigan bishops' statement follows a lengthy analysis by the chairmen of the U.S. bishops' doctrine and pro-life committees, who documented the vaccines' development in greater detail.

Even though the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are permissible for Catholics to receive, those who do so must not ignore the abortion connection, however remote, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan.

"It is true that one can receive benefits from an evil action in the past without intending that action or approving of it," they explained. "The association with the evil action that comes with receiving benefits from that evil action, however, can have a corrupting influence on one's perception of the evil action, making it more difficult to recognize it as evil."

"One might become desensitized to the gravely evil nature of that action. One might become complacent about that action and ignore the obligation to do what one can to oppose the evil action," they said, adding that others might see "one's acceptance of benefits from an evil action" and feel the action isn't really evil, feel less urgency "to oppose that evil" or even miss opportunities to do what they can "to oppose it."

"We should be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research," Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, January 18th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, January 19th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

8:30 am School Mass (5th -8th Gds) Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 20th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

Thursday, January 21st

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Friday, January 22nd

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 23rd

11:00 am Reconciliation

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 24th

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

8:00 am American Red Cross Blood Drive

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 to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

Words on the Word

January 17, 2021 – Listening for God

Some little boys, when they're only 7 years old, like to pretend they're baseball players. Some, perhaps, pretend they're firefighters, superheroes or carpenters.

And some, alas, pretend they are bishops.

A short video went viral a few weeks ago of a 7-year-old boy "playing bishop." He had on a sort of stole and was standing in front of what looked like a makeshift altar, with an "altar" behind him, and lots of candles, religious pictures and a crucifix.

It was clear he fancied himself a bishop and not a priest because there was a crosier in the shot, as well.

In the video, the young man was delivering his homily, which, according to the priest who tweeted the image, was a portion of a homily delivered by a well-known bishop whose weekly homilies are distributed via a number of electronic and social media channels.

The boy was "preaching" about fighting with courage, justice, and non-violence.

What an awesome image, and what hope it evokes for the future, a future in which more youngsters will hear a call to a religious vocation and serve the church as priests, brothers, sisters and deacons.

Clearly, this youngster is hearing, or feeling, some quiet message from God about that possibility. Whether that's ultimately the direction his life will take is, of course, a matter he will, in due time, work out directly with God.

For now, people of goodwill might simply pray that all of us listen with an open heart for God's voice, in whatever way, in our lives, as Samuel does in today's first reading from 1 Samuel.

"When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, 'Samuel, Samuel,'" we hear in the reading. "Samuel answered, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'"

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday January 18, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Kenneth Nowicki and George J. Bugarin

Tuesday January 19, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Stanley Rembelski and Joseph Calus

Wednesday January 20, 2021 Weekday, Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr and Saint Sebastian, Martyr (Green/Red/Red)

7:00 a.m. Geraldine Rogier and Paul Daudlin

Thursday January 21, 2021 Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr (Red)

7:00 a.m. Valentina Petrusha and Petruzza Lorenzano

Friday January 22, 2021 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (White/Purple)

7:00 a.m. John Morizio and Chester Pepe

Saturday January 23, 2021 Weekday (Green/White)

4:00 p.m. Lucy and Frank Nagy, Dee Allor, Alexandria Swantek, Bonnie Batche, Joseph Calus and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and the Thomas Family and Prayerful Appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc.

6:00 p.m. Leona Dunn

Sunday January 24, 2021 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

12:00 p.m. Ramsay Scrivo, Nancy Maniaci, George J. Bugarin, Special Intentions for the Kolodziejski Family and Christine Bugarin

Weekly Readings

Monday, January 18

Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 19

Hebrews 6:10-20
Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 20

Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday, January 21

Hebrews 7:25-8:6
Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 22

Hebrews 8:6-13
Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, January 23

Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14
Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20



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.”

**Nancy McDonnell
Romain Blanchard**

**Ruth Thomas (Mother of Pam Mowatt)
Charles Miller (Son of Charlotte 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

Give Thanks - Give Blood

St. Joan of Arc will be sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive Sunday, January 24th, from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. If you are a regular donor, we thank you and hope to see you there. If you've never given before, it takes a little over an hour to donate and can save many lives.

The American Red Cross **will not** be taking walk-ins and **you must have an appointment**. To make an appointment, log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code: stj Joanblooddrive) or call John Staperfenne at 248-789-8274. Please help save a life and become a Red Cross Blood Donor!



Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Forcing the "Follow-on":

Sometimes people ask if there is anything I miss about England. There's not a deep yearning for too much after 25

years living here, but a few moments of reminiscing can stir one or two. One of those things is a game of cricket in the summer, a quintessentially English pastime if ever there was one. I grew-up playing the game, as every English 10 year-old boy did. Summer evenings, if it wasn't raining (!), was cricket time. A tennis ball, a cardboard box wicket (backstop), and you were out if you hit the ball over the fence into the neighbor's yard.

In the non-kid-adapted-back-yard-play-until-the-street-lights-come-on-summer-vacation professional version of the game, there is a rule known as the "follow-on." An international game, known as "Test Match cricket" is scheduled to last 5 days. Each team has two innings of batting, which combine for their run score. If time runs out for both teams to complete their allotted two innings and one team still has players at bat at the end of the 5th day, the game is always ruled a tie, even if one team is clearly ahead on runs. If the team batting first scored well in their first innings and the team batting second scored poorly, failing to come close to their opponent's run total, the first team can force the "follow-on." This puts the second team immediately back into bat for a second time, rather than switching back to the first team's 2nd innings. Still with me?!

The advantage to the first team is that, already holding a run lead, they now have the chance to get the other team "all-out" again before they reach their own first innings score. This scenario means the team holding the lead after the first innings need not bat again, saving time and increasing their chance of winning rather than tying the game.

Well, the goal of the second team, if they know things are not going their way in the first innings, should at least score sufficient runs to avoid the follow-on. If they at least score enough to avoid triggering the follow-on, it will require the leading team need to bat again, and the trailing team will have the chance to extend the game long enough to force an incomplete game and therefore have the

game ruled a tie by the end of the 5th day.

Easy right? So what's the point here? I always loved the concept of the follow-on rule. It forces those who seems to be ahead not to count their chickens before they hatch. It forces a team to balance continuing to build a lead, and risking putting the opponents in so as not to waste time. And it gives a second chance to the underdog, making the leading team push to the end to get the job done.

I offer the follow-on rule as an analogy for our times. The follow-on is about making something out a tough situation. It's really about perseverance when things don't seem to be going your way. There are days when the other team seems to have forced the follow-on — those who do not share our Catholic beliefs, a society that doesn't recognize objective moral values. Okay, so we dig-in deep and go back to bat. The other team may appear to have the advantage over us, but we set our eyes on the end of the game and pledge to stay in long enough that we will not lose.

If we are to put our best foot forward and strive each day to do our duty as Christian disciples and a people of faith, even when forced into the follow-on, it will mean praying for each other, fervently, unceasingly, expectantly, especially if anyone seems to be struggling — to pray for their endurance and fortitude. It means praying for our parish, our country, our community, our families and yes, our priests. Then we will be a parish built on trust in the Holy Spirit, who will grow great fruit in us.

Right to Life Sunday: This Sunday we mark Right to Life Sunday and we're called to bring to mind and pray for the protection of life in all stages. This teaching of the Church is rooted in the God-given dignity possessed by every soul, born and unborn. In the words of Horton the Elephant, from the Dr. Seuss stories, "A person's a person, no matter how small."

In my first year in seminary I would often stop at the CVS store on Woodward Ave, immediately across from the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. The seminary, we would always say, was 20 minutes from everywhere. Thankfully, here was one exception—the CVS store was 5 minutes away. One day I learned a big lesson at that CVS store. As I got out of my car, I noticed a man, who I assumed to be homeless, sitting on the garbage can. He

was eating a KFC, which I also assumed had come from the garbage can. When he saw me walking toward the store, he called out to me, "Hey, buy me a pop! Buy me a pop, would ya'?" I walked over to him and said, "Sure, I'll buy you a pop. What kind of pop do you want?" I'm not sure what his answer was—he appeared to have just a couple of teeth and was hard to understand. But I went into the store to pick-up a few items and went over to the refrigerators to get his pop. As I did so, two things occurred to me. First, he's a man sitting on a garbage can eating someone's left-over chicken... I doubt he's too concerned about what flavor of pop he's getting. But what had me shaking my head all the more was that I realized I hadn't asked him his name. He may be a man sitting on a garbage can, but I could at least show him the respect of asking him his name and recognize the dignity of this man. "Rookie Seminarian mistake," I thought.

So I bought the pop and went outside to give it to him and to ask him his name. I struck up a conversation with him and he asked where I lived. I told him and he said he knew it. Some people in the area would refer to the seminary building as "The Castle." Then I said, "Sir, what is your name?" The man's face lit up and there was an explosion of arm-waving energy that came from him. With a highly animated tone and volume, the man replied, "**MR. FELIX CURTIS!!**" (I'm not 100% sure that's what he said, but that's always how I remembered him after that day. Whatever his name was, he was mighty proud to tell me.) So here is the lesson I learned that day. I went outside that store to show respect to the dignity of a man sitting on a garbage can. And he called himself "Mr." People don't usually preface their name like that when they introduce themselves. But he was proud of his name, his identity. Mr. Felix Curtis showed me that his dignity was not dependent on me offering it to him. He knew his own dignity, garbage can or not, left-over chicken or not. He was Mr. Felix Curtis, and I'd better not forget it. No matter how we choose to treat each other, our dignity is not in question. It comes from God and not from us. It's for us to see the image God sees, the image God created. Any less speaks poorly of us, not the other person.

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

*7–8 pm, Thursdays
in the Church*

and streaming live online at
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First and third
Thursdays include
Praise and Worship
music, second and
fourth are silent.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 24 B

Reading 1 – Jonah

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying: "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD'S bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed, "when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

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

Responsorial Psalm 25

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Reading 2 – 1 Corinthians

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

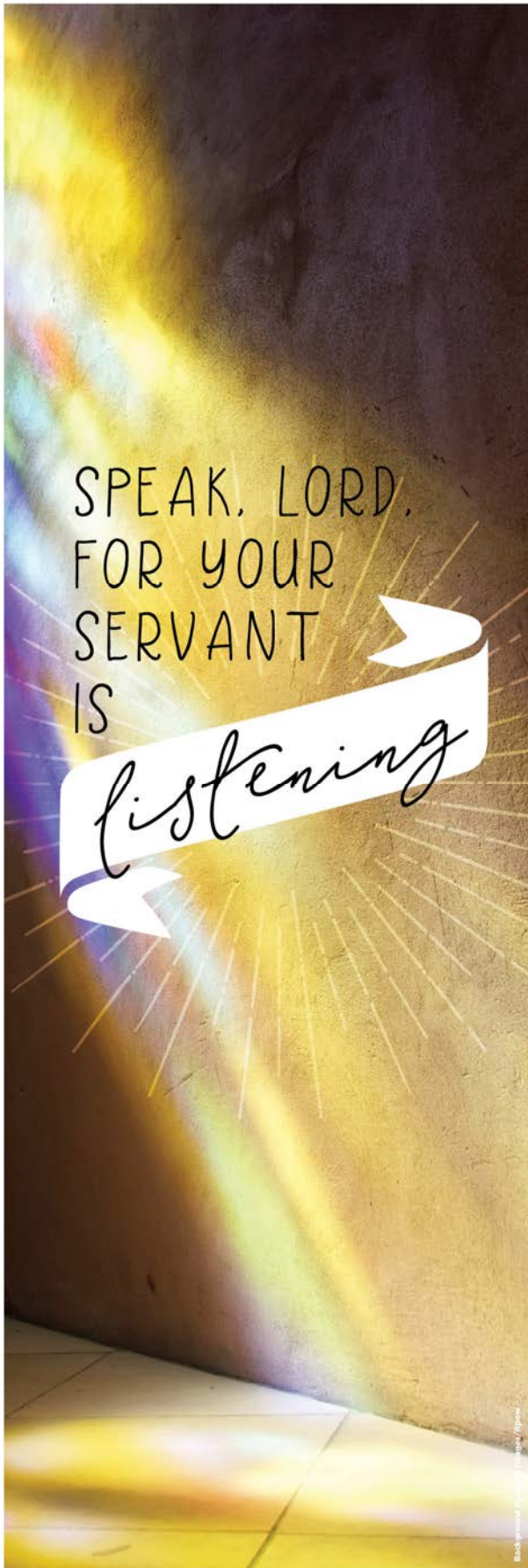
The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mark

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.



January 17, 2021

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 | 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 | Jn 1:35-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever seen *The Good Place*? While clearly not theologically accurate, it is a thought-provoking Netflix comedy that focuses on four good but flawed characters who meet in the afterlife. I can relate to the character of Chidi, who strives to live a moral life but is crippled by indecisiveness. Do I buy the brown shoes or the black ones? Should I order the salad or the salmon? And I still can't decide on a career! So I'm amazed at John and the disciples in today's Gospel. John immediately recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God. Hearing this, do the disciples ask for a second opinion or draw up a pros and cons list? Nope. They follow him. They recognize the Messiah and act. Their response of faith challenges me to think less and do more, to worry less and pray more. We may not see Jesus in his human form walking by, but we can see his image in others, and hear him through the Scriptures and at Mass. Let us pray for the grace to respond wholeheartedly.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Everyone loves an invitation, though perhaps we've forgotten what those are like during these months of pandemic. Today's readings remind me that, pandemic notwithstanding, we all have a standing invitation from God; it's up to us to respond. When Samuel heard God's voice in the night, he listened. In today's responsorial psalm, we hear, "Here I am Lord; I come to do your will." And the Gospel tells us how the disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus. Through prayer, we, too can listen for God's voice and respond. And, just as Eli realized God was calling Samuel and John encouraged the disciples, we can accompany others. By sharing our experience and inviting others to share the way Jesus has spoken to them, we can encourage one another as we seek to turn our lives over to God.

STUDY Many of us slow down a bit during these wintry months after the holidays. Why not use our "down time" to listen to God's word, not only by attending Mass in-person or online, but through popular apps like iMissal and Word on Fire. Invite friends to do the same and then hold each other accountable by initiating an online group to discuss each week's readings.

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Ted Barthel	Mary DiTrapani	Alleyn Hunt	Mark Moffitt	Ingrid Stemmerich
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Nina Delisi	Geoffrey Greve	Joan Mannino	Alex Scapini	
Anita Dembeck	James Gutowski	Louis Mascia	Elizabeth Schaller	
Deborah Dembeck	Deborah Hammersburg	Irene McMahon	Mary Anna Sheldon	



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@sjases.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

January 17, 2021

What's in a Name?

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In Giorgio Vasari's painting, *The Calling of St. Peter and St. Andrew*, the upper scene shows Peter and Andrew walking toward Jesus. The lower central scene depicts Peter in the center, with Andrew behind him, and Jesus enthroned on a rock pointing toward him.

The scene is simple for a reason. Jesus' call is simple: Follow me. Our response should be simple, too. We often complicate the call with questions, fears, or doubts, wanting clarifications and assurances. But it is a simple imperative that requires a one-word answer: yes or no. Or as Samuel responded, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9).

Once accepted, the call implies a new identity born of a new, deeper relationship. When Jesus calls Simon, he changes his name. In the Bible, a name change indicates a new mission or purpose. Abram was renamed Abraham to father the Old Testament people in faith.

Simon is now Cephas, or rock. His mission is to father the New Testament people in faith. He is to be a solid, unbreakable foundation for his brothers—and eventually the whole Church. His strength comes not from perfection, for we know Peter was weak, but from his acceptance of Jesus' love and call no matter his own weakness.

Similarly, in baptism and confirmation we take new names that come with our new, deeper calls. It is a meaningful Catholic tradition that parents name their children after a saint who becomes a model for their lives. Like Peter, we are called to greatness by Jesus, who looks at us, names us, and says, "Follow me" (John 1:43). Let's live up to that beautiful, simple invitation! +

*Jesus' call is simple:
Follow me. Our response
should be simple, too:
yes or no.*

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope, with their way of welcoming, smiling, and loving; above all loving because the power of the resurrection makes Christians capable of loving even when love seems to have lost its motivation.

—General Audience, October 4, 2017



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Are you named after a saint or someone in particular?
- If so, how does that saint or person inspire you?

Sunday Readings

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19

So [Eli] said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a, 17–20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you?

John 1:35–42

[Jesus said,] "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas (which is translated Peter)."

The Church on Cremation

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR

Catholics have loved relics for centuries. Although you may not realize it, the altar where Mass is celebrated usually contains an altar stone with the relic of a saint in it. It's common on saints' feast days to visit their graves or venerate their relics and be blessed with them. Is it possible to connect this adoration of relics to how we commemorate the death of our loved ones?

- Upon my entry to greet a third-grade class, a little girl's hand shot up with a sense of urgency. I couldn't avoid calling on her. "My grandma died," she reported matter-of-factly. Stunned, I responded with, "I'm sure she's in a good place, and one day you'll see her again." The girl answered instantly: "I know she is. I saw her this morning. Her ashes are on our kitchen table."
- Siblings are in turmoil over the sale of their childhood home. A few years ago they fulfilled their mother's dying wish by spreading her cremated remains in the backyard flower garden. They never dreamed they would have to sell the family home. Should they tell the prospective buyers?
- Another family placed their mother's ashes in small lockets on gold chains that can be worn. They distributed them to their mother's dearest relatives and friends at her memorial service.



- A father's cremated remains were divided between his two children. He has two burial plots, one in a cemetery in Philadelphia and one in Brazil, his home country.

I'm sure you've heard similar stories about cremations and the distribution of a loved one's ashes. Reactions are either extremely positive or negative. It seems no one is indifferent on the subject. What does the Church say?

Catholic teaching on this is clear. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "The Church permits cremation, provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body" (CCC 2301). Furthermore, the

Church usually has clear instructions reflecting the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' guidelines about the placement of the cremated remains in a cemetery or place of respect, such as a mausoleum.

The Catholic News Service reported that "Catholic cemeteries have lost 1 percent of their potential business each year since the Second Vatican Council relaxed burial and cremation restrictions." Many parishes have opened their own columbariums.

More and more, it seems cremation is prevailing over the tradition of burial. This is a leap, but maybe our fascination with relics has predisposed us to this latest trend. If we desire to be close to saints we've never met, how much more will we desire to stay close to those we love and have known for a lifetime, even when they've gone home to God? It's important that we understand and uphold the Church's teaching on the subject. +

Does our fascination with relics predispose us to choose cremation?



Lord, draw me close to your heart that I may come to know and love you more deeply.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 18–23

Monday, Weekday:
Heb 5:1–10 / Mk 2:18–22


Tuesday, Weekday:
Heb 6:10–20 / Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday, Weekday:
Heb 7:1–3, 15–17 / Mk 3:1–6

Thursday, St. Agnes:
Heb 7:25–8:6 / Mk 3:7–12

Friday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children: Heb 8:6–13 / Mk 3:13–19

Saturday, Weekday:
Heb 9:2–3, 11–14 / Mk 3:20–21

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 17, 2021

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
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