



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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12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!"
The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them,
"Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" - Mk 4:39-40

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

GLPI

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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

Kathy Kalich
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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
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Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org

Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth
eleonoraellero@gmail.com



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

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

Holy Day Masses

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

Reconciliation

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

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

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

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center 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 inde-
pendent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our
records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to
register at your earliest opportunity.

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

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

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

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

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

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



Havin' a Conversation:
Okay, I think I can squeeze one more story out of my recent cemetery adventures!

Last Friday, in between our errands, my mom and I stopped by the cemetery to check on our flowers. I'm happy to report that the "Better Homes and Gardens" showcase cemetery plots above our family section continue to look awesome. They're still in first place! Our family section, however, is having some major issues! My mom and I can't get it. My dad's flowers look great, but the flowers at the other family graves look rather pathetic. It's maddening given all the time we've spent trying to create the "Better Homes and Gardens" cemetery section. All we've got is something that looks like a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree! ARGH!

As my mom and I were trying to demystify the conundrum of how five identical planter boxes, with identical plants, identical dirt, identical watering can go from somewhat awesome (my dad's planter) to pathetic, I tried to convince my mom we still needed to go out and get some mulch. But she wasn't buying my idea. Her biggest excuse was that ANY project I declare would take only an hour usually lasts all afternoon. She had a point! And, we didn't have all afternoon! So, we decided we would water the flowers, say our prayers, and then take off for lunch.

I took our water cans and started to head over to the spigot. Now our plots are in the middle of the section and the spigots are about 175 feet from the graves (no surprise, I walked it off to see how much hose I would need if I ever wanted to use a hose). As I was walking away, one of the cemetery groundskeepers started to trim the bushes at the nearby monument of the saints. He was generating a bunch of noise from using his hedge trimmers, but I heard some loud talking, almost as if someone was talking to me or shouting for me over the noise of the hedge trimmers. I turned around and all I saw was my mom, but her head was pointed to the ground. I thought maybe I was imagining the loud talking, but I heard it again, turned around, and all I saw was my mom. The talking was rather muffled because it was being drowned out from the hedge trimmers. I continued on my merry little way and filled both of my

watering cans with water (I now have my watering excursions down to a science).

Once I got back to the graves, I asked my mom if she heard the commotion of someone talking rather loudly. I mentioned I initially thought she was trying to get my attention, but when I turned around, I just saw her head bowed down as if she was looking at the graves, so I figured it wasn't her. I then thought maybe I was hearing things, and the sound from the hedge trimmers was just creating enough noise to make me THINK I was hearing a human.

My mom then started to laugh. "NO, that was ME," she piped up. "What was going on," I asked. "I was giving your dad THE BUSINESS! I was telling him I was irked that he left me and that I didn't like the mess he left us. We were supposed to have all this stuff organized and figured out before either one of us died. He NEEDED to know how I felt. So, I GAVE IT to him!" I just laughed and said, "GO at it, MOM!" "But then I assured him I was doing okay and that he didn't need to worry at all because I was doing LOTS of praying ... in fact, more praying on a daily basis than I've ever done in my whole life ... and was painting birdhouses and spending his hard-earned money. I'm. Doing. Okay. In spite of it all!"

"Well," I thought to myself, "too bad her voice was being drowned out from the noise of the hedge trimmers. I would have LOVED to have heard that WHOLE conversation! Poor Dad!" Then I thought to myself further, "Can you imagine how many conversations like that go on EVERY day at a cemetery! Yikes. Maybe the hedge trimmers and landscaping equipment are God's white noise generators precisely for cemeteries!"

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! At their national convention years ago, the Knights of Columbus launched a great website on fatherhood that I encourage all dads to visit. Located at fathersforgood.org, the site offers men of all ages invaluable information and insight to assist them to excel in their vocation of fatherhood. The authors of the site remind us that a Father is: 1) a work in progress, 2) called by God the Father, and 3) "an ordinary man who is called and equipped to do extraordinary things from day to day – work, provide, protect, pray, get involved with his family and be there as an example for his children and to be faithful to his wife."

Located on the site is a great interview entitled, "You Can Keep Your Kids

Catholic. Here's How ..." with Patrick Madrid. Patrick is a Catholic author, public speaker, and the host of the daily "Patrick Madrid Show" on Relevant Radio and online. He and his wife Nancy have 11 children and 27 grandchildren. The full article can be found at bit.ly/KeepKidsCatholic.

The article starts by saying, "There are very few things a father can give his children that will last forever – the latest iPod, a trust fund and even a college education are good only for this lifetime. But there are some eternal gifts that a dad should be very careful to pass on. They are love, and the greatest expression of love that is found in death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is, the Catholic faith." Patrick continues, "We cannot underestimate the importance of parental good example when considering what Catholic parents can and should do to help foster a lively faith in God and love for the Church in the hearts of their children. There is a great and powerful effect when mom and dad themselves live out as best they can their own love for God, in a visible but not ostentatious way, through their prayer, piety, and sacramental life.... Children need firm guidance and good example from their youngest years so that they will grow straight and "upright" in their knowledge of and love for God. So, the combined benefit of good example from mom and dad, as well as clear and purposeful handing on of the truths of the faith is essential."

When speaking specifically about the importance of fatherhood, Patrick concludes, "Fatherhood is a great joy and a great privilege, but we must never forget that it is also a great and awesome responsibility given to us by God the Father. As a Catholic father, ask yourself what greater joy could you possibly have than to pass on the riches of the Catholic Faith as a permanent, priceless inheritance to your children. If they have their Catholic faith and a true love for God, they have everything. And they will eventually rejoice with you in heaven, thanking God and thanking *you* for the ineffable fatherly gifts that you bestowed on them. That is your mission as a father. That and nothing less."

Happy Father's Day!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjasc.org

St. Joan^{of} Arc

Online Giving



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today at OLGApp.com

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4719





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.

SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

Make all your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile!

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



Can Tab Recycling

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

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

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

Frank Poeschel at 586-776-8746.



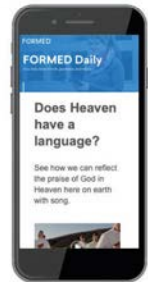
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8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

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 graduation events.

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.



*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

Monday, June 21st

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, June 22nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, June 23rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, June 24th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, June 25th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral Mass for Katherine Pollock

Saturday, June 26th

10:00 am Baptism of Rosalie Gamalski

11:00 am Reconciliation

1:00 pm McCrary and Walny Wedding

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, June 27th

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

June 20, 2021 – Feeling Secure

Cybersecurity, or the security surrounding our increasingly digital world, is an ever-increasing concern.

Back in the “good old days,” we might only have been worried about relatively simple things like our desktop computer being exposed to a virus and causing some inconvenience. Back then, an off-the-shelf piece of software usually took care of things.

Now, our personal computers are only the beginning. In the workplace and, increasingly, on a large-scale infrastructure basis, we hear stories of cyberattacks that did – or could have – caused massive disruption.

Consider the east coast oil pipeline cyberattack. And the cyberattack on the world’s largest beef processor. And just a couple weeks ago, media reported on a plot – thankfully unsuccessful – to disrupt the New York subway system. That one was allegedly found to be connected to a hostile foreign government.

But regardless of the perpetrator or the underlying intent, clearly there is an ongoing threat to the peacefulness of the day-to-day lives of people in all corners of the world. It’s the kind of thing that, if we’re not on guard, could lead to a sense of fear or hopelessness since there’s little to nothing we, as individuals, can do to impact the situation.

And so it comes down to putting our trust in professionals who deal with these matters.

All of which is an apt metaphor for the way in which we, as vulnerable humans, must put our faith in God to help us through the storms of life, as we hear in today’s gospel passage from St. Mark, in which the storm came upon the disciples’ boat.

“(Jesus) woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Quiet! Be still,’” we hear in the passage. “The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, ‘Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?’”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday June 21, 2021 Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious (White)

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Ciccone and a Special Intention for Samuel Baur

Tuesday June 22, 2021 Weekday, Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Saint John Fisher, Bishop; and Thomas More, Martyrs (Green/White/Red)

7:00 a.m. Edie Marchiori, Irene Troia and a Special Intention for Christine Bugarin

Wednesday June 23, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Rachel and Joseph Allemon and Katarina Marie Goitz

Thursday June 24, 2021 The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (White)

7:00 a.m. Lucille Bugarin and Fr. Charles DeSantis

Friday June 25, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Kevin Brys and a Special Intention for Wayne Pepper

Saturday June 26, 2021 Weekday, BVM (Green/White)

4:00 p.m. Bonnie Batchee, Herbert Joseph Daniel, Nancy and Ben Evola, Barbara Rabion, Albert Anthony Biondo, Irene and Joseph Fontecchio, George Petroff, Paul Johnson, Harriet Tiahnybik, Allen Laturno and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, the J. Champine Family, the Jump Family, Hania Filipowicz, and for Mr. and Mrs. James Belloli on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

6:00 p.m. Lucy and Frank Nagy

Sunday June 27, 2021 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

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

10:00 a.m. Andy Ferguson

12:00 p.m. Virginia and Richard Robinette, Herbert Thelen, Kenneth A. Smith, the deceased members of the Pasquale Urso Family, Charlotte and Lewis McQuillan, and Special Intentions for Cathy Spindler and for Barbara and Arthur Lawrence on their 71st Wedding Anniversary.

Weekly Readings

Monday, June 21

Genesis 12:1-9
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday, June 22

Genesis 13:2, 5-18
Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 23

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Matthew 7:15-20

Thursday, June 24

Isaiah 49:1-6
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80

Friday, June 25

Genesis 17:1, 9-10
Matthew 8:1-4

Saturday, June 26

Genesis 18:1-15
Matthew 8:5-17

Sunday, June 27

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43



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.”

Marianne Rice

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

Minnie Louise Haskins



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



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

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

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

We hope that you can join us!

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



Riding the Waves: There's a stormy theme to this Sunday's readings. The Lord reminds us in the Book of Job that no matter the intensity of the storm, it shall pass.

God knows the limits of our tolerance and they will not overcome us. With Him at our side, the storms do not destroy but renew. The Gospel is one of my favorite passages, which appears in all four gospels. It's the scene I used on my ordination card, painted by Rembrandt.



The disciples are on the Sea of Galilee and are alarmed by the strength of the storm. Meanwhile, Jesus sleeps in the boat. They wake Him, asking why He doesn't appear to care that they are about to perish. And Jesus questions their faith. They call Him "Teacher." They still have not reached a level of understanding Jesus as the Savior and Master. What they saw as a threat, Jesus, still among them, was able to sleep through because it was not troubling to Him. It's not that He didn't care, but that that the storm was not a concern. Jesus has the situation well in hand so that He is able to sleep in peace. When He is awoken, He commands the storm and calms the seas. He rebukes the waves and orders them to be quiet, just as He had the evil spirit (Mark 1:25). The command by Jesus to "Be quiet" removes all power from the evil spirit, as it does here from the sea. Jesus shows that He has total command over the storm. All the disciples need to do is to learn to trust that when they stay close to Jesus, the storms that come from outside the boat, which is an ancient image of the Church, will not overcome them.

St. Padre Pio wrote about this gospel story: "Stay in the boat in which the Lord has placed you, and let the storm come. You will not perish. It appears to you that Jesus is sleeping, but let it be so. Don't you know that if He sleeps, His heart watches vigilantly over you?"

We also experience these storms in life, sometimes in the circumstances of life -our health, our families, our jobs, our finances, any number of worries and concerns. Sometimes the storms come from within - our anxieties and insecurities. No matter what, never try to ride out the storm alone. If Jesus is allowing the storm: 1.) He knows about it, and 2.) Remember that He's riding it out with you. You are not alone, but if Jesus is allowing it and appears not to have commanded it to stop yet, it shows that He's not concerned for your safety. He is calmly watching over you and you will not perish. Stay in the boat with Him. Notice in the image that it's those closest to Jesus who appear the safest. Those trying to man-handle the sails themselves are the ones on the edge of the boat, furthest from Jesus, most at risk from the waves. Stay in the boat! Calmer days *will* come.

Storms are as much a part of nature as the calm sunny days. I didn't grow up on the water, but 3 times in my life I have been closer to large falling trees than I ever wanted to be. It's easy to assume that trees only fall in the forest when nobody is looking. Not true!! When a storm takes down a rotten or dying tree, we might think it's a natural cycle of regeneration. The forest continually is renewed as the old trees are cleared out and more light is able to reach the new saplings. I've seen how an old mature forest that had been all but abandoned by the deer will return when the forest is partially cleared. Now there is new growth that the deer can reach and can feed on and insects that will take up residence in the fallen trees. So, too, can the storms clear out of our lives what needs to be cleared out and offer us a new lease on life and new opportunities. Maybe we have to ride the waves for a while to learn that with Jesus we can endure this for a time, and that when the time is right, Jesus will carry us through to calmer waters. Maybe the future looks impossible from the middle of the storm, but stay in the boat! Jesus is not troubled, neither should you be. Remember how clear the air feels after a storm.

Garden Update: So to my original vegetable garden I added cantaloupe a few weeks ago, planted in the ground. Recently a selfish squirrel dug-up two of the three clusters of seeds, leaving just one plant to sprout. I was also suffering from carrot flies in my planter box, an affliction that early-planted carrot crops is particularly susceptible to. The flies themselves won't destroy the carrots, but they lay eggs and the larvae will burrow down into the soil

and tunnel out the carrots. So I put a fine netting over both crops. That could only stay so long, though—the cucumbers and cantaloupe needed to pollinate. So I removed the netting. But how to keep the squirrels away? I used to have a plastic owl, but alas, no longer.... So I went to the closest I had available.....



Seems to be working. But the carrots? That's another story. I am now on the look-out for the culprit that got into my carrots!



All looked well, until I noticed a hole dug in the soil and a couple of green shoots lying on the surface with tiny would-be carrots attached. I'm sure they didn't climb out by themselves. And then I saw it! On the ground, under the planter box... the thief had left a trail of evidence, a clue to his identity. He's not as smart as he thinks. I will be asking Msgr. to check the security cameras, but if you see a squirrel sucking on Werther's Originals, please let me know immediately. He has my carrots!



You are in my prayers this week (except you, Mr. Squirrel! - he's obviously reading these updates)

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.



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 27 B

Reading 1 – Wisdom

God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being; and the creatures of the world are wholesome, and there is not a destructive drug among them nor any domain of the netherworld on earth, for justice is undying. For God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who belong to his company experience it.

Responsorial Psalm - 30

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Reading 2 – 2 Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also.

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. Not that others should have relief while you are burdened, but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their needs, so that their abundance may also supply your needs, that there may be equality. As it is written: *Whoever had much did not have more, and whoever had little did not have less.*

Gospel – Mark

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to Jesus, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by

the hand and said to her, "*Talitha kum*," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

June 20, 2021

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 38:1, 8-11 | 2 Cor 5:14-17 | Mk 4:35-41

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

A number of editorials, blog posts, and other commentaries of late have declared “languishing” as the “mood,” or dominant emotion, of 2021. This is not depression, but rather a series of emotions that wear away at our sense of purpose and belonging. Those who languish experience apathy and a lack of motivation, all while participating in the daily activities of life. Yes, I said to myself, that’s it exactly! After the craziness of these last 15 months ... I think these writers are on to something! Therefore, I am particularly moved by God’s providence and grace in providing an antidote to the emptiness of languishing in today’s Scriptures. In the second reading, Paul writes with such urgency that “the love of Christ impels us” to live not for ourselves, but for the sake of Christ who died for all. The word “impel” differs from “compel,” because it implies a strong moral force *from within*. And in the Gospel, we see that for Christians, that inner force springs from faith, a faith that can endure both the violent squalls of life and the sense of being adrift that we can’t always put our finger on. Like Paul, our faith impels us to refocus our lives on our love of Christ and others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It occurs to me that we Catholics have myriad opportunities to avail ourselves of those graces, and to strengthen our faith. Languishing can be replaced with flourishing, and a recapturing of the knowledge of who we belong to: the Lord. Praying for others during Mass, reading and discussing a spiritual book with a friend, volunteering at a soup kitchen or shelter, offering to help drive refugees or senior citizens to medical appointments, or participating in a young (or older) adult parish activity – these are all actions that empty us of apathy and fill us with gratitude. The pandemic has been tragic, and terrifying, and life-altering. But God remains steadfast. We will face our share of storms, but we can rest assured that Jesus is our anchor as we move forward in faith.

PRAY Feeling blah? Re-read Paul’s letter (2 Cor 5:14-17) and ask God to help you remember that you are God’s beloved – with dignity, value, and purpose. Trust that “whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”



“PEACE! BE STILL!”

Getty Images/Christine Kohler

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

As we look at our lives and world events, do we ever find ourselves wondering if God is sleeping? After all, maybe God's patient, unconditional love has run its course and He is finally fed up with humanity's reluctance to accept the truth about who we are. God really can't be that patient! All throughout human history, many have prayed to God for intervention or for particular needs. Because their prayers were not answered in the way they wanted or anticipated, they felt that God may have abandoned them. Were they right? It seems that we are continuing, at a rapid rate, down a path of destruction. Do you not care, God, that we may be perishing? When the boats of our lives are rocking and the seas tumultuous, we want to know that we have God's attention. Even more so, we want God's intervention.

Maybe the storms and the waves are necessary. If we listen, they can teach us valuable lessons. Without them, we would never learn that we have the strength to endure, understand the uselessness of fear and worry, or develop the ability to really trust. If God immediately rushed in and simply calmed things down before they got difficult, what good would that really be? We



would miss opportunities to learn how to drink more deeply of life, treasure its complexity, irony, and beauty and fully engage ourselves in surrendering to the love of our Creator. It is easy to walk on the surface of life without immersing ourselves in its messiness. Life has to burn its way through us in order to bring us to a place of secure trust. It's unfortunate that some prefer a shallower journey.

That's the balancing act that comes with faith. It is not God's job to prevent us from encountering the torrential rains and winds of life. Many believe that if faith is done the right way, that God will provide

for smooth sailing. That's not how it works. God permits us to ride out the difficult stuff knowing that the storm will eventually be calmed. Do we not have faith that God will do this? True faith trusts in the steadfastness of God's love when the seas are calm and when they are choppy. God's unconditional loving presence shines through all of it and endures forever. Knowing this allows us to put our boats out into uncharted waters without hesitation. Knowing that we prefer the comfort and safety of what we know to be still waters, how do we feel when Jesus says, "Let us cross to the other side"?

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" - Mk 4:38c-39, 41

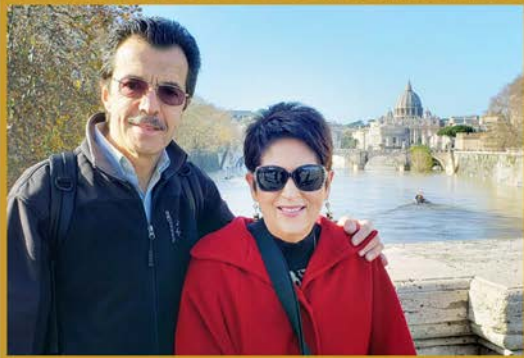
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Bringing Home the Word +

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

June 20, 2021

Security from Life's Storms

By Mary Katharine Deeley

My brother, sister, and I learned to sail when we were young. Of all the lessons we had, the one I remember nearly verbatim was "Signs of an Approaching Storm." I can reel off the list as though it were yesterday: dark, low, fast-moving clouds; a sudden shift in wind direction and velocity; a sudden change in temperature.

To this day, when I experience any of these things, I close windows and make sure everything is inside. I think the apostles who were seasoned fishermen must have had similar training, and I have often wondered why they just didn't

make for shore when they noticed the signs. But then I remember that some storms move in very quickly and, if you are in the middle of the sea, you can't make it to shore easily. The apostles may have decided to ride it out and then realized they could not.

It must have struck the apostles as odd that Jesus was peacefully asleep while they battled rising water and fierce wind. They were afraid of losing their lives. When they woke Jesus up, Scripture says that he "rebuked" the wind and the sea. The same word is used when Jesus casts out demons. The result is peace—at least on the sea or in the person who is possessed.

But for the disciples and for us, the act inspires awe and not a little anxiety: "Who then is this?" The answer unfolds for us throughout the Gospels. Jesus is Lord over the wind and sea, over all creation, and over us as well. In storm or calm, he brings his peace and shows us God's glory. +

*Jesus is Lord over
the wind and sea,
over all creation,
and over us as well.*

A Word from Pope Francis

Do not be afraid of migrants. Migrants are those who always bring us richness.... Today there is the temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land.... And those who raise a wall, who build a wall, will end up a slave within the walls he has built, without horizons.

—Dialogue with teachers and students, April 6, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you try to ride out life's storms alone, rather than asking Jesus in prayer to help you?
- When stormy times enter your life, do you have faith that Jesus will bring you peace?

Sunday Readings

Job 38:1, 8–11

Who shut within doors the sea, /
when it burst forth from the womb?

2 Corinthians 5:14–17

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away.

Mark 4:35–41

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm.

What Kind of Christian Are You?

By Kathleen M. Basi

In my freshman year of high school, I attended a talk hosted by an evangelical youth group. The topic was about “almost-ers”—people who weren’t quite good enough to get into heaven and who would therefore burn in hell forever.

I was fourteen! It terrified me! Who is ever good enough? Unfortunately, Christians often default to fear tactics in trying to spread the Gospel. Fire and brimstone can shock the complacent into an examination of conscience. What we do with that self-knowledge, however, is another matter. If our motivation for change is based on the fear of hell, it’s not likely to withstand the test of time. A quick tour of the Old Testament makes that clear. When Israel was afraid, the people turned to God. When the danger passed, the best intentions couldn’t keep them on track.

God wanted more for us. As John 3:17 says, “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” Jesus came to show us what God’s love really looks like when it mixes with frail humanity. It looks like the cross—like torture and suffering and self-emptying. But it also looks like resurrection.



The call to discipleship is a call to die to self, yes, but also to rise and live in love. Christ is risen, and true discipleship manifests in a desire to reflect God’s likeness in the world. Discipleship calls us to a love of God and neighbor that is so powerful it sends shock waves rippling through our communities.

Each day, we have a choice to make: Am I going to be a Christian who goes to church on Sunday to meet the minimum requirements for avoiding hell? Or am

I going to be a Christian whose longing for God reimagines and reshapes my ordinary, unexceptional life? Will I be a Christian who sees in every natural disaster the wrath of God, come down to punish sinful humanity? Or will I be one whose love for God spills over into action to ease the suffering of my neighbor?

When I become that person, I will no longer have the time, energy, or the need to worry about whether I’m “good enough” for heaven. +



*Lord, you bring compassion
and peace to a fragile world.
Strengthen my faith and help
me trust your presence.*

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

Is your motivation for change based on fear or faith?

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 21–26

Monday, St. Aloysius Gonzaga:
Gn 12:1–9 / Mt 7:1–5

Tuesday, Weekday:
Gn 13:2, 5–18 / Mt 7:6, 12–14

Wednesday, Weekday:
Gn 15:1–12, 17–18 / Mt 7:15–20

Thursday, Nativity of St. John the Baptist:
Is 49:1–6 / Acts 13:22–26 / Lk 1:57–66, 80

Friday, Weekday:
Gn 17:1, 9–10, 15–22 / Mt 8:1–4

Saturday, Weekday:
Gn 18:1–15 / Mt 8:5–17


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