



ST. JOAN OF ARC

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 31, 2023 / 31 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.



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

©LPI

13485 Spring Hill Drive | Spring Hill, FL 34609 | (352) 688-0663 |
sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

DIACANO JOSE

Aunque Sirácide (o libro del Eclesiástico) fue escrito en el siglo segundo antes del nacimiento de Cristo, nos ofrece aún hoy perlas de sabiduría para ayudarnos a vivir una vida moral y llena de fe. Hoy escuchamos el alegato de su autor de que actuar con bondad puede contrapesar las ocasiones de pecado: “El bien hecho al padre no quedará en el olvido y se tomará a cuenta de tus pecados” (Sirácide 3, 14). Ciertamente tenemos una deuda, ya sea con nuestros padres o con otras personas, por los momentos en que hemos actuado de manera pecaminosa o egoístamente. La bondad puede ser contendiente de esa deuda. La bondad engendra bondad. Aun cuando estemos en desacuerdo o no simpaticemos, podemos actuar con bondad. Si se usa Génesis/hebreos:

La carta a los hebreos enseña una lección acerca de una de las historias más inquietantes de las Escrituras: Abraham está al borde de sacrificar a Isaac. Este pasaje ofrece una explicación sobre la forma de pensar de Abraham. Si Dios le había prometido una descendencia tan innumerable como las estrellas, y él confiaba del todo en Dios, pues ya había hecho el milagro de que Sara diera a luz en una edad avanzada, sin duda Dios podía hacer otro milagro para que Isaac llegara a tener sus propios hijos. La fe de Abraham le permitió poner su confianza en Dios y en el plan de Dios. Cualquiera de las opciones:

José y María llevaron a Jesús al templo para presentarlo al Señor, porque él era su hijo primogénito, sin tener en cuenta cómo había sido concebido. Sin embargo, aun antes de Jesús haber sido consagrado, Simeón y Ana reconocen a este niño como el Salvador del mundo. Con fe ellos habían esperado toda su vida —pues ya eran ancianos— por la llegada de este momento. Su fidelidad y devoción a Dios los hacían ir al templo todos los días y les permitió ver más profundamente que ninguna otra persona allí presente, por lo cual pudieron ver la luz del mundo, que alumbraría para todos. Simeón y Ana recibieron la gracia de ver anticipadamente la redención que llegaría a todas las personas.

Pregunta de la semana

¿Cómo afecta mi fe la manera en que trato a los miembros de mi familia?

¿Cómo puede ayudarme mi fe a llegar a ser un mejor padre, una mejor madre, mejor hermano o hermana, hija o hijo?



DEACON JOSE

Written in the second century before Christ's birth, Sirach offers pearls of wisdom that can still help us live a moral and faith-filled life. Today we hear the author make the argument that acting with kindness can offset occasions of sin: “Kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins” (Sirach 3:14). Whether to our parents or not, we certainly owe a debt to others in the times we have acted sinfully and selfishly. Kindness can stand against that debt. In the actual text, the verse goes on to say that kindness “will take lasting root” (3:14). Exercising kindness grows kindness. Even when we disagree or can't get along, we can be kind. If using Genesis/Hebrews:

Hebrews teaches a lesson about one of the most troubling stories in scripture: Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac. Here it offers an explanation for Abraham's thinking. If God promised him descendants as uncountable as the stars, and God was worthy of his trust, having already produced a miracle in Sarah giving birth so late in life, then surely God must be able to perform another miracle to allow Isaac to go on to have children of his own. Abraham's faith led him to place his trust in God and God's plan. Either option:

Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord because he was their firstborn son, no matter how he was conceived. Before he can even be consecrated, however, Simeon and Anna recognize the Savior of the world in this babe. In faith, they have waited all their lives—until they were of an advanced age—for this moment to come. Their fidelity and devotion to God brought them to the temple each day and allowed them to see deeper than anyone else there present, allowed them to see the light of the world who would shine forth for all to see, allowed them to see the eventual redemption of all peoples.

Question of the Week

How does my faith affect the way that I treat the members of my family? How can my faith help me grow to be a better parent/sibling/daughter/son?



Registration Now Open for Diocesan Marriage Conference

The Diocese of St. Petersburg is partnering with the St. John Paul II Foundation to sponsor a special event for married couples titled, *Together in Holiness*.

This conference is designed to strengthen marriages and includes dynamic presentations, childcare, Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, and more. Couples will learn the Seven Habits of a Healthy Marriage. This event will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, St. Petersburg.

To register, visit forlifeandfamily.org/events/th24-spfl



FATHER PAT

In Church we have a golden tabernacle where the real presence of Jesus Christ is kept. Back in Moses' Day, the real presence of Christ was kept in a tent. This was called the Arc of the Covenant where the meeting or dwelling was held inside the tent. Only Moses could enter the tent to encounter our God. The only exception was when Moses' brother Joshua, entered the tent to perform animal sacrifices.

Three hundred years later, King David wanted to build a nice palace or temple for God because David was living in a nice palace while God was dwelling in a tent. The tent where God was living was tattered, neglected and shabby compared to David's residence. David wanted God to enjoy a home as splendid as his. David had a vision of how this house should be but God had other plans. God would create the house of David that would be sturdier than the house David wanted to make for God. This house of David or The Church will endure forever.

The dynasty of David does indeed endure forever. This prophecy is fulfilled in the Gospel when the angel Gabriel spoke to a virgin betrothed to a man of the house of David. A wonderful birth will take place. The throne of David will be handed over to the Virgins' son; and of His kingdom, there will be no end. This kingdom will be won, not by force of David's military, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will unite with the consent of the young virgin to bring about the birth of a new David. The Lord will give this new David his throne, and it will not be of this world. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise. Jesus name means: Yahweh is salvation. This is not salvation from our earthly enemies. It is salvation as peace, as love, as forgiveness and as hope, salvation as everlasting fullness of life. Because Jesus is Son of the eternal God Most high, Jesus can bring God's promise to fulfillment.

Imagine Mary's bewilderment when the angel Gabriel greeted her with "Hail, full of grace. The Lord is with you." Despite her confusion, Mary responds yes to God. The Lord is with Mary and all of us. Like Mary, how do we say yes to God? We can first take the time to be with a friend or relative who may have lost a relative during this season. We can try to help a poor family through St. Vincent de Paul Society or the Soup and Sandwich ministry.

During this season we can also take at least 20 minutes daily to meditate and speak to God. You can extend the love of God by visiting someone in a nursing home or a neighbor who lives alone. If we have received gifts then we should remember those in prayers of thanksgiving.

As we reflect on this wondrous moment of the Annunciation and Mary's fiat, yes to God, let us remember to give God thanks for the Gift of His Beloved Son, Jesus, for our salvation.

Remember, our Christmas Season is still celebrated until the Epiphany of our Lord, January 7th.

The **Widows Group** will be meeting on Friday January 5th 2024, the first Friday of the month, after the 9 O'clock mass. Our Speaker this month will be Gary Joseph LeBlanc. He will present his program on The Different Types of Dementia. This is one meeting not to be missed! After his presentation we will be having a lunch around noon at the Thousand Island Restaurant on Highway 19 in Spring Hill. See you at the Meeting!

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!**



**Monday, January 1, 2024:
10:00 a.m. Mass
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**



CRS Emergency Response to Crisis in the Holy Land

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been serving families in the Holy Land since 1961, and they are currently responding to the needs of those individuals and families in Gaza who have been displaced since the October 7th attack on Israel and subsequent retaliatory strikes on Gaza. For more information on how CRS is serving our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, and for details on how to donate to the CRS relief efforts to them: support.crs.org/donate/holy-land-conflict, or 1-877-HELP-CRS or send check to: Catholic Relief Services, Holy Land Response—P.O. Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700



ST MARIA GORETTI SCHOLARSHIP

The St. Maria Goretti Scholarship is available to All active Catholic 12th Grade High School young women entering College or Vocational Training:

1st Scholarship prize \$1000.00

2nd Scholarship \$500.00

3rd Scholarship \$500.00

Visit spdccw.org to obtain Scholarship application and details. Under Events follow the link to St Maria Goretti Scholarship Forms and Information. Deadline for submission is March 1, 2024. Sponsored by the St Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. SPDCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and Society in the modern world.



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

Dear Parishioners,

I have been so blessed by God. Thank you Jesus!!! I began doing full time ministry in the Catholic Church in 1979. I began in parish ministry, was the Diocesan Director in San Diego for 15 years, and then back to parish ministry here in Florida. I have learned so much and being Catholic has been my life and will continue to be so. I am not going anywhere, but after 45 years in full time ministry, I am retiring. This week Deacon Jim Riveiro will begin as the new Director of Faith Formation. Thank you for all your support in the seven years that I have been at our parish. And I want to give a very special thank you to all the amazing volunteers in Faith Formation throughout the years. You are, and will continue to be, my heroes.

God bless you all! Sincerely, Mary Jo Waggoner

**PLEASE CONSIDER
ONLINE GIVING**

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

STEWARDSHIP DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER 17

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

Attendance: 741

Sunday Offertory: \$6289.00 Religious Retirement \$360.00

Christmas Flowers: \$340.00

Knights of Columbus Donation for Altar Wine: \$314.00

ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN THE LIBRARY

The **BOOK OF REVELATION** classes, taught by Mary Jo Waggoner, will continue in the New Year on Thursday, **January 4th** at 1pm-2:30 and we will finish Revelation right before Holy Week (March 24th-31st). We will continue the study of the Book of Revelation with Chapter 14 on January 4th. You do not need to sign up, you just need to show up. I hope to see you in the Library at 1pm.

Beginning on April 4th at 1pm-2:30, we will begin an 8 week class on **APOLOGETICS: HOW TO ANSWER MUSLIMS**. We will look at: 1) Historical Overview of Islam, 2) Islam and Europe, 3) What Muslims Believe, 4) The Koran 5) Refuting Islam, 6) Mary and the Victory over Islam.

MARRIAGE JUBILEE MASS OF THANKSGIVING

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 11th at 3:00pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage during the 2024 calendar year. To RSVP, please call Melinda at our parish office, 352-688-0663, by Tuesday, January 16th

FROM: REV. HECTOR CRUZ TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOAN OF ARC

I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the parishioners of St. Joan of Arc for the very generous donations from my appeal at your parish on August 19. It is with sincere appreciation that I write thank you the unrestricted contributions you made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Tampa. You helped make it possible for OLPH to continue our community by providing spiritual and educational service to parishioners and may others in need. How blessed are we for your assistance. We received \$5439.00 from your generosity.



SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UKRAINE

If you would like to donate to the ongoing efforts to assist the people of Ukraine, please make your checks out to: St. Andrews' Church and write in the memo line: **UKRAINE**. All checks will be given to Fr. Mike Kouts and he will get the money directly to Ukraine. **THANK YOU!**



PRAY FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

The violence and warfare between Gaza and Israel impacts us. The reports are tragic, and we unite in prayer for a peaceful resolution. As we pray urgently for peace, we recall especially all the families and individuals suffering from these events. We call on the faithful, and all people of good will, to not grow weary and to continue to pray for peace in the land Our Lord, the Prince of Peace, called home.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, are part of an International lay organization that was founded in France in 1833. We belong to the Hernando/Citrus District at St. Joan. The others are St. Frances Cabrini, St. Mary, St. Thomas, and St. Ann. We six Conferences are part of the National Southeast Regional Division. The six founding fathers agreed in 1833 to "do what is agreeable to God". Therefore we must do what our Lord Jesus did when preaching the Gospel. Let us go to the poor! And that is what we do.

Please bring your food donations on Sundays and place in the bin by the front door. Your donations serve the needy in our area. Please be generous to those in need.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

OBSERVANCES WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious

Choir Practice 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 DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM Happy 65th Anniversary to
Raul & Dolores Vilar

4:00 PM † Victor Manuel Ruiz Ardila req by
Theresa Rojas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

8:00 AM † Robert Gaudette req by Norm and Robyn

9:30 AM For Our Parish Community

11:00 AM † David Robert Bounds req by Kathy

MONDAY JANUARY 1—**Mary, Holy Mother of God**

9:00 AM † Paul Sirois req by his wife Anne

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 AM † Charles Waggoner req by Mary Jo

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3

9:00 AM † John Wahlfeldt req by Eva and Family

THURSDAY JANUARY 4

9:00 AM † Joseph DeLuca
req by loving wife, Mary

FRIDAY JANUARY 5

9:00 AM † For Husbands of Widow's Group

SATURDAY JANUARY 6

9:00 AM Fr. Ray O'Neil req by Alan

4:00 PM † Ted Bonczyk req by Val, Joan and Margo

SUNDAY JANUARY 7

8:00 AM † Mark Waggoner req by Herb and Marie

9:30 AM † Health of Baby Jaime Medina
req by Grandmother, Lizette

11:00 AM † 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

Pastoral Consultant Mark McGovern

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

Director of Faith Formation Deacon Jim Riveiro
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

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

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