

ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

38750 RYAN ROAD, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48310 586-977-8080 SJFPARISH.ORG

I thought I knew which choices were the right ones. Now, I'm not so sure.

I'm a cradle Catholic. I spent twelve years in Catholic school. **I thought I knew what it meant to be a good Catholic.**

It was pretty simple: follow the Ten Commandments, go to Mass every Sunday, attend Confession, and pray the Rosary. Do what's right and confess when you do wrong.

I thought I'd know if I did something wrong.

My conscience would tell me. I'd feel guilty. And if I didn't know what was right, the Church and my parents would be there to tell me.

But things are harder, now. Issues are more complex. Nothing's clear-cut.

Now, life is more complicated.

Now, every viewpoint, every value, every voice wants my attention. Now, I'm bombarded by the news and current events. How do I know if I'm making good and right choices? **How do I develop an "adult" Catholic conscience?**

Who am I supposed to listen to?

God gave us a mind that can learn. God gave us a conscience to figure out what good decisions are. And God made us with free will so we could make those good decisions.

We're influenced by everything—our peers, the news, and world events. It can be overwhelming—unless we follow the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus is our moral compass.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). Shouldn't we look to Jesus to learn what's right?

Catholic Social Teaching, first developed by Pope Leo XIII in 1891, is an easy, faith-based way to help us form our conscience in today's world.

Let's turn to Catholic Social Teaching **and make it our compass.**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops calls Catholic Social Teaching a "central and essential element of our faith." It's based on Church teachings and the words of Jesus Christ.

It can help us live a life of holiness despite today's challenges.

It can help the modern Catholic build "a just society." It teaches principles and values that are "badly needed in our time."

So join us for **Modern Catholic.**

It's our new, weekly series that explores the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Find us in the bulletin each week, or delve deeper at sjfparish.org/moderncatholic.

We can't wait to go on this journey with you.

SJFPARISH.ORG/MODERNCATHOLIC

MODERN  **CATHOLIC**

LIVING AS A CATHOLIC IN TODAY'S WORLD

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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
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Rosary

Tuesday	6:00pm
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday,

& Thursday 9:00am—1:00pm

Tuesday 2:00pm—8:00pm

Saturday 3:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday 10:00am—12:30pm

ARMED SERVICES PRAYER LIST

Robert Bain, *Army*

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Joan Knapp Steve Sadecki

Mary Lamparter Lucy Sieck

Brittany Mazur-Baker Brad Wilson

Olivia Randazzo Daniel VanAcker

Names on the Prayer List remain for four weeks. To request a listing, please contact the Parish Office.



FR. TONY SULKOWSKI

Pastor

FrTony@sjfparish.org

Ext. 102

With school well underway, we also begin Faith Formation at St. Jane Frances de Chantal. I would like to thank Mr. Ben Klassen, who is our director of Faith Formation, and all the catechists who will

teach the children of St. Jane Frances de Chantal in the coming year.

The catechists are a great group of people who meet every week with the children, impart on them the faith of the Catholic Church, and share their own stories and journeys of faith. However, the catechists also rely on the parents of our children to share *their* faith and journeys of faith with their children.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that parents are the first teachers of the faith. Children learn by their parents' model for them. As I mentioned in my homily two weeks ago, we learn by the examples people set for us. May we model our faith for our children and for all those we come in contact with.

The *Catechism* also reminds us that the faith community as a whole must model and give good example—by word and deed—what it means to be a follower and disciple of the Lord.

In his book *Spiritual Writings*, Leo Tolstoy said that “*a Christian knows the truth only in the sense that he shows it to others.*” As we begin this year of Faith Formation, let us share our stories of our own faith journeys, and in the process, build up the Body of Christ.

The theme of this year's Catechetical Sunday is taken from St. Paul's first letters to the Corinthians: “*I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you*” (1 Cor 11:23). This theme reminds us that we are all called to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

We begin this Faith Formation year asking God to bless our children and their families, our catechists, and our faith community with a spirit of wonderment and awe about their faith. May we be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and in the lives of the community of St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

Have a wonderful week.

Bon mot: “All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony

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**JANINA JACOBS***Director of Music*JJacobs@sjfparish.org
Ext. 103

While I can't give an accurate number of how many services, Masses, weddings, and funerals I've had the privilege of performing at in 48 years of music ministry, I can say it is in the thousands—especially funerals.

As you know, my non-church life is quite busy with the restaurant, catering, travel, golf writing, and other music. I sit on several boards of directors, am President of Chair of a few, and am a member of many other organizations.

Now, all that necessitates events, meetings, and conference calls (virtually, at the moment), and people react strangely when I tell them I prefer to schedule afternoon meetings. They assume I'm not a "morning" person, which of course is not true at all. When one is in business and music ministry, you are a morning, noon, and night person!

No, the real reason is that funerals come up. When I explain that, people react with surprise, and ask, "Wow, do you know that many people who pass away?" While I do know many of the fine people who have died, I simply explain that I am often requested to play and sing at funerals. People then respond differently. Some ask, "How can you handle all the sadness and sorrow, day in and day out?" I use this opportunity as an moment to explain how I see it.

Death is part of life. Ecclesiastes says that there is a time for everything—"a time to give birth, and a time to die." We hate to think about it, but we'll all die someday, when the Lord decides it's time. The Catholic focus on funerals has evolved away from the sadness of death and toward the celebration of life.

I've been a part of so many liturgies of resurrection for the unborn, toddlers, teenagers, entire families, suicides, accidents, long suffering-seniors—and *all* are special. Is it difficult to sing and play? Yes, sometimes it is. But it's like this: my music ministry serves to comfort, to take family members away from their grief, even if it's only for an hour. I've had family members come up to me weeks or months later to thank me for being there and providing their selected music—but truly, it was my honor to do so.

As you probably know, I began in music ministry when I was 16 years old at my home parish of St. Rita Church in Detroit. When my mother died suddenly back in 1984, she was 67, and I was a mere pup of 28. She had just been hospitalized May 4th, but still, it was a traumatic when I went to visit her on Sunday, May 6th, and the chaos of a "Code Blue" greeted me. She died before I could see her. After the initial shock, I knew I had to help my dad make arrangements. Then, the realization of something my mom had asked me years before came to light.

One day, when I was practicing the piano at home, she said, "Lulu" (her pet name for me) "*here's what I want you to play and sing at my funeral.*" Whaaaat? Now, the day was here. I wondered, "*How on earth shall I cope?*" A couple days before the funeral, I tried some practice runs, and could not get through the songs without breaking down. I decided to leave it in God's hands.

Wednesday, May 9th was a rainy, dreary day, but I wore white anyway—Mom and Dad liked me in my cream-colored suit. And I was able to play and sing Mom's songs. How? I left it in God's hands. When I sang, I imagined being anywhere else than where I was. As a professional musician, it's what I do—and I could do it for my mother. 25 years later, I did it again for my dad.

So I suppose that's another answer for those who wonder how I can sing the music for funerals: if I could get through the music at my parents' services, I guess I can get through anything.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF SEPT. 20, 2020

Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9

Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

Phil 1:20c-24, 27a

Mt 20:1-16a

Monday

Feast of Saint Matthew,
Apostle and Evangelist

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13

Ps 19:2-3, 4-5

Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13

Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44

Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Prv 30:5-9

Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163

Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Eccl 1:2-11

Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc

Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Eccl 3:1-11

Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4

Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Eccl 11:9—12:8

Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17

Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28

Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5

Mt 21:28-32

OFFERTORY INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

Registered Families:	1,386
Envelopes Returned:	154
Amount Offered:	\$9,996.00
Loose Offering:	\$1,118.00
Online Giving Contributors:	116
Contributions:	\$4,817.00
Total Offerings:	\$15,931.00
2020 Budgeted Offertory:	\$11,786.00
Actual Offertory:	\$15,931.00
Difference:	+\$4,145.00

OFFERTORY INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Registered Families:	1,386
Envelopes Returned:	137
Amount Offered:	\$6,045.00
Loose Offering:	\$297.00
Online Giving Contributors:	101
Contributions:	\$3,702.00
Total Offerings:	\$10,044.00
2020 Budgeted Offertory:	\$11,786.00
Actual Offertory:	\$10,044.00
Difference:	-\$1,742.00

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 586-977-8080, ext. 112.



BEN KLASSEN
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Ext. 108

"But that's not fair!" This is what I think of whenever I read or hear this Gospel reading. "I" want things done my way, so that "I" benefit in ways that work well for "me." No one likes

to admit that they are selfish, but each of us, in some respect, really is. This trait, in and of itself, isn't an inherently bad thing—after all, we need to take care of ourselves in order to survive, thrive, and help those we're responsible for. However, we, as mortal beings, need to balance the things we do for ourselves with the things we do for others.

Many of the readings we've been hearing as of late have called us to witness the mercy of God and lead others to Him. As Christians, we recognize that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's mercy for us, based in the sacrifice of Jesus for us. God, in all His—well, everything—knows that we, as limited creatures, cannot understand the fullness of His creation, of His design, of His will, of His mercy, of Him. None of us like to admit that we're flawed beings—heck, that means we're weak, right? In the eyes of humans, maybe. Humanity relies heavily on itself, its knowledge and power, its own ability to subjugate the weaker beings of Earth (animals, plants, etc.), and it uses all of these things to define its own success at living.

In our first reading, it was very easy for me to let the first verse slip right by: *"Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near."* (Is 55:6). Instead of noticing that, I focused on the rest of the verses. Those tell us to let others do what they will, and let them rely on God's mercy. If I did not go back and re-read it slowly, I probably would not have realized that I was allowing only the passive reality of the reading to lead me, verses the very active call: **seek**, an order given to us by the writer of the verse to actively seek the Lord; then **call** to Him and allow others to do what they do. Firstly act, be an example, and then allow others to be what they may.

How many times have I been treated unfairly? I think the more pertinent question would be, how many times have I been shown mercy when I have messed something up? Do I not claim to be a follower of God, of Christ? Shouldn't I be able to put aside my selfish desires to do good for others? If we can do that, then I think we've taken a step in the right direction—but when we live in those selfish desires, the ambiguousness of an act turns sinful. Can we break free of the ties that bind us, or do we choose to remain shackled as earthly beings, alone? Will we untie our definition of success from "me," and instead tie it to God and doing what He wants us to do?

DIA VIRTUAL THURSDAYS AT THE MUSEUM FOR ADULTS 55+

Many of us remember our bus trips and visits to the Detroit Institute of Arts. We experienced many of the wonderful exhibits and activities that the DIA had to offer. While we cannot currently be together, we can still experience all the wonders of the DIA through their virtual tours **every Thursday at 1:00pm**.

To sign up for a virtual tour, visit dia.org/thursdays and perform the following steps:

Scroll down and select *"Click here to view our current calendar for all of our upcoming Thursday at the Museum events."*

Select the tour you wish to join. They will each be labeled with *"TATM presents..."*

Scroll to "How to Join" and select *"Click this link to enter your ZIP code."*

Enter your ZIP code and hit "Submit." (These tours are only available to Macomb, Oakland and Wayne county seniors.)

Click the link for the event you selected.

Click "Watch on the web instead" and then click *"Or Join anonymously."*

Wait for the event to begin at 1:00pm.

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, September 21, 2020** *No Mass***Tuesday, September 22, 2020****7:00pm** Dec. Maureen Gray (Judy Taylor)
Dec. Arthur Steina (Richard & Delphine Skowron)**Wednesday, September 23, 2020****8:00am** For Teachers, Students, & Catechists**Thursday, September 24, 2020****8:00am** For Teachers, Students, & Catechists**Friday, September 25, 2020** *No Mass***Saturday, September 26, 2020****4:00pm** Dec. Edward Kempa, Sr. (Ed & Sandy Kempa)
Dec. Gabriel Durante (Duran Family)
Dec. Pauline Gronowski (Gronowski Family)
Dec. Tom Taylor (2nd Anniv.) (Judy Taylor)
Dec. Donald Gulock (Richard & Marion Golombek)
Dec. Jim Baggi (1st Anniv.) (Sharon Baggi)**Sunday, September 27, 2020****9:00am** Dec. Joseph Sztaba (Son Dennis)
Dec. Josephine Roby (Appleton Family)
Dec. Anna Vultaggio (Benvenuti Family)
Dec. Raymond DeBusscher (Tom & Nancy Jakuszaneck)
Dec. Aida Simon (Family)**11:30am** Dec. Jack Campo (Caradonna Family)
Dec. Maria & Damiano Campo (Caradonna Family)
Dec. Vincent & Bridget Caradonna (Caradonna Family)
Dec. John Gibson (Karen Graziano)
For the Parishioners**CSA GIVING DAY**

The Catholic Services Appeal is essential to the mission of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Join us for our first-ever Giving Day!

Tune in at **6:30pm on September 24, 2020** by visiting aodgivingday.org. We give thanks to God ahead of time for your support for our mission.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

On **October 18, 2020**, 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.

OUR MISSION

Nourished by God's word and the Eucharist, we strive to be a welcoming Catholic community dedicated to living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Interested in joining our parish family? Become a parishioner! Register anytime at the Parish Office or online at sjfparish.org/joinus. Welcome home!

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SACRAMENTS**Children's Baptism**

Do you have a child you would like to be baptized? Please call the Parish Office to discuss options and make arrangements.

Reconciliation

Available Tuesdays at 5:30pm.

Marriage

Congratulations! Please contact the 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 regular or one-time 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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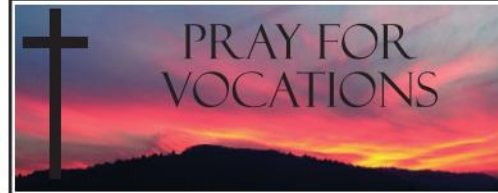
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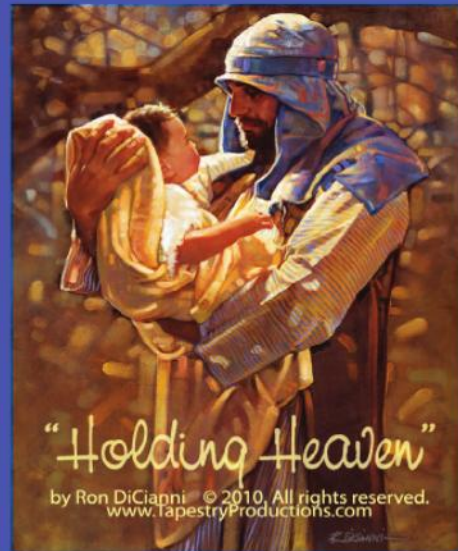


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