

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | February 7, 2021



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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5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38

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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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**
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Phone: 586-772-1282
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ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

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Fax: 586-774-5528

School

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

Religious Education

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

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Business Manager

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Associate Pastors / Weekend Assistants:

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Fr. James Grau

Assistant Principal

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Exceptional Children

Mary Cal
mcal@sjascs.org

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Deacon Tom Strasz
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Music Director

Catherine Thomas
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Youth Group

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llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org

Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth
eleonoraellero@gmail.com



PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

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

MASKS ARE MANDATORY WITHOUT EXCEPTION

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

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

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

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

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

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 OR by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

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



You call that food? As my sisters and I were helping our parents during their time in the hospital and rehab center, they both went through a period

where they couldn't or wouldn't eat solid foods. My Mom's situation was that she couldn't eat solid foods because of some soars that developed in her mouth from all the medications she was taking. My Dad's situation was that he wouldn't eat or drink most things. It became a challenge to figure out how we would get him to drink more fluids and get him nutrition since he didn't want to eat most of the foods they were giving him. Our first solution was to get chocolate and vanilla Ensure. So, I dutifully went to Kroger and bought a bunch of Ensure. When I got to Kroger that day, I was amazed to find the variety of Ensure flavors and types. I stuck to the standard vanilla and chocolate. Being convinced this was going to be THE solution for both of them, I bought a bunch of it. Given all the restrictions, I couldn't just walk into the rehab center and deliver my "goodies" to their rooms as I have always done for my Mom in the past. Instead, I had to drop it off at the front desk and then wait several hours for the stuff to be delivered to their room. So, for a couple of days, I could be found dropping off several Ensure bottles for each of them.

It then became apparent my Dad wasn't an Ensure enthusiast. After discussing this with a family friend who's a nurse, she suggested we switch to Ensure Clear. So, I dutifully went back to Kroger and found that, yes, indeed, there was clear Ensure and quite a variety of it too. Being convinced this was now going to be THE solution for our parents, I bought much more than I needed. Much like what happened with the normal Ensure, I played the game and dropped off several bottles of Ensure Clear for each of them for a couple of days. Well, it then became apparent my Dad wasn't going to be an Ensure Clear enthusiast either. Mom was a willing participant because she was hungry and couldn't eat solid foods. My Dad, however, didn't want to eat or drink much at all.

As we discussed solutions, someone suggested we get baby food. So, I dutifully made the trek to Kroger again. After I found the baby food aisle, I

became somewhat paralyzed trying to figure out what they would like given the wide variety of baby food I now found myself staring at. I was amazed the baby food aisle stretched almost a whole aisle! As I was perusing the baby food, I kept glancing to my right and left to make sure no one was starring me down. It was one thing to walk out of Kroger with Ensure. It was quite another to be caught with a bunch of baby food in my cart. What would people think? When you're a public figure and run into people in the stores, what's in your cart is noticed. I then decided the little baby food jars weren't going to work. Those jars would require my Mom's help to feed my Dad, and it would mean they needed spoons or something to get the food out of those little jars (seriously, could those jars be any smaller). I then zeroed in on what I could best describe as squirt pouches. They had a screw top, and you could squeeze the pureed food into your mouth (think of it as a wide toothpaste tube). So, being convinced this was now going to be THE solution for our parents, I bought a dozen of these Gerber products in a variety of flavors and foods. I got some vegetables and rice mixtures and then different berry and yogurt varieties. I delivered the goods and hoped they would enjoy it.

Unfortunately, my Dad didn't live long enough to try the baby food. I think my Mom tried one of the pouches, but this was all around the time my Dad died, so we never talked about it anymore. Once we "kidnapped" my Mom and brought her to the condo, all of the leftover Ensure and baby food stockpiled in their rehab room made its way back to the condo. Thankfully, it was cold outside because we put a 6-foot table in the garage just to place all the food that was appearing each day. Since I couldn't help but notice the CHOCOLATE Ensure sitting on the table, I decided to give one a try. Mikey liked it. It wasn't so bad. On another pass (and another meal), I opened a vanilla Ensure. Mikey liked it. It wasn't so bad. Since I was on a roll, I eventually tried the Ensure Clear. I didn't mind that one either. Truth be told, I was doing all this Ensure consumption secretly because I'm sure my family would have had plenty to say about me drinking that stuff.

Then came the ultimate test. One of the Gerber baby food pouches found its way into my house. Seeing it one day, I thought I would give it a try. It was a berry yogurt, and I figured it would be no different than eating, well, berry yogurt.

After unscrewing the cap, I squirted a bunch of it into my mouth. Now, let me tell you this. Have you tried baby food lately? I did what I see most babies do when forced to eat that stuff. I found myself spitting it out. IT. WAS. AWFUL. Seriously, how could you mess up on something like berry yogurt? I could see if it was a pureed apple berry spinach, but this was a berry yogurt! Ugh. I won't be buying baby food again! But then again, that's probably a good thing! Could you imagine what people would be thinking if they kept catching me with baby food in my cart!

Ash Wednesday: I don't know how this happened, but Ash Wednesday is only a week and a half away. Before you know it, Christmas will be around the corner! Ash Wednesday will look very different for us this year. Given all the COVID precautions, several traditions we've become accustomed to on Ash Wednesday will change.

First, our public masses that day will be at 7 AM, Noon, and 7 PM. The celebration of Mass will include the distribution of ashes. All of our Masses will be live-streamed.

Second, many will remember that in the past we've opened the Church for private prayer and reflection throughout the day with opportunities for people to receive ashes from a priest or deacon. This year, the Church will be opened only after the Noon Mass until the 7 PM Mass. **There will be NO DISTRIBUTION of ashes during this time.** We will have handouts with the readings of the day and prayers for you to recite. The handout and resources will also be made available electronically and emailed, and made available on the home page of our parish website.

Third, the distribution of ashes will look much different this year. We are one of the few countries in the world where ashes are imposed on the faithful's forehead in the form of a cross. In most places around the world, ashes are sprinkled on the crown of the faithful's head. This is how ashes will be distributed at SJA this year. I'll share more about Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent in my article next week.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

Ways to Give

St. Joan of Arc

Online Giving



Manage your
Online Giving account
with the app!

Download the Online Giving app
today at OLGApp.com

Donations

Payments

Give online at
stjoan.church
or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID#

4719



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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE



Everyone is aware that the year 2020 presented many unexpected and difficult situations for people, businesses, schools and church related issues. It doesn't appear that very little has not been affected by the pandemic. We continue to live with the effects of the COVID 19 virus. Many lives have been lost to it; many families have had to adjust their way of living. School students have had their classroom experience changed in many ways. Much unfamiliarity in everyday life, and life in general, has changed. Mandates have been enforced, rescinded and mandated again.. The word "adjustment" has become the norm today.

While the world continues to adjust (if that is even remotely possible at the present time), the St. Vincent DePaul Conference of St. Joan of Arc Parish, continues its work and is available to help with food and paper goods if needed by persons who reside within the boundaries of our parish. Those in need can call 586-774-3598 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. Phone calls will be retrieved and calls returned.

When calling, please state

Family Name

Address

Phone #

Number of family members in household

When calling, please speak clearly and slowly so that we are able to record correct information and return your call.

We wish to thank everyone who donated to our St. Vincent DePaul conference during the past year. Your generosity continues to support our ministry for which we are very grateful. Thank you to the SJA students, parents, and staff for the Dec. 15, 2020 Paper Products Drive. Your twice a year drives keep us re-stocked. In addition we thank the Dan McMann family & friends who for the last 10 years have supplied us with car-loads of canned and packaged dry foods. Together with donations from the school children and the McManns, we are fortunate to help many people in need from within our parish.

With sincere gratitude, we know that our loving God will bless each and every one for your goodness and sacrifice.

'Zoom and See'

Helps Single Catholic Women Discern Call to Religious Life

Are you a single Catholic woman, age 19-35, trying to discern your call in life? Are you feeling called to give your life to God? The Adrian Dominican Sisters invite you to spend the weekend with them and with other young Catholic women discerning their future.

The virtual Zoom and See for Yourself weekend is Friday and Saturday, February 12-13, 2021. It will include time for prayer, silence, faith-sharing, and fun, as well as the opportunity to learn about the life of a Sister and the Dominican life.

Please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/ADSDiscern>. For information, contact Sister Tarianne DeYonker, OP, Vocation Co-director, at tdeyonker@adriandominicans.org or call or text her at 517-920-1395.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters, a Congregation of about 500 vowed women religious and more than 200 Associates, traces its roots back to St. Dominic in the 13th century. The Sisters minister in 22 states and in the Dominican Republic, Norway, and the Philippines. The Congregation's Vision is to "seek truth, make peace, reverence life."

8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your support.

The Class of 2022 ~



*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm, Thursdays
in the Church*

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

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

Weekly Calendar of Events

Words on the Word

Monday, February 8th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, February 9th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

Wednesday, February 10th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

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

Thursday, February 11th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Friday, February 12th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, February 13th

11:00 am Reconciliation

12:00 pm Funeral of Ruth Thomas

2:00 pm Baptism of Charles Roa

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, February 14th



8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Baptism of Penelope Rutkowski

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

February 7, 2021 – Get the Lead Out

Just in case a quick list might be helpful for reference purposes:

2020 brought us the global coronavirus pandemic, civic protests and violence, a bitter election season, a deep recession, killer bees, record-setting hurricanes, wildfires ... and even the inability to enjoy evenings out or family get-togethers.

And 2021 started with a continuation of the pandemic, more civic protests and violence, and, as we saw in recent headlines, a report, covered in local media, showing elevated lead levels at eight sites in St. Clair Shores.

“Is not man’s life on earth a drudgery?” Job cries out in today’s first reading from the book of Job.

“I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me... Remember my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.”

In comparison to the tribulations faced by Job, perhaps our problems are minor. But we could hardly be blamed if we didn’t feel like that at times, especially as the bad news accumulates.

The story about the lead problem goes on to note that it impacts less than 3 percent of the city’s residents, which may be some consolation ... unless, of course, you happen to be among them.

Regardless, whether it’s lead, extreme weather, politics, COVID or any of the other challenges of the day, it might be helpful to keep in mind that God hasn’t abandoned us any more than he abandoned Job all those centuries ago.

He has our back. He holds us in the palm of his hand. Brighter days are surly ahead.

“Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted,” we say in today’s responsorial psalm. “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name.”

© 2021, Words on the Word



Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	February 8, 2021 Weekday Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin (Green/White/White)
7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for the Family and Friends of the Calisi Family
Tuesday	February 9, 2021 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Anna Lucas and a Special Intention for Antoinette Barone
Wednesday	February 10, 2021 Saint Scholastica, Virgin (White)
7:00 a.m.	Matt Hunsucker and a Special Intention for Christina McGuckin
Thursday	February 11, 2021 Weekday Our Lady of Lourdes (Green/White)
7:00 a.m.	Theresa Brazier
Friday	February 12, 2021 Weekday (Green)
7:00 a.m.	Dennis Fleming and Dennis Doherty
Saturday	February 13, 2021 Weekday BVM (Green/White)
4:00 p.m.	Bonnie Batche, Joseph Calus, Albert Czekaj, Loukas Loukopoulos and Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family and the Bugarin Family
6:00 p.m.	Maura Mallare
Sunday	February 14, 2021 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
12:00 p.m.	Bertha Conde, Michael Ciaramitaro, Nancy LaClair, George Bugarin, the deceased members of the Gaetano, Lucia Families, Averil Cottone, the deceased members of the Giroux and Carroll Families

Weekly Readings

Monday, February 8	Friday, February 12
Genesis 1:1-19 Mark 6:53-56	Genesis 3:1-8 Mark 7:31-37
Tuesday, February 9	Saturday, February 13
Genesis 1:20-2:-4a Mark 7:1-13	Genesis 3:9-24 Mark 8:1-10
Wednesday, February 10	Sunday, February 14
Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17 Mark 7:14-23	Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Mark 1:40-45
Thursday, February 11	
Genesis 2:18-25 Mark 7:24-30	



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.”

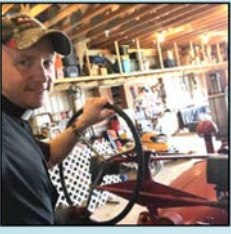
**Paul Tatti
Gene Lemanski
Mabel Thomas**

“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



Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



When the Heart Speaks: Last week I went down to the monastery of St. Bonaventure and the Solanus Casey Center. I go there pretty frequently for confession and

to spend some quiet time in prayer. It's such a beautiful place to spend an hour or so, in the very place Blessed Fr. Solanus lived and worked. But something was different there last week. I noticed it, quite unexpectedly, as soon as I walked in the door, the sense of peace there was thick and tangible in the air. I've been there many, many times before and never experienced something like that there, even though it's always a peaceful place to go. I just instantly had the thought "oh, Father Solanus is in his house today." You see the brothers walking around the facility all the time, and I could picture Fr. Solanus walking around too, greeting the visitors.

It was about 10am. I walked over to the line for confession, but there was no-one in line. The door was open and so I walked right in with no waiting. It was unusually quiet in the building that day with very few people around. After confession, I walked over to the tomb of Blessed Solanus to pray there for a moment. I had taken with me that morning intentions for the grandfather of a friend, a 103 year old man who had been diagnosed with Covid-19 and pneumonia. This gentleman had not had an easy life and had expressed a readiness to meet the Lord. As I prayed there for Fr. Solanus' intercession, the word just came out. I called Blessed Solanus, "Father." I've never called him that before. I know he was a priest and I have called him, "Fr. Solanus" or "Blessed Solanus," or "Blessed Fr. Solanus," almost as though that was all just his name. But that day, he was just "Father." He was my priest and I wanted to ask for his prayers.

I moved on and went to sit in the chapel to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Again, it was so quiet and I just knew Fr. Solanus was there. I found it really quite moving. I thought of all the people who had come to see him and talk with him and ask for his prayers. Today, I was one of them. I knew he was hearing me and I found that very consoling. I just knew in that moment that my friend's grandfather would be okay. At this moment, writing this, he is still struggling, and his family, including his 78-year-old daughter were

able to Zoom call with him so he could at least hear their voices. God may not grant him much more time in this world, but the sense I had on that day that he would "be okay" was not tied to him living or passing away. Fr. Solanus would not tell people they would live if he knew they would not. His concern was their spiritual well-being more than their physical health. The sense I had was simply that this man would soon have peace.

As I left the Monastery, I had to call my friend and tell her of my experience. When you experience God's consolation, share it!

The second consolation was that on the drive home, I drove by On the Rise Bakery and noticed it had re-opened after its Covid closure. God is good!

In these stressful and worrisome days of the pandemic, it's so important as Christians that we pay attention to the consolations of the heart. They are one way in which God makes his presence known to us—a sign of his constant presence among us and his active engagement and involvement in our lives. I recall a First Communion mass and an often mischievous 8 year-old boy receiving the Eucharist for the first time. He came back to his pew with watery eyes and told the Catechist, "I have happy tears!" From the mouths of babes, that's a consolation of the heart.

I had a conversation with someone this week who said they've never heard God's voice, but have heard other people saying that they hear God talk to them. He wondered if he was "praying right." Then he told me that whenever he prays the Act of Contrition it makes him cry. I said, "don't you think that's God speaking to you?...that God is showing you the love that you have of Him, a love that deeply affects you because you want so much to please Him?" If God means little to us, then the heart is not stirred like that at the thought of our own sin. But when the thought of having offended God moves our hearts, when the realization that confession has restored a relationship that means so much to us that it brings us to tears, God is very much speaking to us. That's a consolation of the heart.

During this time of pandemic, we are all aware of the frustrations of the heart, the many things we wish were different. But where are you finding God in all this? Are you remembering to look and to listen for Him? In a few days we shall begin

another Lenten season, but many of us may feel we have been living through Lent for almost a year now, out in the wilderness, cut-off from family and friends, unable to engage in our normal social practices, even cut-off from our ordinary practice of our faith. Last year I referred to Lent as being "the most Lenty Lent" we had ever had. Think of it as a window into the life of St. Benedict the Moor, a Franciscan Monk of the 1500s. He chose to observe 7 Lents every year throughout his life, for a total of 280 days a year spent in fasting and repentance.

Our task as faithful disciples is to find God in and amongst the challenges of this pandemic. Our normal routines have been interrupted, but our call to be disciples should still be loud and clear, maybe all the more so *because* of the challenges. Our communities need modern-day saints who are willing and prepared to step-out from the background and into wherever they find the need to serve.

Last March, a 99-year-old WWII veteran by the name of Captain Tom Moore captured the affection of people in the UK. He wanted to do what he could to help the front-line health workers, so he decided that, with his walker, he would do 80ft laps of his backyard. He hoped to complete 100 laps by his 100th birthday that April. He hoped he could raise \$1,200 in sponsorship money. By the time "Capt. Tom," as he affectionately became known, celebrated his 100th birthday, his effort had amassed \$45 million, garnered a number one hit record, and the Queen had awarded him a Knighthood and promoted him to the honorary rank of Colonel.

That simple act of charity caught the attention of the public. It's the simple acts of charity that are so much in need in our world. But think locally first. How can you share your gifts with others? What may be the most simple of acts to you can make a huge difference to someone else.

Share your gifts, share your talents, but most of all, encourage one another by sharing your faith and the ways God has spoken to you this week, this month, this year. It could make an amazing difference to someone who needs to hear it just now.

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 14 B

Reading 1 – Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

Responsorial Psalm 32

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Reading 2 – 1 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mark

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

February 7, 2021

Written by
THE
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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39

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

I remember taking my oldest son on a tour of a technical theater program at a state university. He had been considering an IT field – he’s everyone’s go-to whenever a technical issue arises. The theater professor said, “Enroll in our program only if you can’t do anything else.” The implication was clear: Choose this field if you love it so much you can’t imagine pursuing a different career. My son tried a more practical direction, but ultimately came back to theater, where he thrived! I thought of this story when listening to Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians: He preached the Gospel because he *had to* – excuse the double negative, but he could not “not” share the Good News with everyone he met! Once he encountered Jesus, he willingly devoted his life to sharing the story of love and salvation with all those whom he encountered – the weak and the powerful, rich and poor, saints and sinners. Let us pray that God helps us recapture the wonder the crowds must have felt in Jesus’ presence – wonder that compels us to share the Good News, too.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Wherever you happen to live, imagine “the whole town gathered at the door.” Even in the smallest of villages, that would be a big deal! So it was with Jesus, where crowds seemed to follow him wherever he went, wanting to catch a glimpse of this carpenter’s son who cured the sick and drove out demons. When the disciples found him off by himself, praying, and told him “everyone is looking for you,” Jesus tells them they need to move on to nearby villages. I sense an urgency in Mark’s account of Jesus’ movements, showing Jesus as compelled to reach as many people as possible during his public ministry. As I hear this, I think how easy it is for us Catholics to remain in our comfort zones – whether a favorite pew, the same core group of “parish friends,” or even sticking with one ministry or one Mass time. But, as Jesus shows us, preaching the Good News – witnessing to the power of God in our lives – means we cannot stand idly by. We must share this news.

WITNESS What if we tried to emulate Jesus, albeit in a small way, by reaching beyond our “circles” to greet someone new at our parish, volunteer for the first time or in a different way, or – yes – sit in a different spot! In doing so, we can challenge ourselves to “stretch” a bit and welcome others into our world.



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Ted Barthel
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Giovanna Foresta
Nora Anne Francis
Jim Frank
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Sylvia Gentile
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Fern Pascany
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Laura Rizzo-Andela
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Janine Tomasello
Eileen Wallace
Audrey Weekley
William Woodruff
Chuck Wolschlagier
Helen Wrynn
Thomas Ziolkowski



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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

February 7, 2021

Offering the Gospel to All

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

If you asked Jesus what he did while on earth, I believe he would say, “preached and healed.” Those were his missions. He had good news to share and a longing to convince his listeners of the truth of this gospel of love and freedom. He was moved because he saw them like sheep without a shepherd. The Gospels are nothing other than documentation of Jesus’ efforts to preach the gospel.

Paul shared Christ’s ardor. He was entrusted with preaching to the Gentiles the truth of the Gospel, and he did all he could to convince them of his message.

He says he became all things to all, to save at least some. He worked hard during the day so he could pay his own way and offer his message for free. He adapted himself to his audience—their customs and ways of thinking—so they wouldn’t take offense at him, closing their hearts to his message.

How many missionaries have used this same approach? Just think of the French Jesuits Sts. Jean de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues of the Great Lakes region, St. Junípero Serra in the West, or Mother Cabrini serving European immigrants on the East Coast. They learned new languages, ate new foods, and adopted new traditions to insert themselves into these cultures and share the gospel. They took a page out of Paul’s book, becoming all things to all to save at least some.

We are modern-day apostles and missionaries. Let’s take a page out of Paul’s book, and offer this gospel of hope and love to so many souls in need. +

Sunday Readings

Job 7:1–4, 6–7

Is not life on earth a drudgery, / its days like those of a hireling?

1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22–23

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me.

Mark 1:29–39

[Jesus said,] “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

*Paul adapted himself
to his audience’s customs
and ways of thinking
so they wouldn’t take
offense at him.*

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus sends his disciples out to all nations....We too were part of all those people of two thousand years ago. Jesus did not provide a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving his message and his presence. Instead, he always embraced life as he saw it.

—Canonization of Fr. Junípero Serra, September 23, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When you look around, what needs for the gospel of love do you see?
- Which of these needs can you fill as Jesus’ apostle?

In the Divine Potter's Hands

By Johan van Parys

My father was a great storyteller. Every night he read from the Bible. He had the talent to depict biblical scenes in such a way that we could see them unfold in our minds' eyes.

I clearly remember the night he read the creation story to us. Though I loved all the other stories, I was mostly intrigued by the creation of Adam. I visualized God collecting the clay before lovingly molding Adam and blowing life into him. This image of God as primordial potter molded and shaped *me* as well.

There is something wholesome, something sacred, about pottery. Pottery is about clay, and clay is about soil—in Adam's case, primordial soil.

Pottery, of course, is not only about clay; it also bears the imprint of the potter's hands. A potter takes the clay and judges its quality and its consistency. She carefully places a lump of clay on the potter's wheel and starts spinning it. She works the clay with her skillful hands as the undefined mass of clay takes shape, never giving up on the clay, starting over until she is pleased with the result.

As every cup bears the imprint of its maker's hands, so each member of the human race bears the imprint of the Divine Potter's hands. But unlike a cup, which can't be changed once it's fired, humans can be reshaped. God shaped humans in his own image, and he continues to mold and remold us.



In the sacred liturgy, we're molded and remolded by God; this is our time to worship and God's time to shape.

During the celebration of the liturgy, God molds us into the Body of Christ. The liturgy is the divine hands, and we are the clay. Sunday after Sunday, we're shaped and reshaped. In liturgy upon liturgy, God focuses and refocuses us on what is right. During our ongoing catechesis, we have the opportunity to learn more about what God has in mind for us as it is revealed to us through Scripture and Tradition. The goal, of course, is to go into the world and do what is right in the eyes of God.

Any potter knows it's difficult to

create the perfect shape and that it takes a long time to get it just right. Similarly, becoming a good Christian isn't an easy task. It takes a lifelong commitment to celebrate the liturgy and to engage in learning so we can live a truly Christian life. However, thanks to God's persistence and unfailing commitment to keep shaping and reshaping us, one day we'll be molded into perfect shape as members of the Body of Christ. +

Unlike a cup, which can't be changed once it is fired, humans can be reshaped.



*Lord, you hear the cry of the poor.
Hear my cry for inner peace and happiness.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 8–13

Monday, Weekday:

Gn 1:1–19 / Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday, Weekday:

Gn 1:20–2:4a / Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday, St. Scholastica:

Gn 2:4b–9, 15–17 / Mk 7:14–23

Thursday, Weekday:


Gn 2:18–25 / Mk 7:24–30

Friday, Weekday:

Gn 3:1–8 / Mk 7:31–37

Saturday, Weekday:


Gn 3:9–24 / Mk 8:1–10

Bringing Home
the Word 
February 7, 2021

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
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