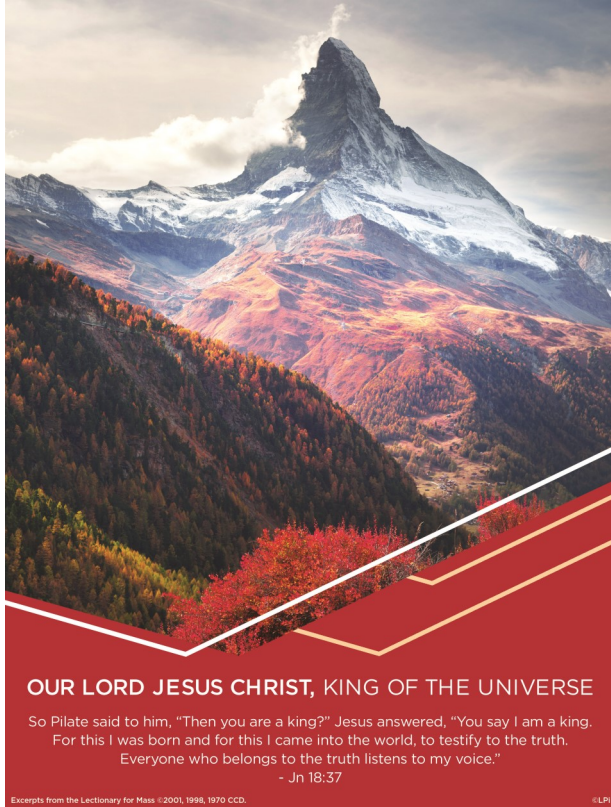




# St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

November 24, 2024—The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



## OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.  
For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."  
- Jn 18:37

## 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

496 E. Washington St.  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022  
**Phone:** 440-247-7183  
**Email:** [stjoanchagrin@gmail.com](mailto:stjoanchagrin@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.stjoanofarcchurch.org](http://www.stjoanofarcchurch.org)

### Parish Staff

**Fr. Gary J. Malin, Pastor**  
**Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Dunlop, Deacon**  
**Rev. Mr. Dennis Guritza, Deacon**  
**Mrs. Mary Vincenti, Director of Religious Education**  
440-247-3606 | [officeoffaithformation@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:officeoffaithformation@stjoanofarc.org)  
**Ms. Mary Horvath, Pastoral Minister**  
440-247-1141 | [mhorvath@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:mhorvath@stjoanofarc.org)  
**Ms. Allie Gall, Coordinator of Youth Ministry**  
40-247-4316 | [agall@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:agall@stjoanofarc.org)  
**Mr. Jon Thibo, Music Director**  
440-247-7183 ext. 131 | [jthibo@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:jthibo@stjoanofarc.org)  
**Mrs. Stacie M. Webster, Principal**  
440-247-6530 | [swebster@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:swebster@stjoanofarc.org)  
*Rev. John R. Olsavsky, Pastor Emeritus*

### 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-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.**



## From the Pastor

### Greetings of Peace.

*This column is being written on November 9 – much earlier than usual – since I will be out of town and because of early “due dates” for our bulletin, deadlines from our “bulletin company” and of our Parish Office’s schedule, Thanksgiving, and the Thanksgiving holiday weekend...*

Each year in the fall, all churches in the Catholic 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 practicing their faith by attending mass. Here is some of my reflections on our recent “October Count.”

In the past few years, the mass attendance numbers at St. Joan of Arc have trended downward. This is also the case in some areas of our diocese, Ohio, in the USA, as well as other countries. Still, by looking at the numbers, below, we see there are fewer people attending mass (on average) here at SJA this year than there were as recently as 5 years ago, before the pandemic.

Average attendance per weekend at St. Joan of Arc

2010 1,225

2015 1,100

2017 975

2019 875

2020 \* 270

2021 \* 550

2022 525

2023 650

2024 650

This year, 2024, the average attendance per mass was: Sat 4:30 #200, Sun 9 AM #175, Sun 11 AM #275

*\*Note: The numbers from the year 2020 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 numbers were also lower in 2021 and 2022.*

The above trends show some realities that must be faced -- and it seems to me that these are quite significant. Mass attendance impacts the vibrancy of our parish, our collections, it is evidenced in the fact that we now have one priest at St. Joan (when about 10 years ago 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, support our school and enrollment, and so on.

Now St. Joan of Arc is not unique in this matter -- it is reflected in many 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 about 25% of Catholics attend mass on a regular basis -- and that was before the pandemic. Other studies have shown even less come to mass, now. Additionally, studies have shown that those who do come are not very involved in the life of the church. Can it be we don't think attendance and participation at mass is important? Or we grew "too comfortable" not coming to church, or when we did participate during the pandemic we enjoyed doing church" in our pajamas and with our coffee as we watched on our computers?

In the Diocese of Cleveland, we ordained 6 men as priests in the spring of 2023. In 2024 we had one (1) man ordained a priest. This coming year, 2025, we will ordain 8. (We have been averaging 4.25 ordinations per year over the last 15 years in our Diocese.) In You know as well as I do that there are many more priests than that who will, retire, die, or otherwise be not able to do ministry in the next year. In coming years (after 2025), the numbers of ordinations do not seem to be as high. 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? I know I am not able to do what I did in my 30's, 40's and 50's now that I am in my mid-60's. Not too long ago, I asked a retired priest to help here at St. Joan of Arc and he told me "I think the 'middle-aged clergy' are being worked to death and they need all the help they can get... I will help when I can; but for me, at over age 80, I don't know what I can continue to do... or what you will be able to continue to do..." Again, I wanted to communicate all this to you -- in light of our recent October count. I offer it for your perusal!

Thank you for your faith -- and for your presence -- here at St. Joan of Arc.

Please note, I am away from the parish, on vacation. I will return for masses on Sunday December 1. While I am away there will not be daily mass at St. Joan of Arc. Fr. Andrew Morkunas will cover confessions and all the parish masses this weekend, November 23-24. He will also be here for 315 confessions and 430 mass on Saturday November 30. Also note - this week there will not be a "daily mass" here at St. Joan, since I am away. The priests of our neighboring parishes will do their best to cover any emergencies or funerals at St. Joan while I am away. Thank you, Fathers. Our parish staff will also be of service. They are good! I look forward to seeing you when I return and we begin Advent!

**Blessings and peace.**

**Fr. Gary**



## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

**9:00am Bette Lewis ( Nally)**

**11:00am SJA**

### **Monday, November 25**

**8:00am No Mass**

### **Tuesday, November 26**

**9:00am No Mass**

### **Wednesday, November 27**

**No Mass**

### **Thursday, November 28**

**8:00am No Mass**

### **Friday, November 29**

**8:00am No Mass**

### **Saturday, November 30**

**4:30pm Tatiana Sindely  
( Sindley)**

### **Sunday, December 1**

**9:00am SJA**

**11:00am Richard Yoe ( Yoe)**

## **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 members 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)**

Thursdays at 6:30pm, September - May. Contact Deacon Jeff at 440-376-9177

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction at St. Joan of Arc: Will be the Thursday before the First Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



### **Baptism Class**

The Sacrament of Baptism is a very special time where we receive into the Church newly Baptized, along with welcoming their family and sponsors to share in the beginning of their child's journey of faith. Classes are offered both in person and online Zoom. To sign up or get further information on the classes or with questions on Baptism at SJA , call Diana at 440-552-1046 or email at [dianag@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:dianag@stjoanofarc.org)

## **DAILY ROSARY—ST. JOAN OF ARC AVILAS**



Please join us to pray the Rosary, Weekdays following the 8:00am Mass in the Chapel.

The St. Joan of Arc AVILAS, an organization of men and women, joined together under the patronage of St. Theresa of Avila, praying for religious vocations, meet on the Second Friday of each month. Member's attend the 8:00am Mass, followed by the Recitation of the Rosary and praying the Avila prayers for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**For more information , contact Matthew " Mickey" O'Hearn at 440-338-5914 or [mohearniii@gmail.com](mailto:mohearniii@gmail.com)**



## **Giving Tree**



This Christmas tree will be in the Narthex starting the weekend of November 16-17, and continuing until December 8th.

Please take a tag or tags off the tree and return the gifts on or before December 8th. This outreach initiative has been so well received and appreciated for over 30 years. Please note the organizations next to the tree that have been recipients of your generosity.

## **Women's Guild Christmas Social**



The SJA Women's guild invites ALL to a wine and Cheese Christmas Social to be held on Friday, December 6th, in the Parish Hall from 5pm-7pm. Enjoy an early evening of merriment as you take tags off the Christmas tree to benefit Doors of Hope Geauga. Doors of Hope Geauga is a home in Middlefield that serves homeless families in Geauga County.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING FROM THE SJA STAFF....**



## **FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION IN THE NARTHEX**

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



## **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**WEEKEND COLLECTION S 11/16-11/17**

**Collection: \$ TBA**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION ONLINE**

**Online: \$ TBA**

**Thank You for your continued support!**

## **FOOD PANTRY THURSDAY**

**No pick-up this Thursday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.....**



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



## **HOME VISITATION MINISTRY**

**Do you know of someone in the parish who is homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist? The Home Visitation Ministry teams bring the Eucharist to the sick and the homebound on a regular basis. These visits afford the opportunity for prayer and social visitation.**

**Please contact Jan Nally at 440-840-5087 or the parish office to arrange for our teams to visit.**

## OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

### PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Happy Thanksgiving to all our PSR families! May God bless you and keep you in his warm embrace throughout this thankful holiday time.

November PSR Classes:

Grades K-6: Monday, November 25

Grades 7,8: Sunday, November 24

High School: Sunday, November 24



Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Brigeman's 1st grade PSR classes were treated to a visit by Deacon Denny who taught them all about the Our Father prayer. They enjoyed having the prayer explained in more detail! Thank you, Deacon Denny!

Can you occasionally give an hour of your time on Monday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30pm? We need substitute adult (or teen) aides in our grades K-3 PSR classrooms.

Please contact the Office of Faith Formation for more information.

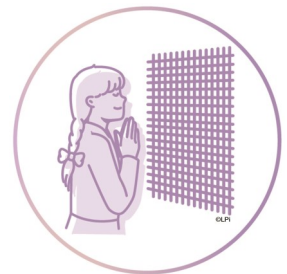
440-247-3606 or email [mvincenti@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:mvincenti@stjoanofarc.org).

There is also a sign-up genius to sign up:

PSR Volunteer: PSR Volunteer 2024/2025 ([signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com))

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Also, all students making their First Reconciliation/First Communion next year will be acknowledged at a Recognition Mass at all the weekend Masses on November 23 (4:30pm Mass) and November 24 (9am and 11am Masses). Congratulations to our candidates for these sacraments!



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word for children is for those children in grades K-3 during the 11:00 Mass. Without more volunteers we will not be able to provide CLW every Sunday. We need additional adult volunteers to offer this ministry every week! Please contact Mary Vincenti in the Office of Faith Formation if you are interested or for more information at 440-247-3606. Or email [mvincenti@stjoanofarcchurch.org](mailto:mvincenti@stjoanofarcchurch.org)



## Advent Wreath-Making Event

Save the date! Our annual Advent Wreath-Making Event will be Sunday, December 1 from 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall. Cost is \$30 via cash or check (payable to St. Joan of Arc Parish) to the Parish Office or at the door.

To register, scan the QR code, visit the Parish website, or contact Allie Gall at [agall@stjoanofarc.org](mailto:agall@stjoanofarc.org) or 440-247-4316.



## Christ the King

This weekend in church we celebrate the Feast of "Christ the King." Here is a reflection by Fr. Paul Turner

"Jesus Christ is king of all creation. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him (28/18). The Revelation of John calls him King of kings and Lord of lords (19:16). People wanted to make Jesus a king after he worked the miracle of the loaves, but he went away by himself instead (Jn 6/15). They wanted a secular king to govern their land. Jesus wanted to rule their hearts.

"The Catholic Church celebrates the kingship of Christ on the last Sunday of the church year. The liturgical year reaches its climax in a celebration that honors the supreme command of Christ. He has dominion over all creation, and he rules every person who believes in him.

"The feast of Christ the King entered the Catholic calendar in 1925, which Pope Pius XI had set aside as a holy year. Pius thought the feast would bring the year to a solemn close, help combat the forces of secularism, and remind the world that Christ is its ultimate ruler. The pope chose the last Sunday of October because of its proximity to the end of the liturgical year and to serve as a prelude to All Saints Day on Nov. 1. The same day was already being observed as Reformation Sunday in the Protestant traditions.

"Pope Paul VI moved the observance from the end of October to the very last Sunday of the church year in order to exalt its theme even more. Now we end the year with an idea that sums up all that we have celebrated and that prepares us to start anew: this Jesus, whose birth we will soon celebrate, is the king of all creation."



# ADVENT STUDY



## The Infancy Narratives

Little Rock Scripture study 3 weeks

12/4, 12/11, 12/18

Wednesdays 8:30 – 10:00 AM CHURCH HALL

Deepen your longing for our Messiah's coming and encounter his relevance at this time in your life.

Video lectures and discussion of questions in study book

**Please rsvp to [mpvalencic@gmail.com](mailto:mpvalencic@gmail.com) to reserve a book**

**Cost \$14. Refreshments provided.**

# *Your Taxes. Their Tuition.* **ST. JOAN OF ARC'S FUTURE.**



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

*Enriching Lives In Northeast Ohio*



**ANGEL**  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Turning taxes into tuition with the  
Catholic Community Foundation*

## **NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS!**

Ohioans can now receive a dollar for dollar tax credit of up to \$750 for donations to the Angel Scholarship Fund. If you are filing a joint return and both you and your spouse make eligible donations, each of you can claim this credit (up to \$1,500 total).

Donations to the Angel Scholarship Fund at SJA are awarded as scholarships for students in our parish. This is a great opportunity to provide tuition assistance for families who wish to send their children to St. Joan of Arc!!

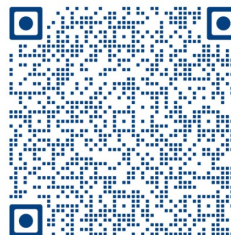


## **YOUR SUPPORT**

- ✓ Directly impacts an SJA family's ability to afford a Catholic education
- ✓ Helps provide high quality Catholic education to students at **St. Joan of Arc**
- ✓ Allows you to choose what your tax dollars support



SCAN HERE TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE:



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**

**IT'S QUICK. IT'S EASY. WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

CALL: 216-902-1312 ONLINE: [WWW.CATHOLICCOMMUNITY.ORG/ANGEL](http://WWW.CATHOLICCOMMUNITY.ORG/ANGEL)