

Message from the Pastor

Our parish has been blessed with so many active parishioners who enjoy generously giving of themselves in service to fellow parishioners and members of the greater community. Our Baptismal calling encourages us to be active members of the Body of Christ, sharing our gifts with others to continue building the Kingdom. I am very grateful to those who have been so generous with their time and talents to provide so many activities and engage in various lay ministries to build our part of the Kingdom at St. Joan of Arc Parish.

May the Good Lord continue to bless you in abundance and may He send the Spirit to touch the hearts of others to join us in our unity to do all that we do for the greater glory of God.

Fr. Dan

Parish Information

Pastor: Rev. Dan Costello

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Spiritual Life

Altar Servers

All parish youth in grades 5-9 are invited to participate in this important ministry. Being an altar server means being part of a team that works together for a prayerful celebration of Mass. Therefore, regular attendance at Sunday Mass is an important element and an expectation. Altar servers assist the celebrant and the entire worshipping community during the weekly Masses and for special liturgies. Servers should plan to serve at least once a month.

A server must be in the fifth grade or older and will be trained in the liturgy. If you are interested in serving, a Server Commitment should be completed and returned to the parish office. Training consists of two separate sessions, and you will be contacted as dates are being arranged.

Altar serving is a joyful experience, and can draw both the server and their family into a deeper experience of their faith. Schedules are generated for 5-10 weeks at a time, and you are able to specify your preferences and when you will not be available, and it is easy to request a substitute. Opportunities for serving: Saturday 4:30pm Mass; Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am Mass; funerals and weddings as needed.

Primary Contact: Valerie Walker at vwalker@saintjoanofarc.net

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the primary liturgical event for the renewal of faith because it celebrates the paschal mystery that is the foundation of our Christian faith. While the priest and deacon are ordinary ministers of the Eucharist, Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are lay people who assist with distributing Holy Communion. These ministers are confirmed Catholics over the age of 15, with a deep reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. They take their spiritual growth seriously, developing their love of Christ and the Church through regular Mass attendance, prayer, and service. Ministers receive both practical and theological training, and are commissioned for a period of three years.

St. Joan of Arc Parish invites you to consider joining this special ministry. If you wish to become a Eucharistic Minister, please contact the Parish Office or

Primary Contact: Christy King at cking7863@comcast.net
(847)679-4150 (home) or (847)644-9635 (cell)

Ushers

Ushers serve at weekend and special Masses, providing for good order of our liturgies. They greet and welcome parishioners and visitors at church entrances, and direct people to available pews. They arrange for parishioners to bring up the offerings, handle the collection at the Offertory, direct communicants to the altar, open windows, set up additional chairs, assist in times of illness, distribute bulletins, and straighten up the pews when the liturgy is completed.

An Usher Coordinator take the lead at each Mass, arriving early to ensure the worship space is ready, and sees that there are enough ushers for the collection. It is helpful for those willing to help with the collection to ask before Mass if they are needed.

If there is no Altar Server for a Mass, the Usher also serves as the Cross Bearer for the entrance procession and recessional.

Primary Contact: Parish Office

Lectors

The Lectors of St. Joan of Arc lend their clear and confident voice to proclaim the Word of God and lead the Prayers of the Faithful during Mass. As one commentator noted, by proclaiming the Word, lectors effect the presence of Christ within the assembly and enable a consciousness of how God's Word is calling each of us to His service and to serving God's people.

We enthusiastically welcome anyone who is drawn to Scripture, is passionate about their faith, and is willing to share that passion in this important ministry. We offer electronic scheduling that effectively allows lectors to “self-schedule” for masses of their choice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve or Nancy Naughton.

Primary Contact: Maria Matias at mvm908@gmail.com

Sacristans

Preparing the sanctuary and taking care of the elements of our liturgy is an important task for our sacristans. This includes assisting with setup for weekend and daily Masses, putting materials away afterwards, keeping track of supplies. Specific assignments can vary, depending on your availability. Responsibilities may also include caring for the altar linens, cruets, candles, and maintain the cleanliness and order of the sacristy.

Primary Contact: Parish Office

Music Ministry

We take special pride in our music ministry at St. Joan of Arc and have a variety of opportunities for sharing talents. We welcome singers as cantors, in our choirs, and instrumentalists for the inclusion in our music at Masses.

Cantors

Cantors lead the congregation in song during the mass. Our cantor program is continually evolving which keeps the leading of song at masses fresh. We introduce cantors to our parish as high schoolers and rotate all cantors. This is not a paid position, but one of joy and willingness to share a talent. If you enjoy singing and have a strong voice, please consider cantoring at SJA.

SJA Kid Choir

The SJA Kid Choir began nearly 20 years ago. All parish youth in grades 3-8 are invited to join this ministry! We sing once a month at the Family Masses during the school year, Christmas Eve, and the Marian Prayer service. Music and recordings are sent electronically to rehearse at home, followed by 1 rehearsal immediately following a 10:30am mass before the Family Mass.

SJA Adult Choir

The SJA Adult Choir is a fun organization. Participation is easy and flexible, and we sing during these times of year: the four Sundays of Advent, a few Sundays following Christmas Day, most Sundays during Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. We take a short break during Ordinary Times. We have a few evening rehearsals, but most learning is done electronically and shared via dropbox. We meet at 9:30 AM to rehearse in the church prior to singing at the 10:30am Mass. Please consider joining this wonderful group of people. Music reading skills not necessary.

Instrumentalists

We love to enhance our liturgies with instruments – clarinets, flutes, guitars, trumpets, violin – if you play an instrument and can share your talent, please let Ilya Vinichkin know!

Primary Contact: Ilya Vinichkin at SJAmusic@saintjoanofarc.net

Family Mass

Family Mass is held during the school year, usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Building on the themes from the 2015 World Meeting of Families, the ministers are organized around families in order to highlight “the impact of the love and life of families on our society”.

Multiple families are needed for each Mass. There are roles for all ages from pre-school to senior citizen, and multi-generational families are encouraged. If you are interested in being a Mass Coordinator, all training and support will be provided. The most important quality is someone who knows the parish families, and can serve in a leadership role.

Primary Contact: (Open) Please contact the Parish Office

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

The goal of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry is to bring the women and men of the parish together in prayer, whether it is in person or in spiritual communion. Prayer support is provided to our community by the daily intercession of dedicated “prayer warriors” who pray with love and compassion for the requests that have been submitted.

- Requests can be submitted in the box that is located near the votive candles in church, with future plans for an online form. All that is needed is the first name and last initial, and a few words to explain the reason for the prayer. We also pray for the entries in the Book of Intentions located at the back of the church.
- Members of the group receive weekly e-mails with intentions to be prayed for throughout that week. There is also an opportunity for monthly in-church prayer sessions at which we pray together as a community.

Primary Contact: Catherine Flanagan at lsfcsf@aol.com

Eucharistic Adoration

We have adoration on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of the month. The Church is open from 5:30 until 7 PM. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed so people can come and adore Our Lord. It is a time to spend quietly with Jesus in prayer. There is often a group rosary during this time at about 6 PM.

We would love to have people join us in prayer and take time from their schedule to visit Our Lord. It is a very peaceful time to pray for your own needs and other's needs. As the Lord tells us, " Be Still and Know that I am." This time of reflection gives us the opportunity to sit with Our Lord and listen with our hearts.

Take a break from the demands of the world we live in and join us. Become renewed and refreshed by Our Lord. Come to church for five or fifteen minutes to greet Our Lord, or spend an hour with Him.

Primary Contact: Ann Pike or Jerry Kamienski through the Parish Office

Ministers of Care

Ministers of Care are trained volunteers who carry the Eucharist from the Church to the homes of the sick or homebound parishioners, to hospitals and to nursing homes. Every Wednesday, we staff St. Francis Hospital, Skokie Hospital, The Presbyterian Home, as well as both of the Aldens in Skokie.

Parishioners who wish to become Ministers of Care are sponsored by the parish, and complete a training workshop offered by the Archdiocese. There they learn how to interact with the sick and aged. At the end of the training they are mandated as Ministers of Care and are able to bring Communion, care and comfort to those in need.

Primary Contact: Meg Cagney at mwc227@aol.com or 847-674-2283

Bereavement Ministry

“Jesus saw Mary weeping, and he saw how the people with her were weeping also; his heart was touched and he was deeply moved.” John 11:23

When a death occurs, life, for those who live on, changes forever. The Church recognizes this change and offers hope and comfort to those who grieve the loss of a loved one. As Jesus comforted Mary and Martha, the parish community can reach out to comfort those who mourn.

Bereavement Ministry is praying for the dead and comforting those who mourn, one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Our ministers serve in practical ways by praying for and with the family, and assisting the pastor in planning the funeral liturgy with the family. They coordinate the Mass preparations, and are present at the funeral to offer comfort and support.

Bereavement Ministers receive 12 hours of formal training through the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Cemeteries, with the approval of the Pastor.

Primary Contact: Parish Office

Faith Formation and Education

Religious Education for Grade School Students

(Kindergarten is TBD for 2019-2020)

Our Religious Education program is designed to supplement the learning that begins in the home at birth, and is continually enriched through regular attendance at Mass. It is the objective of our program to teach our youth how to more fully imitate and grow close to Jesus Christ in our daily lives, to bring them into a lifelong relationship with the Lord and the Church.

We offer Religious Education classes at SJA for children who do not attend Catholic school. Classes are held on most Sundays from 9:15am to 10:20am from mid-September through mid-May. (No classes on holidays.)

True discipleship is a lifetime of studying and learning, so attendance throughout grade school is expected in order to build a solid foundation of a faith that will last throughout adulthood. Please note that the Archdiocese requires all students to be enrolled in Religious Education classes for the school year before the year that they are to receive a Sacrament. This means attendance is required in grade/level 1 before receiving Reconciliation and First Communion in grade/level 2, and attendance is grade/level 7 before receiving Confirmation in grade/level 8.

Jesus instructed us to teach his word – Become a Catechist and be his disciple.

Do you enjoy being with kids, and want to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of our children and youth? Are you open to being inspired and challenged to grow in your own faith? The RE program needs your gifts, your passion, your faith, and your love! Opportunities are available for lead or co-catechists, aides for various support roles, and substitute catechists. The materials are designed to be taught by volunteers, so no prior experience is necessary. All lesson plans, resources, and background information are provided. Online Catechist training is also available. Please consider if this is where God is calling you to serve your parish.

Primary Contact: Valerie Walker at VWalker@saintjoanofarc.net
Mira Mathee at RE@saintjoanofarc.net

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is an age-appropriate program offered for preschool through 1st graders at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. Just before the Liturgy of the Word begins for the assembly, the children are invited to go with the weekly leaders to a classroom. During this special time, the volunteer teacher leads the children through prayers, songs and readings that are simplified for children. The children return to their families during the Offertory.

The children learn about the same Scripture readings as the rest of the assembly. They are taught a simplified main message of the readings and are encouraged to share that message with their parents after Mass.

Volunteers are needed to teach the lessons, as well as to assist with the supervision of the children. This is a great opportunity for adults and middle school/high school youth to help our children learn the Word of the Lord.

Primary Contact: Moira Carlson at MJZINN81@yahoo.com

Scripture Reflection Group

Scripture Study is a form of prayer, as well as a learning process. No special knowledge is required, only a desire to learn more of the Word of God and draw closer to Jesus. The group uses a “booklet” series that has Scripture at the top of the page and a Scripture scholar’s commentary on the lower half. The format lends itself to easy, thoughtful discussion.

A Scripture Reflection group currently meets every other Tuesday in the School Hall after the 8:30am Mass. Other groups can easily be formed at other convenient times. The books, training, and guidance will be available.

Primary Contact: Fran Moskal through the Parish Office

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry at SJA creates a faith home for teens centered on leadership, service, reflection, and fun! The group is open to all teens in 6th-12th grades; teens are welcome to drop into events or join us for all of them! We collaborate with Evanston/Skokie's United Catholic Youth Ministry (UCYM), so teens share faith and friendship across our communities. All events are posted at the UCYM website, <https://ucym.org>, as well as the SJA-specific page: <https://ucym.org/sjaym> which can also be accessed through the parish website.

SJA's Volunteer Youth Minister is Jason McKean; you can email him for more information!

Primary Contact: Jason McKean at youth@saintjoanofarc.net

Parish Life

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee was established in 2016 as part of the Parish Transformation Process. Communion was one of the building blocks our parish chose to emphasize and how we want to define ourselves into the future. Hospitality Group was created to achieve our objective to make our parish and community meaningful. As a parish we share what we have in common, that we are the Body of Christ and take joy in sharing the Eucharist. We provide semi-quarterly Hospitality events in the narthex or auditorium, after weekend Mass to welcome new parishioners, provide time for parishioners to greet and socialize with one another, foster community and meet parish leaders.

Committee members: Marianne Schermerhorn, April Likhite, Mary Pat Hickey, Solita Murphy, Maura Fitzgerald, Katie Jenio, Mardi Woodward

Primary Contact: Julie Lynk through the Parish Office

SJA Women's Club

The SJA Women's Club is open to, and encourages the participation of, all women of the Parish. The purpose of the Club is to promote the spiritual, social, and fiscal support of the Parish. Along with a variety of annual events, there are also the following Committees:

- Newcomers: Kathy Caplice
- Properties: (Open)
- Parish Directory: Solita Murphy and Marianne Schermerhorn
- Moms and tots: Meredith Bivens
- Bridge Club: Barb Kucera
- Golf League: Michaela McCarthy
- Outreach: Pam Fitzell

Primary Contact: Katie Jenio at KatieJenio@yahoo.com

SJA Men's Club

The Men's Club seeks to promote fellowship among all men of the parish through social, spiritual and service activities. In addition, the members also raise funds for the ongoing needs of the parish including but not limited to the Fall Raffle, Men's Golf Outing & Dinner and the Daddy-Daughter Dance.

Primary Contact: Chris Walsh or Rob Muno through the Parish Office

Parish Pastoral Council

The PPC is a ministry that provides counsel and support to the pastor. We seek the aid and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to listen to God's voice as Christ speaks to us through one another and our fellow parishioners.

PPC has four basic responsibilities:

1. To research the needs, the ideas and the hopes of the faith community
2. To encourage and support existing ministries
3. To evaluate the quality of life of the parish and faith community
4. To plan for the parish's future by recommending policies, procedures, and programs that will implement its value and fulfill the Church's mission.

We normally meet each month with exceptions made for scheduling challenges of major holidays and summer months. We act as a liaison between parish and Pastor. In order to accomplish this effectively, the PPC members focus on five pillars of parish life. They are:

1. Faith Formation and Education
2. Spiritual Life
3. Outreach and Pastoral Care
4. Community
5. Stewardship / Communication

If you would like to learn about the many facets of our SJA community, and are passionate about furthering the mission of Saint Joan of Arc, please contact the Pastor or the Parish Office.

Primary Contact: Contact the Parish Office

Finance Council

The Finance Council works with the Pastor and Parish Staff in an advisory capacity. The council helps develop the operating budget for the Parish and School, monitors financial activities, reviews plans for fundraising and capital improvement projects, and helps develop policies and procedures consistent with the Archdiocese best practices.

Primary Contact: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Outreach

St. Agnes of Bohemia — Sharing Parish

Our role in the Chicago Sharing Parish Program began in 1976 when every parish was assigned a fellow Archdiocesan parish with fewer resources. Over the years, St. Joan of Arc has shared Mass and fellowship through the children's choir and St. Agnes dancers. Our Men's Club has participated in service projects at St. Agnes School. Currently, the St. Joan of Arc Women's Club assists in the coordination of a Christmas Giving Tree, to complement a winter coat and Thanksgiving food drive, along with periodic monetary donations to St. Agnes of Bohemia.

Primary Contact: Pam Fitzell at pfitzell@comcast.net or 847-677-2218

Angels on Call

The Mission of Angels on Call is to communicate the love of Christ through assistance to those parishioners in need during times of crisis, illness, disability or change by providing support with transportation, meals, visits and wellness calls. If you are interested in becoming an "Angel," please contact us!

Primary Contact: Meg Cagney at mwc227@aol.com or 847-674-2283

Meals at Home

Meals at Home fosters health and contributes to individual well-being and independence by delivering nutritious meals and medical prescribed diets to the homebound, elderly, disabled and others temporarily unable to care for their nutritional needs. Every Monday, SJA volunteers pick up Meals at St. Francis Hospital and deliver them to Evanston residents.

Primary Contact: Meg Cagney at mwc227@aol.com or 847-674-2283

Soup Kitchen

Every Thursday evening of the year, the Evanston Ecumenical Council of Churches (EECC), operates a soup kitchen at the First United Methodist Church at Hinman and Church streets in Evanston. Parishes and congregations within the EECC take turns staffing the kitchen. This soup kitchen feeds dinner to approximately 70 to 100 individuals, and also provides a bag lunch for them to take home for the next day.

Volunteers from St. Joan of Arc work at the soup kitchen on **the first Thursday of each month**. Responsibilities include purchasing of food, cooking at home, delivering to the facility, kitchen prep, serving the food, and clean up. One parishioner also provides live piano music. Some volunteers like to sit and talk with our guests. The time commitment is normally from 5:30-7 PM. Funds for the purchasing of the food comes from the “Feed the Needy” contribution box in the back of the church.

Primary Contact: Coordinators through the Parish Office:
Mike & Julie Lynk, Mardi & Garry Woodward, Cookie Schaefer

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFH seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. HFH has built more than 500,000 houses around the world. St. Joan of Arc participates with Habitat for Humanity – Lake County (www.habitatlc.org) and SJA volunteers help build houses in the Waukegan area. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

SJA crews have collectively contributed thousands of hours there in the last 10+ years to help create homes for needy families. Painting, siding, dry wall, insulating, landscaping, footings, framing, etc.

We have four Habitat dates reserved the summer of 2019:

- **SATURDAY, JUNE 22**
- **FRIDAY, JULY 12**
- **SATURDAY, JULY 20**
- **SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**

As a Habitat veteran, you have first choice on any dates that fit your schedule. If you missed us last summer, I hope you can join us this summer. We hope to be joined again by friends from Trinity Lutheran and St. John’s Lutheran. Just send me an email (frank.ziegler@gmail.com) to reserve your date or dates on our HFH crew.

TEEN BUILD DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 3: Students (age 16+) are especially welcome on all of our crews. We have reserved Saturday, August 3 for nine teens and three parents as our inaugural Teen Build crew, in conjunction with the SJA Youth Group. Please spread the word and let me know if your teenager (age 16+) wants to give Habitat a try. If we get a lot of interest, we may try to arrange another Teen Build date this summer.

Primary Contact: Frank Zeigler at frank.ziegler@gmail.com or 847-675-1522

Respect Life Committee

The Respect Life Committee oversees the total scope of respect-life needs and efforts within St. Joan of Arc parish. We proclaim the sanctity and value of human life as a gift from God and the foundation of human dignity, promote the Church's Respect Life agenda, coordinate parish Respect Life activities and advocate and source pro-life issues within the parish and community. The committee is a communication link between the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities and the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office and the parish.

We are committed to the most fundamental of all human concerns, those of reverence for human life at all its stages, from conception to death, in all conditions for all people. We provide educational and public information on pro-life issues, spiritual guidance through prayer, offer pastoral care through support of crisis pregnancy centers, and advocate the Church's position on life-protecting or life threatening laws and public policies through the support and approval of St. Joan of Arc parish.

The Women's Center in Chicago provides compassionate counseling, social services, medical referral attention and material goods and items to women in need. St. Joan of Arc supports the Women's Center in Chicago through three fundraising projects each year:

Baby Bottle Project – October

Take home a baby bottle from the back of church and fill it with the extra change you have at the end of each day and around the house. Bring the bottle back at the end of the month.

Christmas Wreaths – December

During the Advent Season, Christmas Wreaths and other holiday creations are sold to parishioners to raise money for the Women's Center of the Greater Chicagoland Area.

Mothers' Day Flowers – May

A variety of floral bouquets are available for sale this weekend. Buy one to place before the Blessed Mother to honor her in May. Buy another bouquet for that special woman in your life.

Primary Contact: Julie Lynk through the Parish Office

Society of St. Vincent DePaul

St. Joan of Arc, St. Peter and St. Lambert Conference

Volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul help the poor and disadvantaged in Skokie. There are many in our area who are living on the edge of financial disaster due to an illness, loss of a job or other change in life circumstances. Many of those we help have young children in their homes.

A two-person team of volunteers visits potential clients in their homes to assess their situation and their needs. We aim to provide assistance to help clients get past an immediate hardship,

such as delinquent rent or utility bill. We often refer clients to other social service agencies that can provide specialized services.

Our efforts are funded primarily from the donations of members of the three parishes in Skokie that are members of our conference. The St. Vincent De Paul Society is the oldest charity in Chicago. The Society's primary purpose is to serve those in need. The website for the Society in Chicago is: www.svdpchicago.org.

SVDP volunteers at St. Joan of Arc participate in a collaborative effort with other Catholic parishes in Skokie to serve needy families and individuals in the Skokie area in a variety of ways. This includes short-term material assistance, such as help with rent, utilities, groceries, clothing and furniture. This also includes services such as moving assistance and referrals to other local organizations for temporary support. SVDP funds come from the "Feed the Needy" contribution box in the back of the church and from special collections.

If you want to donate clothing, there is an SVDP collection box at the south end of the St. Joan of Arc parking lot. To donate furniture, call SVDP at 773.779.6700 to schedule a pick-up. To become an SVDP volunteer, contact the Parish Office 847.673.0409 for more information.

If you need SVDP assistance in Skokie, please leave a message at 847.604.1222.

If you have a car no longer in use and would like to donate it for a tax deduction, please contact the Parish Office 847.673.0409 for more information.

Primary Contact: Jim Ford through the Parish Office