

## 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

This past October, on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis signed and promulgated his latest encyclical, *Fratelli tutti (Brothers and Sisters All)*.

I recall with great fondness the last time I visited Assisi. It was in 2018 with a group from St. Jane Frances de Chantal. We celebrated Mass in the church that St. Francis of

Assisi built, and we later toured the town of Assisi. It was a most memorable trip.

I recently had the opportunity to read Pope Francis's latest encyclical, and would invite and encourage you to do the same. *Fratelli tutti* can be used for your reflection and meditation. It is very user-friendly and easy to read. In reading the encyclical, you might find the following insights pertinent to our society, our world, and our spiritual well-being:

That we share in a common membership of the human family and that we are created in the image and likeness of God, who is our Creator. *Fratelli tutti* reminds us that as members of the human family, we are called to be mindful that we are in fraternity with every human person.

That we are to care for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, and that we are to be neighbors to those who are frail, suffering, or cannot care for themselves. We are invited to put into practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Pope Francis uses the phrase "the art of the encounter" to say that God places people in our lives for us to encounter—and through that encounter, we can learn something.

That what happens in other parts of the world does indeed have an impact upon us, whether directly or indirectly. We are called to see our mission as not limited to our own surroundings, but rather as a wider mission for the world—a global vision.

That the dignity of the human person has to be forefront in our mind and in our actions. We can agree to disagree, yet still respect each other for who we are and who we can become. I am reminded of the words of St. Francis of Assisi, who said, "At all times preach the Gospel; if necessary, use words." In other words, fraternity is to be encouraged not only in words, but in our actions toward each other.

You can Google Fratelli tutti to find the document. I hope you enjoy the read as much as I did.

Bon mot: "It is not that the Gospel has changed; it is that we have begun to understand it better."

—St. Pope John XXIII

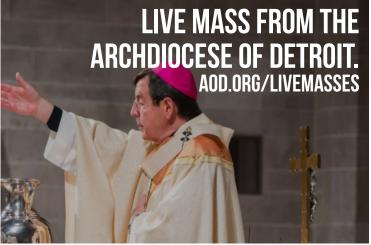
Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony

#### **2021 EASTER FLOWERS**

2021 Easter Flower intentions are due by next Sunday, March 21, 2021.





MARCH 14, 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

#### **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, March 15, 2021

9:00am Panera

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

5:30pm Confession 6:00pm Rosary 7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

8:00am Mass

9:30am Needlecrafters

Thursday, March 18, 2021

8:00am Mass

9:00am Swiffers Team #1

Friday, March 19, 2021

6:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 20, 2021

4:00pm Mass

Sunday, March 21, 2021

9:00am Mass 11:30am Mass



Laurie Hall
Pastoral Associate
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Ext. 104

This week, on March 19, 2021, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As the spouse of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the legal father of Jesus according to Jewish law, Joseph is a model of humility and obedience to God's will. He followed God's instructions, given by angels in dreams, and took the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife, protected her and Jesus at the child's birth in Bethlehem through the family's sojourn in Egypt, and provided for them as a carpenter in Nazareth.

This feast, which was celebrated locally as early as the ninth century, became a universal feast in the fifteenth century, when it was placed on the liturgical calendar. Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church in 1870; he is also the patron saint of carpenters, the dying, and workers.

"Being a guardian is the distinctive trait of Joseph. Being the guardian is his great mission [...] We look to Joseph as the model educator, who watches over and accompanies Jesus as he grows 'in wisdom, age and grace,' as the Gospel says. He was not Jesus' father: the father of Jesus was God, but he was a father to Jesus; he was a father to Jesus in order to help him grow. And how did he help him grow? In wisdom, age and grace."

—Pope Francis

#### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Adapted from the Catholic News Service.

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and through the paternal love with which you embraced the child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father,

ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector,

be kind to us and from heaven assist us

in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

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### OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SS. Cyril and Methodius will have two opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, March 29, 2021 from 10:00am—12:00pm and from 6:00pm—9:00pm. As always, the Sacrament is also available here at our parish each Tuesday from 5:30pm—6:30pm.

#### **HOLY OILS**

Each year during Holy Week, the Chrism Mass is celebrated at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, presided over by Archbishop Vigneron. At this liturgy, in the rite of the blessing of oils and consecrating the Chrism, the bishop prepares the sacred oils for use in the diocese. These oils are received in our parish on Holy Thursday evening and placed in the ambry. They will then be used throughout the year for Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick. These holy oils are an important element in the sacramental life of our Church. They are used as follows:

The oil of the sick for the anointing of all those who suffer in mind and body. By this holy anointing, may the sick gain strength, be released from fear, and receive the consolation of faith.

**The oil of catechumens** for the anointing of all infants, children, and adults who ask to be baptized. By this anointing, may they be strengthened in their journey to the waters of new birth.

The holy Chrism, the mixture of oil and fragrant perfume for the anointing of the baptized in the Sacrament of Confirmation, for the anointing of the presbyters' hands and the bishop's head, and also the altar and walls of the church. By this anointing, we confer the presence and essence of the Holy Spirit.

# RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

During the Lenten season, we ask you to pray for our adults seeking Initiation. I would also like to ask you to give them a card with a note of welcome to the parish. A simple Easter card is sufficient, and the note need not be anything more than a "Welcome to St. Jane Frances de Chantal." These cards will then be given to the newly-Initiated after the Easter Vigil.

This gesture is always appreciated by our newest members and makes them feel welcome and a part of our parish community. This year we have one candidate, Andrew Stauffer. Please bring your cards of welcome to the Parish Office. We'll see that they get to Andrew. Thank you for your welcoming spirit, and please remember Andrew in your prayers this Lenten season.

LECTOR SCHEDULE				
Tuesday Mar. 16, 2020	Wednesday Mar. 17, 2021	Thursday Mar. 18, 2021	Saturday Mar. 20, 2021	Sunday Mar. 21, 2021
7:00pm John Martin	8:00am Annette Mobley	8:00am Cindy Guzi	4:00pm John Martin	9:00am Kathy Pawlik 11:30am Phil Mina

### SCRIPTURE READINGS WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2021

#### Sunday

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21

Scrutiny

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn: 1-41

#### Monday

Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b Jn 4:43-54

#### Tuesday

Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

#### Wednesday

St. Patrick, Bishop Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

#### **Thursday**

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 Jn 5:31-47

#### **Friday**

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

#### Saturday

Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 Jn 7:40-53

#### Sunday

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 Heb 5:7-9 Jn 12:20-33 Scrutiny Ez 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45

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### OFFERTORY INFORMATION MARCH 7, 2021

**Registered Families**: 1,369 **Envelopes Returned**: 179

Amount Offered: \$7,655.00 Loose Offering: \$573.00

Online Giving Contributors: 116
Contributions: \$4,532.00

Total Offerings: \$12,760.00

**2020 Budgeted Offertory**: \$11,786.00 **Actual Offertory**: \$12,760.00 **Difference**: +\$974.00

#### 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 ask 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



Janina Jacobs
Director of Music
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Ext. 103

You may notice the organ bench is empty this weekend. That's because I am currently in Florida, attending the memorial service for a dear family friend, Brad, who was on our prayer list last year.

Brad, age 47, passed away from cancer last October. Since then, there has been an ongoing outpouring of love and memories for him. He was a kind and gentle soul, an artist, and respected all of God's world and the people in it. His artwork remains with us, and his mom Linda is making copies of it available to all who wish to remember him in a tactile way. The point is, even when God decides it's our time to leave the earth, so much good remains. The love never ends.

You'll recall an article I wrote after Brad died about the appearance of a very rare and unique orchid that sprouted at his family's home in Big Pine Key. Linda discovered it one day under a picnic table that sits facing a very peaceful and beautiful bay. Brad loved orchids. Admittedly, they can be tough to grow, although he did have the touch. When that orchid sprouted, we saw it as a sign that Brad was doing well in his new life.

When Brad became seriously ill almost two years ago, I decided to get a couple of orchids to support his battle with cancer. In fact, both of them were "rescue" orchids, brown and wilted, that you'd see in the clearance section of a garden store. I thought, "If I can nurture these beauties back to life, who knows?" I'd see them every day and say a special prayer for Brad.

I hate to admit it, but I didn't have much hope that they'd survive, because one, I am not an orchid grower, and two, Michigan isn't exactly a tropical climate. But I had to try. I watered, fed,



and nurtured them, and I prayed my Mom's never-miss prayer: "God bless you, grow!"

Nothing happened, save for the growth of the larger green leaves at the root of the plant. The garden center assured me that as long as the leaves were green and healthy, the plant was alive. One plant was the epitome of dormant, but at least it was green, so I didn't toss it. Then, about a month ago, I was stunned to see some sprouts emerging from different parts of both plants. Wow! One of the plants began blooming with delicate orchids, and the other—the one almost headed for the compost pile—has eleven blooms that have just begun to burst into deep violet flowers. It hasn't escaped me that this occurred just in time for Brad's celebration. Coincidence? I think not.

I'm reminded of Corinthians 13:4-8: "Love is patient, love is kind..." Well, I think the word patience, for sure, can be applied here. As we pass through Lent, we wait patiently for Easter and for the love manifested by God's gift to us to rise again. We wait for earthly reasons as well: for COVID-19 vaccines to get into our arms, and for the pandemic, which has held us captive for so long, to end. We wait for life to get back to some semblance of normal. We wait for the chance to be able to hug each other in times of happiness and sorrow. I don't know about you, but throughout this past year, it's been a struggle to maintain the love when so much is amiss in the world. Now, I'm beginning to feel we are coming alive again—like the orchids—and our own blooms of love will sprout just in time for the glorious Easter season. I can hardly wait!

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

This past year has been quite the rollercoaster! It is fair to say that the "normal" of before the pandemic is gone, and will be replaced with a new idea of what "normal" is, at least in

how we live our daily lives and interact with one another. However, if history is any indication, this "new normal" will quickly become ingrained into our routines, our memories will begin to cloud over, and the pandemic will become almost a footnote in our historical understanding.

Why do I say this? It took a while for most of the populace to understand what needs to happen during a viral outbreak, even when those that we trust (doctors, medical professionals, and scientists) asked us to simply wear a mask and wash our hands more often. These professionals number in the hundreds of thousands (if not millions) across our country, and they can often be seen and heard through radio, television, and social media. What does this tell us? People want to change when *they* want to change; change that is thrust upon them (even when rationally explained) is difficult to assimilate, and many people will push back unless they become afraid of the force—human or biological—that is forcing the change upon them.

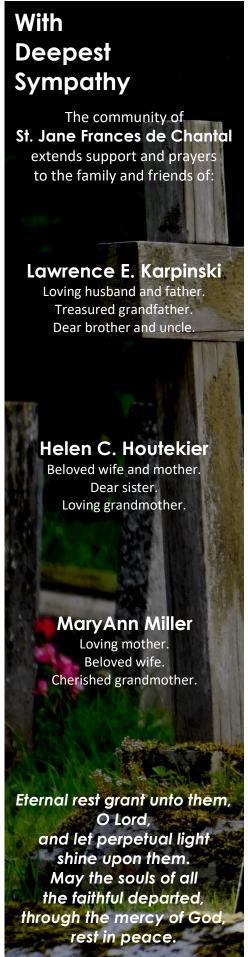
In our first reading from Second Chronicles (2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23), the Israelites fell into a "normalcy" that was against the moral understanding of their faith. To say that it became "normal" means that people did not even think about doing otherwise. They were almost expected to act in the way they were acting. God sent many a messenger, many a prophet, and many signs to help lead the people back to Him. These were people wandering the streets and speaking to others. They did not have the advantage of television, radio, or social media. As we heard, the people did not listen and change their ways; because of this, they were enslaved by many different rulers for generations.

How easy is it for us to push the boundaries of acceptability or "normalcy"? We push the boundary until it becomes accepted as normal, and then the boundary moves further out. Then we try and push that new boundary even further. This is part of human nature. We roll over, crawl, walk, trot, jog, and then run. We try to expand ourselves, but we must always remember to check ourselves. We need to think ahead and not simply change for the sake of change, but find the reason for change, evaluate its impact, and then change ourselves for that goal.

When we properly form our consciences, we strive to the good, toward God. Do we change not just for the good, but to avoid all evil along the way? If there is a wrong action that we cannot understand or are surprised by, we can rely on the Church to help us find our way. We ask for her input and use that input to better form our consciences along the way.

We should always strive for the good, but after humanity failed time and time again, God made a new covenant with us—a covenant in the blood of His incarnate self, His son Jesus. This Grace, this gift of God, was given to us. Nothing we can do earns our right to this gift, but in accepting the gift, we need to understand the responsibilities of owning it. We need to study our past, see the mistakes that were made, and learn from them. Once we learn, we must pass on this knowledge to the next generation.

In this way, we better ourselves and help guide future generations as they move forward. Share God and His Good News this Lent, and invite someone to join you on your faith journey!



### 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**

Jason Adriaens Darlene Rys Steve Sadecki 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, March 15, 2021 No Mass

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

**7:00pm** Dec. Myron Trenne (Friend)

Dec. Joseph Jarboe (The Jarboe Family)

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**8:00am** For the Parishioners

Thursday, March 18, 2021

**8:00am** For the Parishioners

Friday, March 19, 2021 No Mass

Saturday, March 20, 2021

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

Dec. Gerald Williams (Williams Family)
Dec. Pauline Gronowski (Gronowski Family)

Dec. Joseph & Maria Gronowski (Gronowski Family)

Dec. Fr. Mike Kazer (Appleton Family)

Sunday, March 21, 2021

**9:00am** Dec. Dennis Seefried (Andrew & Janet Seefried)

Liv. Valentin Vacaj (Mom, Maria) Dec. Chester Swierczynski (Family)

**11:30am** For the Parishioners

Dec. Karen Taylor (Judy Taylor)

Dec. John J. Boczar (Daughter, Justine Boczar)

Dec. Rose Medved (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) (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 sifparish.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

#### Rev. Anthony Sulkowski

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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!



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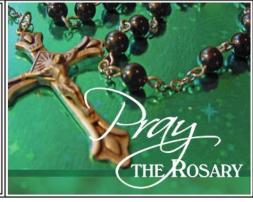
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