Pastor’s 2 Cents: From Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Six word homily: God can do it, with help.

Gandhi  
In the end, you will walk out, because 100,000 Englishmen simply cannot control 350,000,000 Indians if those Indians refuse to cooperate. And that is what we intend to achieve: peaceful, nonviolent, non-cooperation - till you, yourselves, see the wisdom of leaving.

The above quote is from the movie Gandhi, I’m not sure if these are Gandhi’s actual words but they certainly express his belief about tyranny. The British are incredulous if Gandhi thinks one day they will just walk out of India, which is exactly what they did.

Evil has a way of convincing us that what it tells us is absolutely inevitable and the truth; resistance is futile. But as Gandhi tells us in another place evil always loses inevitably. “When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always.”

I bring these two quotes up today because of the Gospel reading. Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” My initial response to this reading is “Are you kidding.? Take a look around you, the world’s burdens are not that easy to get rid of.”

Of course, Jesus is not saying they are easy but what he is offering is a way to easy those burdens. Time and time again he quotes the Golden Rule to his followers: Treat each other the way you would like to be treated. In one place he says this sums up all of the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12) Of course we bend over backwards to explain why others should not have the advantages we have or are not worthy of care. Evil does like to tell us there is no hope, things cannot change you had better build walls around yourself for protection, you need more power. The truth is none of us are getting out of here alive, and in the end we will need someone to help us. Wouldn’t it be easier if we tried to build a world which had that help built into it?

When the kingdom is finally established we will look back and say to ourselves, “It really was quite simple, what took us so long. We just had to choose to do the right thing.”

Weekend Masses are Celebrated at:
5pm Saturday & 7:45am Sunday in the Church
9am & 11am Sunday in the Gym
Family Masses will resume on September 10 at 9am & 11am in the Church
Scripture Readings:
Sun, July 9: Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9,11-13; Matt 11:25-30
Mon, July 10: Genesis 28:10-22a; Matthew 9:18-26
Tue, July 11: Genesis 32:23-33; Matthew 9:32-38
Wed, July 12: Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a,17-24a; Matthew 10:1-7
Thu, July 13: Genesis 44:18-21,23b-29;45:1-5; Matthew 10:7-15
Fri, July 14: Genesis 46:1-7,28-30; Matthew 10:16-23
Sat, July 15: Genesis 49:29-32;50:15-26a; Matthew 10:24-33
Sun, July 16: Isaiah 55:10

Gluten-free Communion is available upon request. Please see any of the Sunday sacristans in the gym before Mass.

Enhanced Hearing Devices are available in the church and gym. They are located in the back of the church and the welcome center.

SignUpGenius for Eucharistic Ministers is available online. It is simple, user friendly and a reminder is sent 3 days before your scheduled volunteer day. FFI contact Marcia at mkurtz@stjoan.com.

Prayer Corner Requests: To keep prayer requests current names will be included in the bulletin for four weeks and then removed. To add a name or to renew your request, please call Nancy Becker the Parish Center at 612.823.8205.
Choir: Our SJA adult choir season is over for the summer and will start up again on Thursday, September 14. Do you love music and want to be part of a joy filled singing community? Contact Anna Vagle avagle@stjoan.com or 612.823.8205 ext 235. See you in September!

AIAIA Summer Fundraiser -- Less than 50 tickets remain for one of the summer season highlights: Arm in Arm in Africa’s Together We Can fundraiser, Monday July 17. Doors open at Sociable Cider Werks at 5pm, followed by our program at 6pm, and dinner at 6:45. Festivities wrap up at 9pm. Angela David of Minnesota Public Radio will emcee, Zinzi Jacobs, an amazing success story, will be our guest speaker from Gugulethu. Nunnabove will perform and Bongi of the Minnesota United will join us. Tickets are $75 for a table seat and $65 for a standing room table top and cover all food and drink. On-site parking is free. Great online auction prizes and raffle prizes will be awarded. Less than 50 tickets remain so don’t delay. For complete program and ticket information, visit aiaia.org.

Mission Sunday at SJA: On July 22 and 23, our guest speaker at our liturgies will be Maryknoll Fr. Bob McCahill, who has lived in a series of small towns in Bangladesh for 40 years, offering a witness of joyful simplicity, serving the sick, welcoming all, in a spirit of respect and solidarity for his Muslim neighbors. We will take a second collection to support the work of Brother Bob, and we look forward to welcoming him to SJA!

Mobile Loaves Twin Cities: Needs washcloths, unopened travel size shampoo - no conditioner - lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes & paper bags, as well as family size soap and toothpaste. We also need crew socks for girls/boys, socks for toddlers, and individual packages of wet wipes. Please place your donations in the collection hamper in the Parish Center.

Food Shelf Donations Needed: We continue to accept non-perishable food items for Sabathani Community Center. Most needed items are cereal, water & sports drinks, laundry detergent and toilet paper. Items can be dropped off in the bins in the Parish Center on Sundays, or Monday thru Friday, during regular hours. Thank you for your willingness to help those in need.

Volunteers Needed!! The church and gym floors are being resurfaced the week of July 10. We need volunteers today during 9:00 mass to help remove the church chairs. Lots of hands make quick work!!! Just show up or contact Steve at the Parish Center.

Parishioner Registration: If you are looking for a church home, we would love to have you join us! Registration forms are found in the Parish Center office or at the Church entrance. If you have any questions, staff at the front desk can assist or you can email/call Diane at dhaugesag@stjoan.com; 612.823.8205, x238.

SJA AA: Tuesdays at 7:30pm. Enter Door 3 From Parking Lot. All Are Welcome.

Thanks for Your Pride Support, SJA! To all who planned and attended our beautiful Pride Week Prayer Service at SJA, to all who helped bolster SJA’s presence at the Downtown Churches booth at the Pride Festival in Loring Park, and to all who attended and joined the discussion as we hosted author Jo Ivestor and her joyful stories of journeying with her transgender son (chronicled in her book, "Never a Girl, Always a Boy") - thank you! We are grateful for the gifts and presence of our LGBTQ+ community, at SJA and in the world.

Sunday Suppers: Swing Into Summer with live music and more, Sunday afternoons at Diamond Lake Lutheran, 5760 Portland Ave. Activities start at 4pm, supper, 5 - 6pm. Join the fun July 23 and August 27. Sponsored by TRUST Inc and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.

Recycle: Please use the labeled receptacles for compost, paper, glass, plastic, cans, waste and cups. By doing so we will be ecologically responsible and a big help to our maintenance staff as well. Thank you.

Wills: Every adult should have a will, whatever the size of the estate. In addition to being a legal document, a will is an ethical document that conveys your values and priorities from which organizations and causes important to you may benefit. We hope that in preparing your will you consider including St. Joan of Arc as a beneficiary. If you already have, please let us know so we can thank you. Our legal title is Church of Saint Joan of Arc, Minneapolis.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs): When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a QCD. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity (St. Joan of Arc). QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Please consult with your tax or financial planner before making a QCD. Call Nancy McPherson, St. Joan of Arc Finance Manager, for more information.

Summary of contributions for the week and fiscal year. Includes Plate, Envelopes and Sustaining Member payments.

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<th>Period</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tr>
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THANK YOU for your continued generosity!
Pastoral Ministries

**FFI on Pastoral Ministries** contact JP Fitzgibbons at 612.823.8205 ext. 231.

**Caregivers:** Do you have a story that you think might work well in a play? Wanderlust Productions is looking to hear from you: nurses, family caregivers, educators, first responders... anyone who provides care to others. FFI go to wlproductions.org or call 651.212.5075.

**Our Mental Health Ministry** can be of benefit to all of us here at SJA. From our relationship with Mental Health Connect and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) to the resources available to everyone in our own Parish Resource Library, our ministry offers tools to help alleviate some of the struggles that every one of us deals with as we travel on our journey. FFI, contact JP at jfitzgibbons@stjoan.com.

**Grief Support:** Please join us for grief support on Saturday mornings at St. Mark's Episcopal, 519 Oak Grove St, Minneapolis, 55403. The Downtown Coalition for Grief Support holds weekly Saturday meetings that are free and open to the public, regardless of religious affiliation. The meetings provide a safe, understanding environment for grief education, comfort and recovery. Registration begins at 9:30am, followed by the speaker at 10am. From 10:30 - 11:30am we break for small group discussions, each led by experienced facilitators trained in: spouse or partner loss, family or friend loss, and child loss. **This Saturday, July 15** the speaker will be Renee Garpestad who will speak on 'The Courage to Ask: Embracing Help'.

**Peace and Justice**

**FFI on Peace & Justice programs** contact Julie Madden at 612.823.8205 ext. 228 or jmadden@stjoan.com.

**Sister Parish Prepares for Delegation:** From August 11-21, a wonderful group of SJA parishioners will travel to Guatemala for 10 days with our family in Tierra Nueva Dos in Guatemala. 30 years of delegations back and forth keep our relationship growing, and we are thrilled to resume in-person experiences. The group is preparing now for this experience, and we will bless the delegation at our gym masses on August 6. We will also have a banner for you to sign your greetings to all our loved ones in TNII!

**SJA Outreach Fund News:** Thank you to all who recently celebrated the work of our SJA Outreach Fund here - we were joined by representatives from 25 funded projects and organizations, and it was a fantastic morning, full of hope and energy and spirit! And we have even more good news... Our Justice Grant Committee met recently, and we have awarded 13 grants, totaling $72,700 to the following organizations:

- Sankofa Village
- The Lift Garage
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Free Clinic
- Alliance Housing
- Dignity Twin Cities "Wonderfully Made"
- Centro Guadalupano
- Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
- Mano a Mano Intl Partners
- Temple Israel Immigration Task Force
- Conversations with Friends
- Golden Valley Pride Festival
- Cooper High School "Catch Up and Succeed" Program
- MN Interfaith Coalition on Immigration

Thank you to these partners, to the parishioners who wrote letters of support for these applications, to the Justice Grant Committee for their discernment, and to our Outreach Fund donors for making this happen! Please pick up more info after mass in the Welcome Center.

**SJA Antiracism Ministry** Join our next monthly discussion on Sunday, July 23 at 1pm on Zoom. All are invited to share resources, actions, and connections with one another as we continue to move toward becoming an antiracist church. Our monthly gatherings always include new learnings and community news, and we hope you’ll be with us! Contact Julie Madden for the Zoom link.

**SJA Housing Ministry** If you are a parishioner living in Shakopee and are interested in affordable housing in your community, our partners at Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative need to talk to you right now! Please contact Julie Madden at the Parish Center to be connected to Beacon’s work in Shakopee.

**We Celebrate SJA ISAIAH!** ISAIAH is a coalition of faith communities, including SJA, and other organizations collaborating for economic and racial justice. Stop by our table in the Welcome Center after mass for more info on the work of our ISAIAH core team during this historic legislative session and how our state moved to enhance the lives of all Minnesotans, as well as broaden our democracy and protect our climate! Also, ISAIAH has been receiving great national attention and we’d love to share that with you, too.

**North Star Journey and Ice Cream Social:** Special Neighborhood Event at SJA! On Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6pm, in Hospitality Hall, join us as our wonderful neighbor (and leader of the Sankofa Garden at St. Peter’s AME Church) Greg McMoore shares stories of his family’s **North Star Journey.** These stories were compiled for an exhibit at the Hennepin History Museum, and detail Greg’s family’s migration from enslavement in Virginia to Hastings, MN, and finally to the vibrant Black community in South Minneapolis, before their family home was destroyed by the construction of 35W. Our evening will also include an ice cream social, hosted by our SJA Antiracism Ministry Outreach Team.
Faith Formation and Adult Learning

We form the faith of our community through participation in prayer, liturgy, sacraments, education, community and works of justice.

Baptism: To have your child baptized at St. Joan’s you must be a registered member and participate in a 90-minute Baptism preparation class. FFI and to register call JP at the Parish Center.

Baptisms Celebrated at SJA June: Cecilia Joan Brolsma, Finnley Thomas Bronder, Tynan Yogi Hanzlik, Milo Joseph Neuman

Archdiocesan Safe Environment: St. Joan of Arc is committed to providing a safe environment for all. Staff and adult volunteers who interact with minors must complete requirements every 3 years. Our website (www.saintjoanofarc.org/safety) includes a link to the Archdiocesan Safe Environment website, as well as the Victim Assistance Hotline phone number. Questions? Contact Diane Haugesag at dhaugesag@stjoan.com or 612.823.8205 x238.

Grade School/Family Mass: FFI (Grades K-5) contact Marie Bissonnette at 612.823.8205 ext. 229. Family Mass contact Gabrielle Dane at gdane@stjoan.com.

Registration for 2023/24 Elementary Ed Classes: Plan Ahead! You may register your elementary school children for our K-5 classes on Sunday mornings for the 2023-2024 program year now at https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/families-children. Click on the registration form.

Youth Ministry: FFI (Grades 6 - 12) contact Chris Sonnek at 612.823.8205 ext. 241 or csonnek@stjoan.com.

Registration for 2023/24 Youth Ministry is Now Open! Go to https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/youth-ministry to register.

Adult Learning: FFI contact Cynthia Bailey Manns at 612.823.8205 ext. 226 or cmanns@stjoan.com.

Centering Prayer: Join us Sundays in the Lady Slipper Room (lower level in the Parish Center) 10:15 - 10:45am, for an in-person meditation. We will also simultaneously Zoom it online. FFI contact Ray Spack at raymondspack@gmail.com.

Parish Book Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 - 8pm. FFI and a list of future dates and books, check the SJA website under Ministries, Parish Life and click on the Parish Book Club button.

Consider Carpooling or Riding the City Bus to Church: Go to metrotransit.org for more information. Thank you!

Catholic Social Teaching:
The Foundation of Our Faith and Our Shared Future. The principles of CST offer us a powerful lens through which to see and love the world as God does. They are a blueprint for us in overwhelming times:

- **Human Dignity**: Every one of us is created in the image and likeness of God.
- **Common Good**: We realize our human dignity in relationship and community.
- **Option for the Poor**: The moral test of our society is how we treat our most vulnerable.
- **Rights and Responsibilities**: We all have a fundamental right to what is needed to live in dignity - life, food, shelter, health care, education, employment. We also have a responsibility to participate in our public life together.
- **Role of Government**: The state has a positive moral function to promote human dignity, protect human rights and build the common good.
- **Economic Justice**: All workers have the right to decent and fair wages and safe working conditions. No one is allowed to amass excessive wealth while others lack the basic necessities of life.
- **Stewardship of God’s Creation**: We are called to live in right relationship with the earth.
- **Promotion of Peace and Disarmament**: Peace is not just the absence of war. Peace is the fruit of justice.
- **Global Solidarity**: We are called to work together globally in an interdependent world.

SJA Mission Statement

Saint Joan of Arc is a joyful Christian community which celebrates the loving word of God in worship and action. We transcend traditional boundaries and draw those who seek spiritual growth and social justice. We welcome diverse ideas and encourage reflection on the message of the Gospel. We are committed to the equality of all our members and strive to ensure their full participation through liturgy, education and service. By these means we seek to empower all who come to grow in wisdom and bring to reality the promise of Christ.

SJA Vision Statement

To be a visible, progressive, Catholic Community, compassionate and welcoming to all.