



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

GAUDATE SUNDAY—DECEMBER 17, 2023 / 17, DE DECEMBER 2023

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
closed for lunch
12-1:00 PM

MASSES TIMES

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses:
8:00 AM in English
9:30 AM in Spanish
11:00 AM in English

DAILY MASS

9:00 AM
Monday-Saturday

MISSION

*The Mission of St.
Joan of Arc Parish is
to put Jesus first in our
lives by seeking to
know Him in
Scripture,
Encountering
Him in Prayer,
Celebrating His
Presence among us
in praise and worship
and uniting with one
another in loving
service.*



13485 Spring Hill Drive | Spring Hill, FL 34609 | (352) 688-0663 |
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DIACANO JOSE

Si la primera parte de la primera lectura nos suena familiar, puede ser debido a que éste es el pasaje que lee Jesús en la sinagoga al comienzo de su ministerio. Recordemos que después de leerlo Jesús proclama que ese pasaje de la Escritura que acaban de oír se ha cumplido. Dado que Jesús está aquí entre nosotros hoy, las palabras de Isaías también se han cumplido ahora. Jesús continúa trayendo la buena nueva, la curación, la justicia, la misericordia y el perdón. Por eso en este Adviento nos preparamos como una novia para su día de bodas, vistiéndonos con la promesa de la justicia y la esperanza de la salvación, y resplandeciendo con las joyas de la generosidad y la alabanza.

En la oscuridad lo primero que se necesita es la luz. El mundo puede parecer oscuro en cualquier momento, pero últimamente parece que la oscuridad amenaza con abrumarnos. La guerra en el extranjero. Conflictos en la propia nación. COVID-19. Matanzas en masa. Desastres naturales. Y así sucesivamente. Pero dentro de esta oscuridad entra una luz. Y no sólo una luz, sino la luz, la luz de la cual dio testimonio Juan. El Reino de Dios se ha acercado a nosotros en Cristo y reaccionamos con alegría al darnos cuenta de que él viene a nosotros y por nosotros, y que permanece con nosotros aun cuando no estamos conscientes de su perdurable presencia. Que reconozcamos la luz del Señor en nosotros y también en nuestro prójimo. Que seamos tan audaces como Juan el Bautista, que dio testimonio de la luz, pero declaró que él no era la luz. Aun cuando tenemos esa luz en nuestro interior, nosotros ni la creamos ni la producimos. Esa luz viene de lo alto y nosotros meramente la canalizamos por nuestro estilo de vida. Que demos testimonio de la luz al canalizarla hacia nuestro mundo, a fin de que produzca destellos de bondad.

Pregunta de la Semana

¿De qué manera puedo reconocer la luz que viene de Dios y dar testimonio de ella?



DEACON JOSE

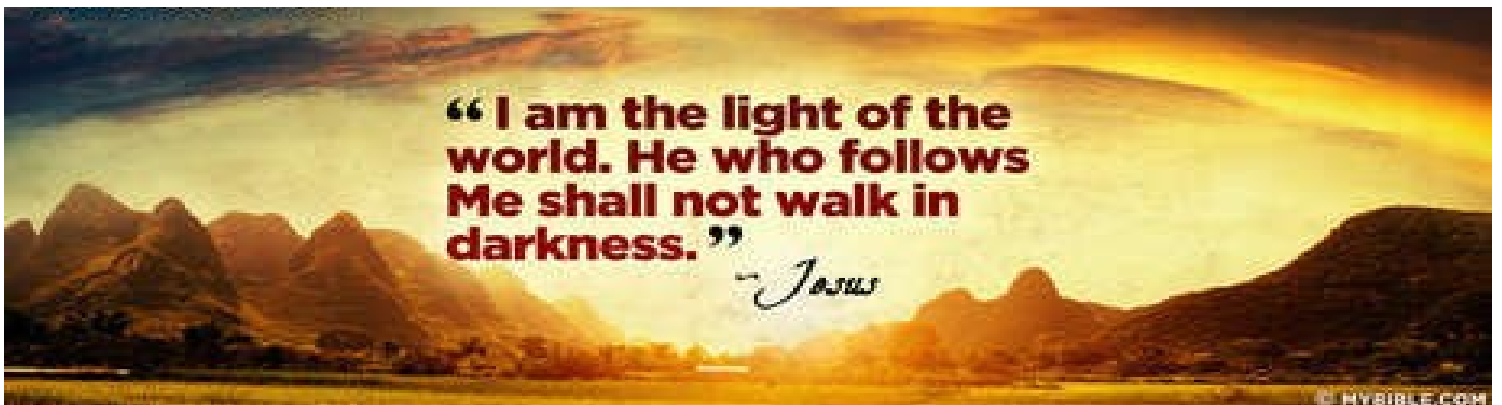
If the first half of the first reading sounds familiar, it may be because this is the passage that Jesus reads in the synagogue at the beginning of his ministry. If you recall, after reading it Jesus proclaims that this scripture passage has been fulfilled in their hearing. Because Jesus is with us as we are gathered here today, Isaiah's words are fulfilled now as well. Jesus continues to bring glad tidings, healing, justice, favor and vindication. So we prepare ourselves this Advent as a bride prepares for her wedding, wearing the promise of justice and the hope of salvation and shining with the jewels of generosity and praise.

In darkness, the first need is for light. At any given time, the world can be full of darkness, but lately it seems like the darkness threatens to overwhelm us. There is war abroad and strife at home and a resurgence of COVID-19. There are mass shootings, natural disasters and on and on. But into all this darkness comes a light; not just a light, but THE light, the light John testified to. The Kingdom of God has drawn near to us in Christ and we respond with joy when we realize that He comes to us, for us and remains with us, even when we're not conscious of His abiding presence. May we recognize the light of the Lord that is within us and our neighbors as well.

May we be as bold as John the Baptist, who testified to the light but declared that he himself was not the light. Even if we have the light within us, we did not create that light, we did not produce that light. That light comes from above and we merely direct it in the way that we live, so that we might be light to the world. May we bear witness to the light by directing it upon the darkness in our world, producing sparks of goodness.

Question of the Week

How can I recognize and then bear witness to the light that comes from God?





FATHER PAT

Holiday seasons and homecomings go hand and hand. From thanksgiving through the New Year, many of us are either prepared to receive guest or to be guest ourselves. This time of year can also be bustling with all the traffic. If only all the roads were straightened, valleys raised and the mountains lowered like we see in last week's reading. As a result the journey would not be so troublesome.

The journey Isaiah predicts will be long, difficult and costly. But the joyful destination is worth every step it takes to get them there. This is especially true for exiled nations like the people of Israel setting its sights going home from Babylon. Unfortunately today, there are examples of refugees who are suffering. They are in exile and in distress with war, famine, broken economies and political instability. Examples of this is seen in the Ukraine, the Gaza Strip in Israel, parts of Africa and Central America. Home seems neither behind nor ahead of them. How can mountains be made low for these foreign neighbors? Using an analogy, Isaiah tells us that in the days of Exodus, God opened up a dry road through the sea. Now God opens up a waterway through the desert. It is a straight and level highway, free of valleys and elevation that would slow progress. God grants a repentant people every advantage for the return to their homeland. Isaiah also gives a vivid portrait of God who is a good and loving shepherd.

In last week's Gospel, we see that John the Baptist called the people into the desert. In doing this he is calling them, and all of us, to let go of false hopes and securities. He tells us not to put our hope and trust in material things, but to trust and hope in God alone. John the Baptist lived a simple life in the desert. He lived on locusts and wild honey and wore a garment made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. In living so simply he tells us that the meaning of life is not found in an abundance of material possessions but in a true relationship with God. John the Baptist was detached from the unnecessary cares and worries of a social life. John had a true personal relationship with God. A trip into the desert is in a step into true repentance. John the Baptist proclaims a Baptism of Repentance for the forgiveness of sin. In this way he prepared for the coming of the Messiah. This Messiah is mightier than John the Baptist. John states that he is not worthy to stoop down and loosen Jesus's sandals. At the same time, John only baptized with water. Jesus will baptize not only with water but with the Holy Spirit.

Like the Israelites and John the Baptist we wait for the Messiah. Like the early Christians we await the Lord Jesus Christ coming in glory. While we wait we are comforted by Isaiah's words. Like a shepherd, Jesus has fed us and continues to feed us with the words of scripture, with His body and blood, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and with the love we have for one another as God's children. While we wait, we are called to be ready and make every effort to be without spot or blemish and to be at peace in God's sight.

This is the real message of Advent. God has always loved us. The Messiah is the ultimate sign of that love.. The message of salvation is as fresh today as it was 2,000 years ago. God's promise of love remains for us if we remain faithful to God. Advent is what bridges old and new together like role of John the Baptist. This season of Advent reminds us of our call to repent and confess our sins in preparing for Jesus, who is to come. We are called to simplify our lives and detach ourselves from additional material possessions. It calls us to open ourselves to rediscover our total dependence on God. Then we will be on the way to true repentance after following the example of John the Baptist. As we prepare to celebrate the liturgy of The Eucharist, we can commit once again to Advent repentance and open ourselves to the One who is to come.

Ignatian Spirituality Group

"Please join us at Ignatian Spirituality group. We meet every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday at 6:00pm in the Deacon Lee Library. The Gospel for the following Sunday is read and the scriptures significance and personal interpretation is reviewed in a group discussion as well as how these readings impact our Spiritual growth. Do not miss this opportunity to spend time learning about the teachings of our Lord as well as improving our personal relationship with Jesus."

TO ALL CHILDREN WHO HAVE ATTENDED FIRST AND ARE CURRENTLY IN SECOND GRADE IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL!!!! All children must receive Sacramental Preparation through their parish Sacramental Preparation Program. You must pre-register for our Spring Semester Program by January 8th to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion in the Spring. Classes begin on **January 10th** for Sacramental Preparation. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**



Blood Mobile will be in our parking lot today beginning at 1:00PM.
Give Blood. Save a Life!



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24, 2023:

8:00 a.m. Mass

9:30 a.m. Spanish Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

(Yes, you have to go to Mass for Sunday and Christmas!)

4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

10:00 p.m. Christmas Night Mass

Monday, December 25, 2023:

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass



Sunday, December 31, 2023:

8:00 a.m. Mass

9:30 a.m. Spanish Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass



Monday, January 1, 2024:

10:00 a.m. Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

***Glory to God in the Highest!
May the blessings of God's special gifts
be yours this Christmas and in the New Year.***

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Go to our website: www.StJoanofarcfl.com and click on Online Giving. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER 3

***Try tithing 10% for three months
and see how God blesses your life.***

Attendance: 777

Sunday Offertory: \$8395.89

Debt: \$670.00



NYLON AMERICAN FLAGS ON SALE IN THE PARISH OFFICE!

These flags are manufactured by Annin and are the same flags that are raised and flown over the US Capital. These flags are the finest quality and fade resistant.
 3'x5' \$20.00— 4' x 6' \$25— (Checks only please) Offered in the Parish Office for the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Assembly 3603



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL TREE OF LIGHTS

Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, entered this world in all humility by being born in a stable. A choir of angels sang the Gloria to the shepherds and proclaimed the first news of this wondrous event. We will celebrate His birth with our annual Tree of Lights for all of the 12 days of Christmas.

We are asking you to participate in this celebration by making a donation to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Saint Joan of Arc Parish. All proceeds will go to assist the needy in our community. To symbolize your gift we will add your angels to our tree of lights. Representatives will be in the church before and after all Masses to take your donation. God Bless You All!

Posada is translated as a hotel or inn.

It is a celebratory re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for a lodging.

La Posada is an important Spanish tradition during the holidays—complete with prayer, music, and food.



POSADA de NAVIDAD – 23 de diciembre 2023

La Parroquia Santa Juana de Arco les invita a celebrar nuestra 3ra Posada Bilingüe la noche del SABADO, **23 de diciembre de 2023, a las 6pm, en el Salón (Hall).**

Acompañanos a celebrar con Oraciones y Música.

Únanse en esta rica tradición cultural y experimenten personalmente la manera en la cual la cultura hispana celebra la Navidad a través de la música, comida y alegrías. Finalizará con una pequeña actividad social.

Here at St. Joan of Arc Church we will celebrate our 3rd annual **BILINGUAL POSADA**, a 1 night celebration, on **DECEMBER 23RD at 6pm in the Hall.**

Come ready to celebrate with us through PRAYER AND MUSIC. Join in this rich cultural tradition and experience firsthand the way in which Spanish cultures celebrate Christmas with music, food, and merriment. A light social will follow. Offered by the Hispanic Apostolate Posada Committee.



CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

Remember your loved ones, those who are with us and those who have gone home to our Lord, with a Christmas Altar Flower Donation. Your envelopes will be on our Altar through December 25th and your loved ones will be prayed for at every Mass. Your loved ones' names will be in our mid-January bulletin. Envelopes are on the Welcome Desk beginning today.

Christmas Invitation Campaign

As part of the Diocesan-wide Parish Growth Initiative and Eucharistic Revival, the Diocese of St. Petersburg is extending a special effort to invite all in the five counties of the Diocese to Mass this Advent and Christmas. We will be placing digital and vinyl billboard ads on eight stands on major highways throughout the Diocese, including at least one in each of our five counties.

These billboards will be seen an average of 1,677,582 times weekly or 6,750,088 times over a four-week period. The campaign runs from November 27th through December 24th. The ad directs people to visit: [MyCatholicMass.org](https://www.MyCatholicMass.org) where they can find a list of parishes and Mass Times. We will also be inviting people to Mass on Spirit FM 90.5 and via ads on Facebook and Instagram.

Anything you can do to promote this invitation as St. Joan of Arc parishioner (Christmas letter, email, Instagram, Facebook, phone call, etc will greatly reinforce the effort and will bear much fruit to spread the Good News!

From the Office of Bishop Parkes

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

OBSERVANCES WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; and Christmas Eve

MONTHLY EVENTS

Choir Practice 5:30PM
4th Degree Knights 2nd Tuesday 2:00PM
Knights of Columbus Board 2nd Thursdays 2:00PM
Knights of Columbus Meeting 2nd Thursdays 7:00PM
Prayer Group in English every Thursday 6PM
Youth Group—every Wednesday 6:30-8:00PM
St. Vincent de Paul 2nd Monday 9:30AM

Adult Ed—Thursdays 1:00PM
RCIA—Sunday 9:00AM
Rosary Making - every Wednesday 9:30 AM
Estudio de la Biblia los lunes a las 6:00PM
Legionarias de María cada miércoles 9:30AM
Adoración los jueves 9:45AM
Adoration Thursdays at 6:00PM

MASS INTENTIONS JOIN IN PRAYER-DAILY ROSARY IN THE CHURCH BEGINNING AT 8:25 AM—MON-FRI

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

9:00 AM † Fred Holman req by loving wife, Sue

4:00 PM For Our Parish Community

GAUDATE SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

8:00 AM † Joanne Zamorski req by Dan

9:30 AM † Ana Dilia Mendoza de Ruiz
req by Theresa Rojas

11:00 AM † Francis and Helen Collins
req by Loving Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 AM † Mark Jay Waggoner req by his twin,
Mary Jo

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM † Angelo Rendace req by Elenor

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

9:00 AM For health and Wellbeing for Michell
req by loving mom

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

9:00 AM † Paul Sirois req by Loving Wife Anne

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

9:00 AM † Martin Gormley
req by Marty jr and Michelle

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM † For the Souls in Purgatory
req by Barbara

4:00 PM † Leah Wellman
req by Cylann & Dom

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24

8:00 AM For Our Parish Community

9:30 AM † Mary Colon req by Loving Family

11:00 AM † Theodore and Mary Ann Statuto
req by Loving Family

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 PM † Ralph Johnson req by Val

10:00PM For Our Parish Community

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Patrick Rebel
Asst. Priests: Rev. Edward Reiter
..... Rev. Michael Kouts
..... Rev. Dennis Kaelin

Deacons: Deacon Jose Cruz
..... Deacon Tom Casey
Deacon Jose Cruz
Pastoral Consultant Mark McGovern

Business Manager Melinda Pataki
Director of Faith Formation Mary Jo Waggoner
..... Ffofficesjoa@gmail.com
Director of Junior High and Youth Ministry Nancy Lovelock
..... Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com
Director of Music Joyce Thorpe
..... Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am or by appointment.

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN
Please call the Parish Office to pre-register. (352) 688-0663.
Workshop is 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6pm.

MATRIMONY If you are contemplating marriage at St. Joan of Arc Church, please be mindful that there is a six month, prior Notice Request, required.

PARISH INFORMATION

OFFICE EMAIL

Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

BULLETIN EMAIL sjoa-bulletin@tampabay.rr.com

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Ffofficesjoa@gmail.com & Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

RCIA/RCIC

Rite Initiation into the Catholic Faith

“IN HIS FOOTSTEPS” SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Served in our Parish Family Hall the 4th Thursday of each month from Noon-2:00 pm & on 2nd Thursdays lunches are delivered to our homebound.

MARY & MARTHA’S GIFT SHOP

SjoaGiftShop@gmail.com

Saturday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Sunday 7:00 am-12:30 pm

Wednesdays 9:30 am-10:30 am

Closed during all Masses.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

(352) 556-3670

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(352) 683-0755

www.ndcsfl.org