Pastor’s 2 Cents From: Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Habakkuk asks the universal questions of God, “How can you allow evil in the world? Why don’t you stop evil people from hurting each other? Why so much suffering?” As usual, as often happens in the Old Testament, God doesn’t give a direct answer but instead offers an unsatisfactory or cryptic one.

In Habakkuk, God’s answer is the violence will end and the culprits punished…but when? Will I live to see it? What should I do? Do I take up arms or passively wait for you to act?

The disciples ask Jesus to give them more faith to trust that God is at work in the world. God gives them a cryptic answer which says, more or less, ‘do what you are supposed to do and hang on.’

So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, “We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.

Of course, how many of us do what we are obliged to do? Sure - blame evil on us, it’s our fault! Well, not all of it; nobody is perfect. But what is our response to evil? How often do those little petty thoughts turn into real hatred, those little jealousies into vendettas, those little envies into larceny, and small slights into violence?

Time and time again the scriptures, the prophets, the wise ones of the world, have challenged us to look at our hearts and ask us what rules there, and what seeds of destruction are waiting for nourishment. Just doing what is obliged isn’t easy

This past week our Jewish friends celebrated their New Year. This coming week they celebrate their most holy day, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Similar to our Lent, it is a special time to look into our hearts and ask for God’s forgiveness and for the quelling of those dark seeds which lead to our destruction.

One of my most poignant spiritual experiences was that of Yom Kippur in Israel. The night of Yom Kippur everyone’s homes were open. As I wandered the streets, I was invited in, given a prayer shawl and yarmulke and invited to join in prayer. The invitation was extended with a two handed clasp of my hands and then a kiss upon them asking for forgiveness and peace and wishing me “an easy fast.” I experienced a whole night of this. There is something powerful in a whole nation being at prayer.

Legend has it that on Yom Kippur God decides our fate for the year. Best start it on good terms.

We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.

But when, O lord, will you bring an end to it?
Highlights This Week at SJA

FFI check the bulletin, the SJA website or call the Parish Center. The Upper Room is located in the Parish Center; Hospitality Hall, in the Church basement; The Arc, across 45th Street, 4457 3rd Ave.

Sunday, October 6
SJA Young Adults Social Group, 12:30pm in the Welcome Center
Cabaret Sunday Show, 2pm in the gym

Tuesday, October 8
8am Mass in the Orleans Chapel
Scripture Matters, 2pm in the Arc

Wednesday, October 9
The Parish Center will be CLOSED

Thursday, October 10
8am Mass in the Orleans Chapel
Grief Support, 6:15pm in the Parish Center
Choir, 7pm in the Welcome Center

Saturday October 12
Feed My Starving Children, 2pm at the Coon Rapids site

Scripture Readings:
Sun, Oct. 6: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Tim 1:6-8,13-14; Luke 17:5-10
Tues, Oct. 8: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42

Looking Ahead...

Sunday 9 and 11 am Gym Masses:
Sunday, October 13: Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. Our pre-mass speaker is Sr. Irene O’Neill, CSJ. She is president of Sisters Rising Worldwide, a global network of more than 700,000 women religious in 190 countries working for justice.
Sunday, October 20: Fr. Cassidy will preside and speak. Guest musician - Minnesota Orchestra’s trumpeter, Charles Lazarus.
Sunday, October 27: Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. We hear from members of our Confirmation class about their journey.

November 3: Presider: Fr. Cassidy. A reflection on All Saints and All Souls, when we remember our beloved ones who have died. The SJA Choir will sing.


November 17: Arm in Arm in Africa weekend. Fr. Jim Cassidy will update us on our family in South Africa. Singer TMichael Rambo.


Prayer Corner: Please remember in your prayers those who are in need of healing:


Gluten-free Communion is available upon request. Please see any of the Sunday sacristans in the gym before Mass.
Enhanced Hearing Devices are available in the church and gym. They are located in the back of the church and the welcome center.
SignUpGenius for Eucharistic Ministers is available online. It is simple, user friendly and a reminder is sent 3 days before your scheduled volunteer day. FFI contact Marcia at mkurtz@stjoan.com.

Prayer Corner Requests: To keep prayer requests current, names will be included in the bulletin for four weeks and then removed. To add a name or to renew your request, please call Nancy Becker at 612.823.8205 ext. 223.

A Book of Prayer is located in our Gym vestibule. If you have a family member or friend who is ill or who has recently died, please write their names in our Book of Prayer before Mass so we may include them in prayers during our Sunday Masses.
The Choir will rehearse this Thursday, Oct. 11 at 7pm in the Welcome Center. Come and prepare for All Souls and All Saints feast days. We welcome teens who can commit to Thursday rehearsals. Those who sing...pray twice!

Warm Hands Warm Hands Coat Collection Is Under Way: If you picked up a card for this project, coats can be dropped off in boxes in the Welcome Center, church vestibule, or Parish Center front desk. Please drop off by next Sunday, Oct. 13, and thank you so much. Our volunteers will collect, sort and distribute 500 winter coats and accessories for local children, and we are grateful to our donors!

Cabaret Sunday Show: Love 2 The 9’s – Unplugged celebrating the music of Prince, today, beginning at 2pm. Featuring the keyboard talents of SJA’s Tommy Barbarella and the singing of Julius Collins. Tickets $40 for reserved seating; $25 general admission. Tickets are on sale today’s masses or at the door.

SJA Women: Join the League of Catholic Women for a discussion to express your honest feelings about changes you would like to see in the Church. Saturday, Oct. 12, 9am - 12pm, Minneapolis Women’s Club, 410 Oak Grove S. This event is for women only. There is no charge. FFI contact Cynthia at cmanns@stjoan.com.

Stop Endless U.S. Wars! This coming Saturday, Oct. 12, gather at 1pm at Lake St and Nicollet Ave to protest U.S. wars and interventions around the world. There will be a gathering in Washington, D.C. as well. Think of the needs that could be met with the resources we devote to war and occupation.

SJA LGBTQ Group: All are welcome to our next book club meeting on Monday, Oct. 14 at 6:30pm at Curran’s Restaurant at 42nd and Nicollet. We’ll be discussing On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong.

SAGES 2nd Monday Dialogues: Join us for coffee and discussion on Monday, Oct. 14, 1:30 - 3pm, in Hospitality Hall. We welcome Damien Polling, he works with the Salvation Army, and will be talking about Homelessness in the Twin Cities. All are welcome!

How Does SJA Address the Crisis of Homelessness?: After both masses on Sunday, Oct. 27, join us in the Parish Center for a brief intro to our Housing Ministry, including hands-on work rehabbing properties with Urban Homeworks and advocating with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative for affordable housing funding and support.

What’s New for Medicare in 2020: Open enrollment for Medicare is Oct. 15 - Dec. 7. Join SAGES, for a free workshop, on Saturday, Oct. 26, 10am - noon, in Hospitality Hall. If you are enrolling in Medicare for the first time, come learn the basics. If you are currently enrolled, come review your plan and learn more. Our speaker is from Minnesota Senior LinkAge Line. This is not a sales presentation.

Join the Supper Club: The Clare Housing Supper Club is an opportunity for families, friends, or individuals to prepare and serve the evening meal to residents and caregivers at any one of Clare Housing’s four community care homes for people living with HIV. FFI contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Kids, Work with MLTC! All children in grades 4 - 6 are invited to work with Mobile Loaves Twin Cities! On the first Thursday or the third Tuesday of the month, November through April, join together with other SJA kids to pack food to go out on the MLTC truck for our neighbors in need! We meet at Knox Presbyterian church (4747 Lyndale Ave S., Mpls) 3:45pm to around 4:30pm. FFI contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Help Children Stay in School! SJA is once again partnering with Common Hope (www.commonhope.org) to collect donations of books and school supplies for children in Guatemala. We will be collecting supplies each Sunday in October in the bin outside the church. Our donations enable Common Hope to do its justice work. Please bring in only new, targeted supplies. For a list of supplies contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Feed My Starving Children: On Oct. 12, 1 - 2:30pm, join other SJAers to pack food for kids in need at the Coon Rapids FMSC site. To sign up contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Mentor Families: Are you new to St Joan of Arc? Do you love SJA, but find it hard to connect with other parish families? Would you like to be part of the many exciting SJA ministries, but don’t know how to get started? Sign up to meet with a Mentor Family! Your Mentor Family will join your family for coffee & cookies after a Family Mass to share with you the ways their family has found a home at SJA. FFI contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Books for Children at the Border: A Twin Cities grassroots organization is distributing books (bilingual Spanish/English, or all Spanish or Portuguese) to children in immigration detention. Books can be purchased at Wild Rumpus and Red Balloon bookstores or on their websites. This drive goes through Oct. 31. FFI go to booksforborderkids.com.

Summary of contributions for the week and fiscal year. Includes plate, envelopes and estimated Sustaining Member payments.

Current (September 23 - September 29, 2019)
Actual $24,162   Budget $34,184
Prior Year Actual $28,975

Year to Date (July 1 – September 29, 2019)
Actual $451,522   Budget $452,758
Prior Year Actual $427,563

Thank You!
Pastoral Ministries

FFI on Pastoral Ministries contact Sherri Stella at 612.823.8205 ext. 231 or ststella@stjoan.com.

Mental Health Ministry: Please join us on Monday, Oct. 14, 5:45 - 8pm, in the Welcome Center, as Carol Hornbeck, MA, LMFT from Westminster Counseling Center presents, Mental Health in Our Communities: Supporting Youth & Families. The evening begins with a light supper. All are welcome. FFI please contact Sherri Stella at the Parish Center.

Did You Know? There are five things we can do to create caring communities.
  • Shift how we see and interact with people living with mental illness.
  • Use respectful language.
  • Resist disrespectful language and images in the media.
  • Know the symptoms of mental illnesses.
  • Create an environment that fosters hope, respect, and acceptance.

Coalition for Grief Support: Please join us on Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:15 - 8pm, in the Parish Center as Nancy Jo Sullivan presents, Surviving the First Year of Grief. The evening begins with light refreshments followed by the presentation and facilitated small group sessions. FFI contact Norine Larson at 952.925.2437 or Sherri Stella at the Parish Center.

The Parish Visitor Ministry offers confidential listening, prayer, communion, and support in times of life challenges or transitions. Through phone calls and visits, this quiet support is available to parishioners who cannot join us for worship or would like an additional long or short term parish connection in the home, hospital, rehab or care center. FFI contact Sherri at the Parish Center or Carolyn Dobis at 651.485.2868.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry: Please join us the first Monday of the month, 6:30 - 8pm, and third Tuesday of each month, 9 - 10:30am in the Parish Center. All are welcome! Our members are open to teaching new members to knit and crochet. FFI contact Sherri Stella at the Parish Center.

The TRUST Auction: Please join us for food, silent and live auctions, entertainment, and more, on Friday, Oct. 25 at 6pm in the SJA gym. Tickets are $25 in advance or with reservations, $20 for seniors 65+/youth, free for kids 12 & under, or $30 at the door. For reservations, call 612.827.6159 or trust@trustinc.org.

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:20
Healing begins with connection, shared understanding and unconditional love. It is when we walk alongside someone in their journey that we can transform pain and suffering into hope and healing. If you or someone you know is struggling, please contact Sherri Stella at 612.823.8205 ext. 231 or ststella@stjoan.com.

Peace and Justice

FFI on Peace & Justice programs contact Julie Madden at 612.823.8205 ext. 228 or jmadden@stjoan.com.

ISAIAH News:
  • SJA ISAIAH invites you to attend upcoming meetings with Hennepin County Commissioners as we urge them to lead on the current housing crisis, criminal justice reform, and immigrant rights in Hennepin County. We meet with district 4 Commissioner Angela Conley on Oct. 12 at 10am at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and with district 3 Commissioner Marion Greene on Oct. 24 at 6pm at Mayflower UCC. For a list of all meetings, contact Julie Madden.
  • On Sunday, Oct. 20, join our ISAIAH core team for coffee and conversation about our work for justice, and the upcoming One Body Faithful Citizenship Assembly on Nov. 9. One Body is the archdiocesan initiative bringing parishes, including SJA, together to raise our voices in solidarity with immigrants.

Sister Parish Solidarity Walk: Following the 11am mass next Sunday, Oct. 13, join our Sister Parish committee outside the Welcome Center for a brief walk with song and prayer, in solidarity with our Sister Parish family in Tierra Nueva Dos, Guatemala, who will be hosting a walk as well. In this way, we hold our brothers and sisters in our prayers and celebrate our 25 year relationship of solidarity together. Stop by our table in the Welcome Center next Sunday and sign our banner to TNII.

Antiracism Author to Speak at SJA: R. James Addington, longtime trainer on antiracism, will speak on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7pm in Hospitality Hall, hosted by our SJA Antiracism ministry. He is the author of the new book, Tragic Investment, which examines America’s investment in race and racial oppression, and includes practical steps for building a different future. Please join us!

A Film Screening at SJA - Berta Didn’t Die, She Multiplied: On Monday, Oct. 21, our SJA EcoSpirits and Welcome the Stranger ministries will co-host a short film and discussion on the life of Berta Caceres, indigenous Honduran environmental activist and winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2015 for ‘a grassroots campaign that successfully pressured the world’s largest dam builder to pull out of the Agua Zarca Dam.’ After years of death threats, Berta Caceres was assassinated in 2016, but her legacy and her work continues. Learn more about her and about the conditions in Honduras that are driving migration to the U.S.

Justice Grant Application Deadline: If you volunteer with or lead a great nonprofit, please consider applying for a Justice Grant. The deadline is November 1 and the application is not difficult. Through our Justice Grants, we partner both with incredible organizations and with you, our parishioners, in your commitment to building God’s kingdom of justice and peace. Our grants are provided by the SJA Outreach Fund, which is a restricted, designated fund that is separate from our operating budget. We are grateful to all who support this holy work. FFI on the Justice Grants or the SJA Outreach Fund, contact Julie Madden.
**Faith Formation and Adult Learning**

*We form the faith of our community through participation in prayer, liturgy, sacraments, education, community and works of justice.*

**Children’s Choir: Parents, Did You Know?** The SJA children’s choir is a great growth opportunity for kids, giving them the chance to sing and perform while building friendships. The choir is also a great gift to our community! The choir, directed by Seth Boyd, is open to all in grades 3 - 7. Rehearsals start with a Choir Camp on Saturday, Oct 26. Make new friends. Learn about music. Give back to your church family. Be a voice of Advent. Join the SJA Children’s Choir! FFI/to sign up, contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

**Nursery:** FFI contact Michelle Dehn, Nursery Director at mdehn@stjoan.com or 612.823.8205 ext. 240.

Our Nursery, located in the lower level of the Parish Center, is open for the 9 & 11am Sunday Masses. The Nursery is a wonderful community of families and volunteers that allows parents to enjoy Mass and meet other families in the parish. Drop-ins welcome.

**Pre-school:** (Ages 4-Kindergarten) FFI contact Magnolia Ditzler at mditzler@stjoan.com or 612.823.8205 ext. 230.

**Grade School:** (Grades 1-6) FFI contact Marie Bissonnette at 612.823.8205 ext. 229.

**2019 SJA Christmas Musical:** Auditions for My Three Spies will be on Oct. 13, 1 - 2:30pm, in the Arc. No experience is required. Speaking roles are available for children in grades 2 - 8. Grades 1 - 8 are welcome to participate in the ensemble. FFI contact Terrie Coats at stagecoachslp@gmail.com or 952.367.6032.

**Youth Ministry:** (Grades 7-12) FFI contact Rose Aspholm at 612.823.8205 ext. 241 or raspholm@stjoan.com or Brennan Hall at bhall@stjoan.com.

**Confirmation Information Session** for parents, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6:30 - 7:30pm in the Arc. Come learn about our Confirmation program, ask questions, and register for the 2019-2020 year. Full schedule for the year will be available on this date. FFI contact Rose at raspholm@stjoan.com.

**Club and Small Group** begins for 7th - 12th graders on Sunday, Oct. 13. Meet in the church at 10:45am for club, Small Groups meet, 11:15 - 12:15pm. Not signed up yet? There is still time! FFI about 7 - 8th grade contact Brennan: bhall@stjoan.com. FFI about 9 - 12th grade contact Rose: raspholm@stjoan.com.

**Youth Ministry Fun Day:** Pumpkin carving & painting on Sunday, Oct 20, 12:30 - 3:30pm. Come for games, a movie, homemade pumpkin spice lattes and other ghoulishly good treats! It’s going to be a spooky good time! Open to all 7th-12th graders. Registration info is on our webpage or email Brennan: bhall@stjoan.com.

**Adult Learning:** FFI contact Cynthia Bailey Manns at 612.823.8205 ext. 226 or cmanns@stjoan.com.

**RCIA:** SJA welcomes you on your spiritual journey of study, exploration, faith sharing, and faith formation. The Rite of Christian Initiation, or RCIA, is an important Sacrament designed for adults (called Candidates), who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for Catholics who wish to be Confirmed, and may also include the Rite of Baptism. Each candidate works with an individual sponsor who will walk with them through this unique faith journey. The RCIA classes from fall 2019 through spring 2020, led by Fr. Jim DeBruycker and the RCIA team, build learning relationships that encourage provocative questions about what it means to be Catholic and opportunities to grow in one’s faith. If you are interested, or FFI, please contact Cynthia Bailey Manns at cmanns@stjoan.com.

**Save the Dates!** All are welcome to join the RCIA candidates as they journey through Christianity 101 to learn about the following:

- **Oct. 30:** Why Do We Have Religion? And How Did We Get Here? - Dr. Patricia Ahearne-Kroll, Univ. of MN.
- **Nov. 20:** Sources of Revelation (Tradition & Bible) with Dr. Stephen Ahearne-Kroll, Univ. of MN
- **Dec. 18:** Christology and the Liturgical Year with Fr. Jim DeBruycker, SJA
- **Jan. 22:** Church History and SJA History with Fr. Jim DeBruycker, SJA
- **Feb.19:** Church Structure with Fr. Jim DeBruycker, SJA
- **Vatican II** with Rose Aspholm & Brennan Hall, SJA
- **Mar. 18:** Ethics and Conscience with Dr. William McDonough, St. Catherine Univ.

**SJA Young Adults Social Group:** Please join us today at 12:30pm in the Welcome Center for fellowship.

**Parish Book Club:** All are welcome to join, any time.

- **Oct. 9:** Location Change! Hosmer Library, 347 East 36th Street, Minneapolis - 5:30pm (social hour) 6:30 - 8pm, book review Being Mortal by Atul Gawande
- **Nov. 13:** My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante (Parish Center).

**Women of SJA (WSJA), Saturday, Oct. 19, 9am - Noon in the Welcome Center. Mary and Martha - The Story Women Love To Hate. Join other SJA women of faith as they wrestle with the many messages buried deep in this gospel story. Facilitated by fellow parishioner, Jane Leyden Cavanaugh, this upbeat, interactive retreat will change your mind about Mary and Martha and what they represent. RSVP by Monday, Oct. 14 online at www.stjoan.com or to the Parish Center. FFI contact Cynthia at cmanns@stjoan.com.