



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Advent | Sunday, December 12, 2021



3rd

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:16a

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.

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 Information

Fr. Gary J. Malin, Pastor
496 E. Washington St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
Phone: 440-247-7183
Email: stjoanchagrin@gmail.com
Website: www.stjoanofarcchurch.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Dunlop, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Dennis Guritza, Deacon
Mrs. Amanda Haberman, Director of Religious Education
440-247-3606 | officeoffaithformation@stjoanofarc.org
Mrs. Mary Vincenti, Pastoral Minister
440-247-1141 | mvincenti@stjoanofarc.org
Ms. Allie Gall, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
440-247-4316 | agall@stjoanofarc.org
Mr. Ralph Holtzhauser, Director of Music
440-247-0371 | rholtzhauser@stjoanofarc.org
Mrs. Stacie M. Webster, Principal
440-247-6530
Rev. John R. Olsavsky, Retired Pastor

Mass Schedule

Weekend Mass:
Saturdays 4:30pm, Sundays 9:00am and 11:00am
Weekday Mass:
Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays 8:00am
Tuesdays 9:00am September-May, 8:00am June, July and August
Holy Day Masses and Civic Holidays subject to change - see bulletin and/or website.

Sacramental Information

Baptism: Celebrated at most weekend masses or on most Sundays at noon. Contact the Parish Office.
Reconciliation (Confession): Saturdays 3:30pm until all are heard. Advent and Lent Saturdays 3:15pm-4:00pm.

For other Sacramental Information, please see PAGE 3.

New parishioners welcome! Please contact the Parish Office to register.

Greetings of Peace.

Each year in the fall, all churches in the Diocese of Cleveland do "A Count." This "count" also takes place in most of the USA. It is a good indicator to see how many Catholics are attending mass and how many Catholics are actually practicing their faith.

In the past few years, the mass attendance numbers at St. Joan of Arc (and throughout our diocese, in the USA, as well as other countries) have trended downward. You can see from the numbers, below, there are fewer people attending mass (on average) this year than there were even as recently as 5 years ago.

Average attendance per weekend at St. Joan of Arc
From 10 years ago, and 5 years ago to this year (rounded to the nearest "5")

2011	1,225
2016	1,100
2017	975
2018	905
2019	860
2020	* 270
2021	* 550

In 2021, the average attendance per mass was: Sat 4:30 #165, Sun 9 AM #172, Sun 11 AM #217

*Note: The numbers from the years 2020 and 2021 are much lower because of the Covid pandemic, the fact that the bishop's dispensation from the obligation to attend mass was still in effect, the pandemic was still reflecting surging numbers of Covid cases, and many public safety protocols were still mandated. The year 2020 was particularly low.

The above trends show some realities that must be faced – and it seems to me that these are quite significant. Mass attendance impacts our collections, it is evidenced in the fact that we now have one priest at St. Joan (when in 2013 we had two full time priests), and also impacts the number of people in our parish who are available to participate in ministries, groups, committees, and so on.

Now St. Joan of Arc is not unique in this matter – it is reflected in most parts of the USA. Still, the trend is very interesting. I wonder what this says about how Catholics are committed to the faith? Recent studies have shown under 27% of Catholics attend mass on a regular basis (before the pandemic). Additionally, studies have shown that those who do come are often less involved in the life of the church.

In the diocese of Cleveland, we ordained 3 men as priests in the spring of 2021. You know as well as I do that there are more than 3 priests who will, retire, die, or otherwise be able to do ministry in the next year. Let me ask this: If what we do in church (with mass, sacraments, baptisms, funerals, weddings, etc.) is important to us as Catholics, then who will be the ones to do this priestly work in the future? A retired priest told to me (when I asked him for mass help), "I think the middle-aged clergy are being worked to death and need all the help they can get...I will help when I can; but for me, over age 80, I don't know what I can continue to do..."

Again, I wanted to communicate all this to you and offer it for your perusal! Thank you for your faith and for your presence at St. Joan of Arc. Christmas is two weeks away! For your planning, our Christmas mass schedule is:

- * Christmas Eve, Friday December 24: 4:30 PM and 8:00 PM
- * Christmas Day, Saturday December 25: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM
- There will not be a 4:30 PM mass on Saturday December 25
- Sunday December 26, we will follow our regular Sunday schedule: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

And more to note about Christmas. Christmas has been a time when many people usually come to mass! Christmas masses are usually quite crowded. In today's world, that can be "a problem." For those who do choose to come to mass, we will still need to maintain our current protocols – and at this point the Bishop has asked all to continue to wear masks while in our worship space and buildings. We anticipate having some "overflow" directed to our Gym and hope to be able to livestream mass and also "deliver communion" there – particularly for the Christmas Eve 4:30 PM mass. Still, we will need to follow the appropriate safety measures in the gym as well. Furthermore, for those in "high risk" categories or other considerations could perhaps choose to remain home out of caution and for your own health. Finally, Christmas mass should be available on the St. Joan of Arc Parish website.

Finally, there will be an Advent Communal Penance Service at Resurrection in Solon on Monday December 13 at 6:30 PM and at St. Rita on Tuesday December 21 at 7 PM.

Have a great week. Blessings and Peace as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

Fr. Gary

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 12

9:00am SJA Parishioners
11:00am Zander Onders
(Bucco)

Monday, December 13

8:00am Siggi Berns (Berns)

Tuesday, December 14

9:00am Margaret Elliott (Zilly)

Wednesday, December 15

No Mass

Thursday, December 16

8:00am Connie Hodapp (Nally)

Friday, December 17

8:00am Colleen Melena (Hollis)

Saturday, December 18

4:30pm Barbara Needham
(Korbel)

Other Sacramental Information

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

Care of the Sick and Elderly: Please inform us of those who are sick, aged, unable to come to church, homebound, hospitalized, or may need the Sacrament of Anointing.

Funerals: Please contact the parish office before scheduling or publishing (generally through a funeral director).

Sponsor Certificates: May be obtained by registered, practicing member of our parish who have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist (and, if married, were married in the Church). Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Sessions in the Catholic Faith (RCIA): Wednesdays at 7:00pm, September - May. Contact **Deacon Jeff** at **440-376-9177**

Office of Faith Formation

First Reconciliation

Students in Grade 2 have been eagerly preparing for their First Reconciliation. By now they have all had a church tour, learned the names of the sacred vessels, and practiced some mock confessions in the classroom. This sacrament will be held at Saint Joan of Arc Church on either January 26th or February 2nd at 7:00pm. Please keep all our second graders in your prayers as they prepare to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion this year.

Confirmation Preparation

Our next session is on January 13th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. This session will include a presentation from the Culture Project on the pros and cons of social media usage. Thank you to all the parents who are prayerfully supporting their children through this formation process! Your children are a gift to our parish.

PSR Holiday Schedule

During the month of December, PSR for grades K-6 will meet on December 6th, 13th, and 20th. Then, we will break until January 10th.

During the month of December, PSR for grades 7-8 will meet on December 5th, 12th, and 19th. Then, we will break until January 9th.

Food Pantry Collection in SJA Parking Lot on Thursdays

We will be collecting perishable food in the SJA parking lot this Thursday, December 16th, from 10am-11am. There will be a car there with its trunk open for you to drop off food. This is the list for this week:

- Butter
- Oranges
- White or Brown Sugar
- Vegetable Oil
- Sweet Potatoes
- White Potatoes
- Onions

Thank you so much for helping us stock the pantry shelves. Please call **Jane Zilly** with any questions at **216-402-8912**.

Giving and Sharing Tree

Sunday, December 12 is the final day for the Giving and Sharing Tree. This outreach initiative has been so well-received and appreciated for over 30 years for six Cleveland charities.

St. Joan's has always been very generous, and we are so happy to be able to reach out again this year!

This year, there is a more urgent need. If it is possible for you to take one more tag, that would be very much appreciated. Thank you so much!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word, for children in Kindergarten through Grade 3, is being offered every Sunday during 9:00am Mass. Please join us any time! No registration required.

The Food Pantry in the Narthex is Back!

Last week, we began our efforts to stock the pantry with non-perishables.

Please bring your non-perishable food donations (canned vegetables, fruits, spaghetti sauce, soups, pasta, rice, ramen noodles, peanut butter, etc.) when you come to Mass.

Thank you for supporting this very necessary outreach ministry.

Music Ministry

Some members of the St. Joan of Arc choir went to the Cathedral of St. John for the St. Cecelia Sing event. The event had over 100 singers, and director Ralph Holtzhauser led the choirs in song. St. Joan's was well-represented and hopes to bring even more singers for next year's event!

Children's Choir meets Thursdays at 5pm in the church and welcomes all children second grade and up who would like to make wonderful music! Please contact **Ralph Holtzhauser** at **440-666-9452** or **rholtzhauser@stjoanofarc.org** for more info.

Adult Choir meets Thursday nights at 7pm. We are in need of more singers and all who enjoy music are encouraged to come, no matter what your previous experience in music is!



VBC Coordinator Opportunity

SJA is looking for a Vacation Bible Camp Coordinator. This part-time position begins in January! We start ordering supplies in the winter and organizing volunteers by the spring. We are looking for one dedicated individual to oversee VBC and delegate volunteer positions as necessary. A generous stipend will be offered. For more information, contact **Amanda Haberman** at **ahaberm@stjoanofarc.org** or **440-247-3606 x 125**.

This year's theme will be **MONUMENTAL: Celebrating God's Greatness!**



Shawl Ministry

During the pandemic, the shawl ministry has been busy knitting and crocheting prayer shawls.

If you, a family member, friend, or neighbor (even those people who do not belong to St. Joan's) is sick, having surgery, or needs comfort, please call **Nicole DeMille** at **516-428-4206**

Mass Celebrant

12/18/21 4:30pm Fr. Gary J. Malin

12/19/21 9:00am Fr. Gary J. Malin
11:00am Fr. Gary J. Malin

Cafeteria Manager Needed

St. Joan of Arc is in need of a Cafeteria Manager for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Mahoney has graciously agreed to start the year so that the students will continue to have the option of a hot lunch each day. This is a part-time position, and more information can be found on the Diocesan employment website:

https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/human-resources/_employment-opportunities/category/all

Job Opportunity

St. Joan of Arc Parish in Chagrin Falls is seeking an Administrative Assistant/Secretary to handle a wide variety of duties and responsibilities that support the basic operations and functions of the parish office. Strong organizational, communication, and relationship skills are essential, as are the ability to work independently, multi-task, and adjust priorities as they occur.

Those interested can drop off a resume (with cover letter) to the Parish Office, noting *SJA Office Job* on the envelope. No calls, please.

Bulletin Submissions

If your parish group or organization has something to contribute to the bulletin, please email it to **Allie Gall** at **agall@stjoanofarc.org** with the following **subject line: Bulletin MM/DD**.

Upcoming submission deadlines are:
For Sunday 12/26 -- Due 12/16/21
For Sunday 1/2/22 -- Due 12/22/21

Baptism Classes

The Sacrament of Baptism is a very special time where we receive into the Church the newly Baptized, along with welcoming their family and sponsors to share in the beginning of the child's journey of faith. Classes are offered both in-person and online with Zoom. To sign up or to get further information on the class or with questions on Baptism at St. Joan of Arc, call **Diana** at **440-552-1046** or email **dinah627@windstream.net**

Electronic Giving

Choose the option that works best for you

1. Visit the SJA online giving website: **<http://www.stjoanofarcchurch.org/eGiving.aspx>** and set up an account, or simply scan the QR code below. You can set up a personal account to use for regular offertory, holy days of obligation, and special collections.
2. Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, where you will find the free "Give + Church" smart phone app.

After downloading, you can set up a personal account and use the site for regular offertory, holy days of obligation, and special collections. You will be prompted to enter our zip code of 44022 or the St. Joan of Arc Church name. Click on our church name and address in the list and then begin the process of setting up you account.
3. Complete the paper form found on the website listed in Option 1 and mail it to the Parish Office:

St. Joan of Arc Parish Office
Attn: Kelly Kearney
496 East Washington Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Collections

Weekend of 11/6-11/7

Cash	\$ 10,766.78
E-Giving	\$ 6,269.69
Total	\$ 17,036.47

Weekend of 11/13-11/14

Cash	\$ 9,290.39
E-Giving	\$ 3,539.00
Total	\$ 12,829.39

Weekend of 11/20-11/21

Cash	\$ 6,161.39
E-Giving	\$ 4,384.69
Total	\$ 10,546.08

Weekend of 11/27-11.28

Cash	\$ 4,273.39
E-Giving	\$ 5,678.00
Total	\$ 9,951.39

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



