Pastor’s 2 Cents: From Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Six word homily: Who are just, must be kind.

The Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings, or so Paul tells us today in Romans. How could we possibly miss those groanings? Jesus suggests some weeds have been planted in our moral course.

One of my favorite old-time comedy movies is Bedazzled (1967) starring Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, who were a popular British comedy team of the late 60’s, before Monty Python. Cook, who also created a stock character of an effeminate Archbishop on a number of occasions, was George Spiggot, a.k.a. Satan, and Moore was a poor schlemiel, Stanley Moon, who sells his soul to the devil to get the woman of his dreams. Offering seven wishes Satan, gives him what he wanted… but with unintended and unpleasant consequences.

According to the movie, Satan and his seven deadly sins (Raquel Welch was Lilian Lust) hung out at a seedy night club in Soho. In conversation with the devil, Dudley finds out Satan’s modus operandi: don’t go after humanity with the big stuff like wars, earthquake and disease—that just makes them turn back towards God—just turn up the volume on the minor irritations the cumulative effect will work wonders. Spiggot goes on to show him all manner of minor temptations and irritations. Such as removing the final piece of a jigsaw, causing the bottom to fall out of a grocery bag, and opening an LP record, scratching the disc with a needle and then putting it back on the shelf for sale.

I always knew someone was out to get us, which explains those bad days that seem to come out of nowhere. But of course, there are other temptations out there to get us overly selfish. I am convinced the modern Satan would work in marketing, doing things like convincing us that we have innumerable diseases, or creating new possible ways to worry about BO. Or maybe even creating a whole system of communications that we have to check every ten minutes to feel adequate and connected. Don’t you hate it when your smart phone or computer tells you how much time you spend on it?

Don’t get me wrong, I love my smart phone—how else would I be able to tell you when and who starred in Bedazzled in 1967? However, there are down sides and unintended consequences with every new invention. Gutenberg started a revolution with his updated printing press—the smart phone of its day—but then people started wasting time reading all the trash that was being mass produced. In a recent movie, Don’t Look Up, humanity refuses to see the impending doom and worries more about a celebrity breakup. Imagine that: pretending a disaster didn’t really exist.

There are plenty of weeds out there blinding us to what’s going on around us. What’s your favorite weed?

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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 23: Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matt 13:24-43
Mon, July 24: Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42
Tue, July 25: 2 Corinthians 4:7
Thu, July 27: Exodus 19:1-2,9,11,16-20b; Matthew 13:10-17
Fri, July 28: Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:18-23
Sat, July 29: Exodus 24:3-8; John 11:19-27
Sun, July 30: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

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: Please remember in your prayers those who are in need of healing:


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.

Looking Ahead...

8am Mass on Tuesday and Thursday in the Church
Gym Masses
July 30: Fr. Jim Cassidy
August 6: Fr. Jim DeBruycker
August 13: Fr. Jim Cassidy
August 20: Fr. Jim DeBruycker
August 27: Fr. Jim Cassidy
September 3: Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Presider Schedule for Saturday, 5pm Masses in the Church
August 5: Fr. Peter Nosbush
August 12: Fr. Jim DeBruycker
August 19: Fr. Peter Nosbush
August 26: Fr. Jim DeBruycker
September 2: Fr. Peter Nosbush

The 5pm Saturday Mass is Recorded and Available on our YouTube Channel Sunday afternoon.

Our Parish Center Summer Hours (June - August) are:
Monday 9am - 4:30pm, Tuesday - Thursday, 9am - 8pm, Friday, 9am - 3pm, Saturday, closed, Sunday, 8am - 12:30pm.
Parish Life

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!

It’s Almost Time for School! We are thrilled to start our annual collection of fresh new school supplies and backpacks for the families of the Church of Gichtwaa Kateri. We will collect supplies in the Welcome Center through Sunday, August 13. Pick up a list of requested items in the Welcome Center after Mass, and thank you for your support.

Looking For: Do you have Catholic sacramental items that you don’t know what to do with? We will help you find a new home for them through our Faith Formation programs. You may drop them off at the reception desk in the Parish Center labeled, “Faith Formation.” FFI email Marie @ mbissonnette@stjoan.com.

Mobile Loaves Twin Cities: Needs washcloths, unopened travel size shampoo - no conditioner - lotion, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, 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 and 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.

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. We welcome you wherever you are on your journey!

Where Does My Coffee Cup Go? We strive to be a zero-waste campus and your help is needed making sure that coffee cups are disposed of properly on Sunday mornings. Here’s the info you need: 1. All hot cups brought in from outside SJA are TRASH (not recyclable), unless marked “Certified Compostable” 2. Cold plastic beverage cups and lids are RECYCLABLE. Straws are not. 3. All cups from within SJA are COMPOSTABLE - organic, made from corn. Thank you for your help!

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.

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 today, Sunday, July 23 and Sunday, August 27. Sponsored by TRUST Inc and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.

In Transition? Moving? Estate Closing? TRUST’s estate sale program will advertise, sort, price, and conduct the sale for you. Contact Jan at 612.269.1865.

The TRUST Chore Program offers household cleaning, snow removal, lawn care, and minor home repairs at a low cost rate. Do you know someone who could benefit from these services? Contact 612.827.6150.

Kingfield Farmers Market 4055 Nicollet (Behind park building) Sundays, through Oct 29. 8:30am - 1pm.

Wedding Policies: Weddings at St. Joan of Arc are provided as a service to members of the parish community. For a wedding to take place at SJA, it is necessary that one of the engaged couple be a registered member of the parish for at least six months before a wedding date can be set. A date can only be scheduled by one of the priests after an initial interview with the engaged couple. A minimum of six months from the time the date is set to the wedding is necessary in order to complete requirements. In cases where there has been a previous marriage ending in divorce, it is not possible to set the wedding date until notice of an annulment is in hand. FFI contact Marie Thielen at mthielen@stjoan.com.

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. FFI call all Nancy McPherson, St. Joan of Arc Finance Manager.

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

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<th>Week of July 10 – July 16, 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actual $37,906</td>
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<td>Prior Year Actual $32,362</td>
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<th>Year to Date (July 1, 2023 – July 16, 2023)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actual $92,459</td>
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<td>Prior Year Actual $97,086</td>
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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.

**Good Mental Health** is related to mental and psychological well-being. The World Health Organization’s (WHO) work to improve the mental health of individuals and society at large includes the promotion of mental well-being, the prevention of mental disorders, the protection of human rights and the care of people affected by mental disorders.

**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.

**Did You Know** that 1 in 5 adults have a diagnosable mental health disorder? Fortunately, recovery is possible! And, treatment for mental health problems doesn’t only consist of prescribed or OTC medication. Therapy, yoga, meditation and holistic treatments can all help to assuage symptoms.

**Mental Health Connect (MHC)** provides free community-based resources, support and education, to improve access to mental health services and to connect individuals and families with the services they need. FFI contact a MHC navigator at 612.642.1220 or navigator@mhconnect.org.

**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 29 the speaker will be Ed Holland who will speak on ‘Family Matters: Part 2’.

**Peace and Justice**

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

**SJA Antiracism Ministry**: Join our next monthly discussion today, 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.

**Sister Parish Prepares for Delegation**

**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.

**SJA Housing Ministry News**: St. Joan of Arc is a proud member of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Beacon develops and builds beautiful, affordable housing around the metro area, and also leads us in advocating for public investment in housing statewide. On the heels of our success at the state legislature for Bring It Home MN, a lot is happening this summer. Contact Julie Madden to get involved. Also, a special thank you to two SJA Housing Ministry leaders, Raymond Dean and Theresa Dolata, who are serving on the Beacon Board of Directors. We are grateful to you both for your commitment to human dignity and the common good!

**Mary's Pence Visits SJA**: Mary's Pence funds and supports women-led community initiatives for justice, and we will host representatives from Mary’s Pence in our Welcome Center after both Masses on Sunday, August 13. Stop by their table to learn more and join in solidarity with women in Mexico, Central America, and the U.S.

**Sister Parish Prepares for Delegation**

**SJA Outreach Fund News**: This Spring, our Justice Grant recipients included the MN Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM). Our grant supports ICOM's advocacy for a just and humane immigration system, and we will also provide direct assistance to asylees, immigrants and detainees. We are grateful to ICOM and to parishioners Greg King, Kathy McKay, and Joel Racchini for their work with this organization. If you volunteer with a great nonprofit, we invite you to apply for a Justice Grant from our SJA Outreach Fund - contact Julie Madden for an application.
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.

**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: Register your elementary school children for our K-5 classes on Sunday mornings for the 2023/2024 program year now, click on the registration form. at https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/families-children.

**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: Go to https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/youth-ministry to register.

**Adult Volunteers Needed** for our 6th - 12th graders one Sunday a month, 10 - 11am, October - May. Please contact Chris if you are interested in any of the following:

- **Small Group Leaders** for grades 6 - 12: 1 - 2 adults per group, leading the Youth through relevant curriculum and sharing.
- **Micah Service Group Leaders:** 1) Eco-Spirits Group: Current recycling expert or someone who aspires to be one. 2) Preventing Gun Violence Group: Join a local expert leading this group! 3) Dragonfly: Condolence Card Ministry. Other Opportunities coming soon.

**Confirmation Classes for Persons With Disabilities** ages 14 and older will be held on Saturdays, Aug 5 & 19, 9:30 - 11:30am, at the Church of St. Richard, 7540 Penn Ave S, Richfield. The sacrament of Confirmation will be available at the Mass for Persons with Disabilities on Sept 17. FFI contact the Office of Marriage, Family and Life, 651.291.4488.

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

SAGES Presents the Last Tuesday Seminar on July 25 at 4pm via Zoom. Mark Scannell is the presenter & the theme will be: *Seasons of Life: Passing the Baton.* To get the Zoom link, contact Mark at gasscann@bitstream.net.

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.

**RCIA:** SJA welcomes you on your spiritual journey of study, exploration, faith sharing, and faith formation. The Rite of Christian Initiation, or RCIA, is an important Sacrament designed for adults (called Candidates), who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for Catholics who wish to be Confirmed, and may also include the Rite of Baptism. Each Candidate works with an individual sponsor who will walk with them through this unique faith journey. The RCIA classes from Fall 2023 through Spring 2024, led by Fr. Jim DeBruycker and the RCIA leadership team, build learning relationships that encourage provocative questions about what it means to be Catholic and opportunities to grow in one’s faith. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Fr. Jim DeBruycker at jdebruycker@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.

**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.
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