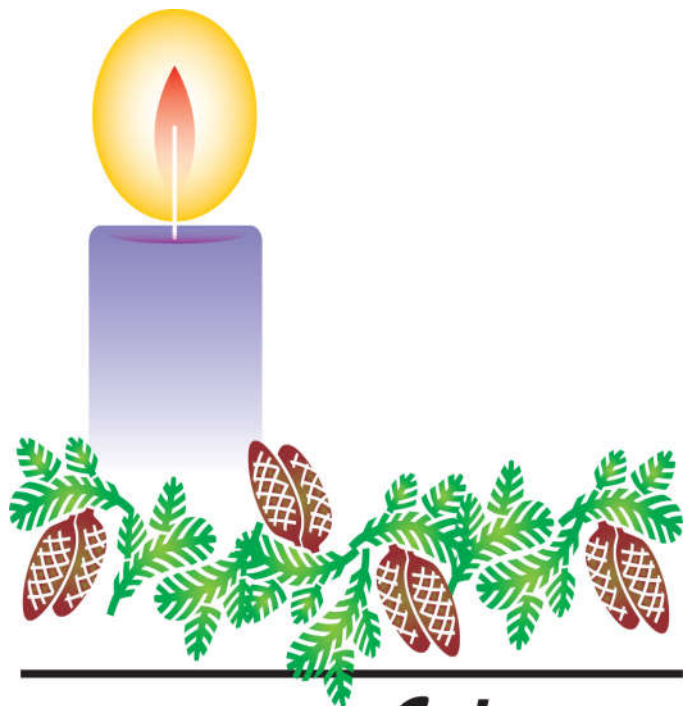


St. Joan Of Arc Church

496 East Washington Street • Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

Visit our Website
www.stjoanofarcchurch.org



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joan of Arc Parish is a growing community of Roman Catholic Christians in the Chagrin Falls area.

We are a diverse, gifted and joyful people who share a common belief in the Word of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission, like that of Jesus Christ and His apostles, is to proclaim the Kingdom of God through living the gospel and to grow in faith, holiness and service.

WE GATHER AS A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY TO:

CELEBRATE our faith and the presence of God in the Eucharist and in one another.

IMITATE our Savior in His service to others.

TEACH our beliefs at all levels.

WELCOME the participation of all in our Christian fellowship.

Parish Office (440) 247-7183
Parish E-mail stjoanchagrin@gmail.com
Parish Website stjoanofarcchurch.org
Music Ministry Office (440) 935-2232
Rel. Education Office/Sr. Judy Bucco (440) 247-3606
Sr. Ann Marie Kanusek, SND (440) 247-1141
School (440) 247-6530
Youth Ministry Office (440) 247-4316
stjoanofarcym@gmail.com

Rev. Gary J. Malin, Pastor
Sr. Judith Bucco, SND, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Shelley DiBacco, Principal
Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Dunlop, Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Dennis Guritza, Permanent Deacon
Sr. Ann Marie Kanusek, SND, Pastoral Associate
Miss Melissa Olenik, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Mr. Patrick Wickliffe, Director of Music

Rev. Damian J. Ference, Weekend Celebrant
Rev. John R. Olsavsky, Former Pastor, Retired

Weekend Mass:

Saturday Vigil - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon

Weekday Mass:

Monday, Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. (during the school year)/8:00 a.m. Summer
Legal Holidays - 9:00 a.m.

Baptism: At most weekend Masses or on most Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Contact Parish Office.

Reconciliation: (*Confession*)

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. until all are heard.
in Advent and Lent from: 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please contact a priest or deacon at least one year before the anticipated date.

Sponsor Certificates: Certificates may be obtained by registered, practicing members of our parish who have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist (and married in the church, if married). Please contact the Parish office.

New Parishioners: Welcome!

Call the Parish Office to register.

Sessions in the Catholic Faith (RCIA):

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., (*September thru May*).

Care of the Sick and Elderly:

Please inform us of persons sick or aged who are unable to come to church or who are hospitalized.

Funerals: Please contact the parish office before scheduling or publishing (generally through a funeral director). Bereavement committee available for hospitality.

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent
Be constantly on the watch!
Mark 13:33-37

Four weeks before Christmas, we hear a sober Gospel. We are preparing for a festive season; Jesus warns us of an appointed time. Can this be the same event? We are swept up in decorating, meal planning, gift buying, memories of past holidays. We are operating at the height of distraction. Jesus points simply and clearly to the future, warning us not to be lulled into inattention.

At the end of the year, it is natural for us to be looking back. As this season is such a powerful reminder of those we have loved and some we have lost, it is not surprising that we may lose ourselves in the past. The church selects these Advent readings to urge our attention to the coming of Christ and the kingdom, an event that belongs not to the past but to the here and now, its perfection yet to be revealed.

If we focus our gaze behind us we may miss the signs of the kingdom being born where we stand. And we may miss the chance to be a sign of the kingdom for others.

Where have you known sin in your life? What helped to reconcile you to God and others? How and when do you use the name of Jesus? Under what circumstances might you begin to use it with earnest reverence? What has your attention this Advent? How do you see God's kingdom being born where you are?



Application: Look for one sign of the kingdom of God every day this Advent season. Keep a list of these signs to remind you of the coming of Christ to which this season points.
(Reprinted with permission for "God's Word Is Alive" 23rd Publication © 1998)

WELCOME TO ST. JOAN

Happy New Year. We begin a new church year! Welcome to worship on the first Sunday of Advent, as we start afresh to hear about and celebrate Jesus' life.

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

Sat Dec 2

4:30 pm Virginia Matejcik

Sun Dec 3 First Sun of Advent

8:00 am St Joan of Arc

10:00 am Matthew Maladan

12:00 pm Carmella Miralia

Mon Dec 4 St John Damascene

8:00 am Ken Lowe, Sr.

Tues Dec 5 Advent

9:00 am Judy Hudak

Wed Dec 6 St Nicholas

8:00 am NO MORNING MASS

Thurs Dec 7 St Ambrose

8:00 am Maureen & Buddy
Kenner

**Fri Dec 8 Immaculate Conception
HOLY DAY**

8:00 am St. Joan of Arc

12:00 pm Dennis Kapitan

7:00 pm Jean & Bill O'Connell,
and Aunt Dolly

**WEEKEND MASS CELEBRANT
12/9-10**

4:30 pm Fr. Damian

8:00 am Fr. Damian

10:00 am Fr. Gary / Deacon Denny

12:00 pm Fr. Gary / Deacon Denny

**Collection for Sunday
November 26, 2017**

171 Envelopes Used

Cash/Checks \$18,030

ACH \$ 4,209

Total \$22,239

Thank you for your support!

THE GIVING TREE

For the past 25 years, our parish has generously given over 22,000 gifts to needy people. Your kindness has been wonderful! The tree is up in the Gathering Area and will remain there until Giving Sunday, Dec 17th. It is decorated with tags that describe where the gift is needed, the kind of gift desired and perhaps the name of the person.



Please take a tag, purchase the gift, **WRAP THE GIFT** and **ATTACH THE TAG TO THE OUTSIDE** of the package. **IF BUYING A GIFT CARD, PLEASE MARK THE AMOUNT ON THE TAG.**

Please bring the gift to the Giving Sunday celebration in the parish hall after each Mass on December 16 or 17th or gifts can be dropped off in the parish office before December 16th.

**OFFICE OF FAITH
FORMATION**

**A PSR/Day School Advent Service
Opportunity**

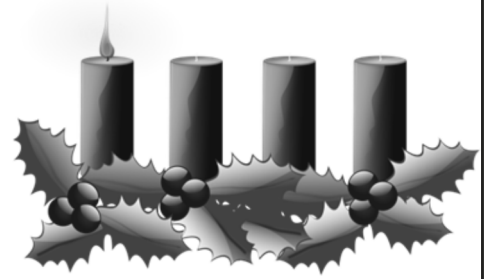
Our PSR and Catholic Day School will participate in a special Advent Service Project: **"Sponsor a Family"**

***Friday December 8 is a
Holy Day of Obligation***

From the Pastor

Greetings of Peace.

This weekend we begin the Season of Advent - a time to prepare for the coming of our Savior. As the days grow shorter and nights are cold we are reminded of our need for God's light and love. In the midst of our busy-ness in preparing for Christmas (and all that goes along with it), please take some time to "wonder" and pray.



Here at St Joan we are again offering the chance to "reach out" during this Christmas Season. **Our "Giving Tree" is up in our church Gathering Area.** With the approaching winter and our cold weather in December, the Giving Tree presents an opportunity to make this coming Christmas Season a time of joy for someone in need. If you are able, please take a tag from the tree and share your gift. Thank you.

Our **Parish Advent Communal Penance Service** is on Wednesday **December 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm.** Come and celebrate the Lord's love and compassion in this sacrament of healing and forgiveness. (Confessions are also offered on Saturdays at 3:15 pm, during Advent and Lent and at 3:30 pm most other Saturdays of the year.)

Friday of this week, December 8, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - a **Holy Day of Obligation.** Masses on December 8 are 8:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 7:00 pm.

You are in my heart and in my prayers.

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Gary



"Holiday Program" to benefit Catholic Charities: Job and Family Services of Gauga County. The "Sponsor a Family Holiday Program" provides food and gifts to low income families and seniors in Gauga County.

You have always been so generous to those less fortunate! Your donations will bring hope to so many local families this Christmas.

Donations can be sent to the Office of Faith Formation on Sunday/Monday, December 3/4, and Sunday/Monday, December 10/11.

Thank you!

Recognition of First Communion Candidates at Mass

Our SJA second graders preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and their parents will participate in a special recognition of our second graders' preparation of these sacraments on **Saturday, December 2 (4:30pm Mass), or Sunday, December 3 (8:00am, 10:00am, or 12:00noon Masses.)**

Advent Prayer Service

Our PSR children in Grades 1-6 will participate in a special Advent Prayer Service on Monday, December 18, in the Gym from

4:45-5:15pm. We welcome parents to join us in prayer on December 18 during this joyful season of Advent!

Sacrament of Confirmation

The 4th instructional session for our Confirmation Candidates is Thursday, December 7, from 6:30-8:15pm in the Parish Hall.

All registration forms, fees, baptismal certificates and confirmation sponsor forms should already have been handed in.

Confirmation Name Projects are due at the December 7 Instructional Session.

SJA Parish Service Day

THANK YOU to our many SJA Parishioners who participated in our 2nd Annual Parish Service Day! What a wonderful experience for each of them and a great way to serve others in the greater Cleveland area, Chardon, Aurora and Chagrin Falls areas. Those who served and participated in our lunch given after the morning shift and before the afternoon shift truly shared a lunch of gratitude and joyful giving!

May our God bless all of our generous and kind parishioners in abundance!! You helped to make our Parish Service Day such a special and memorable one!

YOUTH MINISTRY

HS NIGHT: CANDY CANE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 10, 6:30-8pm, Parish Hall



HS teens, join us for our annual Christmas party including a candy cane hunt, making care packages, and a discussion. Come hungry for a pizza dinner, Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!

7/8 NIGHT: GINGERBREAD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 17, 6:30-8pm, Parish Hall

7th and 8th grade teens, join us for our Christmas party and gingerbread making contest! Work in teams to design and decorate a nativity scene using giant gingerbread people.

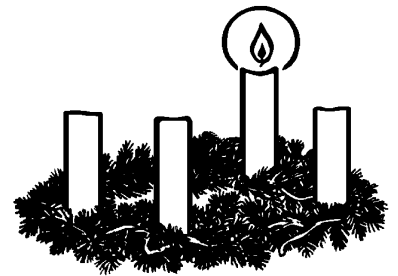


The 8th grade leaders would also like to invite teens to bring a cash donation (from their own money!) to be sent in to the "Care Club" of St. Vincent de Paul to help families get food they need this holiday season. Participation is not required to attend this 7/8 Night.

"Advent Wreath" by Paul Turner

An Advent wreath symbolizes our longing for the coming of Christ.

The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which are set four candles. Traditionally three candles are violet and one is rose, but four violet or four white candles may also be used.



The wreath symbolizes many things. Evergreens signify God's enduring promise of redemption, evident like green branches in the midst of snow. The circle signifies our hope for the return of Christ, whose kingdom will have no end. The colors of the candles match the traditional colors of the vesture for the four Sundays of Advent. Violet garments signify our penitent hope for salvation. The rose color, which may be worn on Advent's Third Sunday, signals that the season is nearly over - joy is at hand!

The wreath's most luminous symbol is its growing light. One candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent, two on the Second, three on the Third and all four on the Fourth. In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes at a time when the days decrease to their shortest length. As the hours of darkness increase, we light more candles on the wreath. The wreath, which symbolizes the coming of Christ, grows in intensity as the anniversary of Jesus' birth draws near.

The Advent wreath maybe used at home or at church. It could be blessed on the First Sunday of Advent at Mass, at evening prayer Saturday night, or during a prayer service including biblical readings and Advent songs. At home, the wreath could be blessed by a family member and lit during the evening meal, to remind everyone of the true meaning of this holy season.

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Paul Turner is a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph in Missouri and holds a doctorate in Sacramental Theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

Advent reminds us to be watchful and alert for the Lord in our life now and to be ready for His promised return. Prayer is necessary to do this. Weekly Mass keeps families centered in the Lord and ready for anything. Carry this attentiveness into family meals and daily prayers. Practice mindfulness of the Lord's presence by thinking of Him throughout the day whatever you are doing. Come Lord Jesus!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Dec 3rd

10:00 am PreK and K
11:00 am 7th and 8th
12:00 pm High School
7:00 pm Advent Adoration

Tuesday, Dec 4th

4:30 pm PSR
4:30 pm PSR Confession
6:00 pm CYO

Wednesday, Dec 5th

12:00 pm Guild Christmas Tea
3:30 pm Play Practice
5:00 pm Day School/PSR Advent
Family Night
5:30 pm CYO

Thursday, Dec 6th

All Day Santa Shop set-up
3:00 pm CYO
7:00 pm RCIA

Friday, December 7th

8:30 am Bible Study
3:00 pm CYO
6:30 pm CONF
7:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 8th

Holy Day
No CYO
3:00 pm Santa Breakfast set-up

Sunday, Dec 9th

No CYO
10:00 am Santa Breakfast



St. Joan of Arc Catholic School News

By Mrs. Shelley DiBacco,
School Principal

Faith. Academics. Excellence



Advent begins today. Our school Advent theme this year, to go along with our school theme, is “His Presence is the present”. This Advent we hope to share the message by preparing for Jesus’ presence in our school, our homes, our families, our workplaces, and our communities. When we do this then the usual December distractions become holy moments when we find the Christ Child in our midst.

Monday, December 4th, is “Purple Day” at St. Joan of Arc School. Students are encouraged to wear something purple over their uniforms to commemorate the beginning of Advent and the start of a new liturgical season. Also on Monday we will have our first Advent Wreath Prayer Service. Each Monday of Advent, we will gather as a school community. As each classroom gathers in a circle around their classroom wreath we light our school wreath and “pass the Light” to each classroom.

Also during Advent, the faculty/staff will gather every Wednesday morning before school to pray and to share fellowship. This is an opportunity to grow together spiritually and to pray for and with each other as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

On Thursday, December 7th, the PTO will host our annual Santa’s Shop. St. Joan of Arc PTO will be sponsoring “Breakfast with Santa” on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00PM in the Olsavsky Center.



May the peace of Christmas be with you throughout this Advent season.

Shelley DiBacco

Advent Adoration
Sunday, December 3, 7-8pm
SJA Church



Parishioners, Teens & Families, come for Eucharistic Adoration to slow down this holiday season and grow in your prayer life! This holy hour will include a homily and silent time for reflection.

**Please join us
for a Very Special Breakfast with Santa**

Sat. December 9th from 9am – 12 noon in the St. Joan of Arc Olsavsky Center



Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee, and a hot chocolate bar.

Bring the children to get pictures with Santa and a story with Mrs. Claus. Other activities include cookie decorating, crafts, a photo booth and a filled Stocking Raffle. Come enjoy some holiday cheer with your family and friends in this very sweet kick-off to Christmas. \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 2-14.

Please RSVP number of guests by Dec 5th to Wendy Pisanelli at wepisan@roadrunner.com. Payment will be collected at the door.

Advent Treasures and Traditions

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden.

Some of us will set candles in our windows. That custom began in Ireland during the “penal” days extending from 1691 to the “Catholic Emancipation” in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, they, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the window and left the door unlocked hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate the Christmas Mass for them. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!

Many churches decorate with trees. The “roots” of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the “Paradise Play,” a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring “paradise trees” into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the “Paradise Tree” into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand! Adapted from articles written by Rev. James Field, J. S. Paluch Co.

DONATIONS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS



Christmas offerings are being accepted for the 2017 season. You and your loved ones will be remembered at the Christmas Masses and a list of the designated names will be published in the Christmas bulletin. To make a donation, just use the envelope available in your monthly packet. Clearly print the names on the back of the envelope and place your donation in the collection basket at Mass, in the “Flower” box in the Gathering Area, mailed or dropped off at the Parish Office.