Pastor’s 2 Cents: From Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Six word homily: Better to risk then never try.

“You’re all wet” meaning “you’re barking up the wrong tree” or “boy, have you got the wrong number” did not originate with today’s reading about St. Peter’s near drowning in the Sea of Galilee. But Peter does have a tendency not to follow through on his endeavors and get egg on his face – “I will never betray you”; “I don’t even know the man”; “Gentiles need not follow all of Jewish law”. Yet, Jesus chose him to be leader of his apostles, not so much because he was the rock that was unmovable, but because he was the man who understood forgiveness and the man who dared to try.

Peter may have failed his test of faith but at least he tried, while the other disciples stayed in the boat. Peter tried to bring Gentiles into the church but then backed down and Paul had to admonish him. Peter had the courage to follow Jesus into Caiaphas’ courtyard for Jesus’ trial, but his courage failed him. Unlike Judas who despaired of his betrayal and hung himself, Peter went out into the garden and wept bitterly. Then he gathered with the disciples to regroup.

His absolution came with the famous post Resurrection meeting with Jesus on the Galilee beach. It is actually a brilliant piece of writing. In a few words John gives us a whole theological lesson. Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him, mirroring Peter’s three times denial of him, and then commands Peter to ‘feed his sheep’… that’s us.

The theological lesson is you can begin again and maybe even more grace-filled than before. Jesus makes Peter leader because he felt forgiveness. Peter is to lead with forgiveness. It is knowledge of his own weakness which becomes his strength mixed with his tendency to take a risk, even if he fails at times.

I often wonder what the saints would think of the way they are viewed today. It is sometimes laughable when you see paintings of Peter in full pontifical robes. I’m quite sure he did not own a jewel encrusted three-tiered crown, or even knew what a miter or a chasuble, was or at least not by that name.

Peter was a simple man, a skilled fisherman and boat owner. He met a man who changed his life and ultimately ours. We should not feel distant from him but see in him the possibilities of our own doing good. The first reading this Sunday tells us the story of Elijah finding God, not in great cataclysmic events, but in a gentle whispering breeze. He reminds us God is all around us if we are open to God’s presence.

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, Aug 13: 1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a; Romans 9:1-5; Matt 14:22-33
Mon, Aug 14: Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27
Tue, Aug 15: Rev 11:19a:12-1:6a,10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-53
Wed, Aug 16: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20
Thu, Aug 17: Joshua 3:7-10a,11,13-17; Matthew 18:21-19:1
Fri, Aug 18: Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12
Sat, Aug 19: Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15
Sun, Aug 20: Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Rom 11:13-15,29-32; Matt 15:21-28

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 20: Fr. Jim DeBruycker
August 27: Fr. Jim Cassidy
September 3: Fr. Jim Cassidy
September 10: Welcome Back Sunday
September 17: Feast of St. Phoebe
September 24: Feast of St. Francis

Presider Schedule for Saturday, 5pm Masses in the Church
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 - 6pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8am - 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.
Parish Life

Choir: Our SJA adult choir season is over for the summer and will start up again on Thursday, Sept 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!

Lake Harriet Bandshell Service: Baseball isn't the only thing better outdoors...Rain or shine, please join St Joan of Arc liturgy leaders and musicians at the Bandshell, 10am, on Sunday, Aug 27, to experience worship during the summertime in one of the best parks in Minneapolis! Offerings collected benefit the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, www.outdoorworship.org. Pack a lunch and join SJA for a picnic after the service!

Our School Supply Collection Ends Today at Noon! Have you seen the piles of new school supplies gathered in our Welcome Center? Thanks to you, SJA, 200 children and youth from the families of the Church of Gichitwaa Kateri will start the school year in great shape. As always, we are overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. All donations must be dropped off by noon today.

LGBTQ+ Book Club: All are welcome to join us on Monday, Aug 14, 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!

Warm Hands Warm Hearts Is Gearing Up! Sure, it’s hot now, but before we know it, kids will be waiting at the bus stop in very cold temperatures and we want to ensure that as many children as possible have warm winter coats, gloves and hats. Our annual drive for new coats and winter accessories will begin in the fall, but if you have already purchased coats for this year’s collection, please drop them off in the Welcome Center or the church vestibule. Thank you so much for helping us get this project off to a great start, and be on the look-out for our sign-up for this year, starting Sept 24.

Looking For: Do you have Catholic devotional 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.

Community Wellness Day: On Saturday, Aug 26, 11:30am - 2:30pm, our friends at St. Peter's AME Church (on the corner of 4th Ave & 41st St) will host a day of wellness activities, with mobile health clinics, culturally responsive caregiver support, free screenings, and yoga and Zumba classes! All are welcome.

Stranger At the Gate Film Screening at SJA: Nominated for Best Documentary Short Film, Stranger at the Gate tells the story of a former Marine with PTSD, who planned to attack a Muslim community in Indiana - until an unexpected encounter with faith and humanity. On Monday, Sept 18, at 7pm in Hospitality Hall, our SJA Antiracism, Mental Health, WAMM/Peacemakers and Welcome the Stranger ministries will co-host a screening of this incredible film. Please join us - all are welcome!

Put, Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+Religion, 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/.

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.

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.

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.

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

**Week of July 31 – August 6, 2023**

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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.

**SJA Mental Health Ministry’s Mission** is to increase awareness of this broad and diverse field while diminishing discrimination, stigma and secrecy associated with mental health challenges that people encounter on their journeys. Through relationships, support, education, and resources, we aim to instill hope in a safe and welcoming environment, in order that we can achieve a wholeness of mind, body and spirit. On **Saturday, Sept 9 at 10am**, we’d like to invite you to an informational meeting in the Welcome Center to learn more about our ministry and how you might benefit from what we do and/or how you might be able to add your unique abilities and contributions to our growing, vital ministry.

**Good Mental Health**: We all have mental health; it affects how we think, feel, and act every day. However, mental health is often ignored until something is going wrong. The best way to prevent that is to pay attention to your mental health even when you’re feeling ok or good. Just like with our physical health, we can all do things that make us mentally healthier. Stop by our table in the Welcome Center and learn more about what our own Resource Library has to offer!

**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.

**August is National Wellness Month**: We get dental check-ups every 6 months to prevent cavities, so why not a mental health check-up periodically to prevent debilitating stress? Call the MHC Navigator line (612.642.1220) for assistance finding ways to help you with distress before it gets worrisome, and visit the table in the Welcome Center for books on wellness topics that you can check out.

**Grief Support**: Please join us for grief support on Saturday mornings at St. Mark’s Episcopal, 519 Oak Grove St, Minneapolis. 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 Aug 19** the speaker will be Nicole Barnes who will speak on ‘Children and Grief’. Note: beginning in September, the group will hold its meetings here at SJA. Watch the bulletin for further details.

**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.

**Peace and Justice**

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

**SJA Antiracism Discussion**: We continue our monthly discussion on Zoom, exploring new learnings and actions toward becoming an antiracist church. Join us on Aug 27 at 1pm. Contact Julie Madden for the Zoom link.

**SJA ISAIAH: You Shall Be Called the Repairers of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets in Which to Dwell**: Starting this summer, our SJA ISAIAH core team is hosting small group conversations that invite YOU to be an active participant deciding the next priorities we work on in our public life together, grounded in the values of our faith. Stop by our table in the Welcome Center after mass for a schedule of small group meetings from which to choose, including meetings in person and on Zoom.

- Join our SJA ISAIAH core team for coffee and conversation on Sunday, Sept 17, 10 - 11am in the Upper Room. Learn more about this powerful ministry, and enjoy a donut with SJA friends!

**Mary’s Pence Visiting SJA Next Sunday**: Make plans to greet our friends at their table in the Welcome Center after both masses next Sunday, August 20. Mary’s Pence supports women-led community initiatives in Mexico, Central America, and the U.S., and we are so glad to welcome them and learn more about their work.

**Sister Parish Delegation Currently in Guatemala**: A delegation of ten SJAers is in Guatemala for ten days, deepening our 30 year relationship of faith and friendship with our family in Tierra Nueva Dos and the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The delegates are spending time with host families and in the community, and will also travel in country for several days. Please pray for them on this great journey, read updates on our SJA Facebook page, and be with us on Sunday, September 3, when we will hear some of their stories!

**SJA Outreach Fund News**: Twice a year, we award Justice Grants from our Outreach Fund to nonprofit organizations and projects in which our parishioners are committed volunteers and leaders. Our next deadline for applications is Nov 1. In the past ten years, we have awarded almost $1 million in grants - funding projects that are focused on meeting immediate needs as well as on changing unjust systems, globally and in our own neighborhood. This is the good news, SJA, and we are grateful for your support.

**SJA Outreach Fund Update**: Our CARE Committee is one of the programs of the SJA Outreach Fund. Parishioner volunteers respond to calls from fellow parishioners and neighbors in need of emergency financial assistance for housing and utilities. In addition, the CARE Committee partners with Alliance Housing, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Northside Achievement Zone, Project for Pride in Living, and Risen Christ School to serve their families if they need housing assistance. We are currently meeting with all our partner organizations to review our processes, and to evaluate how effective our assistance has been in helping families maintain housing stability. This year, the CARE Committee will distribute almost $150,000 in direct assistance to people in need. We are truly grateful to our SJA Outreach Fund donors who make this incredible service possible.
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.

Save The Date! Synod on Synodality: Saturday, Sept 9, 9 - 11am in the Gym. Please join Dr. Cynthia Bailey Manns, appointed delegate to 2023 Synod on Synodality, to explore the three priority issues of the Instrumentum Laboris document - Communion, Mission and Participation (https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/universal-stage/il/PAGINATED_ENG_INSTRUMENTUM-LABORIS-A4.pdf) In preparation for the gathering, please read the document and complete the worksheets B1.2, B2.3, and B2.4. Come prepared with a 1 - 2 minute reflection regarding your topic that calls you to action, such as, yet not limited to, racism, women’s participation, liturgy, LGBTQIA+, youth engagement, etc. Cynthia wants to take your sacred stories to Rome! RSVP information to follow.


Confirmation Classes for Persons With Disabilities ages 14 and older will be held on Saturday, Aug 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.