



Rejoice! Unto us a child is born. MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

**DECEMBER 25, 2021** 

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Weekend Masses	
Saturday	4:00pm
Sunday	9:00am & 11:30am
Weekday Masses	
Tuesday	7:00pm
Wednesday & Thu	rsday 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

6:00pm Rosary 7:00pm Mass with Anointing

#### Wednesday, December 22, 2021

8:00am Mass9:30am Needlecrafters6:00pm Needlecrafters7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 23, 2021 8:00am Mass 9:00am Swiffers Team #4

### Friday, December 24, 2021

4:00pmChristmas Eve Mass6:00pmChristmas Eve Mass11:30pmMusic Prelude12:00amMidnight 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



Fr. Tony Sulkowski Pastor FrTony@sjfparish.org Ext. 102

Hello and welcome to all our parishioners, families, friends, and guests!

We are thrilled you have joined us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

No matter where you have been or what life has been like for you, we want you to feel at home here at St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

May this Christmas fill your hearts with joy, hope, love, healing, comfort, calm, and every blessing. Thank you for taking the time to join us for Mass!

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Tony

### ENGAGE WITH US AT ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL:

# VIDEO MASS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to offer video Masses for our parishioners who cannot attend Mass in person.

Video Mass can be found every Sunday morning on the homepage of **sjfparish.org** or on our YouTube channel.

# **GROW IN FAITH DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

As we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, we encourage you to engage in the online formational resources provided by our parish!

Tune into a new episode of the Digital Music Series as our parish music ministry leads us through worship music fit for Advent and Christmas. 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. Come join us! All four episodes are available to watch now online at sjfparish.org/thewayoffaith.

### **PARISH NEWS**

We communicate regularly with our parishioners via Parish News. Parish News keeps our parishioners up-to-date with updates from our parish, as well as resources, articles, prayers, and formation opportunities.

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

Sign up at sjfparish.org/news.



**DECEMBER 25, 2021** 

<u> PAGE 2</u>



Janina Jacobs Director of Music JJacobs@sifparish.org Ext. 103

During the day, the "tree" doesn't look like much. In fact, it appears to be rather ugly, a mishmash of a whole lot of stuff thrown together in a sort of haphazard way. Upon closer examination, it's not really a tree

after all: hanging from a hook on the patio ceiling, it is a fishing net, bound at the bottom by an old green hose. Fishing reels are attached underneath, as are large colored lights and very atypical ornaments. What kind of Christmas tree is this?

Sometimes, things are not as they seem. While this tree would never make the cover of Homes and Gardens or House Beautiful, what it stands for goes far beyond any normal Christmas tradition and has created a tradition of its own. You see, in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in September 2017, the rebuilding of the lower Florida Keys stretched into December, the Christmas holiday season, and well beyond. People were displaced, their homes in complete disarray, while workers and contractors were practically non-existent, and materials were scarce or not available at all.

Yet, Christmas remained a magical time, even if you weren't a kid anymore. What to do when there are no evergreen trees to be had, no stores at which to shop, no ornaments, and nothing to celebrate the birth of Christ? Well, you make do. You go out and join in the rebuilding and removal efforts. You donate your time and your expertise—and even your blood—to those who were injured. While you are doing that, you find interesting items and objects in the debris fields, the trees, the mangroves, the neighbors' yards. And then your creative streak takes over, and you think, "Well, why not?"

So you separate the wheat from the chaff, wash everything, sort it out, and then begin to build a very unique and individual Christmas tree that represents everything lost and found during that awful time. It's treasure from trash, life from death, happiness from despair.

Isn't that what Christmas is all about? Jesus was sent to earth to save us. He didn't arrive in a fancy palace but in a lowly stable. He wasn't born to wealthy parents but to a simple man and his wife. He didn't have a layette or onesies; he was covered only in swaddling clothes.

When I view the Hurricane Irma Christmas tree, I don't see junk or items plucked from the refuse pile. Instead, I see something that was less than nothing but now symbolizes the human spirit, an entity so strong that it cannot be dissuaded by adversity or obstacles. Every eclectic ornament, every bulb, and each strand of beading on that tree represents triumph—and it is beautiful.

Merry Christmas to all of you, my St. Jane family, and may you find the beauty of the season no matter where you look.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE							
	Tuesday Dec. 28, 2021	Wednesday Dec. 29, 2021	Thursday Dec. 30, 2021	Saturday Jan. 1, 2022	Sunday Jan. 2 <i>,</i> 2022		
	7:00pm Mass	8:00am Mass	8:00am Mass	4:00pm Mass	9:00am Mass	11:30am Mass	
Sacristan	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass	Mary Wolf	Ray Knapp	Brian Finn	
Lector	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass	Sarah Friedmann	Chris Bajercius	Stephanie Jones	
THE NATIVI	TY OF THE LORD	1	1			PAGE 3	

# PAGE 3

### **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.





Laurie Hall Pastoral Associate LHall@sjfparish.org Ext. 104

"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful."

-Isaiah 9:5-6

**Merry Christmas!** Our work of directing our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas day culminates in our celebrations today.

Our waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus has led us to this great celebration today—we are so glad you are here! My prayer is that the season brings peace and joy to you and yours. We hope you have grown closer to Jesus through prayer, worship, and the opportunities for formation provided this season.

If you haven't had an opportunity to do so yet, please explore the four short videos on the theological virtues found on our website at **sjfparish.org/thewayoffaith**. There is also a *Sunday by Sunday* Christmas edition that can be found on our website at **sjfparish.org/sundaybysunday**.

As we go forth from Mass today, may we be filled with gratitude for the great gift of Jesus and jubilantly spread the joy of the Gospel throughout our world!

**Did you know?** Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation—the feast of God becoming flesh. The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him.

#### Have you ever blessed your Christmas tree?

The Christmas tree blessing on the next page can be used to remind us that the Christmas tree is part of our Christian celebration of the coming of Christ. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

# 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

PAGE 4

# **DECEMBER 25, 2021**

# **BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE**

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the light of the world.

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

"Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever."

All reply "Amen."

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

"My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders, Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light."

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

"Listen to the words of the Letter of St. Paul to Titus (3:4-7):

But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."

Or Ezekiel 17:22-24:

"I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel."

Reader: "The Word of the Lord."

All reply "Thanks be to God."

The intercessions are then said. The leader says:

"Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord."

All reply "Lord, give light to our hearts."

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

PAGE 5

### 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!



# **OUR MISSION**

"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."

# 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 For all Priests & Religious 8:00am 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) Dec. Gerald Williams (Williams Family) 6:00pm Dec. Joseph & Maria Gronowski (Gronowski Family) Dec. Lisa Vrabel (Mom & Dad) Liv. Paulin Vacaj (Maria) Dec. Mbrs. of the Brown & Hayden Families (Charlene Brown) Dec. Will & Shirley Fasczewski (Graziano Family) Midnight 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) Dec. Marsha Olson (Family) 11:30am 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)

# 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!

# PAGE 6

# **DECEMBER 25, 2021**

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

# **ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL**

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

### STAFF

Rev. Anthony Sulkowski Pastor FrTony@sjfparish.org // Ext. 102

Laurie Hall Pastoral Associate & Worship Coordinator LHall@sjfparish.org // Ext. 104

Jody Gazo

Business Manager JGazo@sjfparish.org // Ext. 112 Michael Novak

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry MNovak@sjfparish.org // Ext. 108

Janina Jacobs Director of Music JJacobs@sjfparish.org // Ext. 103

Lucas Jeffrey Communications Facilitator Lleffrey@sjfparish.org // Ext. 101 Mary Ann Gleich Office Assistant MGleich@sifparish.org // 586-977-8080

Linda Smith Stewardship & Evening Support Staff

LSmith@sjfparish.org // Ext. 113 Karen Graziano

Evening Support Staff 586-977-8080

Hosie King Maintenance Staff 586-977-8080

### Maria Benvenuti

Evening Support Staff 586-977-8080

# 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.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS** 

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Contact Laurie Hall to begin the process. Welcome home!



### ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL FIRST SUNDAY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Apdal & Rebucal Families Cresencio E. Apdal **Bajercius & Nowak Families** Carol Bardelline Michael Baranski Family Joseph Beauregard **Bielinski Family** Blacker & Bartz Families Bonk & Szymanski Families Anthony & Mary Ann Bratke Dennis Briston Broski & Schaff Families **Brower & Ficaro Families** Albert Brylewski Caradonna & Campo Families Nancy Ann Cardamone Fr. James Challancin **Coussens & Petracci Families Desmond Cushing** Louis & Elvira D'Ambrosio **DeHayes & Kulhawik Families** Andrew & Eleanor Delie Mark Dolata **Robert F. Endres Betty Eschrich** Raymond & Mary Fante

Finn & McNamara Families Florek & Soldatek Families Sr. Mary Frederick **Riley James Frush** Jesus & Mercedes Garcia James Golombek Norbert & Emily Golonka Henry & Irene Grifka **Gurney Family Donald Herppich** Kay Herrmann Hughes & Przedwojewski Families John Kapeluch Family Richard H. & Richie Karasinski Father Mike Kazer Anthony & Jane Klik Jean Koscielski **Bernard Kosnik** John & Dorothy Kotulis Peter & Elizabeth Kotulis Ron Kotulis Sandi Kotulis Anthony Krull Family Frances Kulwicki Kulwicki & Spellman Families James Kwapis

John Kwapis Family James & Dolores LaRocca John & Marisa LaRocca Joseph & Helen Levenski Joann Lichocki Stanley & Dolores Lichocki Maguran & Baglama Families Raymond J. Mandziuk Mandziuk & Skonieczny Families **Richard Marshall** Thomas & Rose Medved Clara & Stanley Milczynski Sr. Alice Miller Liz & Pam Miller Family Conrad Modlinski Harry & Lottie Musialowski George Muylaert Family Vincent Nesci, D.C. Tuan Nguyen Family Edward J. Novak & Family Brian Oakes Kenneth Oakes Jack O'Connell Marsha A. Olson Bruno Osak Leandre & Vina Page

Parrott Family & Friends Helen & Henry Perliskey **Genevieve Perliski** Joseph Pistono Pokrywka & Zalucki Families Lois Polkinghorne Aniela Poslaiko Fred Andrew Post Arnold & Shirley Putrycus Deborah Puzzuoli Joseph Quitter Family Luigi & Elvira Rastelli Reghi & Mahon Families **Rucinski & Kennedy Families Rudzewicz & Timko Families** Rudzinski & Bartkowski Families Sadecki & Wojtkiewicz Families Esse & Grace Salamie Jim Sawicki **Richard Schriedel** Arnold Semrau Norman & Mary Ann Setter Frank & Lucille Steinhebel **Ursula Steinhebel** Jean Stevens Anthony & Phyllis Sulkowski Sr. **Ronald Suwinski** Jack Taylor James & Mae Taylor Jon Taylor Karen Taylor Tom Taylor Paula M. Trombley Urbano & Pomnichowski Families Bernard & Mary Varani **Richard Volpe** Constance (Perliskey) Warchock Michael Warchock Barbara Ward George & Julia Wittner John & Mary Wojtas Anton Wolf Mary T. Woywood Zaglaniczny & Morris Families Merle Zakrzewski Zalewski & Confer Families Marsha Zanardelli Family Chester & Virginia Zurek



© 2021 DIOCESAN

1383