

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

We begin this third week of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. You may recall that in Luke's Gospel during the first week of Advent, we hear Jesus telling His disciples to be watchful and to stay alert. Luke's gospel presents us with four themes to keep in mind in our preparation for the feast of Christmas. Each of these themes enables us to

reflect upon this season and points us to the birth of Christ. The themes that the Scriptures present to us are preparation, joy, hope, and love. Each one is a stepping stone for our celebration of Christ being born into the world. They are themes that allow us to focus on what is important in our lives.

In my office, I have many mementos that I have received from people throughout my years of being a priest. In the early days of my priesthood, I received a framed piece of needlepoint. At every subsequent assignment, I had that framed needlepoint. It became the last thing I packed when concluding an assignment, and the first thing I unpacked when I arrived at a new parish. It serves as a point of focus for me when events or situations became overwhelming.

Life can sometimes be overwhelming. When this happens, we might feel pulled in various directions and lose our focus. The words on the needlepoint help me to focus on what is important in my life and pull me back to the events and situations at hand. Those three simple yet powerful words in needlepoint are family, faith, and friends. As we draw closer in our journey toward Bethlehem, may we prepare ourselves to receive He who is our joy, our hope, and our love.

Bon mot: "As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image—the prefect representation of God."

-Ambrose of Milan

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 sjfparish.org.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS! THE JUDELAIRES IN CONCERT AT OUR PARISH ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th at 7:00pm no tickets required. Please wear a face mask when attending.

HEALTH MINISTRY: HELP NEEDED!

Our parish Health Ministry plans to restart monthly blood pressure screenings in January. We will follow all COVID-19 safety protocols (masks, social distancing, and sanitization).

We are in need of people to help take BPs after each Mass. This will take about 30 minutes after the Mass you usually attend. If you are a nurse or other healthcare professional with experience in taking BP, please email Kathy Pawlik, RN at kpawlik68@yahooo.com. Kathy will send out an email before each scheduled screening and ask for volunteers.

If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 586-977-8080 or email Kathy Pawlik. Thank you!

DECEMBER 12, 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 13, 2021

9:00am Panera

1:00pm Intercessory Prayer Team

Mtg. (via Zoom)

6:00pm Advent Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

1:00pm Adoration 5:30pm Confession 6:00pm Rosary

7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

8:00am Mass

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

Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:00am Mass

11:30am Swiffers Team #3

7:00pm Angels & Inspiration Concert

Friday, December 17, 2021

Parish Office closed.

Saturday, December 18, 2021

4:00pm Mass

4:45pm Divine Mercy Prayers

Sunday, December 19, 2021

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

7:00pm Youth Group at St. Jane



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

We have now entered the second half of the Advent season: Gaudete Sunday!

"The Third Sunday of Advent (Like the Fourth Sunday of Lent) is a day of joy in the midst of

our spiritual preparations for Christmas. It is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin of the Entrance Antiphon for today. The antiphon captures the mood of the entire liturgy as we move into the second part of Advent: there is a sense of joyful expectation, an awareness that the fulfillment of God's great plan for us is near" (Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays).

The first two readings speak to that theme: "Shout for joy... sing joyfully," we hear in the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah—and the word "Rejoice" is found twice in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. Then, in the Gospel, John the Baptist baptizes the people with joy, and they rejoice in their new life. The newly baptized then ask, "What should we do?" They have repented of their sin, but they know they will need to do more to be pleasing in the Lord's eyes. We see then a precursor to the public ministry of Jesus—with the same lessons Jesus will teach—being expressed by John the Baptist. He addresses the crowd, including tax collectors and soldiers, giving them a lesson in how to serve God by serving God's people. We can see a model for our own ongoing catechesis, which is necessary to continually grow in understanding of the faith and learn the way of the Lord that leads to eternal salvation.

As John the Baptist and Jesus did, the Church continues to teach the faith and helps us grow in virtue in order to receive the salvation only God can provide. Throughout our lives, with its ages and stages, we too must ask, "What should we do?" During this Advent season, we can seek to be closer to God through prayer, reading Scripture, and seeking to understand our faith through resources like our *Sunday by Sunday* print resource and our episodes of The Way of Faith on the theological virtues (both available on **sjfparish.org**).

We focus this week on the virtue of hope in The Way of Faith, which is particularly appropriate, as we are sometimes challenged to look around us and see reasons for rejoicing. We can look to the readings today for inspiration and a renewal of hope—hope in the Lord, not the things of this world. As we seek to direct our hearts and minds to Christ present and Christ coming, let us rejoice. As we rejoice, we also must prepare. We prepare for the coming of the Son of God into the world, into our hearts, and at the end of time. Let us try to put aside all the business and craziness of the world and concentrate on preparing our hearts for the divine presence in us and among us.

Christmas Wafers: The Christmas water commemorates a custom that is many centuries old. Oplatek (from the Latin "Oblatum," Holy Bread) is believed by some to emanate as far back as the "manna" of Exodus 16:31 and is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Angels.

Shared at the Christmas Vigil meal, the breaking of the Christmas wafer offers best wishes to family and friends. **Christmas wafers are now available in the Parish Office**. A donation of \$1 per package of four wafers is appreciated.

Christmas Season Decorating: We are still in need of some hearty Christmas decorating lovers to help prepare the worship and gathering spaces for Christmas. If you can come in during the week and work with a few other people, please call the Parish Office or email me at LHall@sjfparish.org. (If you are a high school student looking for service hours, this is your opportunity!)

More information on our Advent worship schedule is available on the front page.



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

Gaudete Sunday—or Joyful Sunday! We will continue to celebrate this Third Sunday in Advent all the way into Thursday, when members of The Judelaires will make some

joyful noise for the Lord.

I first heard about the Judelaires from a wonderful usher at St. Basil's, Andy V. He came up to me after Mass one day and asked if I knew about the group. I didn't. He said, "Well, you need to!" and gave me their schedule. They regularly tour the east side during the month of December, making stops at various churches. Originally, they came from St. Jude in Detroit many years ago. After attending their first concert, I was hooked and went to see them every year. After I came to St. Jane Frances de Chantal, I asked if they'd consider doing a concert here, and happily, we are now one of their regular venues.

It has been over two years since we enjoyed an Angels and Inspiration concert at our parish, certainly through no fault of our own. So please join us at **7:00pm on Thursday, December 16, 2021** for the Judelaires' holiday concert, "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas." I can tell you that if the holiday spirit hasn't enveloped you yet, after this concert, it will!

We all realize that COVID-19 case numbers are not very encouraging and seem to be rising again. However, we are still planning to hold this event. A couple weeks ago, the Judelaires Board decided that for the safety of the director and the singers, the group will wear masks for the performance. The group is also kindly asking that concert attendees wear a mask as well, and will provide extras if you do not have one. Many of you are already choosing to wear masks during Mass, so we do respect your decision.

As a Director of Music Ministry who prepares the choir and other music groups for Christmas, I know how much work it is and the effort it takes on the part of the choir members. It really makes us feel great when we have a large and appreciative congregation, so please do come and invite your family and friends this Thursday.

Normally following the concert, we'd have an AfterGlow reception, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, that won't happen this year. We will have a basket out front and in the church for a Free Will Offering, and I do hope you will give generously. The Judelaires do not charge for tickets and can only continue their concert ministry through the support of the Free Will donations.

I hope to see you there!

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 this Wednesday 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 third episode, "Hope," will be available to watch this Sunday, December 12, 2021 at sjfparish.org/thewayoffaith.

SCRIPTURE READINGS WEEK OF DEC. 12, 2021

Sunday

3rd Sunday of Advent Zep 3:14-18a

Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

Monday

Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr Nm 24:2-7; 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b Lk 7:24-30

Friday

Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Saturday

Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

Sunday

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

OFFERTORY INFORMATION NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Registered Families: 1,365 **Envelopes Returned:** 182 Amount Offered: \$5,371.00 \$742.00 Loose Offering: Online Giving Contributors: 104 Online Contributions: \$3,411.00 **Total Offerings:** \$9,524.00 2020 Budgeted Offertory: \$11,786.00 \$9.524.00 Actual Offertory: Difference: -\$2,262.00

OFFERTORY INFORMATION DECEMBER 5, 2021

Registered Families: 1,365 208 **Envelopes Returned:** Amount Offered: \$7,721.00 \$702.00 Loose Offering: **Online Giving Contributors:** 99 Online Contributions: \$3,514.00 **Total Offerings:** \$11,937.00 **2020 Budgeted Offertory**: \$11,786.00 Actual Offertory: \$11,937.00 Difference: +\$151.00

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. There will be many priests available for confession. Our parish will also offer Advent Reconciliation on December 13, 2021 at 6:00pm.

2021 GIVING TREE

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

(Mt 25:40)

We invite you to join our annual Advent Giving Tree project and share your blessings with those less fortunate, especially during these challenging times. As many things are now, the Giving Tree will continue to be organized in a way to ensure the health and safety of all those involved.

We will not be able to collect toys, clothing, or other items. We ask that donations be made in the form of gift cards or cash. We will distribute donations to the organizations we support. The organizations will then obtain the items they need to provide a Christmas celebration for those they serve.

Gift cards are needed in **\$10**, **\$20**, and **\$30** amounts. You are welcome to donate as many gift cards as you wish. Gift cards are requested for **Kroger**, **Meijer**, **Walmart**, and **Target**, as well as prepaid Visa cards or **MasterCards**. **Cash** donations may be made in any amount (checks payable to St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish).

Please enclose your donation in an envelope and label it "Giving Tree."

Donations can be placed in the Advent Giving Tree donation box in the Gathering Space or brought to the Parish Office during office hours. The deadline for donations is **today**, **Sunday**, **December 12**, **2021**.

We hope you will consider participating. Your spirit of generosity will make Christmas special for so many in need. This year, we are hoping to support the following organizations. They support diverse needs both within our parish and beyond:

Children of families served by St. Vincent de Paul

Mary's Children Family Center for brain injury recovery

St. Aloysius/Franciscan Ministries "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 the homeless in Detroit

The Good Eggs Foundation, meeting the basic needs of children and their families in the Detroit area.

For more information, visit sifparish.org/givingtree or call 586-977-8080.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE						
	Tuesday Dec. 14, 2021	Wednesday Dec. 15, 2021	Thursday Dec. 16, 2021	Saturday Dec. 18, 2021	Sunday Dec. 19, 2021	
	7:00pm Mass	8:00am Mass	8:00am Mass	4:00pm Mass	9:00am Mass	11:30am Mass
Sacristan	Brian Finn	John Martin	Judy Taylor	Volunteer Needed	Selma & Paul Marzek	Jeanne Marie Trotta
Lector	Craig Smith	Judy Taylor	Cindy Guzi	Jan Machusak	Eileen Clase	Robert Skwara



MEET THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES, PART 1

Aldwin Swincicki

Hi! My name is Aldwin Swincicki. Some of the highlights of my faith journey on my way to Confirmation are my First Communion and Baptism.

I feel closest to God when I pray and receive the Eucharist. Someone I look up to in my faith life is my grandma. She is really strong spiritually, and she is smart, which can guide me.

A gift of the Holy Spirit that I feel is a strength in my life right now is knowledge. With this knowledge I get to be in a school where I can be myself.

I want to be confirmed because it starts my journey as a soldier of Christ and will help me be closer to Christ.

Samuel Vu

Hi, my name is Samuel Vu. A highlight of my faith journey is going to see my brothers get confirmed.

I feel closest to God during church and when praying. Someone I look up to in my faith life is my mom, because she encourages me to be with God, and she tries to go to church as much as she can.

I think that knowledge is a gift of the Holy Spirit that is a strength in my life right now, because I am in advanced classes at school.

I want to be confirmed to be closer with God and to finish my faith journey (in catechism).

RETREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MEN OF OUR PARISH

St. Jane Frances de Chantal is sponsoring a retreat for the men of our parish. The retreat will be held from Friday, January 14 to Sunday, January 16, 2022 at the Capuchin Retreat Center located at 62460 Mount Vernon Road, Washington, Michigan, 48094.

For more information, call Matthew LaRocca at 586-530-6075.

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EUCHARISTIC ADORATION WITH RECITATION OF DIVINE PRAISES

Join us in the worship space on Tuesday, December 14, anytime from 1:00pm until 6:30pm for Eucharistic Adoration, ending with recitation of the Divine Praises at 6:30pm.

ΑII are welcome to come encounter Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! Consider spending an hour with the Lord—it is a prayer of great faith, and you will be glad you did!



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.

2021 ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Reconciliation at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration with Recitation of Divine Praises

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 from 1:00pm—6:30pm

Angels & Inspiration/Judelaires Concert

Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00pm

Divine Mercy Prayers

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 4:45pm

Advent Candle Sets for Home Use

Available in the Parish Office for a suggested donation of \$5/set.

"Little Blue Books" for Advent & Alternate Advent Reflection Books:

Waiting in Wondrous Expectation by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP & Awaken to New Light by S. James Meyer Available in the Gathering Space for a suggested donation of \$1/book.

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
Steve Sadecki
June Sadowski
Tom Sadowski
Jolly Talampas

Names added to the Prayer List remain for four weeks. Please call the Parish Office to request prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 13, 2021 No Mass

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

7:00pm Dec. Mike Scavo (Judy Taylor)

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

8:00am Dec. Enrico Varani (Judy Taylor)

Dec. Cristina Cambare (Birthday) (Family)

Dec. Rob Kaye (Mom)

Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:00am Dec. Carl Scurto (The Noviks & the Haydens)

Friday, December 17, 2021 No Mass

Saturday, December 18, 2021

4:00pm Dec. Grace Beaufait (Robert & Frances Kraft)

Dec. Eugene & Frances Berthiaume (Joyce)

Dec. Sandi Kotulis (Judy Kotulis)

Dec. Josephine Roby (Appleton Family)
Dec. Ron Suwinski (Bernie & Ann Cattivera)
Dec. Albert Brylewski (Geraldine Brylewski)
Dec. Ryan Whall (Grandma & Grandpa)

Dec. Lena Papaj (Papaj Family)

Sunday, December 19, 2021

9:00am Dec. Dennis Briston (Carolyn Briston)

Dec. Salvatore & Anna Grassi (Daughter)

Dec. Jessie Stelmach (10th Anniv.) Franczyk Family)

Liv. Nua Vacaj (Maria)

11:30am For the Parishioners

Dec. John Morell (Annette & Ronald Mobley)

Liv. Valentin Vacaj (Maria) Kaye Family (Family)

Baptism

We welcome into our parish family the following children baptized by Fr. Tony Sulkowski on November 28, 2021:



Logan Michael Storen

Parents: John & Laura Storen Godfather: Robert Crabb

Godmother: Kathleen Fleming

Mark Leland Storen

Parents: John & Laura Storen Godfather: Robert Crabb

Godmother: Kathleen Fleming

Kimberly Ann Storen

Parents: John & Laura Storen Godfather: Richard Thomas Godmother: Kathleen Thomas

Natalie Marie Storen

Parents: John & Laura Storen Godfather: Richard Thomas Godmother: Kathleen Thomas

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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DECEMBER 12, 2021

ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL

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

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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!



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