

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020



Pastor Ext. 102

FR. TONY SULKOWSKI I would like to wish all of you a Happy Labor Day. It is, as you know, the holiday that brings summer to a close. May we take some time to enjoy our family and friends, to FrTony@sifparish.org reconnect with nature, and to reflect upon the many ways that God has blessed our life. God is good all the time; all the time, God is good.

This school year will be different from school years in the past. Some will be doing online learning, while others will attend in-person classes—and still others will experience hybrid learning. Whatever method of teaching and learning that teachers and students experience, may it be a year of discovery and growth.

As many prepare to return to the classroom this academic year, may we as a community of faith offer our prayers and blessings that teachers and students alike may enjoy learning, take delight in new discoveries, and share their experiences with others. We also remember parents, who are the first teachers of the faith. May their faith and love may be an example to their children and the community.

As many prepare for a new school year, we offer this blessing from the *Book of Blessings*:

Lord, our God, in your love and wisdom, you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. *In times long past, you sent us your prophets* to teach your laws and to bear witness to your undying love. You sent your Son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone. Send your Holy Spirit upon these students and their teachers and fill them with your wisdom and blessing. Grant that during the academic year, they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Bon mot: "The distance we have gone is less important than the direction in which we are going. Live seeking God; then you will not live without God."

—Leo Tolstoy, Spiritual Writings

Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony



"Nourished by God's Word & the Eucharist,

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish is 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!

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

 Tuesday
 2:00pm—8:00pm

 Saturday
 3:00pm—5:00pm

 Sunday
 10:00am—12:30pm

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

Charlene Brown
Joan Knapp
Brittany Mazur-Baker
Kelsey Mazur-Baker
Eric Rzeppa
Steve Sadecki
Brad Wilson
Daniel VanAcker

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



BEN KLASSEN Youth Ministry Coordinator & Director of Faith Formation BKlassen@sjfparish.org Ext. 108

It still shocks me, even after years as an adult, how un-adult so many adults behave! Now, I understand slip-ups and forgetfulness (heaven knows I have plenty of forgetful moments!),

but it is the blatant disregard shown by others toward one another that shocks me

I just went shopping and saw people purposefully going the wrong way down the aisles. I saw them glance at the directions on the floor, shrug their shoulders, intentionally ignore directions, and walk past others who *are* following directions.

I watched some people walk right up to someone (no social distancing observed) and begin to speak at them without concern.

I have offered to shop for people who do not wear masks indoors—so as to reduce their risk of coming into contact with any asymptomatic carriers—and nine times out of ten, I get a disgusted look and a scoff from the individual.

Why bring this up? It is at the very root of our scriptural message this week!

Each of our readings, from Ezekiel, Paul's letter to the Romans, and from the Gospel of Matthew, speaks of *love* as our driving factor as Christians. It is in the giving and receiving of love that we find our freedom. By doing all that we can to protect each other, we live and exemplify God's message to the world.

God also tells us that we are responsible for each other. We are responsible for warning one another of impending danger, and for caring for each other, because God holds us responsible for each other. Ezekiel told us that we only need to "alert" each other. Then, any fault falls firmly upon the receiver of the warning.

Jesus takes us further, just like in the Beatitudes that He taught at His Sermon on the Mount, back in Chapter Five of the Gospel of Matthew. He teaches us to warn someone in three different ways: first, in private, to spare potential embarrassment (in my opinion) and to possibly strengthen the bond between individuals. Second (if the first attempt is ignored), to bring along two to three others as witnesses. If even that is refused, then third, to alert the Church (or the authority of that situation), separate yourself from the individual, and let them take responsibility for themself.

Jesus calls us to a greater amount of responsibility, but not a more complex set of rules. As Paul wrote to the Romans this week, "The *commandments* [...] are summed up in this saying, namely, 'You should love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence love is the fulfillment of the law." (Rom 13: 9-10).

When we truly Love one another, we can undertake a little hardship or discomfort for our neighbor. It is not necessarily easy or fun, but it is what we are called to do—to love as Jesus Loves us. Stay safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, and love your neighbor by keeping them healthy.



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S PIVOTAL PLAYERS SERIES



LAURIE HALL Ext. 104

One of the formation opportunities planned Pastoral Associate for Lent included Bishop Robert Barron's LHall@sjfparish.org Catholicism: The Pivotal Players. This video series showcases a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped

the life of the Church, but changed the course of Western civilization. Knowing that many of you are longing for ways to engage and grow your faith, I would like to make this series available starting this month, keeping pandemic safety guidelines in mind.

While the pandemic continues, we are limited by how many can gather as a group, and for how long. Therefore, we will offer the program for **no more than** ten people at a time and for no more than one hour. All participants are asked to social distance and wear masks. Due to these constraints, we will offer more than one opportunity each week to participate.

Here's the plan: we will begin with the first video in the series, St. Francis of Assisi. We will break the video on St. Francis into two sessions, one week apart. At each session, we will view the video (approximately 30 minutes) and then spend no more than 30 minutes in group discussion, seeking to open up the experience and grow in faith. Discussion questions will be provided via email and will also be on a white board or flip chart only. We are not able to pass out any materials or have any hospitality.

The first session will be held three times:

Tuesday, September 15th from 10:00am – 11:00am Tuesday, September 15th from 2:00 – 3:00pm Thursday, September 17th from 6:30 – 7:30pm

All three of these sessions will contain the same content, so please only register for one. The best way to register is by emailing me at LHall@sifparish.org. Future dates will be determined based on response to the first session. Please register as soon as possible and no later than September 13th. Bring your own beverage, wear a face covering, and come prepared to spend an hour learning about those who have influenced our faith!

Interested in what this series has to offer? Here's an excerpt from the Word on Fire website:

St. Francis of Assisi: The Reformer (Part I and II)

Is there a more winsome and beguiling figure in the entire history of the Catholic Church than Francis of Assisi?

Even for non-believers, Francis seems to sum up what is best in the Christian tradition, and it would be difficult to find anyone—even the most ardent of atheists—who would stand against him. Il Poverello, the little poor mansimple, humble, close to nature, deeply in love with God-continues to sing across the ages to our own cynical time.



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EUCHARISTIC ADORATION WITH RECITATION OF DIVINE PRAISES

Please join us in the main worship space on Tuesday, September 8th, anytime from 1:00pm until 6:30pm, for Eucharistic Adoration, ending with recitation of the Divine Praises at 6:30pm.

All attendees are asked to wear a face mask and practice social distancing.



OFFERTORY INFORMATION **AUGUST 30, 2020**

Registered Families: 1386 **Envelopes Returned:** 187 Amount Offered: \$10.950.00 \$391.00 **Loose Offering: Online Giving Contributors:** 105

Contributions: \$3,447.00 **Total Offerings:** \$14,788.00 **2020 Budgeted Offertory**: \$11,786.00

Actual Offertory: \$14,788.00 Difference: +\$3,002.00

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

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

THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Have you considered that this time of challenge and uncertainty could possibly be the Church in Detroit's finest hour?

This is a time for our parishes and communities to do what we do best: rise up. In southeast Michigan, we are no strangers to challenges, and we, with the grace and love of God, have always been resilient, rising from the ashes and overcoming these trials. Over the past year, even amidst trial, we haven't stopped working to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, or equip individuals to know the love of God.

This pandemic has not stopped us from sharing the Gospel! But this mission isn't something we can do alone.

Your generosity to the Catholic Services Appeal makes all these efforts possible. It brings livestreamed Mass to those who can't attend, powers our Christian Service programs and outreach, helps us learn how to better share Jesus in our diverse and multicultural Detroit community, and helps individuals and families grow closer to God even while physically distanced. Your gifts to the CSA do all this, and so much more.

Jesus told his disciples, "Rise up, and be not afraid." Now it is our turn to answer the call—to rise up and be united in the mission of Christ.

Please, prayerfully consider making a one-time or recurring gift to help continue this mission and to help each parish, family, and individual throughout the Archdiocese bring the hope of Jesus and his message to Southeast Michigan and beyond.

Visit givecsa.org for more information.



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

Fr. Tony occasionally mentions a prayer that goes something like this: "Lord, please only give me as much as I can handle—today." We can all relate to that, especially during these very difficult times. Everyone

is longing for life to go back to normal, and I am too. However, this pandemic also gives me a chance to consider how lucky we are that lockdown, stress, and strife exist as temporary conditions, because truthfully, they are. We often cannot change the situations life sometimes puts us in, but we can change how we view and react to them.

Scene 1: Two weeks ago, I was playing in a golf tournament. The first day, my partner and I were stellar—we led the event. The next day, nothing went right. My shots were off, all the bounces were unlucky, and I had no idea what to do to fix it. We finished dead last. You know the expression, "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat"? Well, in two days, I experienced both. I was angry and frustrated, certainly, but then I thought about some comparisons: would I rather play bad golf or be in prison for a crime I did not commit? Or have the dreaded illnesses or injuries which so many family members and friends are suffering? Or have lost everything I own in this pandemic? None of those things were happening, so truly, a bad golf day in the sunshine and fresh air wasn't so bad after all. Before lunch, all of us "losers" gathered together and toasted our failings at golf and successes at friendship.

Scene 2: This past weekend, I was on pins and needles, because my beloved doggie, Pudge, an almost-12-year-old German Shorthair Pointer, was limping and whining, his back right leg so tender that he couldn't walk on it and would sometimes fall. This 85-pound cutie has always loved to run, jump in the pond, and accompany me on my walks. With arthritis developing in his hips, he's limited now, but I still take him out for about a half mile. However, when a big dog cannot use his back legs to get up and down steps, we all know what is on the horizon. Friday night was the worst, and I thought his hips were going. I was miserable, and prayed, "Dear Lord, I'm not ready to lose him yet; please help." I barely slept Friday and Saturday night, because Pudge couldn't get comfortable, and would come to me crying. But then, late Saturday, I noticed his right back foot was swollen; maybe it wasn't his hip after all! When I got back from Church on Sunday, he was much better, jumping, eating, bugging me, and able to get up and down the stairs with minimal effort. As I write this, he's at the vet's office, and I'm waiting to hear, hopefully, some good news about what is wrong. The point is this: what a difference I felt when I knew I wouldn't have to make that decision all pet owners have to make, eventually. The Lord only gave me enough to handle that day—and the next.

There's a song, *If You're Going Through Hell* by Rodney Atkins, that I've heard a couple times. The refrain applies:

If you're goin' through hell, keep on going
Don't slow down; if you're scared don't show it
You might get out before the devil even knows you're there
Yeah if you're goin' through hell, keep on movin'
Face that fire, walk right through it...
You might get out before the devil even knows you're there.

Next week: Songs to look over and sing for the rest of September—and some Health Ministry News!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT 6, 2020

Sunday, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Monday, Labor Day:

1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or Mt 1:18-23

Wednesday, *Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest*:

1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday:

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Friday:

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday, The Most Holy Name of Mary:

1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Sir 27:30—28:7; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: NO MASS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

7:00pm Dec. Mae Taylor (Judy Taylor)

Dec. Paulin Vacaj (Mom (Maria))

Liv. Eric Rzeppa (Sam & Sharron Randazzo)

Dec. Vera O'Connor (Sam & Sharron Randazzo)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8:00am Dec. Ester Scavo (Judy Taylor)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

8:00am Dec. Norma Connors (Judy Taylor)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: NO MASS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

4:00pm For the Parishioners

Dec. Madeleine Kempa (Ed & Sandy Kempa)

Dec. Lucille Steinhebel (Judy Kotulls)

Dec. Ray Mandziuk (3rd Anniv.) (Wife Pat)

Dec. Vacaj Family (Maria)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00am Dec. Ed Varani (Judy Taylor)

Liv. Mark & Dawn Harris (Tom & Phyllis Harris)
Dec. Paul D. Galvin (Robert & Sharon Stolkes)

11:30am Dec. Richard VanAcker, Sr. (Grandchildren)

Dec. Robert W. Miller (Ray & Janet Turczyn)

Dec. Natalina Sarti (Tedoro Sarti)

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Anthony Sulkowski, ext. 102

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Linda Smith, ext. 113 LSmith@sjfparish.org

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

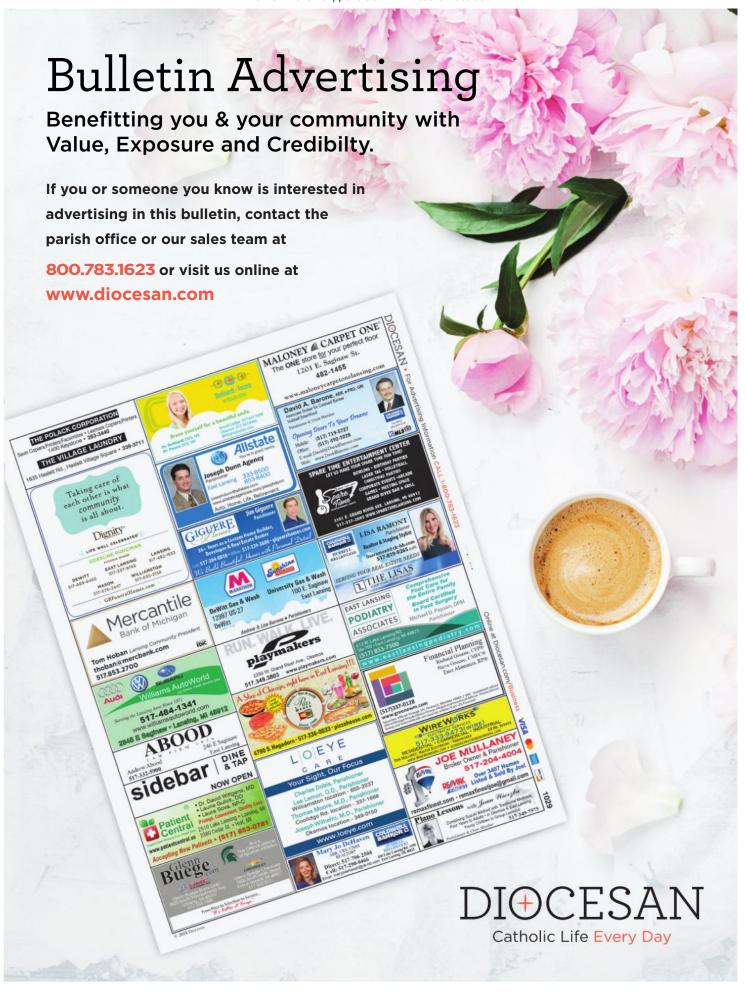
Congratulations! Please contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to your desired wedding date to begin preparations.

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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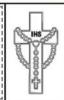


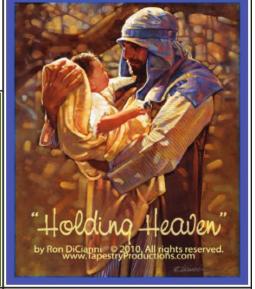
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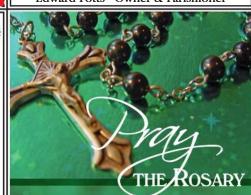
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