



# 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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## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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. - Mk 1:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**PARISH CENTER**  
**22412 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-777-3670  
Fax: 586-774-5528  
Website: [www.sjascscs.org](http://www.sjascscs.org)  
E-mail: [sjainfo@sjascscs.org](mailto:sjainfo@sjascscs.org)

**SCHOOL**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
Phone: 586-775-8370  
Fax: 586-447-3574  
Website: [www.stjoan.net](http://www.stjoan.net)  
E-mail: [info@stjoan.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

**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.



## The Golden-Child vs. the Golden-Grandchild:

Just about every family has them. There's the Golden-Child AND the Golden-Grandchild. It's

not necessarily a title one places on him or herself but is instead a title given to you by your siblings or cousins. Usually, the title is "bestowed" upon you because you are the oldest in the family. It's funny to watch and hear the banter that happens (at least that's what happens in my family) between the other siblings or cousins when the "Golden One" is perceived as getting special attention or treatment. "OH, there's the Golden-Child" or "There's the Golden-Grandchild." The "shout out" usually includes massive eye-rolling or "air quotation marks."

Now, I'm lucky because I was the oldest AND the priest in the family. I have a hunch that the priest in the family can sometimes "bump" another sibling from the "Golden" designation no matter where he falls in the line-up. But what happens when the Golden-Child comes up against the Golden-Grandchild. Who wins?

It was December 19, and my mom and dad were already roommates in what Fr. Rich calls the "Honeymoon Suite" at Grosse Pointe Beaumont Hospital. Given that many in the family were testing positive for COVID just before Christmas, phone calls were happening rather frequently during this time to check up on people.

My dad was the master of the daily COVID stats for many months and would often report to my mom the number of new COVID positive cases, the number of total COVID cases since the pandemic swept our nation, and the number of total deaths. He always had a handle on those numbers. So, as people in the family came down with COVID, he was greatly concerned. He hated the fact our family was now included among those statistics. On this particular day, my dad was still very talkative. He placed a call to the "Golden-Grandchild," my nephew J.J., to check up on him. J.J. had just been diagnosed with COVID and was in isolation up at the Finn house in Allenton. My dad and J.J. had a special bond because J.J. lived with my parents for the

four years he went to school at Oakland U. J.J. was the "Roomie." My dad especially liked his "Roomie" because he had someone who would watch endless hours of football or baseball with him. So, Grandpa was checking up on one of his grandkids. As they were yapping away, my dad had another call coming in. He told J.J. to hold on as he checked his caller I.D. "Oh, it's Uncle Mike; I'll call him later," my dad said. J.J. was completely stunned. "Grandpa, it's UNCLE MIKE. You probably should take the call. He's busy. It might be something important," J.J. said. I'm sure my important matter was to remind my dad that he had to drink more water or something else he probably didn't want to hear me nag about. I've learned that the Golden-Child or Golden-Grandchild can nag about an issue more than the other siblings or cousins. My dad hated the thought of how much water and fluids they wanted him to drink. My mom would tell us kids what the docs were saying, and we, in turn, would tag-team to try to get our dad to do what he was supposed to do. As J.J. tells the story, Grandpa made it pretty clear he was going to finish this conversation with his "Roomie" a.k.a., the Golden Grandchild, before he moved onto a phone call with me. "Ah, he can wait. I'll call him later." And, with that, I went to straight voicemail, and Grandpa and J.J. continued yapping away.

Yikes, the Golden-Child got "bumped!" I would have it no other way. It highlights the special bond that exists between a grandparent and grandchild. Someone once said, "The most precious jewels you'll ever have around your neck are the arms of your grandchildren." It's pretty cool to watch. Blessed be God!

**End of the Year Tax Statements:** With the many tax laws changes, itemizing deductions do not benefit as many people as in the past. As a result, many people do not need or benefit from the usual end of the year tax statements we generated years ago. If you need a statement of your offertory, capital campaign and/or sponsorship appeal donations for your 2020 income taxes, please complete the online form found at [sjascs.org/taxstatements](https://sjascs.org/taxstatements). We will generate a statement for you toward the end of January. Statements for contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal are generated separately by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

**Virtual March for Life:** Not

surprisingly, with all the security concerns in Washington, D.C., this year, the annual March for Life scheduled for January 29, 2021, has turned into a total virtual event. You are invited to live-stream the March for Life beginning at 11 AM on Friday, January 29. The live broadcast will include inspiring speeches from pro-life leaders and information on staying involved in the pro-life movement throughout the year. The virtual event will also have a performance by Christian singer and songwriter Matthew West. To receive a link to the virtual event, go to <https://marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events/>.

**9 Days for Life:** If you have not done so already, I encourage you to participate in the annual novena for life called 9 Days for Life. The novena began on January 21 and will go through January 29. By signing up at [9daysforlife.com](https://9daysforlife.com), you will receive daily emails with the day's intention accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in the United States. There are also iOS and Android apps available. You can also take advantage of prewritten content on the [9daysforlife.com](https://9daysforlife.com) site for sharing on Facebook or Twitter. Let's do all that we can to pray for and help build a culture of LIFE!

**Project Rachel:** We also need to pray for those many people who somehow were touched by an abortion experience and are now seeking healing and reconciliation with God, themselves, and their family. Project Rachel is a beautiful healing ministry within the Church for people in these situations. If you have been touched by an abortion experience and seek healing, please call the Archdiocese of Detroit's Project Rachel Hotline (888-RACHEL5 / 888-722-4355) for confidential assistance or information. You can also send an email to [projectrachel@aod.org](mailto:projectrachel@aod.org). Additional information can also be found at [HopeAfterAbortion.com](https://HopeAfterAbortion.com) (the U.S. Bishops' website for post-abortion healing) and [RachelsVineyard.org](https://RachelsVineyard.org) (a website that offers English/Spanish articles for men and women, resources, and information on weekend retreats for healing after abortion).

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](http://OLGApp.com)

Give online at [stjoan.church](http://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](http://sjascs.org/gods-house)

**SPONSORSHIP APPEAL**

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

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

### *More on Marriage*

#### GRATEFUL FOR MY SPOUSE

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

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

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

Virtual and in-person weekends are scheduled for 2021.

<https://encountermichigan.org>

## REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

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

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

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

**Stand Up For Life  
PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE  
Saturday, January 30, 2021  
10:00 AM**



Join us in Eastpointe  
8 Mile Road between Redmond  
and Universal Streets  
Meet on the median

**If you would like to Take a Stand for Life, join in  
the country's largest,  
long-running, First Amendment  
Stand for Life against abortion.**

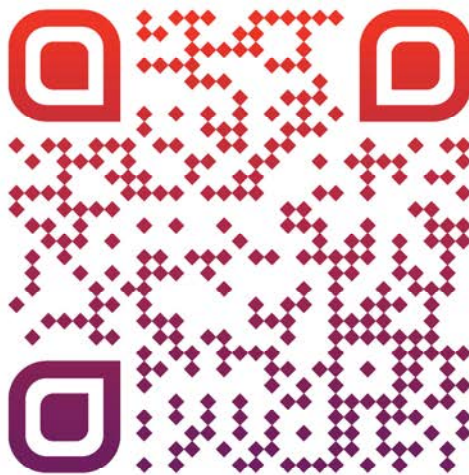
**Pray with us the Rosary and  
Divine Mercy Chaplet for the Sanctity of Life on  
Saturday, January 30 in remembrance of the US  
Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which  
legalized abortion in all 50 states.**

*Fr. Colin Fricke of  
St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church will lead the  
Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. The Vigil should  
take under an hour in consideration of likely weather  
conditions. Parking is available on the side streets*

**ALL CHILDREN DESERVE LIFE**



A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL [marchforlife.co/2021virtual](https://marchforlife.co/2021virtual). The main content area features a large graphic with the text "VIRTUAL 2021 MARCH FOR LIFE". Below this, it says "January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | Washington DC" and "11 am - 1:15 pm ET". There is also a call to action: "RSVP at [marchforlife.co/2021virtual](https://marchforlife.co/2021virtual)". The background of the graphic shows a crowd of people holding signs, including one that says "I AM THE PRO-LIFE GENERATION" and another that says "CHOOSE Life".



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO REGISTER TO WATCH THE 2021 MARCH FOR LIFE**

## Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### Monday, January 25th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Tuesday, January 26th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

#### Wednesday, January 27th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

#### Thursday, January 28th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Friday, January 29th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Saturday, January 30th

10:00 Funeral for Ann Rabaut

11:00 am Reconciliation

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

#### Sunday, January 31st

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

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

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

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

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

### Words on the Word

#### January 24, 2021 – Psst! Spread the Word

When God calls, we are compelled to listen.

“The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying: ‘Set out for the great city of Nineveh,’” we hear in today’s first reading from the book of Jonah, “and announce to it the message that I will tell you.”

We know from this and similar scriptural stories that God reaches out to his people for help in spreading the word; in communicating the saving message of his great love.

There are times the intended recipients hear the message and act on it. There are times they hear it and don’t act on it. And there are times they don’t hear it to begin with.

A national story a few weeks ago reported on a biblical-themed podcast originated by a Catholic priest out of Minnesota that had reached the top of Apple’s podcast rankings. Not just in the religion/spirituality segment, but over all segments.

“This (the bible) is a true story about real life that I think even people who don’t have faith would get a lot out of it,” the priest was quoted in one story as saying.

Amen. In creating the podcast, then, the priest was clearly heeding one of the lessons of today’s 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,” St. Mark writes. “Jesus said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’

“Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.”

Clearly, the podcasting priest has heard God’s call, and is acting on it. He’s a fisher of men.

The next move, as it were, is for those who have subscribed to the podcast already, and even those who have not yet done so. The question to ponder: Are we open to hearing?

© 2021, Words on the Word

# Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

## Mass Intentions

**Monday January 25, 2021 Converion of Saint Paul, Apostle (White)**

7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Christian and Danielle Savin and Dolores Zientek on the Anniversary of her Birthday

**Tuesday January 26, 2021 Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops (White)**

7:00 a.m. George J. Bugarin and Nancy LaClair

**Wednesday January 27, 2021 Saint Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder (Green/White)**

7:00 a.m. Frank Doetsch

**Thursday January 28, 2021 Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church (White)**

7:00 a.m. Hugo Calisi

**Friday January 29, 2021 Weekday (Green)**

7:00 a.m. Duane Gore and a Special Intention for Dr. Thomas Sloan

**Saturday January 30, 2021 Weekday BVM (Green/White)**

4:00 p.m. Anthony Lombardi, Bonnie Batche, Michael Ciarmirro and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family and the Thomas Family

6:00 p.m. George J. Bugarin

**Sunday January 31, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)**

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

12:00 p.m. Deacon Eugene DiCresce, Eva and Mario DiNello, George J. Bugarin, Nancy McDonnell, Nancy LaClair, a Special Intention for the Kercheval Kroger Staff

## Weekly Readings

**Monday, January 25**

Acts 22:3-16  
Mark 16:15-18

**Friday, January 29**

Hebrews 10:32-39  
Mark 4:26-34

**Tuesday, January 26**

2 Timothy 1:1-8  
Mark 3:31-35

**Saturday, January 30**

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19  
Mark 1:21-28

**Wednesday, January 27**

Hebrews 10:11-18  
Mark 4:1-20

**Sunday, January 31**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
Mark 1:21-28

**Thursday, January 28**

Hebrews 10:19-25  
Matthew 23:8-12



## 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.”

**Raymond Gheris  
Shirley Gordon  
Louis Mascia  
Marie Galbo  
Margaret Wilson  
Monsignor Richard Osebold  
Father C. Richard Kelly**



“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

## 8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive is Back!

The Class of 2021 is in full swing with their can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their events and trips for the coming year.

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.

Thank you for your support.





**Boots on the Ground:** The 1st reading today is a story of how God uses us to show mercy to others. It's part of the beautiful and short book of Jonah, an

unusual prophet if ever there was one. God is calling the wayward people of the city of Nineveh to repentance, to conversion. It's the capital city of Assyria. The Assyrians had destroyed the Northern territory of Israel and occupied southern Israel. There was much depravity and belligerence in the city. Worship of God is not on their minds. And God calls Jonah to go to tell the Ninevites to repent of their evil or he'll destroy the city. Jonah is an Israelite. The Ninevites, some 600 miles to the east, are his enemies.

So Jonah sets off immediately right? Wrong! We've already missed the more famous part of the story by the time these readings pick-up Jonah's travels. God calls Jonah and he catches the first boat going west, to Tarshish in modern day Spain – 2,200 miles in the opposite direction! Why...? Because he's afraid? No, because he's angry! God's asking him to warn the Ninevites so they can repent and He can show them mercy. And Jonah doesn't think they deserve mercy. Jonah's not just a reluctant prophet, maybe like Moses, who doubts he has the skills needed to do God's bidding. No, Jonah doesn't want to serve God because he's annoyed.

Jonah runs away, and God sends the storm. Jonah is identified as the storm's culprit and thrown off the boat, swallowed by the fish and spat out onto the shore in Nineveh, wet and grumpy. So what does he do?... He walks thru the streets yelling, "40 days more and Nineveh will be destroyed!" The king hears it and, surprisingly, tells the people repent, and God spares the city.

The miracle is that there is a conversion at all, considering the attitude of Jonah and the lack of love in his mission. Sure, he eventually does what God asks, but he shows no concern for the people and then goes on to vent his anger to God. In the end, it's Jonah who's in need of conversion, not the Ninevites. And God shows him later that he has no right to be angry because it's not his place to choose who deserves mercy.

It's an example of how short-sighted we can all be at times. The immediate verses before today's first reading is Jonah's long prayer of thanksgiving to God for saving him from the belly of the fish. God was merciful to Jonah but it wasn't enough for Jonah to pay it forward. His heart was not converted by this experience. He still sees his relationship with God as "private." It's not a relationship that inspires him to reach out to others, that they too will experience that mercy.

Sure, Jonah does what God asks, but the end of the story reveals how Jonah still needs conversion. Jonah builds himself a hut so he can watch the outcome for the city. God continues to show him mercy, making a plant grow-up to shade Jonah from the sun, which pleases him, until God sends a worm to destroy it and Jonah begins to sulk again. He tells God he'd be better off dead. He thinks he has a right to be angry. So God finally reminds Jonah that he did nothing to receive the gift of the plant. That was all God's gracious mercy. So if Jonah can feel so aggrieved by something he did nothing to gain by merit, God Himself has every right to care what happens to the Ninevites, who He created and who have now repented of their sins.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, "This is the time of fulfillment." This is it, it's now. Time to commit. Now that the last prophet, John the Baptist has been rejected, arrested—"I'm here, Jesus is saying, "the Kingdom is here. Come follow after me. Come let the Kingdom be shown in you." When we pray, "Thy kingdom come" it's not a passive request, just calling on God for the kingdom to come to us while we sit back and wait for God to do something. It's an expression of our commitment to be a part of the mission.

On Monday at Mass I mentioned that I recently heard it put that Christ's mission for us is "to give the Gospel a footprint on earth." I really like that way of putting it. We always hearing about what kind of carbon footprint we are making with our lives and how we are impacting our world. But what kind of Gospel footprint are we leaving? Do our lives help the Gospel to have an impact? The Gospel footprint will have a more lasting effect than the carbon footprint because the Gospel points us to eternity. Let's hope our Gospel footprint is bigger than our carbon footprint.

How do we respond to the mission God calls us to? Are we Jonah, who tried everything to avoid responding to God; do we lack love for others, maybe think they are not worthy of the gospel? By avoiding the mission, do we place a limit on salvation? Or maybe we just think speaking the gospel, telling people the awesome truth about God and His mercy is just not a task meant for us? If His mercy has been for us, as it was for Jonah, then His mission is for us too as it was for Jonah. And it's for others as well.

There is a danger sometimes that those of us who are practicing our faith can look down on those who are not. But those are the people Jesus came for. He came to seek the lost—the Good Shepherd, going after the sheep in trouble.

Anyone who has come from outside the Church and experienced a conversion or re-conversion knows that God is patient and merciful and continues to call us to turn back to Him. Often He will find someone to be the guide for us—the person who introduces us to the Lord and to His merciful love. At times, we'll struggle and we all need to be that for each other. We live in a world that desperately *needs* this message. Resentment never attracts anyone to seek what we have. If God can work through a reluctant and "ticked-off" prophet like Jonah, He can surely make use of us.

If you've ever been "in the belly of the fish," so to speak, running away from God and God has pulled you out to continue His mission, then remember His mercy and pay it forward to someone else. Everything we have is God's gift and a sign of His love and commitment to us. Let's commit. Be disciples of Christ, abandon ourselves to Him, be detached from our comforts, from familiarity and comfort-zones, get caught-up in His net, the net that needs no mending.

Whatever's happening on the national and global scene, this is our mission: to make sure the Gospel is wearing big boots this year and leaves a huge, Neil Armstrong-sized footprint in our local community.

Our mission on the local scene.... simply put, to make our zip-code holy.

You are in my prayers this week.  
Fr. Andrew [adawson@sjascs.org](mailto: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  
[stjoan.church](http://stjoan.church) and on  
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First and third  
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## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 31 B

### Reading 1 – Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

### Responsorial Psalm 95

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

### Reading 2 – 1 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

### Alleluia

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel – Mark

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

January 24, 2021

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10 | 1 Cor 7:29-31 | Mk 1:14-20

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

On first hearing, Jonah's warning to the city of Nineveh seems a bit extreme for my modern ears: Get your act together in 40 days or your city will be destroyed! Yet, rather than panic or rail against him, the people believed and turned away from evil. We hear a similar theme in Mark's Gospel: "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Listening to the readings today, I hear these words not as a threat but as an invitation to get our lives back on track. We may not don sackcloth like the people of Nineveh, but we may need to fast from the distractions and skewed priorities that prevent us from loving God and one another. With the psalmist, we pray, "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior."

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I never understood why the middle-school track coach had my son, the shortest kid on the team, run hurdles. I'd shut my eyes and cringe a bit when he'd approach each one, occasionally catching his toe but fearlessly pressing forward. Sometimes the Christian life can feel that way – while I've never tried hurdles, I'm known to trip on the slightest crack in a sidewalk. Likewise, I often trip up on the path to becoming a better person – blurting out unkind words, spending more time online shopping than praying ... well, I won't make *you* cringe by oversharing my "sin list." In today's readings, the Lord invites us to repent – to turn away from bad habits and choices. By turning to the Lord, we can overcome the obstacles that hold us back from living our Gospel values and sharing them with others through the witness of our lives.

**INVITE** Through the sacrament of reconciliation, the Church offers us a standing invitation to experience God's unconditional love and mercy. Whether you go regularly or it's been awhile, consider participating in the sacrament and inviting others to do the same.

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**Pray for the Sick List:** Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at [info@sjases.org](mailto:info@sjases.org).

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# Bringing Home the Word +

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
January 24, 2021

## God's Patient Call

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Sistine Chapel fresco, *The Prophet Jonah*, is directly above *The Last Judgment*. Michelangelo chooses to depict Jonah for his theological connection to Jesus, who said, "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights" (Matthew 18:40).

Unlike Jesus, Jonah initially balks at God's call until he grudgingly accepts and preaches to the city of Nineveh. In his rebellion, he gets in a boat and goes the opposite direction from where God was calling. Eventually he was thrown

overboard and swallowed by the fish, seen painted at his side. After a three-night stomachache, the fish spewed Jonah up on the shore, back where he had started.

Jonah looks up to heaven with a weary longing, which might denote his melancholy personality. The fig tree further reinforces his weakness because it recalls the episode when Jonah lay under the fig tree in depression and lethargy.

Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, God entered Jonah's life and called him. Unlike the apostles, it took him a while to say yes. We can also be slow to respond to the invitation of God in our soul, whether in big or small things. Perhaps the attraction of the world or fear of sacrifice keeps us from saying yes. Yet his voice is constant and persistent.

Michelangelo paints Jonah dangling above *The Last Judgment* as if to subtly say, you are cordially invited to say yes to God's patient callings...while you still have time. +

*We can be slow to respond  
to the invitation of God  
in our soul, whether in big  
or small things.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

In these, our troubled times, rent by the tragedies of war and menaced by the baneful tendency to accentuate differences and to incite conflict, may the Good News that in Jesus forgiveness triumphs over sin, life defeats death, and love conquers fear, be proclaimed to the world with renewed fervor.

—Letter recognizing missionary work,  
October 22, 2017



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- What has God been calling me to do?
- Do I understand that putting off his voice is also putting off God's joy and goodness?

## Sunday Readings

### Jonah 3:1–5, 10

The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.

### 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

I tell you, brothers, the time is running out....For the world in its present form is passing away.

### Mark 1:14–20

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

# Being Authentic to God

By Kathleen M. Basi

I have a theory about nurturing faith in the family. It goes like this: If a child's faith is an integral part of his or her everyday life—not just the overtly religious parts—it will become so central to that person's identity that he or she could never leave the Church because it would mean an abandoning of self. The question is, how do you accomplish that goal?

I believe the answer is twofold: authenticity and practicality.

First Corinthians 12 exhorts us to remember that our gifts are uniquely given by God and so is our calling. In my family, nurturing the faith in an authentic and practical way means leading a choir at Mass and teaching natural family planning with the kids sitting in the room with us. It means letting them watch the news and having no-question-off-limits discussions of what they see there. It means carrying snacks in the car to give to homeless men and women, digging into piggy banks to contribute to the family's Christmas charity, and regarding conservation and recycling as signs of Godly stewardship, not just civic responsibility.

In your family, an authentic, practical application of the faith might look quite different. It's not about doing what everyone else does. It's about being authentic to the gifts residing within individual households. It's about applying the faith to every moment of every day.



This isn't just for the kids, either. Adults cannot nurture in our children what we do not possess ourselves. Conversion is a lifelong process. When Pope Francis visited the United States, for instance, he challenged Catholics as well as nonbelievers. Did we listen? Did we revisit dearly held opinions in light of our identity as Catholic Christians?

Our children need to see us engaged in an authentic search for God, one that doesn't profess to have all the answers but instead constantly seeks his will over our own limited understanding of the world. They need to see us wrestling with concepts like forgiveness and "do unto others" in the mundane interactions that

make up the vast majority of life.

In this, they mirror the adult world. The Church suffers when its members pass judgment on others while failing to recognize the ways in which our worldly biases lead us away from the Gospel. The good news is that an authentic and practical application of the faith is the key not only to the next generation of the Church but also to evangelizing the world. +

*Our children need to see us engaged in a genuine search for God.*



*Lord, you call me to do the work of God in the world. Help me to say yes to your work of peace and reconciliation.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 25–30

**Monday**, Conversion of St. Paul:  
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 / Mk 16:15–18

**Tuesday**, Sts. Timothy and Titus:  
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 3:31–35

**Wednesday**, Weekday:  
Heb 10:11–18 / Mk 4:1–20

**Thursday**, St. Thomas Aquinas:  
Heb 10:19–25 / Mk 4:21–25

**Friday**, Weekday:  
Heb 10:32–39 / Mk 4:26–34

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19 / Mk 4:35–41

  
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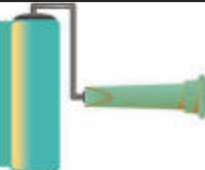
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