



Family Mass Newsletter

KEEP YOUR TRUST ALIVE

In the beginning God—the source and ground of all being—so loved the world that God gave God's own breath to sing into existence that which was not. In the image of the songwriter we were created, and we too were given voice and language and breath and song.

And that love song of creation continued, but we tend to create our own melodies in another rhythm that we think will save us, songs of domination, violence, greed, and power.

And so once again, God's breath was given to us—this time in the cry of a newborn baby—God's self in the form of a son, vulnerable and fragile. For God so loved the world God created that God walked among us as love. God gave God's own self to us as Jesus so that all who hear God's song will know that it is their song that cannot be taken away. None of our alternate anthems can compete with God's truth and in response to this what can we do but fall on our knees in worship?

—Nadia Bolz-Weber



SUNDAY MESSAGE

As Jesus tells us not to worry in the face of devastating world events, we hear *Come with Me*, written by Holly M. McGhee and illustrated by Pascal Lemaitre, in which a girl chooses small acts of courage and love, and discovers that her actions make the world a better place. Thanks to our reader Maddie Lanarz-Hooyman and our musicians Marc Bromaghim-Oropeza and Nicole Wilder. Stay awake: Act with love for justice!



COME TO THE FAIR

After Mass on Nov 23rd, shop for unique handmade items from our Guatemalan family in Tierra Nueva Dos. Start your Christmas shopping after Mass! Your donations help fund projects in TNII and travel for delegates coming to the Twin Cities.



CAROLS, CRAFTS & COOKIES: FAMILY HOLIDAY ADVENTURE

On Wed, Dec 10th from 6:30-8pm, join us to celebrate the season. Have fun as a family singing Christmas carols, making a wintertime craft, and decorating—and eating—holiday cookies. The adventure will start in Hospitality Hall. Sign up today...



Hope you will join us!
FFI, ask Gabrielle
(gdane@stjoan.com).

SERVICE SUNDAY AND BEYOND

On Nov 30th, join us in Hospitality Hall between the Masses to make holiday cards for people experiencing homelessness, refugees at Casa Guadalupano, and our SJA neighbors.

Then on Sat, Dec 6th, help drop off the holiday cards to our SJA neighbors. Meet at 10am in the parish center. Get a bag of cards and be assigned a few blocks close to SJA for delivery. Then gather at Turtle Bread for treats!



JESSE TREE

Our Jesse Tree Gift Card collection has begun. The collection will benefit Project for Pride in Living transitional housing and the American Indian Center Golden Eagles youth program. If you



can help, please select an ornament from a tree in either the Church vestibule or Welcome Center and return your gift by December 7th.



SAFETY AT SJA

Recently, there have been two incidents in the SJA parking lot in which a group of young men attempted to rob parishioners. Please take extra care when exiting your car, be sure to lock it, and leave no valuables behind.

Advent Is Coming Soon!

Join us for our...

ADVENT EVENING FOR FAMILIES



Invite Advent light into your heart! **On Sunday, November 23rd from 4-6:30pm**, come to our annual Advent Evening for Families! We start with a shared meal, enjoy a magical liturgy, and make a craft designed to mark each day of the season. Have fun and connect with other SJA families as you welcome the season of Advent as a family.

Please bring a favorite dessert to share, if you can. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4wd4efr>. Hope to see you there!



SEASONAL LITURGIES

Healing Mass

On Tuesday, Nov 18th at 7pm in the church, come to our Mass of Healing with the Sacrament of Anointing. We welcome anyone in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing to be anointed.

Thanks Giving Mass

On Thursday, Nov 27th at 10am, come to the Gym for our Mass of Thanks Giving. Share your gratitude at our open mic and bring some non-perishable food for our neighbors!

Advent Reconciliation Evensong

On Sunday, Dec 7th at 4pm in the church, come to our beautiful communal Advent Reconciliation Evensong service.



Family Mass Good News



Jesus said to his disciples,
"Before the end comes,
lots of things will happen.
But don't be afraid.
Nothing and no one can hurt you.
You will be saved because you believe in me
and have stayed faithful to me."

- Luke 21: 7-19



THE WORD

We are reaching the end of our church year. Our church year begins and ends with the belief that Jesus will return to us. We need to be ready to welcome Jesus whenever he comes.

In our first reading (Malachi 3: 19-20a), the prophet speaks of the coming of the Lord. Those who remain true to God will know justice and be healed from all pain.

Today's Gospel (Luke 21: 5-19) also deals with end times. Jesus warns the disciples that they will be tested and tempted by false prophets, and they will suffer because they believe in him. Jesus goes on to say that they can show their faith by telling their enemies about him. He will fill them with wisdom so that they will say all the right things.

These readings about end times can seem scary. But both readings end with great hope. Malachi speaks of the sun of justice arising. And Jesus tells us, as he does so often in the Gospel, not to worry or be afraid. God will be with us-always. We just need to trust and act.

PUZZLER

CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL?



Clues: accuse, Christ, watch, end, near, signs, afraid, claim, world, life, faithful, right, strong, believe, disciples, worry, saved, time

TRUST AND ACT

God's Kingdom is how we live in the presence of God, both now and after we die. Jesus asks us to build the Kingdom here by living lives that are true to what we know is right. And how do we know what is right? Jesus and the gospels are our guide: Live a just life, trying to make sure that the world is fair for everyone. Be a peacemaker, trying to make sure that everyone can live a safe life. Jesus isn't asking any of us to do it alone. He is asking each of us to do something. And Jesus believed, like nobody else, in children. You are never too young, never too small to make a big difference. Just trust yourself, and act. In our story, a very small girl and her friend, summon the courage to go out into the world and by being brave, gentle, strong and kind to all living creatures, find they can make the world a better place. You can too!



Keep your trust alive!