



*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 ~*

## PARISH CENTER

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## TALLer Tales

**Waiting in Line!** At the end of the first day of Synod 16, I strategically sat in a location so I could make a beeline to the hotel lobby to claim my car and begin my journey home. It was already a long day and the last thing I wanted to do was to wait in a long line to get my car. Originally, I wanted to park my car in a normal garage near the Westin Book Cadillac but I decided last minute that I'd go against my instincts and simply use valet parking since it was free for Synod members. But being thrifty doesn't always have its rewards as I quickly found out. My strategic move to sit near the main doors wasn't so successful because many others had the same idea; many of us made the mad dash from the ballroom after night prayer. I found plenty of company practically running down the escalator in order to make our way to the valet window. As a whole group of maybe thirty of us approached the valet window, a kind valet attendant took all of our valet stubs and stacked them in her hand. We all thought this was going to be a breeze. After turning in my ticket, I joined my friends under the front portico as we waited for our vehicles. Eventually the portico filled to capacity with waiting people; at this point there probably had to be some 100 happy and talkative Synod 16 members waiting for their vehicles. The valet staff was doing their best but it was obvious they were grossly understaffed to handle the large crowd all at once. At first, the size of the growing crowd didn't bother me because I knew I was one of the first to hand in my ticket. But then I grew weary because I saw the valet people walk out with wicker baskets of keys and I (and others) figured our keys were now at the bottom of the pile. Again, thankfully, we had an awesome experience thus far and so the lively conversations kept our minds occupied. After about 45 minutes of waiting, the novelty of rehashing the awesome first day was growing old. We were running out of topics to talk about. At this point, I was growing rather impatient. I was tired, hungry and simply wanted to get to bed (I think you get the picture of how I felt). My normal happy self was getting more and more frustrated because I was seeing people who arrived after me getting their cars ahead of the original group. The grumbling continued to mount. At this point I took a call from Monsignor Hogan who wanted to know how long I ended up waiting for my car. When I shared the happy news I was still waiting, he joyfully declared he was already inside his rectory. He then suggested I follow his example and park in a garage the following day. I just rolled my eyes. I then saw Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway, a parishioner who teaches at the seminary, get into her car; she arrived far after me. At this point, which was now almost an hour and ten minutes after I turned in my valet ticket, I saw Fr. Andrew from St. Clare of Montefalco walk out into the waiting crowd. He joyfully shared that he and his staff member walked over to Campus Martius, looked at the trees that were lit just a few hours prior and even stopped and had a glass of wine with other Synod members who were gathered in the hotel lobby. Hearing how he and others spent the last hour, I glanced over at a few people, including our own Deacon Tom (who was also part of the original thirty) and gave "the look" that I was now irritated and that something was officially wrong. I'm not sure why it took me so long to get to this point but I "blame" it on the extraordinarily grace-

filled first day of the Synod. Yes, it did have an impact ... I lasted over 70 minutes in a valet line before getting really frustrated. I wouldn't necessarily call it a miracle but I certainly had much more patience than normal that night. I then decided to take charge and walk over to the Valet Office. The crowd at this point had thinned out significantly. But the original thirty were still hanging around. I glanced at my ticket stub number and I started to scour the board of remaining keys. Much to my amazement, my keys were still on the board! UGH! I wanted to scream! I then called Deacon Tom over and we found that his keys were still on the board. I then made an announcement outside to the original thirty about our plight. At first, the original thirty found it hard to believe that our keys were still hanging on the board. But as our cars started to appear, even the skeptics began to believe. My car finally arrived and I was happy to head home. If I wasn't in such a public place, I would have done a happy dance aka Fr. Gerry style. As I think about it, had I done that happy dance the Synod would have worked a miracle! My wait was over and I was happy to be heading home.

**Synod 16:** The tenth synod to take place in the history of the Archdiocese of Detroit was a phenomenal experience. From start to finish (apart from the valet debacle) it was so extraordinary. The Holy Spirit was truly at work in and through everyone who participated in this long anticipated event. Through the extraordinary and diligent work of now Archbishop Byrnes and his team, every detail of Synod 16 that had been carefully planned was successfully implemented. You could feel the work of the Holy Spirit in the air as we processed from the Westin Book Cadillac to St. Aloysius Church singing "Come Holy Ghost" for the opening mass. It was a moving experience to be in the same room and church with so many people of all ages and from every corner of the Archdiocese for a single purpose: to help Archbishop Vigneron determine what needed to be done in the Archdiocese of Detroit to deepen peoples personal relationship with Jesus AND to determine how we could "unleash the Gospel" in order to build a band of joyful disciples for Jesus Christ.

As noted by many, every aspect of Synod 16 was steeped in prayer. We prayed in common and at our tables. I was so impressed with the table conversations as we debated and discussed the many proposals we were asked to consider. We looked at it from four distinct "lenses:" 1) Individuals, 2) Families, 3) Parishes and 4) Central Services.

Archbishop Vigneron's discernment in considering the various proposals for moving forward will most likely involve a radical recommitment to Christ for every person in the Archdiocese of Detroit. As he noted, our efforts should be more personal than pragmatic because all of this is about Jesus and our relationship to him.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org



## My Experience with Synod 16 by Kathryn Wotta

I was humbled and excited to be invited and accepted as a member of Synod 16. When I was asked to submit my application, I felt very strongly about participating because the focus of the synod is something that is dear to my heart. The theme of Synod 16 is the New Evangelization, to help make us all a joyful band of missionary disciples to Unleash the Gospel as Jesus commanded us to do. Everyone should learn more about the faith, appreciate what it is all about, know that the Holy Spirit is working in your life, and most of all, grow closer to God through a relationship with Jesus. Archbishop Vigneron stated, "God wants His world back."

The synod gathered November 18-20 to complete the work that started three and a half years ago. Ideas from Parish Gatherings from around the archdiocese were gathered and written into proposals that members, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, discussed and voted to suggest which ones the Archdiocese of Detroit should implement first. The proposals were in four categories: Individual, Family, Parishes, and Archdiocesan Central Services.

What an exciting time as over 400 Catholics from every parish in our archdiocese joined together to discuss and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading our archdiocese. We were divided into groups to discuss the propositions. We had robust discussions. We didn't always agree on certain points in our discussions, and there were times the discussions got lively, but it was because we were so

passionate about the topics. The most passionate discussions in my group were when we talked about family and school children. We worked hard to make sure our thoughts were stated so that we could make a positive impact on the future of our faith in the archdiocese. The big focus was how it all starts with a relationship with Jesus.

We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit all around us. I feel the most moving part of the weekend was the atmosphere. It was a room full of Catholics on fire for our faith with the desire to encourage the spread of the Gospel message. And I know that for each one of those members present, there are many more back in their parishes who are also excited about the faith. That idea was very moving to me. As we went through the weekend, I could feel the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in big and small ways. There were times when I knew God intervened. Everyone seemed comfortable to sit down next to a stranger and start a conversation about our faith. The love in the room was palpable. It was all very spiritually uplifting. We ended the weekend with the charge to continue the mission. The work of Synod 16 has just begun.

Miscellaneous thoughts and observations: Opening Mass was moving as we pledged our fidelity to the Church and all that it teaches. We walked to Mass joyfully singing Come Holy Ghost through the hotel and street. God put me by people He wanted me to sit by (one woman, whom I've never met, works in the building next to me

with some of the same children I work with). Everyone singing the songs throughout the weekend with great vigor. The artwork of Jesus as the backdrop of our main stage was beautiful. Friendships built, connections made, ideas shared for the synod, parish, and personal. The many people filled the large ballroom. Archbishop Vigneron is a really good man devoted to enlightening our archdiocese. He gave us his insights as the weekend progressed, adding in some humor at times. Cardinal Maida gave a talk at the end of the closing Mass. I was totally focused on it and everyone else seemed to be as well, as you could have heard a pin drop. They both gave me such a warm feeling as our shepherds (Maida seemed like a spiritual grandpa to me). They gave us a charge to send us forth and continue our mission. So inspiring!!

I will close with a thought for you. As preparation for the synod, we were asked to spend at least one hour a week in prayer or adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and I started mine near the beginning of 2016. With the benefit I know I gained from it, I encourage you to spend quiet time with our Lord, either in Eucharistic Adoration, quiet time in church/chapel, or even just special prayer time in a quiet space at home (free of distractions). Whether it be for Advent, a New Year's resolution, or just because, make the time to do a Holy Hour. If you don't know how to go about it, you can ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you the desire to continue. Just think where our faith life will be by Pentecost 2017.



## ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

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**BAPTISMS**

Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

**RCIA**

Please call the parish office & ask for extension 1510

**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.

**BULLETIN**

All bulletin copy needs to be emailed to: info@sjascs.org.  
Copy deadline: Monday 5:00 pm (Unless otherwise noted)

**ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY - DONATIONS**

To have items you wish to donate picked up please call 1-877-788-4623

**PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday - Thursday**  
8:30 am - 9:00 pm

**Friday & Saturday**  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**MEMBERS OF PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL****Chairperson**

Rosemary Dygert

**Secretary**

Kevin Kaptur

**Finance**

Betty Loeher

**Liturgy / Worship**

Rosemary Dygert  
Anne Marie Armaly

**Parish Life**

Kevin Kaptur

**Evangelization**

Mary Cal

**Education & Faith Formation**

Betty Loeher  
Diana Ziolkowski

**Senior At Large**

Kevin Karapuz

## Liturgy Schedule

**WEEKDAYS**

Monday to Friday  
7:00 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday:  
8:30 a.m.

**WEEKENDS**

Saturday Vigil Masses:  
4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday:  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

**HOLYDAYS**

Vigil Mass: (evening before) 7:00 p.m.

**HOLIDAY MASSES:**

7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

**ROSARY**

Recited: Monday–Friday  
after the 7:00 a.m. & 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Cry Room  
Saturday at 8:00 a.m. in Church

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 11:00 a.m.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every Monday & Thursday in the Parish Center Chapel  
10:00 a.m.— 6:45 p.m.  
Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said in the  
Chapel at 3:00 pm

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **Mondays & Thursdays** in the Parish Center Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament is God's Gift of Love, the real presence of Our Lord Jesus.

**Hours of Exposition**

**10:00 a.m. — 6:45 p.m.**

Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said in the  
Chapel at 3:00 PM.

## Weekly Readings

**Monday, December 12**

Zechariah 2: 14-17  
Luke 1: 26-38

**Friday, December 16**

Isaiah 56: 1-3a, 6-8  
John 5: 33-36

**Tuesday, December 13**

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13  
Matthew 21: 28-32

**Saturday, December 17**

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10  
Matthew 1: 1-17

**Wednesday, December 14**

Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25  
Luke 7: 18b-23

**Sunday, December 18**

Isaiah 7: 1-014  
Romans 1: 1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

**Thursday, December 15**

Isaiah 54: 1-10  
Luke 7: 24-30

Lector Schedule	December 17-18, 2016
Mass	Lector
4:00 PM	Patty Chase Therese Bogos
6:00 PM	Bill Taylor Ann Levigne
8:00 AM	Mike Chapp Dina Ciaffone
10:00 AM	Dolores Kurz Shirley Fedeli
12:00 PM	Daria Cooper Jim Cooper

Altar Server Schedule	December 17-18, 2016
Mass	Server
4:00 PM	E. Bellow/ K. Bellow/ C. Bueti/ D. Bueti/ B. Marchiori/ C. Stahl
6:00 PM	D. Ballard/ J. Ballard/ L. Ballard/ K. Baysdell/ E. Mowatt/ T. Mowatt
8:00 AM	A. Dillenbeck/ J. Dillenbeck/ C. Kaptur/ G. Kaptur/ A. White/ M. Withers
10:00 AM	A Ball/ N. Nowaczewski/ R. Nowaczewski/ S. Nowaczewski/ K. Zeimen/ T. Zeimen
12:00 PM	M. A. Galbo/ V. Galbo/ T. Hintz/ S. Linares/ J. Thole/ L. Thole



### 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.

**Sam Cucuru**  
**Margaret Forhan**  
**Letizia Bonapace**  
**Sgt. Collin Rose**  
**Hedwig Traczynski**  
**Thomas Gudenau**  
**James Boivin**

**David Adams**  
**John Lederman**  
**Cheryl Wojtas**  
**William Kiefer**  
**Joan Jakubiec**  
**Marion Bilyk**  
(Mother of Marion Krymski)

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of Life: 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 the known way." *Minnie Louise Hawkins*



## MASS INTENTIONS



### MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (WHITE)

7:00 a.m. – Hugo Calisi

8:30 a.m. – Gregory Palmer

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR (RED)

7:00 a.m. – Saint Lucy

8:30 a.m. – Mass of thanksgiving for Floramante and Carmecita Rojas on their 46th Wedding Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016 SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (WHITE)

7:00 a.m. – Aniello Mazzella

8:30 a.m. – Keith Ketelehut

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016 ADVENT WEEKDAY (PURPLE)

7:00 a.m. – Laura Mannino

8:30 a.m. – Cornelius B. Thelen

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016 ADVENT WEEKDAY (PURPLE)

7:00 a.m. – Dennis Kosebutzki

8:30 a.m. – Steve M. Terlescki

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY (PURPLE)

8:30 a.m. – John Lutfy

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016 VIGIL: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (PURPLE)

4:00 p.m. - James Murphy, Cornelius B. Thelen, Joseph Semany, John Lutfy, Dorothy Piatkowski, Frank Piatkowski, Mary Beth Gumapal, Dee Allor, Benny, David Mirasola, Bill and Peter Salvia, the Mirasola, Gambino, Vitale and Zaranek Families, and the deceased members of the Guastella and Bologna families  
6:00 p.m. - Fred Andary

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (PURPLE)

8:00 a.m. - For the Intentions of SJA Parishioners

10:00 a.m. - Paulette Wagner, the J. Champine Family, Celerina Hamoy, Mary Beth Gumapal, William Kiefer, John, Helen, Leslee and Bill Doby, Jim Gjebic and a special intention for Dr. Joseph Samyn

12:00 p.m. - Audrey Benedis

### Deadlines for Bulletin Articles

Articles for the December 25th bulletin must be in no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 15th.

Articles for the January 1st bulletin must be in no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 22nd.

Articles for the January 8th bulletin must be in no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 29th.



## St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church Weekly Calendar of Events

### Monday, December 12

3:15 PM - Free the Children - MPR  
4:00 PM - Basketball Practice - Gym  
4:00 PM - REP Eucharistic Adoration - Church  
4:15 PM - REP - Classrooms, RM 10 & 11  
6:00 PM - Scout Den Meetings - Lower Hall  
6:15 PM - REP - Classrooms, RM 10 & 11  
6:15 PM - SVDP - PC #3

### Tuesday, December 13

10:30 AM - Sunday Scripture Group - FYC # 2  
2:00 PM - Art & Entertainment Mtg. - FYC # 2  
2:00 PM - Primary Christmas Program Rehearsal - Church  
3:30 PM - Pastoral Staff - PC #3  
4:00 PM - Basketball Practice - Gym  
6:00 PM - Scout Den Meetings - Lower Hall  
6:30 PM - Troubadours of St. Clare, OFS - FYC # 2  
7:00 PM - Parish Life Mtg. - PC #4  
7:00 PM - Judelaires Christmas Concert - Church  
8:30 PM - Athletic Club Board Mtg. - FYC #1

### Wednesday, December 14

6:00 AM - Java with Jesus - Youth Room  
8:00 AM - Knitting/Crochet Ministry - MPR  
8:30 AM - Terrific Treat (PTG) - Rm 10 and 11  
9:30 AM - Bible Study - FYC # 2  
1:00 PM - Grief Support Group Series - FYC #2  
1:00 PM - Women's Bible Study - FYC #3  
3:15 PM - School Band Concert Practice - MPR  
3:30 PM - Children's Choir - Choir Room  
4:00 PM - Basketball Practice - Gym  
6:00 PM - Scout Den Meetings - Lower Hall  
6:30 PM - Anthems Practice - Church  
7:00 PM - Ushers Meeting - FYC #2  
7:00 PM - Bible Study - FYC #3  
7:00 PM - School Band Christmas Concert - FYC #2  
7:15 PM - Choir - Choir Room

### Thursday, December 15

4:00 PM - Basketball Practice - Gym  
6:00 PM - Cub Scouts Pack Meeting - Lower Hall  
6:30 PM - Primary Christmas Program - Church  
7:00 PM - Epic Youth Group Mtgs. - Youth Room  
7:00 PM - Post Partum Depression - PC #4  
7:00 PM - PTG Board Meeting - FYC #1  
7:30 PM - Guitar Group - Choir Room Choir Room

### Friday, December 16

4:00 PM - Basketball Practice - Gym  
6:00 PM - Junior High Dance - Gym

### Saturday, December 17

8:00 AM - Brunch with Santa - MPR  
9:00 AM - DCCR Assembly Mtg. - FYC #3  
3:30 PM - Right to Life Christmas Ornaments Sale - GS  
4:30 PM - Teen Choir Practice - FYC - 6  
7:00 PM - Young Adult: Thirst for Christ - Youth Room

### Sunday, December 18

7:30 AM - Right to Life Christmas Ornaments Sale - GS  
9:15 AM - Choir Warm-up - Choir Room  
9:30 AM - Children's Liturgy of the Word - YR, FYC #2  
10:30 AM - RCIA - FYC #3  
1:00 PM - Decorating Church for Advent - Church

## Words on the Word

December 11, 2016 – Officer Down

By Mike Chapp

The scene, once again, was heartbreaking.

For the second time in just a few months, a local police officer was killed in the line of duty; this time a Wayne State University officer with a distinguished record and a passion, like so many of his colleagues, for helping to protect and serve the community in which he lives.

Once again, local media covered the events surrounding the funeral, giving those who weren't able or inclined to be there in person the chance to mourn in their own way from a distance.

Making the scene even more emotionally wrenching this time around was a series of pictures included with stories from the wake, which took place at Ford Field, of officers from near and far with their police dogs.

The fallen WSU officer worked with a couple police dogs, one of whom reportedly was brought to the wake.

The sadness of the proceedings was compounded when these canine "officers," so loyal and so loving, were also highlighted for their exemplary attributes. That sadness can be especially acute during the holiday season, when our attention turns all the more to the peace, love and serenity that will accompany the coming of Emmanuel. It's a compelling reminder of the difference between our current earthly situation and the promise of God's ultimate victory.

"Be strong, fear not," we hear in today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah. "Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing."

Christmas is only two weeks away. May we stay strong in the knowledge that, even in the darkest nights, the light of the Lord will prevail.

© 2016, Words on the Word



## Card Club

Why not join the seniors as they play cards in the Family & Youth Center.

The Senior Card Club Meets on the following  
Tuesdays at 12:00 pm - Cards to begin at 12:30 pm

**December 20th  
January 3rd and January 17th**

You do not need a partner to participate in the card club.



## Save your Cans and Bottles

The 8th grade class at St. Joan of Arc is having a can/bottle drive to help defray the cost of their Washington D.C. trip. Any parishioner wishing to donate cans or bottles can drop them off at the Parish Center throughout the year or call and we will pick them up. Any questions please call Marcia Ferszt (586) 747-6865.

## Can Tabs

Keep saving those tabs. The proceeds now go to support poor adults and children who have transplant surgery and cannot afford the cost of medication needed afterwards. Thanks for all you have done in the past. Just keep them coming. God bless you. Bring the tabs to the parish center to Sr. Rose.

## Solanus Center Advent Series:

### Preparing the Stable of our Hearts

During this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, we invite you to prepare the stable of your heart by reflecting with the Solanus Casey Center staff every Wednesday during Advent (Dec. 7, 14 & 21). We will begin with a Noon Mass followed by a simple soup lunch and reflection. \$3 suggested donation is appreciated. Please RSVP to Sally McCuen at 313-579-2100, ext. 149. All are welcome. Secured parking available.

## Christmas Programming on CTND

As you prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, on Christmas, tune into the Catholic Television Network of Detroit (CTND) for programming focusing on the true meaning of Christmas.

Since 1985, CTND has broadcast faith-filled programming that informs, educates, inspires, and entertains to homes throughout southeast Michigan. CTND became an affiliate of Boston-based CatholicTV Network in 2011.

CTND is available to 900,000 homes throughout southeast Michigan. A complete schedule can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website and in The Michigan Catholic newspaper.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to [www.AOD.org](http://www.AOD.org).

## Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Earthworks Urban Farm Holiday Open House

Earthworks Urban Farm, will be hosting an Holiday Open House Wednesday, December 14 to Friday, December 16, 9 AM to 5 PM. The event will include the opportunity to learn about the work of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, including the Earthworks Agricultural Training Program, and to purchase locally produced products. Available products include local jams made with Earthworks berries, greeting cards, t-shirts, stickers and more. The event will be held at the Meldrum Capuchin Soup Kitchen site, 1264 Meldrum, Detroit 48207.

## St. John's Needs

### Unscented Play-Doh

The Pediatrics unit at St. John Hospital is in need of regular (no fruit flavors) Play-Doh.

The Play-Doh would be very much appreciated to help these children pass the time while they are in the Hospital.



Thank you in advance for your kindness and concern for these children who endure so much at such a young age. Please bring any unscented (no fruit flavors) Play-Doh donation to the Parish Center during normal business hours.

## Healing the Heart Grief Support

Reverence Hospice in conjunction with St. John Hospital & Medical Center, is offering ongoing Grief Support Groups. These groups provide a supportive, safe and friendly environment for those who are grieving to share their story and help the process of healing in a group setting. These groups are open to any adult who has lost a loved one due to death. "Healing the Heart" is offered as a community service, and there is no charge for the service.

St. Joan of Arc Church Family and Youth Center  
21620 Greater Mack  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Group meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. For further information or registration, call Elaine Rosen at 586-723-9492.

## Attention Men of the Parish:

The annual St Joan of Arc Men's Retreat at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, is scheduled for Friday evening January 13, 2017 thru Sunday afternoon January 15, 2017. Father Leo Cachat, SJ is our Retreat Director this year. Come join us for a spiritual weekend of quiet time away from the ordinary demands of life. This is a great opportunity to grow closer to God, and gain a better perspective on the deeper meaning of your life. The weekend begins on Friday night with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and ends with the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. This is a silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. The staff of Jesuits at Manresa are available for private talks, and the Sacraments are administered. All meals and a private room are provided, on the exceptionally beautiful grounds of Manresa. Please contact Gary Stankowski (Team Captain) at (586) 777-5747 or E-mail: [alwaysglg@aol.com](mailto:alwaysglg@aol.com) for details and a reservation. Space is limited.

## Christmas Cards Now Available

Share your Christmas greetings with family and friends plus help Detroit's children. Capuchin Soup Kitchen is offering eight Christmas card designs; artwork created by our Soup Kitchen kids. Cards are available in packs of 10 for \$10 or sets of 20 for \$18. Order yours by visiting: [www.CSKDetroit.org](http://www.CSKDetroit.org)

## Christmas Concert With Sing-A-Long

The Belgian American Association Band (www.thebaa.us) under the direction of Larry Huntington, will play a Christmas concert with a sing-a-long on Wednesday, December 14th, from 7-8 PM.



The location is St. Lucy Church 23401 Jefferson Ave. (Just South of 9 Mile ) St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. This event is open to the public. Bring your family, friends, co workers & neighbors. No charge, but free will donations appreciated. Please consider to join us. This year is the 85th anniversary of the BAA Band.

## Christmas Ornaments Sale **Right to Life of Michigan**

We are selling Christmas ornaments next weekend December 17th and 18th. They will be available before and after all Masses in the Gathering Space of the church. All proceeds go to helping women in unplanned pregnancies to make life affirming decisions about their babies. RTL works to educate mothers and then, in combination with other organizations, assist mothers and their babies with material, financial, emotional and medical needs. Ornaments are \$10 each and make a great gift not only for Christmas, but for expecting moms, Mothers day presents, etc. Stands are also available for only \$2 and can be used as a stand alone display all year long.



**A Festival of Lessons and Carols**  
Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Free-will offering • Public welcome

610 W. Elm Avenue • Monroe, Mich.



The John Tyner Chorale presents a service modeled after the Christmas Eve service that has taken place in Cambridge Cathedral in England since 1918. It will include scripture readings as well as carols performed by both the congregation and the Tyner Chorale. This type of service has been used around the world and has become a tradition of the Christmas season.



## Gala Raffle Tickets Available

Raffle tickets for the St. Joan of Arc School's 11th Annual Gala are on sale in the Gathering Space after all masses for the next two weekends. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. This year's grand prize is a \$5,000 travel voucher or cash. Tickets will also be available during the week in the School Office and at the Parish Center.

## SJA Graduates Where Are They Now??

St. Joan of Arc School is working on a project for the Learning Fair on February 2, 2017. We are compiling a list of graduates and what they are doing. We will have a display the evening of the Learning Fair with the names of graduates along with the year they graduated and what they are doing.

You can email the information to school: KKalich@stjoan.net, MBrennan@stjoan.net or on the website

## Who Is The Order of Alhambra?

The International Order of Alhambra is a fraternal Catholic organization of men and women (18 years of age and older) dedicated to assisting persons that are intellectually disabled or handicapped. The Order was founded by William Harper Bennett in February 1904.

The Order's mission is threefold:

- To provide assistance, education and residence for persons developmentally disabled
- To identify, mark, preserve and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international importance
- To promote fraternalism and sociability among its members

The Michigan region has six active caravans of Catholic men and women supporting the needs within our state. Galicia #77 Caravan was chartered in 1949 and is one of the oldest Alhambra Caravans in the Michigan region. The regional caravans sponsor Christmas parties, a trip to the Shrine circus, fishing derbies, picnics and many other fun-filled events. Belonging to the Order of Alhambra makes you feel good after working one of the charitable events and is a great way to meet people with your same faith and beliefs.

If you are interested in learning more about the organization and want to become involved, check our website at [www.galicia77.org](http://www.galicia77.org)

## Hat and Mitten Tree

Our annual hat, mitten and scarf tree is located in the Gathering Space. We thank all those who participate for your continued generosity. You may also drop off donations at the Parish Center.







## Religious Education

Sometimes when we are in trouble or in danger, our hands shake and our knees feel like jello. But if we could hear a firm and friendly voice saying, "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God," we would be better able to endure whatever came our way.

The prophet Isaiah in today's reading wants God's people to know that God will deliver them from their troubles. Sorrow and sickness and fear will all be left behind as the people joyfully follow the Lord. The picture of the world when the Lord comes is a happy, healing image—flowers and song everywhere. Healing and restored physical abilities to all who need it and finally: Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. A Great day indeed, and each Christmas we feel it come closer.

In the second reading from St. James, we are urged to be patient. If you have ever planted a garden, you know how patient a farmer must be. Once the seed is planted, the farmer can only tend it carefully and wait. Complaining about the weather or judging the people who sold him the seeds will not make the harvest come any faster. As we celebrate Advent, and look forward to Christ's coming again, we, too, must be patient and avoid judging one another. The kingdom of God grows slowly, day by day, around us and within us.

In our American culture, we have all kinds of heroes. We have sports heroes, movie stars and TV stars etc. The people of Jesus' time were looking for heroes, too. So they asked Jesus, "Are you the real one?" When he wants to assure John the Baptist and his followers that he truly is the Messiah, Jesus quotes passages from the book of Isaiah in today's gospel. These passages picture the time of the Messiah as marked by the same kind of works that Jesus is doing. Jesus heals the blind, the lame, the deaf, and the lepers. He raises the dead and proclaims the good news to the poor. These loving deeds are proof of his identity. Because John has opened people's hearts to the Savior's coming, Jesus says that John is the greatest of the prophets. We, too, can be like John, and as Jesus said, even greater than John, when we share Jesus' mission of making God's kingdom come. John was a messenger for Jesus' coming. Long ago, before there were trucks or planes TV or phones, kings used runners to tell their people the news. If a war were ending, the king would choose the swiftest of his soldiers to run over his kingdom, shouting the good news, "the fighting is over, peace is coming!" Today, people turn on their televisions, or computers, or phones to hear and see the news. But we still look to certain people to bring us good news. During Advent, we often watch for the mail carrier who might be bringing cards or even packages from friends and family. God likes to send his people good news. God sends all manner of people to spread the word that Jesus Christ is born to give us peace. Each of us can be a messenger too—we are all called to "unleash the Gospel" in the world. Whenever we tell someone why we love Jesus, whenever we tell someone how dearly God loves them, we are messengers of God's wonderful news. Whom will you tell today?

*God, the way you help us everyday to live as your children is good news. Help me not to be shy about telling other people why I believe in you. God, help me show my faith in all my actions. Amen*

Have a Joyful week of Advent,  
Mrs. C the DRE

## Become a Volunteer

Many older and disabled adults in our community find themselves faced with a variety of basic chores, yard work & minor repairs. For those who are frail or handicapped, have no family nearby, and are living on very low incomes, these tasks -- which most of us handle routinely -- are overwhelming and impossible to manage. If you can rake leaves, put up storm windows, fix a leaky faucet or help with any other routine chores or minor home repairs, we need to hear from you. Even if you have just a few hours to spare once or twice a year, you can help a desperate neighbor remain in their own home a little longer. Work is arranged entirely around your schedule and near your home or office. Have a Heart. Be a Hero. Volunteer. MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For more info contact us at: Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (586) 757-5551 or [www.ivcinfo.org](http://www.ivcinfo.org).

## Reporting Sexual Abuse

To inform the Archdiocese of Detroit regarding the sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and other church personnel and/or to speak to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, contact 866-343-8055. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding complaints of sexual abuse will be returned in a timely manner. This toll-free telephone number has been established as part of an effort by the Detroit archdiocese to protect children, young people, and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes, and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within archdiocesan institutions and ministries only. Persons with complaints not involving clergy or church personnel should refer to the archdiocesan web site at [www.aod.org](http://www.aod.org) for contact information for civil authorities.

## Are you hurting from abortion?

Outrage over the recent videos exposing Planned Parenthood has put conversations about abortion in the forefront once again. It's important to remember with sensitivity and love those women who have made that choice and may be silently hurting. There's healing help for those suffering through these organizations: Rachel's Vineyard ([rachelvineyard.org](http://rachelvineyard.org)), Project Rachel (after [abortion.com](http://abortion.com)) and Silent No More ([silentnomoreawareness.org](http://silentnomoreawareness.org)). Please pray for all those who have been hurt or continue to hurt from abortion.

# *Judeliare Christmas Concert*

The Judelaire show ensemble will perform their Christmas program at St. Joan of Arc Church

**“Don’t Let Christmas Pass You By”**  
**Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm**

Directed by Stan Harr

Come, listen, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and the joy of the season in song! The program will consist of a combination of religious as well as popular holiday favorites.

The Judelaires began as the St. Jude Choral Club in Detroit many years ago. The group is well known for their audience-pleasing style. They are especially proud of twice winning the competition to open for the Rockettes Christmas show at the Fox Theatre in years past. Don’t be surprised to see some familiar SJA members among the singers.

Be sure to add to your Christmas joy by attending and bringing your family and friends as well. although there is no admission charge, a free-will offering will be much appreciated.

Circle the date on your calendar now - don’t miss this great evening.

Judelaires 2016 Christmas Program

For more information, email [TheJudelaires@yahoo.com](mailto:TheJudelaires@yahoo.com) or visit The Judelaires on Facebook! [www.judelaires.com](http://www.judelaires.com)



## Pray for the Sick—Parishioners

Robert Bartlett	Karen McMahon
Bonnie Batche	Lee and Patty Majewski
Alma Berlenbach	Vincent Marino
Terry Bertelsen	Velma Marone
Thomas Bishop	Hector Martinez
Del Bodary	Susan Mazalauskas
Kathleen Brys	Nick Menzo
Conrad Cal	Nan Milleville
Patricia Cantin	Mary Moloci
Marilyn Chevalier	Louise O'Connor
Joseph Cianciolo	Rose Orlando
Pat and Debra Colaluca	Helen Paczala
Mary Ellen Cooper	Toni Pantano
Art and Ann Corker	Mary Papp
Victoria Cornwell	Mario Parletta
Agnes Corrado	Norma Philp
Sara and David Curcuro	Dolores Poeschel
Lucille Daniels	Mary Pozzuoli
Sam Dehealen	Salvatore Promesso
Anita and Deborah Dembeck	Helen Radomski
Nina Delisi	Laura Rizzo-Andela
Theresa DiVirgil	Rich and Virginia Robinette
Mark and Cheryl Drouillard	Suzanne Roland
Eugene Dubyk	Stephanie Romac
Marie DuPont	Victoria Rydholm
Carmen Fannon	Nora Satrun
Callista Fortier	Elizabeth Schaller
Nora Anne Francis	Louise Seleno
Mark Franzel	Virginia and Amelia Shamo
Patricia Fraser	Mary Anna Sheldon
Charles Freund	Greg Simon
Thomas Gabel	Madeline Smyka
Isabel Gazzarato	Sharon Strus
Katherine and Jim Glaeser	Elizabeth Stundon
Paul Geist	Rosemary Sustrich
Sylvia Gentile	Paul Tatti
Larry Graham	Richard Taylor
Margaret Hartung	James & Bernadette
Joseph Heenan	Thompson
Jennifer and Patrick Heit	Veronica Torey
Jack Hellems	Geraldine Van Der Haegen
Ted and Gracie Hinz	J
Michaeline Hraboncz	Fred and Wanda Vogt
Eleanor Irvine	Ralph Wales
Ann Izzard	Kenneth Walsh
James Jara	Joan Weber
Ed Jonas	Audrey Weekley
James Kammer	Pauline Weinbeck
Monica Kay	Daniel William Sr.
Bernice Kowalik	Joan Williams
Delaney Kraemer	Douglas Wilson
Edward Krappmann	Margaret Wilson
Al Kraska	Anna Marie & William
Dorothy Krowicki	Woodruff
Ludmila Kruse	Chuck and Steve
Mary Lederman	Wolschlager
Dotty Lubinski	Helen Wrynn
Janet Malaski	Marion Zapytowski
Florence	
Nancy McDonnell	
Marilyn McEvoy	
Mary McEvoy	

## Pray for the Sick List

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

## Pray For Our Men & Women in the Military

### Army

Tom Barrett  
Richard Brown  
Anthony Damitio  
Greg DeMoss  
Brian C. Ellis  
Shawn Hunter  
Thaddeus Kapuscinski  
Joseph R. Kozlinski  
Greg Lietz  
Chris Listilla  
Daniel Meagher  
James Pranger  
Kyle Richardson  
Christopher Scholz  
Joseph Sattler  
Samuel Sattler  
Steven Sattler  
Dan Travis  
Joseph VanDusen  
David Weise  
Samantha Williams

### National Guard

Christopher Kuzma

### Air Force

Dan Adams

Charles Bartlett  
James A. Brannigan  
Robert C. Carden  
Kevin Conley  
Hector M. Martinez  
Jacob Milatz  
Martin Rodriguez  
Dave Russell



### Navy

Fr. John Kaul  
Frankie Kocis  
Joseph Goeddeke  
Tom Miller, Jr  
Anthony M. Morgan  
Cullen O'Brien  
John Patterson  
Michael Ryan  
Andrew Seator

### Marine Corps

Daniel Allen  
Arthur J. Barron  
David Chute  
John M Haas  
Mark W Haas  
Theresa Hencsie  
David J. Kennedy  
Paul Koss  
Matthew Krugler  
Justin Lienemann  
Nick Lienemann  
Michael Light  
David Light  
Nicholas Mayer  
Lee Michael  
Thomas Reichling  
Thomas Rose  
Frank Schuster  
Daniel Sparkman  
Tom Stevenson  
Connor Yeager

### Coast Guard

Christopher Rogers  
Norma Ray Smihal

## Pray for the Sick—Family and Friends

Amy Anderson  
Michael Aridi  
Stella Arvan  
Walter Bailey  
Jerry Baird  
Theresa Bellomo  
Lisa and Thomas  
Bingham  
Paul Bogos  
Agnes Bousho  
Rose Mary Bramante  
Stanley Brys  
Teddy Burns  
Jaelynn Caskie  
Amanda Cavanaugh  
Judy Cesarek  
Marissa Cordell  
Fr. Timon Costello  
Delores Cyganski  
Clara Marie Cyplik  
John Debinski  
Derek DeDene  
Erin and Emily DeFoor  
Anita Delbeck  
Autumn Delzeit  
Caleb Dunne  
Jeff Eble  
Edith  
Chris Fontecchio  
Madalene Fortier  
Matthew Gebauer  
Gwen Gielniak  
Al and Isabel Giroux  
Fr. Peter Granzotto  
Michael Gray  
Brandon Green  
Donna Green

Clare Grinvalsky  
Aleda Grogan  
Christian Grundy  
Marie Guastella  
Kathleen Holloway  
Joe Hass  
Gary Hiekes  
Janet Hughes  
Amanda Huntsman  
David Huntsman  
Family  
Cody Paul Jackson  
Donna Marie Johnson  
Cindy Jones  
Ashleigh Kohlitz  
Lisa  
Linda Kole  
Barbara Krause  
Tricia Lalka  
Helen Lechner  
Laurie MacDonald  
Geri Malicsi  
James Marca  
Anthony Martin  
Jane Martin  
John McCade II  
Vern McElmurry  
Cliff Metting  
Merrilee McIntyre  
Irene McMahon  
Edward McMann  
Eva Megargle  
Anthony Miserendino  
John Mondro  
Philip Mooney  
Mary Mulrenin  
Rina Mulrenin

Rick Nefsky  
Rebecca Nehra  
George Pasarikoevski  
Anne Perez  
Jeannie Petreson  
Michelle Ployngam  
Carol S. Provencal  
Caroline Pruzinsky  
Donald Quinlan  
Ben Rajala  
Judy Rascano  
Joel Rivera  
Robert K. Roach  
Frederick Salk  
Joseph Samyn  
Jack Sarb  
Stewart Saunders  
Viginia Sawyer  
Joe Sfair  
Bev Seguin  
Theresa Schans  
Andrew Smith  
Walter and Terri Tack  
Doris Tackett  
Gerry Tessman  
Jim Testori  
Bert Valina  
Robert Vangunten  
Richard Vuylsteke  
Judy Heater Usworth  
Carolyn Ward  
Robert Wehner  
Caroline Wilson  
Janice Wouters





# Bringing Home the Word



Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2016

## A Garden Well-Tended

By Mary Katharine Deeley

**I'm not much of a gardener.** When our family was young, we planted vegetables to connect our children with the miracle of growing things. But the truth is, I kill houseplants regularly, and the clay soil in our back yard made growing things a little harder than I was willing to tolerate. So I spent my time tending to children and other pursuits.

When I look at the wonderful young women my children have become, I don't regret any of it—they're evidence of a garden well-tended. We all have gardens we cultivate in the soil we work and in the lives we lead.

In today's readings, Isaiah and Jesus point to gardens of a different sort. Isaiah imagines God as the great gardener who brings flowers and trees out of arid sand and clay soil and then moves on to bring sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. What a glorious image of a promise made—where we all grow and are made whole.

Jesus doesn't answer John's disciples. He simply points them in the direction of the garden of Good News he's tended. He sends them to John with tales of what they've seen and heard in all its abundance because John will know a garden when he hears about it and will rejoice in its growth.

Finally, James, laboring in the Lord's garden decades after the Lord's death, reminds us of the truth every farmer, landscaper, and household gardener knows so well: Making things grow—crops, flowers, faith, or people—takes patience.

What's growing in your garden this Advent? †

***"Jesus points John's  
disciples in the direction  
of the garden  
of Good News."***

## A Word From Pope Francis

**The Church exists** to proclaim her Bridegroom...to proclaim this word even to martyrdom....When we contemplate the life of [John the Baptist], so great, so powerful—everyone believed he was the Messiah—when we think of how this life was annihilated, his last days spent in a dark prison, we discover a mystery. We are offered [a model of] a Church ever at the service of the Word.

—Morning meditation,  
"The example of John,"  
June 24, 2013



## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10

"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, he comes  
with vindication."

### James 5:7–10

"Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of  
the Lord is at hand."

### Matthew 11:2–11

"Are you the one who is to come,  
or should we look for another?"

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- What attitudes are you hoping to grow in your life this Advent?
- What miracles of growth has Jesus provided in your life?



# Defining Christmas Without Words

**I**t's December and almost Christmas. It's also time to hear about the usual "War on Christmas." You probably have heard about this so-called war. Certain writers, commentators, and politicians assert that corporate America and the government are waging a war to remove "Christ" from Christmas. The story goes that only they—those writers, commentators, and politicians—are paying attention or doing something about it.

This war plays out at retailers, where

greeters share the sentiment "Happy holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." It's fought in corporate offices, where companies erect "holiday" trees. It's waged at government centers, where officials position Jewish symbols next to Nativity scenes. It takes place in public schools, where "holiday" instead of "Christmas" breaks take place.

This controversy is a distraction. For some of us, it becomes a subject of confrontation. We utter "Merry Christmas" as if daring someone to

challenge us on the matter. When we enlist in this war, we, unintentionally, veer sharply from the true meaning of Christmas. The battle over words obscures what marks a true Christian—Christian acts.

Isn't it more authentically Christian to visit a nursing home, serve in a homeless shelter, or help out a stranger than to say "Merry Christmas" through gritted teeth? It's fine to ask retailers and other institutions to use the word *Christmas*. But let's not make such a quest our main focus. As Catholics, it's our Christian duty to explain and, more importantly, share our faith. So let's not rely on stores or public schools or governments to evangelize. That's up to us. †

Source: "From the Publisher," *Liguorian*, December 2015

## Prepare Ye the Way

By James S. Torrens, SJ

**J**ohn the Baptist was the last of the great servants preparing God's way. With his rough austerity, he had learned to live wholly off of God. The sight of him subsisting on God and the sound of him calling for a change of life drew the city people of Israel to him in great numbers. He did not flinch from blunt speaking to soldiers, to tax collectors, to the whole "brood of vipers" taking advantage of others.

John was preaching the old evangelical message, "Repent." He still has successors in parks and public squares, endowed

with megaphone voices. His great concern was the forgiveness of sins. The watery immersion he practiced was a prayer full of desire to be cleansed by God. In the presence of the Baptist's leading us into Advent today, enough of the old excuse for our weaknesses: "Sorry, I can't help it. That's just how I am." Enough of just going through the motions. John, as the new Elijah paving the way for the anointed of God, won't let us off the hook. He looks for an energetic response, repentance from whatever is slowing us down in God's service.†

Source: *Daybreaks*, © 2011 Liguori Publications

## PRAYER

Lord, you are patient with me and give me time to correct my faults and become a better person. Help me to be more patient and loving toward others.

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*,  
Rev. Warren J. Savage  
and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 12–17

Mon. Our Lady of Guadalupe: Zec 2:14–17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47  
Tue. St. Lucy: Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 / Mt 21:28–32  
Wed. St. John of the Cross: Is 45:6b–8, 18, 21b–25 / Lk 7:18b–23

Thu. Advent Weekday: Is 54:1–10 / Lk 7:24–30  
Fri. Advent Weekday: Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 / Jn 5:33–36  
Sat. Advent Weekday: Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17

Bringing Home  
the Word   
December 11, 2016

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