



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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25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:35b-37a

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

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

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

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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

School

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

Faith Formation

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

Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascs.org

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjascs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Exceptional Children
TBD

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjascs.org

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

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

Holy Day Masses

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

Reconciliation

Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm
In the
Sister Carol Center

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7a mass
outside in the school courtyard
(weather permitting).

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

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

OR

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

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

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

Weekdays - 7am Mass (Monday thru Friday)

Saturdays - 4pm & 6pm Masses

Sundays - 8am, 10am, 12pm Masses

Thursdays - 7pm Holy Hour

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



Complicating a Complicated

Day: Sundays are a complicated day around here. They are complex primarily because of the amount of activity on a Sunday before,

during, and after Mass. I then add to the day's complexities by waiting until Sunday to create and edit the Sunday Update Email. I always have these grand ambitions of getting that task done earlier in the week, but it simply doesn't happen. My pattern on Sundays is that I walk over to the office at 7 a.m., work on the email for about 45 minutes, go over for the 8 a.m. Mass, and then I continue working on the email for about a half-hour or so after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses. I've got it down to a science. Because every second counts, I need every bit of time to get that email done so it can be sent at 1 p.m. on Sundays. As such, I don't anticipate on any emergencies to interrupt my normal Sunday morning plan.

A couple of weekends ago, I was diligently sitting at my desk doing what I do with the Sunday email while listening to my K-Love radio station (a Christian radio station) on my Alexa device when I got a call from Deacon Dom. He usually doesn't call me in between Masses, so I figured this was rather urgent and important. I answered the phone. After all the quick "niceties," he says, "We've got a problem in Church." That got my attention. "What's up," I asked. "We've got a squirrel in Church. Mary Garofalo and I were able to get him into the Cry Room, and that's where he is now. We've locked the door." "OH. GOOD. HEAVENS." I thought to myself. "I don't have time for a squirrel." Dealing with a squirrel in Church is covered on page 8,778 of the Pastor Manual. It comes just before the section on dealing with a squirrel that comes into Church DURING Mass (which I've had happen too). "Doesn't this squirrel know I have more important things to do right now?" UGH! After thinking about it for a few moments and realizing I still had miles to go with the Sunday Update Email, I did what most pastors do ... call their Business Manager. So, I called Dina. After telling her what was up, she burst into laughter. She wanted to know more details, and I was like, "Listen, I've got to get this email thing done; I'm passing the squirrel off to you. I don't have time for him right now."

She was still laughing as she hung up the phone.

I then started getting reports from the field like the DTE call center would when the power goes down. I was getting pictures and texts. The squirrel was now getting in my way. But the reports were that the squirrel was small and pretty scared. So I had a bit of sympathy for the little guy. Dina then did what most Business Managers do; she called one of our maintenance guys to the rescue. God bless Vern; he came over right away to help deal with the trapped squirrel. By this time, Mass was about to start. As I passed the Cry Room window, we didn't see the squirrel. I did see an open window and later learned that Kevin Hendrick, who himself has dealt with a squirrel in the house, snuck in the Cry Room and opened the window with the hope the squirrel would eventually find its way out. Seeing no squirrel as I passed the room, I figured it already left.

Once Mass started, I kept an eye on the Cry Room. Eventually, I saw Vern arrive with a few tools and a net with the hopes of trying to net the little one so he could be safely brought back outside. Okay, I should have been focused on Mass, but I wanted to see what Vern would do. As the Gospel was being proclaimed, I saw Vern gingerly look around the room, and then he did the unthinkable ... he closed the blinds! I couldn't watch anymore (which was probably a good thing since I was the celebrant and about ready to give my homily). I wanted to see the action. Darn. Within maybe 5 minutes, Vern was opening the blinds, and he walked away. What? What happened? He obviously accomplished his task of getting the squirrel back outside. I couldn't wait to hear the details.

Since Vern left right after the squirrel exited the Cry Room (you think the squirrel could have at least stayed for my homily), I waited until Monday morning to hear the details. Right after Mass on Monday, Vern told me that he decided to close the blinds so the squirrel couldn't see all the action in Church and get even more scared. What a brilliant idea; I would have never thought about that! I'm sure this must be covered on page 5,997 of the Church Maintenance Staff Procedure Manual. He said he found the little squirrel underneath a chair; it was obvious the little guy was scared. Vern, who we now call our own local "squirrel whisperer," got on the ground and slowly

coaxed the little guy toward the window. Vern said the squirrel was responding, so he remained persistent and patient and was able to slowly get him toward the window so he could make the giant leap back outside to freedom. Great job, Vern! And, people think life in a parish on Sundays is a breeze. You never know what emergency lurks in the background.

FREE Money: You've often heard me talk about "Free Money." One of the most significant ways our parish earns "Free Money" is through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. The program is simple and doesn't cost us a penny. We earn money because you shop at Kroger and designate SJA School as the recipient of your Kroger Community Rewards program donation.

When the program started, we regularly saw checks totaling \$11,000 a year. YES, \$11,000 a year. That's some pretty significant FREE cash. Then it dipped to \$6,500 a year. Now we only average maybe \$5,000 per year.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for you to make sure you are registered in the program. The simplest way to determine your enrollment is to check your Kroger receipts. If you are registered and have designated St. Joan of Arc School as your charity of choice for the Community Rewards Program, then SJA School will be listed as such on the last line of your receipt. It will say, "Kroger Community Rewards: At your request, Kroger is donating to St. Joan of Arc School." If you don't see that on your receipt, your Kroger purchases are NOT helping us earn free money! So, make sure you are enrolled in the program and have designated SJA as your charity of choice. You can enroll in the program at the Kroger website: www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

The need for pushing this program at SJA is a no-brainer! If we don't push the program, then we are throwing away easy money. So, please encourage your family and friends to enroll or re-enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and designate SJA School as your charity of choice. You shop ... the school wins!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

Sept 19, 2021

WATCH

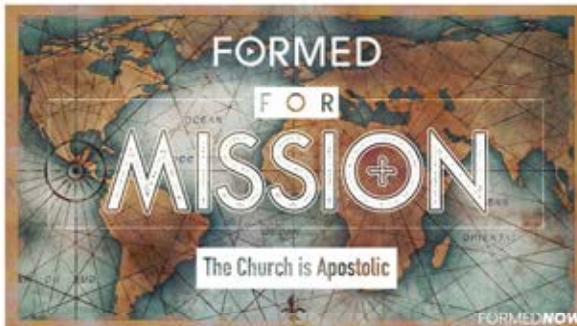
PADRE PIO BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Filmed on location in Italy, starring Michele Placido in a moving performance, this film tells the whole story of the beloved monk from San Giovanni Rotondo, a place where millions of pilgrims now annually visit Padre Pio's grave.



LEARN

FORMED FOR MISSION EPISODE 20: AN APOSTOLIC SPIRITUALITY

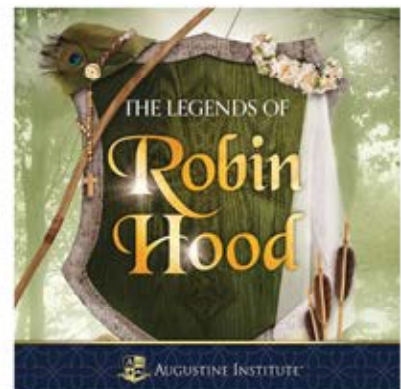


Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down for a weekly show on evangelization and mission. "Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize" (EN, 14). We pray that these discussions may help all the faithful be further conformed to Christ and become powerful evangelists in the world today.

LISTEN

THE LEGENDS OF ROBIN HOOD AUDIO DRAMA

The child of a reputable family and a faithful son of the Church, Robert of Locksley had no intention of becoming an outlaw. But the relentless cruelty and tyranny by the elite nobility of England demanded that someone rise up to give answer. And so Robert of Locksley became Robin Hood – a man thrown into a fierce struggle to balance his deep faith with a call to action in a violent age.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Silent and Live
Auction & Dinner**



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE GALA THIS YEAR:

- We're returning to **LOCHMOOR CLUB in GPW!** And we've shifted this year's event to the Fall.
- The Gala is our largest fundraiser to benefit the school. **Attend or buy raffle tickets** to support this event.
- **We need your donations.** Contact the School or Parish Center to learn how to donate Silent and Live Auction items.
- **There's a spot for you.** Join the Gala Planning Committee or volunteer to help the night of the Gala.

CONTACT US:

Pam Graskewicz (pgraskewicz@hotmail.com) or Matt Wyszczelski (hfd75@aol.com)

We **ENCOURAGE** everyone to dress in your favorite Bavarian attire for this year's Gala...

BEST OUTFIT CONTEST!

Barrels of fun for 15 Years!!!

OCTOBER 16, 2021 @ LOCHMOOR CLUB



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

Proudly introduces

Family Faith Formation

**LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER**

at sjascs.org/faith-formation

*This new and exciting program
designed especially for families
starts the first week in October.*

**Contact Kristine Hass at khass@sjascs.org
or 586-772-1282 with questions**

**for all parish families with
children in grades K-8**

Crossroads Soup Kitchen Meal October 3rd

Our Crossroads Ministry Weekend Needs Your Financial Help: For close to 20 years, our parish has helped serve meals at [Crossroads](#). Due to the coronavirus restrictions we will follow the same process we did in 2020. Rather than ask for food donations, we will ask for cash donations so that all the food that is needed can be purchased.

If you are interested in donating, please go to the Parish Website stjoan.church and you can make an electronic donation. You can also make a donation to Parish Center or collection box used for weekly mass donations located in the Gathering Space. Please make checks out to St Joan of Arc. If donating by cash or check, please make sure you indicate that the donation is for the Soup Kitchen.

October 3rd is the date we will be cooking and serving the food at Crossroads. Our menu will consist of chili, hot dogs, condiments, corn bread, cookies, fruit and beverages. If we have additional funds we would also like to purchase toiletries as we did last year for all the guests that we serve at Crossroads; they were very happy to each receive this gift from us.

Thank you so much for your generosity, may God bless you



Better Way Detroit

Better Way Detroit is a nonprofit organization that helps provide dignity to the homeless through employment.

BWD picks up homeless from local shelters, brings them to work for a day, pays them a days wage, enjoys a meal with them at the end of the work day, and returns them to their shelter. In order to continue doing these charitable works, they are in need of some volunteers.

Please go to the Sign Up below to volunteer your time, talent, or treasure to Better Way Detroit! Thank you in advance of your generosity!

Volunteering to ride along/working with BWD
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4faf22abfdc70-volunteering>

For Meals purchased/made and delivered-
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4faf22abfdc70-meal>

Please contact Rob Leonardi, Operations Manager with any questions @ (313) 312-0819 or by email @ RobL@betterwaydetroit.org

betterwaydetroit™

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group



2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month

at

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

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

For those wanting individual prayers please be there between 6:30 – 6:55 pm

We hope that you can join us!

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, September 20th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Protecting God's Children

Tuesday, September 21st

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, September 22nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, September 23rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour (Praise and Worship)
Live Streamed

Friday, September 24th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, September 25th

11:00 am Reconciliation

11:30 pm Baptism of Alessi Marie Powers

1:00 pm Decker/Ellis Wedding

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, September 26th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

September 19 - One Such as This

It can seem a bit like an ongoing chess match, at times, but the stakes are infinitely higher.

In a nation torn by divisive issues, perhaps the single most divisive issue is abortion, with both sides locked in a seemingly intractable argument that never reaches resolution.

Instead, people on both sides of the issue look for ways to advance their cause, incrementally, with the hope of one day convincing opponents why they are right and reaching political and legal finality on the matter.

It's all done, of course, in an environment of shouting and much media noise.

Which is why in many ways it's like a chess match, with strategy always being plotted several steps ahead.

Headlines were made across the country a few weeks ago when the Supreme Court let stand a Texas law that outlawed abortions after 6 weeks, or essentially when a heartbeat can be detected.

"Texas will always defend the right to life," the state's governor has been quoted as saying.

It was a huge victory for the pro-life movement, to be sure. And yet, quite predictably, the protests started immediately, with opposition advocates and politicians weighing in on what they consider to be the gravity of the development and what it means.

And so it goes. The only sure thing, of course is that the matter overall is far from being resolved. The good news is that, if there were any doubt as to the profound importance of the right to a child's life, Jesus is crystal clear in today's gospel:

"Taking a child, (Jesus) placed it in their midst," St. Mark writes, "and putting his arms around it, he said to them, 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me, but the One who sent me.'"

© 2021 Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday September 20, 2021 Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs (Red)

7:00 a.m. George Bugarin and Joan Linden

Tuesday September 21, 2021 Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Red)

7:00 a.m. Herbert Thelen and Valerio Guigliardo

Wednesday September 22, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. A Special Intention for Jason and Nicole Lawrence on their 8th Wedding Anniversary

Thursday September 23, 2021 Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (White)

7:00 a.m. Saint Padre Pio, Thomas Lucchese and Helmut J. Linden

Friday September 24, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Frank & Mary Fleming & Felice DiBerardino

Saturday September 25, 2021 Weekday, BVM (Green/White)

4:00 p.m. Paul L. Daudlin, Bonnie Batche, Alice Czekaj, Joseph Gradowski, Anna Maria Dolunt, Giuzepe Princi Pato, Laura Chesnes, the Deceased members of the Jakubiec and Folmar Families and Special Intentions for the Putlock Family, Thomas Family and the J. Champagne Family

6:00 p.m. Rose Marie Jacobs

Sunday September 26, 2021 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

10:00 a.m. Duane Gore

12:00 p.m. Michael Ciaramitaro, Joseph Twomey, Pierre Zaranek, Angela Collinson, Josephine Alberti, Anna Maria Dolunt, Sal Ciaravino, The deceased members of the Lucy Zelenak Family, Robert Reaser, and a Special Intention for Pepe Sandoval

Daily Readings

Monday, September 20

Ezra 1:1-6
Luke 8:16-18

Friday, September 24

Haggai 2:1-9
Luke 8:1-3

Tuesday, September 21

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday, September 25

Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a
Luke 9:43b-45

Wednesday, September 22

Ezra 9:5-9
Luke 9:1-6

Sunday, September 26

Numbers 11:25-99
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Thursday, September 23

Haggai 1:1-9
Luke 9:7-9



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.”

**Rosemary Monaghan
Josephine (Josie) Dehelean
Lillian Dreary
Deacon George Posavetz**

“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



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.

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Earth, Wind and Fire: Earth—September is a funny month. I never hear anyone saying it's their favorite month. I'm sure it's someone's

favorite, but it's not mine. My strategy is just to refuse to acknowledge it....

This strategy was met with disdain by a friend of mine whose birthday is in September and she wasn't willing to sacrifice it to buy into my idea. Secondly, she said, *Earth, Wind and Fire* "wrote an awesome song about it," in the 1970s, so then there's that, apparently.

I thought I could just not look the month in the eye and it'd would seem like it wasn't there. Maybe it would seem like it was still August, still summer, still light, still hot. My strategy has not been going so well to this point. September is finding its ways to outwit me, daily. The sun is really not up yet when I get over to church in the morning. And it's down again before I get dinner. Yes, there have been some nice days, but they've just lost that certain "umph" they have in July and August. It's not *really* Fall yet either... kind of, maybe, but it's not October, it's not Fall colors and that Fall smell of leaves and apple cider. Of course, if you go in stores, it's clearly October, but that's part of my strategy too... stay out of stores!

Wind—As I sit writing this at 2:30pm, it looks like night outside, as another storm rattles and rolls through. We've had our fair share of storms this summer, as I'm sure many of you can attest to. Although I love a good summer storm, I acknowledge sensitively the distress they have caused many, both on the gulf coast and especially in our local area with all the flooding issues in July. Whether or not we have been directly affected by these storms, we can all attest to the different storms that we must endure during our lives. Some of these can be more painful and stressful than even the most severe storms the weather can bring—storms of a health crisis, storms of financial burdens, storms in relationships, the storm of the loss of a job or a home, the storm of the loss of a loved one, the storm of a crisis of faith. This Thursday, September 23rd, we celebrate the Feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, known to many as simply Padre Pio. He was a man of exceptional holiness, who had the ability

to read the souls of the many who came to him for confession. (There's a sobering thought! He would sometimes call people out in the confessional for the sins he knew they had omitted from their confession.) Those who brought illnesses to him often received miraculous healings. He was also an extraordinary mystic with the gift of bilocation – appearing in more than one location at a time.

Padre Pio was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 and within a month, he received the from God, the Stigmata, the 5 wounds of Christ, which he bore almost continually until his death, this day in 1968. You can often see images and photos of him wearing bandages wrapped around his hands. His many prophetic and prudent words seem so appropriate for the troubled times in which we live. On my ordination card last year, I chose particular words of his that I thought would endure as practical advice to many: *"Stay in the boat in which our Lord has placed you. You will not perish. It appears to you that Jesus is sleeping, but his heart vigilantly watches over you. At the right time, he will awake and restore your calm."* There is only one boat that can safely carry us through the storms of life, and that is our vessel of our faith, the Church. The Church, founded by Christ upon fallen men, but guided for eternity by the Holy Spirit will weather all storms. We are living in times of great confusion. People are unsure where to look for truth – truth about moral issues, issues of authority, medical issues, marriage issues, dignity of life issues and even issues over how to define personhood. In truth there is only one truth and that is the Truth, Jesus Christ. He is the one we are to look to. Look to Jesus; look to His Cross and find your refuge there in its shadow. As Cardinal Timothy Dolan puts it, sometimes we look around us and think, *"Lord, this is no way to run a railroad."* But run it, He does, and if the world around us looks like it's coming off the rails, perhaps it is. But it is only doing so under the watchful eyes of the Lord and guarded by the Holy Spirit. If the evil in the world today seems so tangible, let us see it as a sign of proof that the evil one is busy in the world. But let us never be deterred, never be put-off, never persuaded to join forces with him and buy into this destructive dismantling of good order and righteousness. Stay in the boat. Stay in the Church. Stay in the Truth. Take comfort in the scriptures:

"Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong. Like grass they wither quickly; like green plants they wilt away. Trust in the Lord and do good that you may dwell in the land and live secure. Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your heart's desire." (Psalm 37:1-4)

Fire—Our trusty and dutiful maintenance expert, Vern, announced to me a few months ago that he'd had a revelation. Vern would light the candles before Mass, but he was thinking that maybe he was lighting them too early and burning too much oil before mass. I said I didn't mind lighting them a few minutes before mass. If you've been at certain masses lately, you may have noticed that I am apparently not as reliable as Vern! As my father's son, I tend to take his approach and try to save a Dime—stewardship, right?! But I hang my head! In leaving the candles until a little later, they seem to often slip out of my mind. Five times in a week! Sometimes it's been last minute; sometimes the first minute of mass! Vern recently moved from his regular seat for mass to now sitting in front of the ambo and just may have been deriving some pleasure in my forgetfulness. He grins at me from ear to ear. I now can no longer light the candles without studiously ensuring I don't look in Vern's direction. I have to hide behind the ambo as I light the candles!

And you think you're distracted at mass?! Not for the first time, a couple of Sundays ago, as I was at the altar, as I turned a page of the missal, a spider dropped out and onto the altar. It was one of those tiny, jumping spiders that are impossibly fast. I swatted at it a couple of times, but it eluded me and jumped to the front corner of the altar, where it remained until communion. I was surprised to see it show-up again at a funeral mass 3 days later. Apparently our altar is a desirable hang-out for a little spider. I looked all around the altar after the funeral and it was nowhere to be seen. Today, 8 days after it jumped out of my missal, there it was again, this time trying to crawl into the missal. While I appreciate its devotion to the mass, I can confirm that it will not be causing any more distractions for this priest during mass. R.I.P little friend.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew

adawson@sjascs.org

B A B Y B O T T L E D R I V E A T S J A

*in support of homeless
expectant mothers*

**PICK UP EMPTY BOTTLES AFTER
MASSES OCT 2 & 3**

**RETURN BOTTLES FILLED WITH
DONATIONS OCT 16 & 17**

How it works: Empty baby bottles will be available for pickup in the Gathering Space of the Sr. Carol Center and at church exits. Take one home, collect loose change or dollar bills. Or feel free to write a donation check. Return the bottles at mass the weekend of October 16 & 17.



Mary's Mantle is a Catholic residential program for homeless expectant women. We witness the love of Christ by promoting the dignity of life. We provide a safe, faith-based, and caring environment that supports the transition into motherhood, including extended aftercare for continued personal growth and integration into the community. We focus on the spiritual, emotional, physical, educational, and vocational well-being of mother and child.



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 26 B

Reading One – Nm 11:25-29

The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied.

Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said, "Moses, my lord, stop them." But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

Responsorial Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Though your servant is careful of them, very diligent in keeping them, yet who can detect failings? Cleanse me from my unknown faults!

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant; let it not rule over me. Then shall I be blameless and innocent of serious sin.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Reading Two – Jas 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a

testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

Alleluia – Jn 17:17b, 17a

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"



Sept. 19, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20 | Jas 3:16-4:3 | Mk 9:30-37

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

I have a competitive nature. As an older runner, I strive to place high in my age group (maybe even pick off runners older than I one at a time as we near the finish of a race – of course, I can neither confirm nor deny that). Oh, to be first! There is nothing inherently wrong with healthy competition. However, constantly striving to be the “best” or the “first” in other areas of life – career, parenting, even holiness – can quickly lead to frustration and burnout. As the disciples jostled for “first place,” Jesus gently but directly corrected them: “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Like the Apostles, we tend to focus on our achievements as a measure of our worth, forgetting why we are here: to serve others. We can ask Jesus to help us gain the “wisdom from above” and the characteristics so beautifully described by Saint James: pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading today's Gospel from Mark, I am struck by the image of Jesus embracing a child: “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.” Most of us picture our own children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, or nephews. Of course we would embrace them! However, Scripture scholars point out that for Jesus, the child symbolized the *anawim*, a Hebrew word for the poor, the lowly, the vulnerable, the oppressed. Picture, then, not just children but those we might be less eager to immediately embrace: ragged men on the corner, immigrants at the border, the neighbor's son with schizophrenia, prisoners or ex-convicts. Jesus challenges us not to avert our eyes but to “embrace” them – whether that means offering a cup of coffee, becoming a pen pal, stopping to chat, or finding another way to accompany them. Scholars tell us that the *anawim* share a total dependence upon God, something we all have in common regardless of our life's circumstances.

ACTIONS Seek “wisdom from above” at the beginning of each day. In the evening, reflect on the ways God has held you in his loving embrace through the kindness of others, moments in nature, simple pleasures. Say thank you.

*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm, Thursdays
in the Church.*

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and Worship music
weeks 1 through 3
each month and
silent adoration
week 4.*

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK - PARISHIONERS

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Ellen Bindek	Marie DuPont	Pat Kohlitz	Jennie Mooney	Robert Stasak
Geri Beaugrand	Susan Federoff	Charlie Kolodziejski	Jessica Nehro	Virginia Stieber
Theresa Bertelsen	Louise Fetherolf	Catherine Konen	Toni Pantano	Beverly Taylor
Rose Marie Carroll	Taylor Fisher	Edward Krappmann	Fern Pascany	James Thompson
Alex Chapp	Nora Anne Francis	Al Kraska	Wayne Pepper	Maxine Uniewski
David Clinchoc	Sylvia Gentile	Concetta Leone	Salvatore Promesso	Audrey VanBecelaere
Ed Cole	Mary and Don Godfrey	Dotty Lubinski	Larry Rybicki	Eileen Wallace
Mary Ellen Cooper	Jane Gora	Janet Malaski	Sr. Alice Riegel	Audrey Weekley
Victoria Cornwell	Larry Graham	Christopher Manning	Suzanne Roland	Joseph Whalen
James Czech	Geoffrey Greve	Joan Mannino	Jennifer Rose	Marilyn Wicker
Steven D'Arca	James Gutowski	Lee Majewski	Victoria Rydholm	William Woodruff
Joan DeDene	Rich Hanselman	Ed Marosso	Doreen Saur	Chuck Wolschlager
Catherine DeRose	Alleyn Hunt	Karen McMahon	Alex Scapini	

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.

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Bringing Home the Word +

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
September 19, 2021

Jesus' Cleansing Love

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Master of Fossa, a painter of unknown name, traveled the Umbrian region in the 1300s, creating works of Franciscan spirituality. His triptych panel, *Stories of the Passion*, interprets the scenes of the passion and death of Christ as an act of service to poor sinners. The souls of his brothers and sisters were dirty. And yet he comes down from heaven, bends over our iniquity, and gently takes us into his hands while nursing us back to cleanliness and life.

Christ's greatness is revealed in his service. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant

of all" (Mark 9:35). Jesus didn't wish to be first; he merely wished to be faithful. His goal was to love the Father and win us back, and that meant service and the cross.

In a detail of the painting, Peter is on his papal throne while Jesus kneels in front of him. What a role reversal! Peter should be washing Jesus' feet, but no. Even Peter tried to reject this act of service, but Jesus insisted—or else Peter could have no part in his reign.

Peter needed to be washed and purified before serving and sanctifying others. So it is with us. During this Mass, allow your soul to be taken into Jesus' hands. Feel him cleanse you, pouring his warm grace over your wounds. Accept his gentle, loving attention as he caresses, dries, and restores you. Only when you have known his mercy and love can you then be an agent of that love to others. +

*Allow your soul to be
taken into Jesus' hands.
Feel him cleanse you,
pouring his warm grace
over your wounds.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that "it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly." All such use and experimentation "requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation."

—On Care for Our Common Home
(*Laudato Si'*), May 24, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Do I take the time to place myself in Jesus' presence and receive his healing touch?
- The sacrament of reconciliation is a privileged moment of healing. Do I take advantage of this grace?

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 2:12, 17–20

With violence and torture let us put him to the test / that we may have proof of his gentleness.

James 3:16—4:3

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice.

Mark 9:30–37

[Jesus said,] "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Wise Christian Stewardship

By Kathleen M. Basi

“God gave you a body so you can do good things in the world. And you can’t do that if you don’t take care of your body.” This is a pretty common refrain in my parenting arsenal. It is intended to be an entry-level lesson on sexuality, but in fact it’s a pretty universal concept: We have a responsibility to use what we have been given wisely.

When we hear the words “Christian stewardship,” we tend to reduce it to “time, talent, and treasure”—specifically, to our gift to the Church. Yet as important as that is, it’s not the whole story.

Christian stewardship means the wise use of everything we have and everything we are. It means care of the earth: picking up litter, not running the car while I check my phone in the parking lot, recycling, reusing plastic bags, turning the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer, shopping consignment, and using The Freecycle Network, which coordinates a worldwide network of “gifting groups” to divert reusable goods from landfills.

It means care of relationships: turning off the electronics and focusing on each other, playing games together, eating dinners together, and supporting each other’s endeavors.

It means being aware of how much I have—home, running water, electricity, and especially my own unique talents and charisms—and embracing the



responsibility to share that wealth with others.

If my charism is a love of children, it might mean offering a stressed-out mother a few hours off. It might even mean taking kids for a whole weekend to allow another couple a weekend to reconnect.

If my charism is physical strength, it might mean helping a neighbor fix a broken step or replace a faucet. It might mean mowing the yard for an elderly or sick acquaintance, or someone overwhelmed by circumstances.

If my charism is cooking, it might mean meals for new mothers or families facing loss, extended illness, or emotional stress.

If my charism is joy and the gift of gab, it might mean visiting shut-ins, nursing homes, and retirement centers.

When “time and talent” Sunday comes around, we naturally focus on how to give back to God through the Church. Our parishes can function only if we share our gifts. But the responsibility of Christian stewardship doesn’t end there. The Church can grow only if we evangelize—and actions, as the old adage says, speak louder than words.

God gave us our bodies; we honor him by using them to do good things on the earth in his name. +

*Giving of our time,
talent, and treasure is
only part of the story.*

PRAYER

*Lord, I am grateful that you
are my advocate. Take away
all my fears and doubts. Fill
me with your wisdom and love
that I may be an instrument of
your peace in the world.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 20–25

Monday, Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,
Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and companions:
Ezr 1:1–6 / Lk 8:16–18

Tuesday, St. Matthew:
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 / Mt 9:9–13

Wednesday, Weekday:
Ezr 9:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

Thursday, St. Pius of Pietrelcina:
Hg 1:1–8 / Lk 9:7–9

Friday, Weekday:
Hg 2:1–9 / Lk 9:18–22

Saturday, Weekday:
Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a / Lk 9:43b–45

Bringing Home
the Word 
September 19, 2021

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