



# ST. JOAN OF ARC

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 3, 2024 / 3 DE MARZO 2024

### 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.*



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

What – Retreat

Theme – **The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist**

When – Saturday March 2, 2024

Where – St. Joan of Arc church hall

Time – 9:30 am till 3:30 pm

Speakers – Fr. Ed, Fr. Pat, Deacon Jose, and Deacon Tom

Cost- **Free**

Father Ed Reiter and the Knights of Columbus council 11317 at St. Joan of Arc, will be sponsoring a retreat on Saturday, March 2 2024 in the St. Joan of Arc church hall. The theme of the retreat will be **The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist**. Presentations will consist of “The Teachings of Jesus”, “The Teachings of the Apostles”, “The Teachings of the Early Church Fathers”, and “The Teachings of the Church today”. Videos, slide shows, and talks will be included along with question and answer sessions. All parishioners are invited and lunch will be provided at no charge. An Attendance count is needed, so to reserve a spot or spots at the retreat sign up after Masses beginning Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> or if you have any questions concerning the retreat, please call Doug Stone at 352-549-4998.



## Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next week we are collecting for Catholic Relief Services. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief). The collection envelopes are on our Welcome Desk. **Please make checks to St. Joan of Arc** and one check will be mailed.



## Father Pat's Gospel Reflection

Have you ever seen the Special Olympics? I have not seen the Special Olympics, but I have read about it. Children and young adults who have special needs, who have physical or mental needs compete in special games just for them. It could be track and field, baseball, swimming and other sporting events. These events are inspiring, encouraging and heart-warming. The participants are so eager. These special needs athletes may not know where the finish line is, but the spectators keep cheering them on. At times they even redirect these special athletes along the way. The crowd clap and cheer the athletes on.

These Special Olympics are special. Everyone is happy. What makes these Olympics so special is that every athlete that participates receives a medal. There are no losers. Everyone is a winner. This includes those who take part in these Olympics as well as those sponsors this event.

In the same way today's readings let us know that we are all winners in the game of life. But for this to occur we must have faith and put our trust in the Teachings of Christ. God ensures us that if we turn to Him He will not turn us away. If we turn to Him in prayer, He will always be there. He will not leave us orphans. At the same time we must accept Him as our Lord and Savior. Everyone is a winner, if we make Jesus as well as His Heavenly Father, the center of His life. In today's first reading from Genesis God wants Abraham to succeed. This is because Abraham has complete faith in God. God commands Abraham to do something that is extremely hard. He is telling Abraham that He wants him to sacrifice his son Isaac. But this is only a test that Abraham passes with flying colors. There was an unconditional trust level between God and Abraham. God promises that Abraham would have many descendants. God promises Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the shore. Abraham believes this promise completely.

God was challenging Abraham to show his willingness to put God above all else even if it meant to sacrifice his only true son Isaac. Abraham truly believes that God would be faithful to him. Abraham does not know how this will work, but that somehow everything would be fine in the end. He knows that God has the solution to this mystery. He even tells two servants that both he and Isaac would return that evening. In the longer version of this passage from Genesis, Abraham told his son that God would provide a sheep for the holocaust. Because he is faithful and loyal to God, Abraham is the father of faith for the Jewish people the Muslims and the Christians. His descendants in faith are numberless. Even though Abraham had some doubts He knew that in the end God would come through and his son would not be sacrificed.

In the gospel, the Transfiguration was like the pep talk before the big race. The pep talk was not only for Jesus. It was also for Peter, James and John, who Jesus brought with Him on Mount Tabor. On Mount Tabor the glory of Jesus was seen. Jesus becomes dazzling white. At the same time Jesus was having a conversation with both Moses and Elijah. Elijah represented the prophecy and Moses represented the law in the bible. Together Elijah and Moses represents the fullness of God's revelation. Jesus drew strength for His upcoming passion with His conversation with these two main characters in the Old Testament.

The Transfiguration guided the apostles to help them deal with Jesus' arrest and eventual death. They needed their faith to be bolstered for what was going to happen on Good Friday. Jesus had just told them of his death and Resurrection. Seeing Jesus with a glorified body conversing with Moses and Elijah and hearing the voice of God speaking from a cloud telling them to listen to His Son helped them to deal with Jesus' prediction of his cross. It also gave a view of the glory of Jesus shared with Jesus' Father. This experience also gives us strength when things get tough. It also gives us confidence that Jesus will always be there for us.

God does everything for us so we can cross the finish line and get the prize of eternal life. God handed over His Son to death to save us. Like Isaac, Jesus carried the cross for execution. But, God did not allow Abraham to hurt his son Isaac. On the other hand God did not rescue His beloved Son Jesus Christ; Jesus died to save us.

If God is for us there is no power in heaven or earth that can separate us from His love. The only exception is our free will. It is our choice. We can either accept or reject Jesus. In other words we can refuse to run or continue in the race.

Like the athletes in the Special Olympics, we are offered every advantage to ensure our win. God gives us training through the scriptures the commandments, spiritual readings and spiritual direction. Jesus is the way to eternal life. God also gives us the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Matrimony and Holy Orders. God binds up wounds and redirects us through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing. Our Lord gives us companions to share the journey in our faith community. Jesus nourishes us along the way in the Eucharist. This God who is for us will feed us today with His beloved Son. With this nourishment within us, we move to the finish line together, where God is cheering us on and waiting with a crown of victory. If God is for us who can be against us?



## **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry!!**

**Lenten Fish Fry during Fridays of Lent for \$12.00 per person**

**Drive up 4:30pm-5:00pm Dine in 5:00pm-6:30pm**

**Dine-in: Choice of Baked Fish  
Fried Fish  
Fried Shrimp**

**Sides include: Mac & Cheese  
Cole Slaw  
Baked Potato  
French Fries**

**Rhode Island chowder \$3.00 extra**

**Walk-ins are limited to ordering shrimp and a side.**

**Those who make reservations may select from any of the items above.  
Please call 352-345-3371 by Wednesday to place your order for Friday.**



## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



The Stations of the Cross devotion for Lent begins the first Friday after Ash Wednesday. This year it begins on February 16th and ends Good Friday, March 29. English is offered at 5:00 pm and Spanish is offered at 6:00 pm. On Good Friday, Live Stations of the Cross will be offered at 11:00 am and will end at approximately 2:00 pm.

## **Lent Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence**

The dual disciplines of fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Catholic Church. Going back to the early Church, the purpose behind the custom of self denial is not punishment; it is to simplify our lifestyles so that we create a certain emptiness. In this way, freed from all distractions, we are able to hear and respond to God's continued call to conversion and holiness.

ö ***Fasting*** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

ö ***Abstinence*** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence.

**NOTE:** If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or the renewal of baptism at Easter.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 14TH**

Our next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th at 3:00pm. The meeting is held in the Deacon Lee Library. All are welcome to attend and share any concerns regarding our Parish. If you wish to speak, please contact the church office a week before the council meeting in order to include this in the agenda.



Our Annual Easter Altar Flowers Envelopes are on the Welcome Desk. This is a beautiful way to remember your loved ones, living and deceased. Please put your completed envelopes in the offertory basket or drop off at the office.



**Thank you for your generosity!**  
**February 18th offertory**

**Attendance: 727   Sunday Offertory: \$6198.00**

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2024

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/  
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10  
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38  
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12  
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28  
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31  
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/  
Jn 2:13-25 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/  
Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

### OBSERVANCES WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2024

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent  
Monday:  
Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church  
Wednesday:  
Thursday: Friday:  
Saturday:  
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Choir Practice Wednesdays 5:30PM  
4th Degree Knights 2nd Tuesday 7:00PM  
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  
OCIA—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 martes 9:45AM  
Adoration Tuesdays at 6:00PM

### MONTHLY EVENTS

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

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24

**9:00 AM** Beverly Finnerty's Birthday from Beverly

**4:00 PM** † Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Amico from Ruben and Lucretia

#### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

**8:00 AM** Parish Community

**9:30 AM** † Carlina Gomez from Loving son and Family

**11:00 AM** † Rebecca Cipriani from Charles and Judith

#### MONDAY FEBRUARY 26

**9:00 AM** † Patrick Gamboney from the McCarthy Family

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**9:00 AM** † Delores Bruce from Rita

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28

**9:00 AM** † Lucia Galella from Loving Daughter

#### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29

**9:00 AM** † Delores Bruce from Rita

#### FRIDAY MARCH 1

**9:00 AM** † For the Husbands of the Widow's group from the Widow's group.

#### SATURDAY MARCH 2

**9:00 AM** † James Barfield From Loving Wife and Family

**4:00 PM** † Ronnie Skinner from Maureen and Kate

#### SUNDAY MARCH 3

**8:00 AM** Parish Community

**9:30 AM** † Haydee Fernandez from Maria and Family

**11:00 AM** † John Luoma from Terry and Rose



## 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 Jim Riveiro

Pastoral Consultant ..... Mark McGovern

Business Manager ..... Melinda Pataki  
Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Faith Formation ..... Deacon Jim Riveiro  
FFofficesjao@gmail.com

Director of Junior High and Youth Ministry ..... Nancy Lovelock  
Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Music ..... Joyce Thorpe  
Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

Director of Adult Education ..... Mary Jo Waggoner

## 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

### NEW BULLETIN EMAIL FFofficesjao@gmail.com

### FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

FFofficesjao@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](http://www.ndcsfl.org)