

Fr. Tony Sulkowski
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"This is the month, and this the happy morn, wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King, of Wedded Maid and Virgin Mother born, our great redemption from above did bring; for so the holy sages once did sing, that He our deadly forfeit should release, and with His Father work us a perpetual peace."

—John Milton, reflecting on the feast of Christmas

As you are aware, the fourth week of Advent is a short one. As Advent comes to a close, I would like to share with you one experience that I have enjoyed very much at St. Jane Frances de Chantal. While this year, because of COVID-19, we had to cancel the Coffeehouse Christmas party, I look fondly on how we celebrated this party in years past. I recall my first experience of Coffeehouse shortly after I arrived at our parish four years ago. Coffeehouse is an event that is sponsored by the parish and is put on for those young adults who are mentally challenged. Although they were unable to be with us this year, may we lift them and their caregivers up in prayer.

I wish to extend to all of you, and especially those people who come home for Christmas, a blessed holiday and all the best in the New Year. Christmas is about coming home and recalling those traditions that are memorable to us. As we heard in the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Advent, John says, "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen [...] his sandals" (Mk 1:1-8).

This Christmas, as in Christmases past, Christ is born again into the world to be the Prince of Peace, Wonder-Counselor, Lord of All. May the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas season and in the coming year. It is in Christ that we are strengthened and encouraged to bring glad tidings to those we meet along our journeys of faith.

On behalf of the staff of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, I extend to you and your family and friends a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. May we lift up in prayer all those people who are most in need of God's attention this Christmas season.

Bon mot: It is all about Jesus.

Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony



#### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

December 24

at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, or Midnight (with 11:30pm Music Prelude)

#### December 25

at 9:00am or 11:30am (no 4:00pm Saturday Mass)

Video Mass will also be available on sifparish.org.



#### PANERA BAKERY DONATION MINISTRY

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger."" (John 6:35)

We receive the bread of life at Eucharist—and we become the "bread of life" for others who hunger through our parish **Panera Bakery Donation Ministry**. This ministry began in 2017 and has served every week since. Each Sunday night, a rotating team of volunteers picks up unsold items from Panera Bread—and each Monday morning, volunteers sort and package the items and then deliver them to local families in need and organizations that serve the homeless.

Since 2017, over 20 volunteers from our parish have served in this ministry. Even through the pandemic, the Panera ministry continued to serve whenever Panera was open, although it operated with limited volunteer participation. Thank you to all those who have served in providing the "bread of life" to others!

The next time you visit Panera, consider supporting the store at Big Beaver and Rochester (Troy Commons) and let the manager know we appreciate their commitment to ensuring unsold goods are not thrown away, but given to those in need!

**DECEMBER 19, 2021** 

#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Weekend Masses** 

Saturday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am & 11:30am

**Weekday Masses** 

Tuesday 7:00pm Wednesday & Thursday 8:00am

Holy Day Masses As Announced

Confession

Tuesday 5:30pm

Rosary

Tuesday 6:00pm

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday

9:00am-1:00pm & 4:30pm-8:00pm

Tuesday

2:00pm-8:00pm

Saturday

3:00pm-5:00pm

Sunday

10:00am-12:30pm

#### **PARISH HAPPENINGS**

Monday, December 20, 2021

9:00am Panera

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

5:30pm Confession 6:00pm Rosary

7:00pm Mass with Anointing

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

8:00am Mass

9:30am Needlecrafters 6:00pm Needlecrafters 7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 23, 2021

8:00am Mass

9:00am Swiffers Team #4

Friday, December 24, 2021

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass 11:30pm Music Prelude

12:00am Midnight Mass

Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:00am Christmas Day Mass 11:30am Christmas Day Mass No 4:00pm Saturday Mass

Sunday, December 26, 2021

9:00am Mass 10:00am RCIA 11:30am Mass



Laurie Hall
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The Church's celebration of Christ's coming in history is just days away!

We hear from another prophet today, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Micah, who lived

eight centuries before Jesus was born, proclaims that a long-awaited ruler from the line of David will come from the little town of Bethlehem:

"This great ruler's original will lie in a tiny town and insignificant clan. Micah, well aware that Israelite tradition considered Bethlehem the home of King David, offers a theme common in the Old Testament: God can, and often does, use the smallest and even the most despised to fulfill the divine plan for salvation."

-2022 Sourcebook for Sunday, Seasons, and Weekdays

We often hear the phrase "good things come in small packages" around this time of year. Jesus came as a little baby, a small package indeed! The most wonderful Christmas gift any of us have ever received was the gift of Jesus, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first to receive this gift is Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who shouts for joy as the infant in her own womb leaps in recognition of our Lord.

May we all reflect on this greatest gift and rejoice like Elizabeth and Mary, as all of us are blessed by God, who sent us the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, to be with us, to redeem us, and to stay with us forever.

This week's *Sunday by Sunday* publication, available on our website, provides much to reflect on as we complete our final preparations for Christmas. The reflection on Fra Angelico's painting of The Annunciation was of particular joy to me. I love this artwork that has so many sacred elements to it. If you have time, I recommend browsing some of the commentaries available online for this beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century altarpiece. *Sunday by Sunday* is available online at **sjfparish.org/sundaybysunday**,

Our fourth and final video on the theological virtues is also available this week. We hope that you have grown in knowledge and faith through this series. We would love to hear your thoughts and any insights you gained; please feel free to send an email to me at **LHall@sjfparish.org**.

#### RECONCILIATION DAY AT SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS

On Monday, December 20, 2021, the parish of Saints Cyril and Methodius will hold a "Christmas Confession Day" where the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 10:00am—12:00pm and again from 6:00pm—9:00pm.

If your schedule didn't permit you to attend the Advent Reconciliation opportunity here at our parish on December 13, 2021, you may wish to take advantage of this opportunity available right down the street.

#### GROW IN FAITH DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT!

As we proceed through the season of Advent, we encourage you to engage in the online formational resources provided by our parish!

Tune into a new episode of the Digital Music Series each week as our parish music ministry leads us through worship music fit for Advent. Listen online at sjfparish.org/digitalmusicseries.

Then, come along on The Way of Faith as we explore the theological virtues—the gifts from God that lead us to embrace a close relationship with Him. Our fourth episode, "Charity," will be available to watch on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at sjfparish.org/thewayoffaith.

## ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL FAITH FORMATION MEET THE CATECHIST: KEVIN TROTTA

Hello. My name is Kevin Trotta, and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechist here at St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

I have a Bachelor's degree from Oakland University and a Master's degree from Michigan State University. Being able to attend school at these universities helped me to become an elementary school teacher. Teaching is encoded into my DNA. Teaching is one of the reasons why I am a catechist here at St. Jane's.

Another highlight in my life would have to be all the traveling I have been able to do in a short time, including visiting 42 of the 50 states and Italy. I love to travel, because I can see new places and spend quality time with

people I care about. My most recent trip to Alaska has to be a highlight, and I hope you get the opportunity to go there if you have the chance. These trips have been taken with my parents and two sisters. Family is everything to me and I'm glad to have them to share in these highlights.

God has been good to me, that's for sure! I remember going to catechism to make my first communion, reconciliation, and confirmation. I was an altar server for a few years after confirmation. The most important part of faith to me is to help others and to give back as much as possible. This is what God is calling me to do, so I plan to keep going on that path. My faith life has helped me realize the importance of giving back to help others.

One thing my parents always told me was: "You don't miss Mass." It didn't matter if we were in the middle of nowhere; we found a church for Sunday Mass. Faith was instilled in us at a young age, so we understood the importance of being practicing Catholics. My parents would pray with me when I was younger to help me begin to develop a relationship with God. Going to Mass and praying have helped me become the person I am.

I would say I feel closest to God at Mass when I am receiving the Eucharist. Knowing that a miracle has taken place before my very eyes makes me realize how present Jesus is with us.

I believe, to deepen or grow in your faith, you need to find ways God is actively present in your life already. I can't tell you how many times I have prayed for something and then seen a change take place. The people in your life are there because of God, and you are present in other people's lives because you are there for them, too. Once you realize this and notice it more, you are able to strengthen your faith and grow closer to Jesus.



This past November, we celebrated Fr. Tony's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. We were also blessed to welcome Fr. Tony's family at Mass on November 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate.

Congratulations, Father!



Pope Francis
@Pontifex



Our life becomes beautiful when we wait for a dear one or someone important. May this Advent help us transform our hope into the certainty that He whom we await loves us and will never abandon us.

Posted November 28, 2021



U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

@USCCB

"God is everywhere, in the very air I breathe, yes everywhere, but in His Sacrament of the Altar He is as present actually and really as my soul within my body; in His Sacrifice daily offered as really as once offered on the Cross."

—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Posted on November 26, 2021



## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK BRIAN ENCK of FIBRENEW

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Janina Jacobs
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JJacobs@sjfparish.org
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While in the Florida Keys last month, I had the opportunity to go to the church near where I stayed on Big Pine Key.

The original St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic

Church was destroyed by Hurricane Irma on September 10, 2017. Back then, it was a beautiful church that was made out of native coral stone and had some small stained glass windows. St. Peter's sat right near the ocean, taking the brunt of the storm when the eye of the hurricane hit very close to Big Pine. It was a total loss. In fact, the whole area was in shambles from Marathon almost to Key West.

At the urging of friends who went down to help rebuild, I visited there a month after the storm, flying into Fort Lauderdale then driving four hours or so past Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon, and onto Big Pine Key. As I got closer to where the eye landed, the devastation increased, with literal mountains of appliances, furniture, destroyed vehicles, and debris piled about 50 feet high on both sides of the Overseas Highway. When you hear "pictures don't do it justice," believe it. I saw pictures but had never witnessed the damage and sheer destruction the winds did.

Posted on the fridge at the house where I stay—not 5 miles from St. Peter's—is this saying by Isak Dinesen: "The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears, or the sea." It's very true, and perhaps that is why we as humans are drawn to water, to the oceans, and to the seas: it is where we feel connected—body, mind, and soul/sprit.

At St. Peter the Fisherman, tears, sweat, and time have healed what Mother Nature took away. Building a new church has made the parishioners stronger. Their Dedication Mass was celebrated on September 21, 2021, and the whole theme of the church and its architecture pays homage to what destroyed it in the first place: life on the water.

LECTOR SCHEDULE							
Tuesday Dec. 21, 2020	Wednesday Dec. 22, 2020	Thursday Dec. 23, 2020	Friday Dec. 24, 2020	Saturday Dec. 25, 2020	Sunday Dec. 26, 2020		
7:00pm Chris Bajercius	8:00am Barbara Sadecki	8:00am Barb Milczynski	4:00pm Craig Smith	9:00am Eileen Clase	9:00am Denise Dara		
			6:00pm Chris Bajercius	11:30am Barb Milczynski	11:30am John Czarski		
			<i>Midnight</i> Chris Bajercius				

SACRISTAN SCHEDULE								
Tuesday Dec. 21, 2020	Wednesday Dec. 22, 2020	Thursday Dec. 23, 2020	Friday Dec. 24, 2020	Saturday Dec. 25, 2020	Sunday Dec. 26, 2020			
<i>7:00pm</i> Brian Finn	8:00am John Martin	8:00am Judy Taylor	4:00pm Volunteer Needed	9:00am Volunteer Needed	<i>9:00am</i> Brian Brennan			
			6:00pm Volunteer Needed	11:30am Volunteer Needed	11:30am Brian Finn			
			Midnight Volunteer Needed					

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The altar sits beneath a nave fashioned in the shape of a boat's bow. The stained glass windows have been redone and now depict Biblical episodes in the life of Jesus. The collection was taken up in actual fishermen's nets. And, just like any kind of tourist area, their mission statement reflects that all are welcome:

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;
No matter what your current family or marital status is;
No matter what your past or present religious situation;
No matter your personal history, age, background, race, etc.;
No matter what your own self-image or esteem;
You are INVITED, WELCOMED, ACCEPTED, LOVED, and RESPECTED at St. Peter Catholic Church.

As we celebrate the themes of faith, hope, charity, and love during Advent at St. Jane Frances de Chantal, the Archdiocese of Miami celebrates, too. Fr. Jesus "Jets" Mendoza joyfully spoke of hope that weekend. He knows the future of the church is strong because his own congregation is faith-filled and full of the hope that Christ makes available to us all.





#### **PARISH NEWS**

Parish News keeps our parishioners up-to-date with regular updates from our parish!

Any parishioner with an email address can sign up for Parish News. All news will be delivered to your email inbox.

Sign up at **sjfparish.org/news**.

#### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

On January 2, 2022, the Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive by appointment only. Temperature checks will be conducted at the door, and a limited number of people will be allowed inside at the same time. Register online at redcrossblood.org.



#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

**Sunday,** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Thursday, Saint John of Kanty, Priest: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk 1:57-66

Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk 1:67-79

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday,** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas):

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

**Sunday,** Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## ARMED SERVICES PRAYER LIST

Robert Bain, Army

Nicholas Brosowski, Army

Chris Burley, Navy

Shaun Chaplin, Air Force

Alexander J. Hendzell, Marines

Louis B. Kasper III, Coast Guard

Elijah Kuefler, Navy Carmen LaForest, Navy

Matthew McDowell, Air Force Cassidy Kicinski Rose, Air Force

Jeremy Rzeppa, Navy Anthony Trotta, Navy Kyle Wiegand, Army

#### **PRAYER LIST**

Elaine Enck
Billy Koresky
Dallas McKim
Vivian Parker
Judy Peterson
June Sadowski
Tom Sadowski
Jolly Talampas

"Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise!"

James 5:13

Names added to the Prayer List will remain on the list for a period of four weeks.

If the illness or situation continues after that time, please call the Parish Office to request additional prayers.

Thank you!

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 20, 2021 No Mass

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

**7:00pm** Dec. Angela Vettraino (Mario & Betty DiPonio)

Dec. Helen Jarboe (The Jarboe Family)

Wednesday, December 22, 2021 8:00am For the Parishioners

Thursday, December 23, 2021

8:00am For all Priests & Religious

Friday, December 24, 2021

**4:00pm** Dec. Gabe Durante Family (Durante Family)

Dec. Pauline Gronowski (Gronowski Family)
Dec. Arnold & Shirley Putrycus (Putrycus Family)
Dec. Members of the Anthony Krull Family (Family)

Dec. Sammy Castelli (Wife, Sandy)

Liv. Geraldine Brylewski (Sam & Marlene Begola)

Dec. James Kwapis (Family)

Dec. Mr. & Mrs. Pepaj (Pepaj Family)

**6:00pm** Dec. Gerald Williams (Williams Family)

Dec. Joseph & Maria Gronowski (Gronowski Family)

Dec. Lisa Vrabel (Mom & Dad) Liv. Paulin Vacaj (Maria)

Dec. Mbrs. of the Brown & Hayden Families (Charlene Brown)

Midnight Dec. Will & Shirley Fasczewski (Graziano Family)

Liv. Leta Vacaj (Maria)

Liv. Wife & Children (Joe Pepaj)

Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:00am Dec. Joseph & Wanda Sztaba (Son, Dennis)

Dec. Florek & Soldatek Family (Sylvia Soldatek) Dec. Joseph J. & Regina Kulwicki (Joseph K. Kulwicki) Dec. Clarence & Esther Spellman (Joseph K. Kulwicki)

Dec. Luigji Pepaj (Pepaj Family)

**11:30am** Dec. Marsha Olson (Family)

Dec. Ray Mandziuk (Pat Mandziuk)

Dec. Stanley & Stella Mandziuk (Pat Mandziuk)

Dec. Suzanne DeDonatis (Mother)

Sunday, December 26, 2021

**9:00am** For the Parishioners

Dec. Walter & Irene Michalec (Daughter)

Dec. Robert F. Endres (Spouse)

**11:30am** Dec. Jack Campo (Caradonna Family)

Dec. Maria & Damiano Campo (Caradonna Family)
Dec. Vincent & Bridget Caradonna (Caradonna Family)

Dec. Betty Cianfarani (Family)



# "Nourished by God's Word & the Eucharist, we strive to be a welcoming Catholic community dedicated to living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ." NEW TO OUR PARISH? Would you like to join the St. Jane Frances de Chantal parish family? Become a parishioner! You may register anytime in the Parish Office or online at sjfparish.org/joinus. We would love to have you!

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#### ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL

**38750** Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, MI **48310** 586-977-8080 sjfparish.org

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#### **SACRAMENTS**

CHILDREN'S BAPTISM

Do you have a child you would like to have baptized? Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Available Tuesdays at 5:30pm.

#### **MARRIAGE**

Congratulations! Please contact our Parish Office at least six months prior to your desired wedding date to begin preparations.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office to schedule one-time or regular visits.

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