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



Fr. Tony Sulkowski Pastor Ext. 102

This time of year seems to be one for getting engaged and for planning upcoming marriages. Primarily, this article is for newly-engaged couples who are planning to be FrTony@sjfparish.org married here at St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

When contacting our parish about planning an upcoming wedding, please ask to speak to Fr. Tony. Our front desk staff does not help select available wedding dates. That is done between me and the couple. If you have a question pertaining to marriage, please ask me.

One of the first questions I ask a couple planning to be married at our parish is if either of the couple has been married before. This is an important question, because if either of the couple has been previously married, either in the Church or civilly, that marriage must first be annulled before they can enter into a new marriage. If either of the couple has been married before, a date for the new couple cannot be set until the prior marriage is annulled. The annulment process can take at least two years from start to completion.

The Church also asks for a recent baptismal certificate from the couple. The reason for this is twofold. Firstly, the baptismal certificate verifies that you have been baptized in the Catholic faith. Secondly, all your Sacraments are recorded at the Church of Baptism and are noted on the back of the certificate. The notations on the back record the Sacraments that the person has already received, namely Confirmation, Marriage, and Sacred Orders.

I prefer to meet couples who are planning to get married at our parish as soon as possible so that they know what is expected of them in the course of marriage preparation. I have found that the sooner the preparation begins, the easier the whole process of marriage becomes. I look forward to working with those who are planning their marriage.

"The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring: this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."

(CCC 1055)

I would like to thank those couples from St. Jane Frances de Chantal who are involved in the Covenant Couples Ministry. These couples are assigned a newly-engaged couple to assist and walk with them as they prepare for their marriage and wedding day. You make my ministry a lot easier.

Bon mot: "God has placed no limits to the exercise of the intellect he has given us, on this side of the grave."

-Francis Bacon

Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony

2021 FISH FRYS

Whether you came for the delicious fish dinners, to share in fellowship, or even to volunteer, our Fish Frys were a great place to come together on Friday evenings during Lent. While we were hoping to hold Fish Frys again this year, it is with a heavy heart that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fish Fry Committee has decided to cancel all 2021 Fish Frys.

In lieu of supporting our parish ministries through the Fish Frys, we are asking that you instead please consider supporting local restaurants. Many local establishments have been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we won't be serving our dinners, we hope you'll enjoy a meal from one of your favorite local restaurants. This way, we will all be working to help the local economy during these trying times.

We thank you for supporting our parish activities, and we pray that you and your families are healthy and safe.

The Fish Fry Committee



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, February 1, 2021 9:00am Panera

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

5:30pm Confession 6:00pm Rosary

7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

8:00am Mass 9:30am Needlecrafters

Thursday, February 4, 20218:00amMass9:00amSwiffers Team #3

Friday, February 5, 2021 No events

Saturday, February 6, 2021 4:00pm Mass

Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:00am Mass 11:30am Mass

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Ben Klassen Youth Ministry Coordinator & Director of Faith Formation BKlassen@sjfparish.org Ext. 108

We are now a month into Ordinary Time—and two a half weeks from entering the season of Lent. Perspective is really an amazing thing!

We hear of differing perspectives in

this week's readings. In the first reading, Moses relates to the Israelites—who have been wandering the desert for forty years—rules for them to follow once they settle into the land God has provided for them. In following these rules, they will remember the past—their exodus from Egypt and their path through the desert—and, most importantly, the many blessings God has given them.

In the second reading, Paul tells the Corinthians about differing perspectives between married men and women and single men and women. He states,

"I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction."

(1 Cor. 7:34-35)

I believe he says this to help the people of Corinth see and better understand teachings that are new to them, and that these teachings can affect each person differently. By better witnessing how each person might view these teachings, they can better help one another in their respective callings as followers of Christ.

Finally, our Gospel reading from Mark relates how Jesus, at the beginnings of His public ministry, shocked those in the synagogue by entering the space on the Sabbath and teaching them "as one having authority and not as the scribes" (Mk 1:22b).

Jesus, a relatively unknown man to the masses, does not simply recite laws and scripture. Rather, He speaks of it with knowledge and conviction. Jesus even commands an unclean spirit from a man who is in the Temple. How should we view Jesus, this new man, in our community?

Perspective can change how we see things. Perspective can help us understand where someone is coming from. Perspective can reinforce our beliefs and help us better define what it is we believe. From Moses offering the people God's promises by granting them someone from their own ranks as a prophet, to the story of Jesus in the Synagogue, to one of Jesus' disciples, Paul, teaching God's ways to His people and helping them see one another, we see that God is true to His word. God works not in just one season, and not only through special circumstances. When we ask, God works among each of us. Everything in the world began in goodness through God. It is through the machinations and reliance of humanity on its own "knowledge" that error and even evil are allowed to continue their pervasive holds on our lives.

When we can allow ourselves to see the things that go on around us through different lenses—through the eyes of someone else—we open ourselves to a much greater truth and understanding of the world and humanity around us. When this openness to perspective moves from something that we "do" to something that is a part of who we are, we begin to see each other in new ways. We begin to treat one another not as a means to an end, but as truly good people in and of themselves.

See God in those around you this week. Purposefully shift perspective to see someone differently, and allow God to use your gifts for His Mission.



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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2, 2021. Adapted from catholiccurrent.org.

"We too are called to welcome Jesus who comes to meet us, to encounter Him. The God of life is to be encountered every day of our lives—not now and then, but every day. To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all; it is a daily choice."

-Pope Francis, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2019

The Presentation of Jesus in the temple shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Anna, all of Israel awaits its encounter with the Savior—the name given to this event in the Byzantine tradition.

Jesus is recognized as the long-expected Messiah, the "light of the nations" and the "glory of Israel," but also "a sign that is spoken against." The sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ's perfect and unique oblation on the cross that will impart the salvation of God has "prepared in the presence of all peoples" (CCC, no. 529).

FEAST OF ST. BLASE

February 3, 2021. Adapted from The Book of Blessings.

Saint Blase was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His acclaim spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages, because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.



BLESSING OF THE THROAT

Fr. Tony will extend a General Blessing of Throats at all Masses this weekend, January 30, 2021 & January 31, 2021.



LECTOR SCHEDULE				
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
Feb. 2, 2020	Feb. 3, 2021	Feb. 4, 2021	Feb. 6, 2021	Feb. 7, 2021
<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>8:00am</i>	<i>8:00am</i>	<i>4:00pm</i>	<i>9:00am</i>
John Martin	Annette Mobley	Cindy Guzi	Keith Morris	Denise Dara
				<i>11:30am</i> Robert Skwara

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS WEEK OF JAN. 31, 2021

Sunday

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

Monday

Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Wednesday

St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mk 6:1-6

Thursday Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 Mk 6:7-13

Friday Memorial of St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc Mk 6:14-29

Saturday Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs Heb 13:15-17; 20-21 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mk 6:30-34

Sunday

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 Mk 1:29-39

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK MONIQUE POTTS of E & M LANDSCAPING

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

OFFERTORY INFORMATION JANUARY 24, 2021

Registered Families: Envelopes Returned:	1,369 148
•	
Amount Offered: Loose Offering:	\$5,685.00 \$832.00
Online Giving Contributors:	108
Contributions:	\$3,309.00
Total Offerings:	\$9 <i>,</i> 826.00
2020 Budgeted Offertory:	\$11,786.00
Actual Offertory:	\$9,826.00
Difference:	-\$1,960.00

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.

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2020 contribution statements were mailed out on January 20, 2021.

If you did not receive a contribution statement and would like to request one, please call the Parish Office at 586-977-8080. Thank you!





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

People sometimes inquire about a family member singing or otherwise participating in the music at a funeral or wedding at Church. We do welcome such requests, but certain protocols need to be in place first.

In other words, you must ask the pastor if it's okay. We want to be sure the person singing is familiar with the Catholic Mass and that the music is appropriate. If your request involves playing the organ, we must also be confident the person knows how to play and navigate such an expensive instrument. I've been to other churches where a visiting organist was never allowed to play, because in the past, someone caused damage to the organ, which led to expensive repairs.

Over the years, I've had interesting experiences with visiting musicians. Most are delightful, in that I've discovered some very talented people. Other experiences have been a little touchy, because the person was being asked to sing based on sentimental value, not musical quality. However, it's better to honor the wishes of the family, especially in times of grief.

Every so often, a young person is asked to sing or play, which is a totally different situation and has to be handled very carefully. One such instance involved my own niece, Lauren, who had been studying piano and was quite good for being only nine years old. 30 years ago, my 75-year old dad's friend Ebba had passed away suddenly, and we were all heartbroken. Ebba had come into Dad's life years after my mom died, and we were happy Dad had a wonderful companion. She volunteered at St. John Hospital (now Ascension) and had wanted her funeral at the chapel there. She had also wanted me to minister the music.

Lauren loved Ebba, and asked to play a prelude song at the funeral. I had no problem with that, but mere moments prior to her beginning, I whispered, "Lauren, what song are you playing? I'd like to introduce you and your song." She proudly answered, "*Camel Caravan*," and I nearly choked, wondering how that might fit into a Catholic funeral mass!

A done deal, I sort of mumbled the title into the microphone, and Lauren proceeded to pluck out this very bouncy, lively tune that mimicked camels streaking across the desert, marching in formation. She played it beautifully and was so proud to have been able to contribute musically to Ebba's funeral.

Afterward, I anticipated comments about this, but instead, people complimented all the music, *Camel Caravan* included. Later, at the luncheon, I asked Lauren about her selection. Her answer has always stuck with me, and is a frank reminder that children sometimes do indeed think in a higher realm than adults. Their grasp of death and what comes after may be more accurate than we know.

"Well, Aunt Tweet," (my long-time nickname), "I just loved Ebba. She was always so much fun. I was so sad when she died, but all I could picture was her riding off toward Heaven on this caravan of camels, with so many of them following. That's why I chose *Camel Caravan*. It was the perfect song for her."

Of course it was perfect. I don't doubt there are music directors who would have said "Oh, no, you cannot play *that*," or, "I don't know your ability," or "You're too young." But how else are you supposed to bring kids into the Church or guide them toward understanding that death is part of life? To this day, Lauren still fondly remembers her special role. Need I say more?

2021 ANNIVERSARRY MASS

If you and your spouse are celebrating a wedding anniversary this year of 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or over 50 years, or a significant year in your own marriage, you are invited to our annual Parish Anniversary Mass on **Saturday, February 13, 2021 at the 4:00pm Mass**.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no dinner offered after the Mass this year. However, we would still like to recognize all those celebrating anniversaries in the bulletin.

If you would like to be recognized in the bulletin, **please call the Parish Office at 586-977-8080 by Sunday, February 7, 2021 with the first and last names of the couple, and the number of years you have been married.**



A PRAYER FOR UNITY IN MARRIAGE

Heavenly Father, we come before you to thank you for all you have done and continue to do in our lives and in our marriage.

We come before you today, O God, asking for a stronger bond of unity in our marriage covenant.

Almighty God, we ask that you will give us the ability to be a united front for you, letting nothing come between us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY MEMORIAL

The First Sunday Monthly Memorial Forms for 2021 are now available in the Parish Office.

The offering is still \$75.00 per intention for the year.

The First Sunday Monthly Memorial will be recognized at the 9:00am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. It will also be included in the bulletin every week on the back cover starting in March 2021 through the last Sunday of February 2022.

Please submit your form as soon as possible or **by February 18, 2021**.

If you have questions, please contact the Parish Office at 586-977-8080.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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!

Our Intercessory Prayer box remains open in-person and on our website.

Visit **sjfparish.org/intercessoryprayer** to submit prayer requests.



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

Eileen Clase MaryAnn DeDonatis Sue Emerson Larry Karpinski Andrea Pawl June Sadowski

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 1, 2021 No Mass

Tuesday, February 2, 2021		
7:00pm	Dec. Edward Novak, Jr. (Family)	
	Dec. Norma Connors (Judy Taylor)	
Wednesday, February 3, 2021		
8:00am	Liv. Paulin Vacaj (Maria Vacaj)	

8:00am Liv. Paulin Vacaj (Maria V Thursday, February 4, 2021

8:00am Dec. Marian Maue (Friends at Oakmont Manor)

Friday, February 5, 2021 No Mass

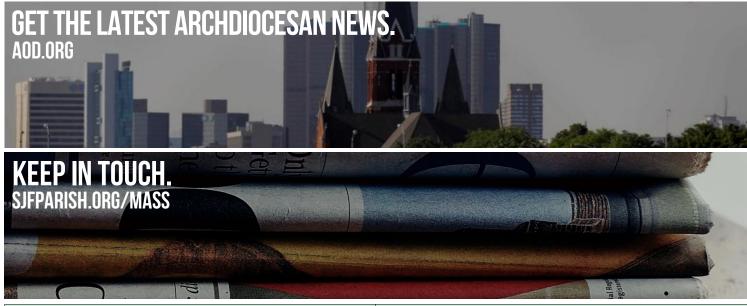
Saturday, February 6, 2021

4:00pm Liv. Maria Vacaj (for Life) (Gjoka Pepaj) Liv. Karen Rothenhauser (Tom & Phyllis Harris) Dec. Jerry Sadowski (Mike & Janet Sepanik) Liv. Wheeler Page (Zofia Wasikowski)

Sunday, February 7, 2021

9:00am First Sunday Monthly Memorial Mbrs. Dec. Fran & Wally Berchulc (Bob & Joyce Youngert) Dec. Mary Varani (Judy Taylor) Liv. Leta Vacaj (Maria)

11:30am For the Parishioners
Dec. Lorraine Felisiak (Ed & Sandy Kempa)
Dec. Filippo Vultaggio (7th Anniv.) (Benvenuti Family)



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!

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JANUARY 31, 2021

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL

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Maria Benvenuti Evening Support Staff 586-977-8080

Hosie King Maintenance Staff 586-977-8080

Rich & Maurene Centalla Maintenance 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

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**

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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



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