Pastor’s 2 Cents: From Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Six word homily: To know the truth; a treasure.

It has been a strange news week, but when isn’t it lately. The State of Florida introduced their new curriculum on the history of slavery. Accordingly it seems we misunderstood slavery, it was actually a vocational training opportunity. On the other side of reality, National Monuments were created to honor Emmett Till and his mother Mamie Till-Mobley at the place where Emmett’s body was recovered, the Church where his funeral took place and the Courthouse where his murderers escaped judgement. The monument at the Tallahatchie River site has already been desecrated four times.

If you remember the story 14 year old Emmett, from Chicago, went to visit family in Mississippi. A white woman, who fifty years later admitted she was lying, accused Emmett of whistling at her and attempting to touch her. That was all it took for a couple of white men to torture and beat Emmett to death. Against her family’s wishes she had an open casket and invited the press to see what they had done to her young son. The murderers even admitting they were guilty were acquitted, only to gloat over what they had done in the press. It was one of those pivotal moments of conscience for the nation on the road to Civil Rights.

In their 1967 German book, the Inability to Mourn, Margaret and Alexander Mitscherlich maintained the German nation had not come to grips with the atrocities of the Third Reich. They could not accept the fact that they were complicit in what happened. Their surrendering of their autonomy to authoritarian rule, their desertion of empathy, and personal responsibility all for a sense of security were not owned up to. Instead they blamed the Nazis and maintained they were the victims as well and celebrated the fact they overcame the war disaster and rose from the ashes. It has been left to their grand children to ask, why.

Sounds a little bit familiar. We are not supposed to teach so-called critical race theory. We don’t want our children to feel bad about who they are. Let’s not look at the roots of discrimination or hatred. If I feel bad about the past I must be the victim. Maybe we need a Fuhrer to save us. The others are out to get us. These are truly dangerous times.

The Gospel talks about a great treasure that was found, so great it was worth performing larceny to get it. The treasure is the truth and are we willing to accept it. You have to sort through a lot of unpleasant things to get to it but it is important.

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 30: 1 Kings 3:5-7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52
Mon, July 31: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Matthew 13:31-35
Tue, Aug 1: Exodus 40:16-23, 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46
Wed, Aug 2: Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46
Fri, Aug 4: Leviticus 23:1-4; 11,15-16,27,34-37; Matthew 13:54-58
Sat, Aug 5: Leviticus 25:1-8-17; Matthew 14:1-12
Sun, Aug 6: Daniel 7:9-10,13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

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.

Looking Ahead...

8am Mass on Tuesday and Thursday in the Church
Gym Masses
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
September 10: Welcome Back Sunday

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.

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.
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 joyful singing community? Contact Anna Vagle at avagle@stjoan.com or 612.823.8205 ext 235. See you in September!

It’s Almost Time for School - Our Collection of New School Supplies Is Underway! We are thrilled to start our annual collection of fresh new school supplies and backpacks for the families of the Church of Gichitwa 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.

LGBTQ+ Book Club: All are welcome to join us on Monday, August 14 at 6:30pm at Gabe’s Bar and Kitchen in St. Paul to discuss Razorblade Tears, a gripping crime novel by S.A. Cosby that wrestles with homophobia, racism, and classism. We hope to see you!

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 Thilen at mthielen@stjoan.com.

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.

Remember and Reflect: Street Art From the George Floyd Uprising: Becketwood Cooperative will host a free outdoor exhibit of street art boards that were created during the uprising following the killing of George Floyd. The exhibit will take place on Saturday, August 5, 11am to 4pm, on the grounds of Becketwood, 4300 West River Parkway, Mpls. The boards are provided by Save the Boards Minneapolis whose founder, Kenda Zellner-Smith, will give a presentation around 12:30. Save the Boards’ vision is to uplift local artists and serve as a safe space for community education, reflection, and storytelling, allowing viewers to connect with art through their own experiences, voices, and personal journeys. The band Brass Solidarity, which was founded in 2021 in response to the movement for Black lives, will also perform.

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

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

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!

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.

Week of July 17 – July 23, 2023
Actual $49,479  Budget $32,500
Prior Year Actual $32,362

Year to Date (July 1, 2023 – July 23, 2023)
Actual $141,938  Budget $130,000
Prior Year Actual $129,448
We collected $9,371.29 for Maryknoll last Sunday.

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 August 5 the speaker will be Lynn Jaffe who will speak on ‘Personal Story - Child Loss’.

Peace and Justice

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

SJA ISAIAH: “You Shall Be Called the Repairers of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets in Which to Dwell.” SJA, you are invited into a conversation - to share what matters to you in your community, and to be an active participant in creating our future together. If you feel stuck in cynicism, or apathy, or powerlessness, this is your antidote! Stop by our table in the Welcome Center after mass for a schedule of small group discussions from which to choose, including meetings in person and on Zoom.

SJA Housing Ministry: Rent Is Due Day of Action! This Tuesday, August 1, 8:30 - 9am, join Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative’s 30 minute Zoom call of action and education. We’ll learn about the Met Council and how we can help create more affordable housing in the suburbs of the metro area. Go to beaconinterfaith.org/events to register.

A Discussion of Solito: Our Welcome the Stranger ministry invites you to join us on Tuesday, August 8 in the Upper Room of the Parish Center at 7pm for a discussion of Solito. Javier Zamora’s memoir tells the story of his journey as a migrant from El Salvador when he was just 9 years old. All are welcome! For a Zoom link, email jmaccani@comcast.net.

North Star Journey and Ice Cream Social: Special Neighborhood Event at SJA! On Wednesday, August 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.

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: From Aug 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 Aug 6. We will also have a banner for you to sign your greetings to all our loved ones in TNII!

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 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.

Put Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+R eligion on Your Calendar Now! On Sunday, Oct. 15, SJA will host a screening of this incredible documentary, in collaboration with Dignity Twin Cities and OutFront MN, at 1:30pm in Hospitality Hall. We will be joined by the filmmakers. See more about the movie at facebook.com/WonderfullyMadeLGBTQReligion/.
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 in July: Maddux Girtz, Mae Havey, Mackenzie Secord, Josephine Schwamberger, Etta Zweber

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 School Year is Open! Go to https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/youth-ministry to register. We have an exciting year planned! The Youth Ministry's Fall Kickoff Event will be held the evening of Sunday, Sept 17.

Registration for 2023/24 Confirmation is open for 10th - 12th grade. Go to https://www.saintjoanofarc.org/confirmation to register.

Adult Volunteers Needed for our 6th - 12th graders one Sunday a month, 10 - 11am, October thru 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.

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.


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.

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.

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.