ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL 38750 RYAN ROAD, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48310 586-977-8080 SJFPARISH.ORG



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

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. The celebration of this feast brings to a close the Christmas season. I would like to thank everyone who sent along Christmas greetings. Thank you also for the gifts that I received. We have great bakers in the parish.

I also wish everyone a very happy New Year. May we see with the eyes of faith the awesome things God brings into our lives.

We begin this year with new hopes and desires. We do not know what this year will hold for us; however, we remain open to the possibilities. Time and time again, I remind people that God never intended for us to be miserable. Yet, sometimes, we tend to make ourselves miserable by the choices we make.

We cannot undo what has already been done. The past is just that: the past. However, we can look to the future with our new hopes and expectations.

We need something to do to get us out of bed in the morning. We need someone to love, and we need to receive love. That is what human relationships are all about. We also need something to hope for—something to look forward to.

We enter this year's journey knowing that God loves us and wants us to be happy. He created us for that purpose. Will there be challenges along the way? Of course there will. But it is through our experiences and challenges that we understand what is important in our lives.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, it is traditional in some cultures to bless the family home. Below is a blessing that you can say as a family as you gather in your home:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Blessings)

Bon mot: "Yet we do not despair nor lose heart, because we put our trust not in ourselves, but in Him who works in us." —St. Leo the Great

Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony

## **KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL IN THE NEW YEAR!**

The beginning of a new year is a great time to make sure you are connected with our parish.

Sign up for Parish News at **sjfparish.org/news** to receive regular emails from our parish. News, important updates, prayer resources, and more will be delivered straight to your email inbox.



JANUARY 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY 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, January 4, 2021 9:00am Panera

Tuesday, January 5, 20215:30pmConfessions6:00pmRosary

7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

8:00am Mass 9:30am Needlecrafters

Thursday, January 7, 20218:00amMass9:00amSwiffers Team #3

Friday, January 8, 2021 No events

Saturday, January 9, 2021 4:00pm Mass

Sunday, January 10, 2021 9:00am Mass 11:30am Mass



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

The traditional day to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord is January  $6^{th}$ . This year, we celebrate on January  $3^{rd}$ , as it falls on a Sunday.

The Epiphany falls 12 days after Christmas. This was regarded as enough time for the magi to travel to Bethlehem from foreign lands to pay homage to the newborn King. With their arrival, Jesus is made known to the outside world.

Just as the star in the East symbolized the light of Christ shining for the whole world to see, so are we called to show Christ in our lives so others can hear the good news wherever we go. We might ask ourselves today: To whom do I pay homage? Are they worthy of my respect?

## **EPIPHANY BLESSING**

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time, the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.

A traditional way of writing this blessing is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, "20 + C + M + B + 21." The letters C, M, and B have two meanings. First, they are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, or, "May Christ bless this house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2021 is the year.

To begin, first bless the chalk:

Leader: "Our help is the name of the Lord."

All reply, "The maker of heaven and earth."

Leader: "The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in."

All reply, "From this time forth for evermore. Let us pray."

*Together:* "Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people. Grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name, we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

#### To bless the home:

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) with "20 + C + M + B + 21." While doing so, say:

"The Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son, who became human two thousand and twenty-one years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the New Year. Amen."

Then offer the following prayer:

"Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love, and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch.

May we grow in grace and in our knowledge and love of you. Guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen."

## 2020 ADVENT GIVING TREE: THANK YOU!

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

In past years, our annual Advent Giving Tree project was able to provide nearly 1,000 gifts to both local families with children and a variety of agencies serving people in need.

This year was different. Due to COVID-19, we had to adjust our operation, and instead requested gift cards and cash donations. Yet again, so many people in need were overjoyed to receive the generosity of the St. Jane Frances de Chantal parish community. We donated over \$12,000 in gift cards and cash, which allowed us to provide resources to assist:

Children of families served by St. Vincent de Paul

**St. Aloysius** "neighborhood ministry" to the homeless, working poor, and seniors in Detroit

St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocesan ministry to prisoners and newly-released inmates

Turning Point shelter for domestic violence victims and survivors in Macomb county

McWARM warming center, a gathering place for the homeless in Macomb county

St Leo's Soup Kitchen, serving meals to the homeless in Detroit

We would like to thank these organizations, our Advent Giving Tree team, and all those who donated for being the light of Christ this Christmas and throughout the year. Your donation made a difference to those in need!

## WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN: "UNDECORATING" THE WORSHIP SPACE

The Christmas Season ends next Sunday, January 10, 2021 with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the worship space during the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have an hour or two to help "undecorate," please call the Parish Office at 586-977-8080 and let us know you are available.

After 11:30am Mass on January 10, 2021, parishioners are invited to take home a poinsettia. This is a wonderful way to bring the beauty of the worship space home with you!

## SAINT HIGHLIGHT: ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Adapted from *catholiccurrent.org*. Feast Day: January 5<sup>th</sup>.

A native of Bohemia, John entered the seminary and was nearing ordination when he departed for the United States. He joined the Redemptorists and served as a priest in New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

In 1852, he was named the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. He founded more than 50 churches and greatly expanded Catholic education.

John had a fondness for immigrants and knew six languages. His pastoral zeal was evident up to his last moments of life. He passed away at age 48.



# SCRIPTURE READINGS WEEK OF JAN. 3, 2021

#### Sunday

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

#### Monday

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:22—4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

#### Tuesday

*Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop* 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday Saint André Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday** Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 1 Jn 4:19—5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a

Friday 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b Jn 3:22-30

Sunday Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3) Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9 Mk 1:7-11

JOIN US ONLINE!

SIFPARISH ORG

### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK JIM CARDONNA of CAR-DONNA'S MARATHON & PARTY STORE

Thank you for advertising in our bulletin! We ask our parishioners to support our advertisers, as they make our bulletin possible.

### OFFERTORY INFORMATION DECEMBER 20, 2020

Registered Families:	1,386
Envelopes Returned:	138
Amount Offered:	\$5,357.00
Loose Offering:	\$756.00
Online Giving Contributors:	108
Contributions:	\$4,047.00
Total Offerings:	\$10,160.00
2020 Budgeted Offertory:	\$11,786.00
Actual Offertory:	\$10,160.00
Difference:	-\$1,626.00

Thank you to those who continue to donate; your contributions help us continue operations during the pandemic. To sign up for online giving, visit **sjfparish.org/onlinegiving**.

If you have any questions, contact Jody at JGazo@sjfparish.org or call 586-977-8080, Ext. 112.

## THE 2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

The Catholic Services Appeal is an annual campaign that raises funds for the Archdiocese of Detroit ministries, programs, and services that serve all the faithful in southeast Michigan. It is an opportunity for the faithful to rise up and help answer God's call to love one another.

**Our parish goal is \$79,000**. If we do not meet our goal, our parish must pay the difference. If we exceed our goal, the money over and above comes back to our parish.

Please visit **givecsa.org** to make a contribution. We thank God in advance for your support!



Communications Facilitator Leffrey@sjfparish.org Ext. 101

This week marks my one-year anniversary of starting here at St. Jane Frances de Chantal as Communications Facilitator. Thank you to everyone who

has given me such a warm welcome, and to those I already knew at our parish who supported me as I took on this new position. I'm looking forward to another great year of serving our parish!

I spoke last week about the importance of reflection as 2020 came to a close. Now that we've entered 2021, it's time to begin the next step: taking action.

2020 taught us all about the importance of being flexible and relying on each other. Despite many difficulties, we persevered as a family of faith and kept the Holy Spirit flowing through us. As we begin our journey through 2021, we should look with earnestness at the possibilities of the New Year.

Many make resolutions for the New Year. This year, it might feel a little daunting to do that. We don't know what's on the horizon, especially after all the uncertainty of the past year. When we don't know what's coming, how do we know if our resolutions will be feasible? When feeling uncertain, it can be helpful to recall Philippians 4:13, which you might recognize in its more popular translation:

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

We cannot sit idle in fear of what the future will bring. We must make plans and prepare to lead our 2021 lives, whatever they may look like. As we live in uncertain times, those plans may ultimately fall through. However, so long as we keep Christ close to our hearts, we will persevere through whatever comes.

In writing that, I'm reminded of last April. Back then, we didn't know when the celebration of public Masses would resume. However, we knew that, when Mass did return, things would look different.

Online, I had seen many parishes who had switched to live worship. At the time, we had never done any sort of live Mass here at our parish. I kept the idea in the back of my mind, in case we needed it when Masses resumed—whenever that was.

Then Archbishop Vigneron announced that we would resume the celebration of public Masses. At once, live Masses became essential. In the span of a few short weeks, we had to figure out and implement a system to livestream our Masses so that we could bring the celebration of the Eucharist to our parishioners who remained at home. It was a surprise—but we persevered!

I feel that story speaks to the importance of preparation, even when you don't know what's coming. While we had no idea when Masses would resume, I was aware of what other parishes were doing, and kept those ideas close—and, in the end, they came in handy!

As we enter 2021, we should keep our spirits high and our minds open. While even the best-laid plans can change, we must maintain a positive outlook as we walk in the footsteps of the Lord.



JANUARY 3, 2021

<u>PAGE 4</u>

## SIX HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DISCIPLES

#### Adapted from unleashthegospel.org.

Are you a better disciple today than you were a year ago? It's a great time of year to review what we need to change and improve in our lives. To be a better follower of Jesus, we should be practicing the habits of good discipleship.

Jesus should be at the center of our lives. Take the time in prayer to discuss this with Jesus: Who is He to you? Is He at the center of your life? Do you prioritize time with Him? Look at this honestly with Jesus; He is not harshly judging you for imperfections. He wants to draw you closer to Him.

**Sacramental life.** Christ instituted His Church and the Sacraments as pure channels of His sanctifying grace. This is the lifeblood of a disciple. A disciple makes it a habit to regularly and reverently participate in the Sacraments. If you are able, are you attending Mass on Sundays? Do you prepare yourself in prayer before Mass to receive the Eucharist? If you are not able to attend, are you keeping the Lord's day holy and making spiritual communions?

**Prayer** is essential for communicating with God and developing that personal relationship with Him. We can pray vocal prayers like the Our Father, the rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet—but we should also be spending time in silence, becoming aware of God's presence and listening to Him. We should share with Him all our hopes, worries, joys, and fears, and then let Him love us, calm our hearts, and direct us.

**Scripture.** As disciples, a very important habit to develop is spending time with the Word of God. We should set aside a few minutes each day to read Scripture. This can be part of our prayer. The Word of God is living; the Holy Spirit breathes in and out of the words of Scripture. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to be immersed in the Word so that we come to know who He is, how He wants us to live, and what He wants us to do.

**Community.** Another essential habit of discipleship is to be connected to community. We are not saved as individuals but as members of the body of Christ, and we know that where two or three are gathered, Jesus is in the midst of them. We are made for community. God offers us the gift of holy friendship with each other so that we might encourage each other. This past year, we have felt the difficulty of being deprived of connection to others. One of the best ways to connect with a community of disciples is to participate in a small group. These are simple gatherings of a few people to share faith and reflect on Scripture together through regular virtual meetings. It's easy to participate in or even lead a small group. You might want to invite friends or family to convene for this purpose by joining or leading a small group. Regardless of how you connect, be sure you are making a concerted effort to connect with and support fellow disciples, as well as finding disciples who can encourage and support you.

LECTOR SCHEDULE				
Tuesday Jan. 5, 2020	Wednesday Jan. 6, 2021	Thursday Jan. 7, 2021	Saturday Jan. 9, 2021	Sunday Jan. 10, 2021
<i>7:00pm</i> John Martin	<i>8:00am</i> Annette Mobley	<i>8:00am</i> Cindy Guzi	<i>4:00pm</i> Phil Mina	<i>9:00am</i> Sarah Friedmann
				<i>11:30am</i> Jan Machusak
THE EPIPHAN	Y OF THE LORI	)	1	

### ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL PARISH COUNCIL

**Pastor** Fr. Tony Sulkowski

Chairman Craig Smith, crsgto@live.com

Vice Chairman & Member at Large Bob Pawlik

Christian Service Doreen Corby

Secretary Nancy Dufoor

Finance Ray Fortier

**Worship** John Martin

Member at Large Joe Nida

Stewardship Linda Smith

Worship & Ushers Leon Soltesz

Vicariate Reps Julie & Ray Sroka

**Education** Eric Rzeppa

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**Let us pray for you!** Although we are still socially distant, our Intercessory Prayer team is here for you. They are praying for all requests submitted.

Our Intercessory Prayer box remains open on our website. Please visit sjfparish.org/intercessoryprayer to submit prayer requests.

If you have any questions, contact Laurie Hall at **LHall@sjfparish.org** or call 586-977-8080, Ext. 104.



PAGE 5

## ARMED SERVICES PRAYER LIST

Robert Bain, Army
Nicholas Brosowski, Army
Chris Burley, Navy
Shaun Chaplin, Air Force
Winndie Darrow, Coast Guard
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
Scot D. Skoczylas, Navy
Anthony Trotta, Navy
Kyle Wiegand, Army

### **PRAYER LIST**

Jennifer Paul	June Sadowski
Nick Paul	Theresa Schaub
Annette Pickler	Marsha Zanardelli
Drew Rasico	

Names added to the Prayer List remain for a period of four weeks. Please call the Parish Office to request additional prayers. Thank you!

RISE AND BE NOT AFRAID.

GIVE TO THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL AT GIVECSA.ORG

## MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 4, 2021 No Mass

,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	····· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Tuesday, Janı 7:00pm	u <b>ary 5, 2021</b> Dec. Leroy Rogers (Judy Taylor) Dec. Jerome Ruedisueli (McIntyre Family)
Wednesday, . 8:00am	January 6, 2021 For the Parishioners
Thursday, Jar 8:00am	nuary 7, 2021 For the Parishioners
Friday, Janua	ry 8, 2021 No Mass
Saturday, Jan 4:00pm	u <b>ary 9, 2021</b> Dec. Bernard & Ceola Trinity (Robert & Frances Kraft) Dec. Joann LicNocki (Husband) Dec. Huless Bolton (Carol & Denise Lenartowicz)
Sunday, Janu	ary 10, 2021
9:00am	For the Parishioners Dec. Fr. Ed Ritter (Bob & Joyce Youngert) Dec. Dorothy Kelzer (Judy Taylor) Dec. Les & Zelma Esper (The Majka Family)
11:30am	Dec. Ruth Schramski (Joseph & Family) Dec. Thomas Guirey (Tom & Alice Thomas) Dec. Evelyn Bremerkamp (Family) Liv. Valentin Vacaj (Maria Vacaj)

THE DIGITAL MUSIC SERIES IS BACK! JOIN US FOR DIGITAL WORSHIP MUSIC AT SJFPARISH.ORG/DIGITALMUSICSERIES

## **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."

## **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

# JANUARY 3, 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

Janina Jacobs Director of Music JJacobs@sjfparish.org // Ext. 103 Ben Klassen Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Coordinator BKlassen@sjfparish.org // Ext. 108

> Lucas Jeffrey Communications Facilitator Lleffrey@sjfparish.org // Ext. 101

Mary Ann Gleich Office Assistant MGleich@sjfparish.org // 586-977-8080

Linda Smith Stewardship Liaison LSmith@sjfparish.org // Ext. 113

# 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

**Bajercius & Nowak Families Carol Bardelline** Joseph Beauregard **Bielinski** Family Blacker & Bartz Families Bonk & Szymanski Families Dennis Briston Broski & Schaff Families Brower & Ficaro Families Caradonna & Campo Families Nancy Ann Cardamone Coussens & Petracci Families Desmond T. Cushing Louis & Elvira D'Ambrosio DeHayes & Kulhawik Families Andrew & Eleanor Delie Betty Eschrich Finn & McNamara Families Florek & Soldatek Families Sister Mary Frederick **Riley James Frush** 

Jesus & Mercedes Garcia James Golombek Norbert & Emily Golonka **Gurney Family** Kay Herrmann Hughes & Przedwojewski Families John S. Kapeluch Family Richard H. & Richie Karasinski Fr. Mike Kazer Anthony & Jane Klik Kogut & Droz Families Jean Koscielski Bernard L. Kosnik John & Dorothy Kotulis Ron Kotulis Sandi Kotulis Kulwicki & Spellman Families Kwanis & Krull Families James Kwapis Kwiatkowski & Madeira Families Gerald & Kimberly LaForest

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 Harry & Lottie Musialowski George Muylaert Family Vincent Nesci, D. C. Edward J. Novak & Family Brian Oakes Kenneth Oakes Jack O'Connell Marsha A. Olson Bruno J. Osak Leandre & Vina Page

Helen & Henry Perliskey Genevieve Perliski Lois Polkinghorne Aniela Poslaiko Arnold & Shirley Putrycus Deborah Puzzuoli Joseph Quitter Family **Risko & Potz Families** Rucinski & Kennedy Families Rudzewicz & Timko Families Rudzinski & Bartkowski Families Esse & Grace Salamie Jim Sawicki **Richard Schriedel** Arnold Semrau Norman & Mary Ann Setter Sokolowski & Kendzierski Families Jean Stevens Anthony & Phyllis Sulkowski Sr. Richard J Swita Family 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 Wojtas & Rachwal Families Mary T. Woywood Merle Zakrzewski Zalewski & Confer Families Marsha Zanardelli Family Chester & Virginia Zurek



Online at Diocesan.com/Business

VISA

1383

© 2020 DIOCESAN