Pastor’s 2 Cents From: Fr. Jim DeBruycker

We are in the 5th Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel today. Some scholars suggest that Matthew pictures Jesus as the new Moses in his Gospel. As we have seen, there are some similarities in his birth story, especially the attempted murder of Jesus by King Herod and placing Jesus as a refugee into Egypt where once again Israel’s savior will come out of.

Today’s reading, which is a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount, is seen as the giving of the new commandments. Like Moses, Jesus goes up to a much smaller mountain but instead of writing down the law on stone tablets, he speaks directly to the people. He is God incarnate; he has no need of an intermediary or thunder and lightning.

But what do these commandments say and ask?

People often see the Old Testament God as a vengeful, wrath-filled God, and Jesus as all love and forgiveness. But Jesus begins his commandments by saying he is not excusing anyone from the previous commandments; there is just a different emphasis.

Remember those examinations of consciences we would go over in class before we all marched over to Church for confession? (That is if you went to Catholic school) One of the questions was, “Have you stayed away from the near occasion of sin?” This could be almost anything which made it that much easier to do the wrong thing: hanging with the ‘wrong’ crowd, reading the wrong magazine or book, going to B movies etc. It almost always seemed to have something to do with sex.

Jesus’ commandments begin with these near occasions of sin and point them out as the beginning of disaster. Do not let anger fester until it becomes violence. Reconcile before the conflict leads to total alienation or war. Recognize the beginnings of lust before you do something stupid. See that each person has dignity and worth. Jesus’ opposition to divorce, often looked at as a harsh judgement, is actually a statement on the value of women. In his day, a man could ask for a bill of divorce and a woman was left destitute. Jesus is saying both have equal value.

Finally, be true to your word. Covenants of faithfulness are at the core of what holds us together as a people. If your word cannot be trusted, how can we build anything together - love or buildings. The model of covenants in the Old and New Testaments are based on God’s ever faithfulness to his covenant with his people. Sad to say, most of the Bible’s stories are ones of our breaking that trust.

A final message, hinted at but not explicitly expressed is: Know thyself. Learn not to fool yourself.
Highlights This Week at SJA

**Scripture Readings:**
- **Sun, Feb. 16:** Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37
- **Mon, Feb. 17:** James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13
- **Tues, Feb. 18:** James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21
- **Wed, Feb. 19:** James 1:19-27; Mark 8:22-26
- **Thu, Feb. 20:** James 2:1-9; Mark 8:27-33
- **Fri, Feb. 21:** James 2:14-24,26; Mark 8:34-9:1
- **Sat, Feb. 22:** 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
- **Sun, Feb. 23:** Lev 19:1-2,17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Matt 5:38-48

Looking Ahead...

**Sunday and 11 am Gym Masses:**
- **Sun, Feb. 23:** Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. Julie Madden, director of SJA Peace and Justice Ministries, will speak on SJA:2020
- **Sun, March 1:** Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. First Sunday of Lent
- **Sun, March 8:** Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. Second Sunday of Lent
- **Sun, March 15:** Presider: Fr. Cassidy. Third Sunday of Lent
- **Sun, March 22:** Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. Fourth Sunday of Lent
- **Sun, March 29:** Presider: Fr. Cassidy. Fifth Sunday of Lent

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


**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.

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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.
Parish Life

Choir will rehearse on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7pm in the Welcome Center. Preparation for Ash Wednesday and Lent.

SJA 2019-20 Concert Series! Tickets are on sale after masses today or online at stjoantickets.com. Tickets are $25 / students $10. Concert Series (in our gym).

Tonight! Sunday, February 16: Thomasina Petrus - A Concert for Black History Month. With TMychael Rambo, Tonya Hughes, Amiee Bryant, Brittany Delaney, Dan Chouinard, the St. Joan of Arc Choir and more! Don't miss this inspiring concert for the whole family!

• Sunday, April 26: Michael Monroe - From My Back Yard Chapel Series (in our church)
• Sunday, March 15: Sofia - Chambers of the Heart (Dean Magraw, Carin Vagle, Tim Frantzich)

Archdiocesan Synod/Prayer Listening Sessions:
• Tuesday, February 18, 6 - 9pm, St. Stephen, 525 Jackson St., Anoka
• Thursday, February. 27, Our Lady of Grace, 5071 Eden Ave., Edina

LGBTQ Group News:
• On Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30pm at Curran’s Restaurant, we will discuss, Cantoras by Carolin Roberts. One reviewer said: “Cantoras is a stunning lullaby to revolution - and each woman in this novel sings it with a deep ferocity. Days later, I am still inside this song of a story.” All are welcome to join us!
• Happy Hour Monday, Feb. 24 at 4pm at the Iron Door Pub at Lake and Lyndale.

Save the Dates! All are welcome to join the RCIA candidates at 7pm in Hospitality Hall, as they journey through Christianity 101 to learn about the following:
• February 19: Church Structure with JP Fitzgibbons, SJA
• March 18: Ethics and Conscience with Dr. William McDonough, St. Catherine Univ.

Making the Connections: Climate Crisis and U.S. Militarism. On Saturday, Feb. 29 at 10am, Sue Ann Martinson will speak at the WAMM (Women Against Military Madness) office at 4200 Cedar Ave. in Mpls. She’ll speak about the role that our military plays in the devastation of planet Earth and what we can do about it.


Mobile Loaves Twin Cities would like to thank everyone who contributed to the purchase of the oven at Knox to help continue the ministry of hot sandwiches. This is a crucial part of our ministry.

By the time you will be reading this in the bulletin, the Arm In Arm In Africa delegation will have departed for South Africa. We celebrated our 21st delegation last weekend with a blessing. I would ask that you please remember the delegates and their families in your thoughts and prayers during the time in which we are away, Feb. 15, until our return on Mar. 8.

Lent 2020 at SJA: This year, we will explore our theme - Rolling Away the Stone - as we reflect on what keeps us from following in the footsteps of Jesus, and commit ourselves to embracing God's love and love of neighbor with all our hearts.

Ash Wednesday is February 26, and we host our first soup supper (and grilled cheese sandwiches), in Hospitality Hall beginning at 5pm. Soup suppers are a great time for the whole family. At 6pm, musician Steve Kremer will host a sing-along of SJA favorite songs. Then, at 7pm in the gym, we invite you to our Prayer Service, with the distribution of ashes, music by the SJA choir, and witness stories shared by fellow SJA parishioners. There is also an Ash Wednesday mass with ashes at 8am and at noon.

We need soup makers for Ash Wednesday and all the following Lenten Wednesday soup suppers. RSVP to the Parish Center. Each Wednesday, following soup supper, our Prayer Partners invite you to centering prayer, followed by an event focused on education and spirituality, 6:30 - 7:30pm. On Wednesday, April 1, join us in the gym for a service evening to benefit local nonprofits, 6:30 - 8pm.

Also on Wednesday evenings, following soup, families involved in the Palm Sunday project with Hearth of the Beast will meet in the gym, 6:30 - 8pm.

Our Sunday mornings will reflect on our theme in our prayers, music and scripture. We hope you will join us!

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

Week of January 27 - February 2, 2020
Weekly Actual $39,319 Budget $37,792
Prior Year Actual $37,824

Year to Date (July 1 – February 2, 2020)
Weekly Actual $1,326,496 Budget $1,255,979
Prior Year Actual $1,264,831

Thank You for your continued generosity!
Pastoral Ministries

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

**Mental Health Ministry**: Please join us on Monday, March 9, 5:45 - 8pm, in the Welcome Center, as Rev. Bob Albers presents, *Addiction and the Faith Community*. The evening begins with a light supper. All are welcome. FFI please contact Sherri at 612.823.8205 ext. 231 or sstella@stjoan.com.

**Did You Know?** According the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.2 million U.S. adults have experienced both mental illness and a substance use disorder in 2018. Some common symptoms of a substance use disorder may include:

- Isolation or withdrawal from family or friends
- Changes in behavior
- Engaging in risky behavior
- Loss of control with substances
- Feeling like you need a drug to be able to function

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family Support Group**: Please join us on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 - 8pm, in the Parish Center, for a facilitated support group for family and friends of persons living with mental illness. FFI contact Sherri at the Parish Center.

**Coalition for Grief Support**: Please join us on Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:15 - 8pm, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2914 W 44th St., as Arnold Krueger, grief facilitator and musician, presents, *Honoring Memories, Discovering Hope*. The evening begins with light refreshments followed by the presentation and facilitated small groups. FFI contact Norine Larson at 952.925.2437.

**Homemade Cards**: Have you been given the gift of creating cards? Would you be interested in sharing your talent with our community? We are looking to start a new Card Ministry and would welcome your time and talent. FFI contact Sherri Stella at the Parish Center.

**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 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.

**TRUST Meals on Wheels** has openings for new clients. If you or a parent, friend, or neighbor is in need of a nutritious, hot daily meal delivered right to the door, call Eleonore at 612.822.6040.

Peace and Justice

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

**SJA Housing Ministry: Coffee and Cupcakes and Postcards Next Sunday!** Following both masses next Sunday, Feb. 23, join us in the Upper Room for a brief intro to our work creating affordable housing and end homelessness. Or just stop by and sign a postcard to your elected officials (and take a cupcake)!

**More Housing Ministry News:**

- **March 1**: Sign postcards after mass to our elected officials, urging them to support funding for housing and supportive services.
- **March 11**: Homeless Day on the Hill: Show up with hundreds of fellow Minnesotans to speak up for housing for all in need! There will be a brief training, a rally and time to connect with legislators. It is such a powerful day. RSVP to fellow parishioner Julie Andberg at julieandberg@gmail.com.
- **March 28**: Join our volunteer team with Urban Homeworks, rehabbing a home or apartment to provide beautiful, affordable housing for a low-income family. No experience necessary! FFI to volunteer, contact Julie Madden.

**Cultural Humility: A Dialogue**: When we adopt practices and traditions from other faiths and cultures, what we do with good intent may be offensive or hurtful to those from whom we have appropriated these practices. We invite you to come and talk together tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 17 at 6:30pm in Hospitality Hall, when Mike Rios of Catholic Charities’ Office for Social Justice will help us begin this discussion with examples from our own lives and ministries. A rich conversation at the right time!

**Democracy Talks Book Club**: We will meet on Feb. 19 at 1:30pm in the Parish Center to discuss 2017 National Book Award finalist, *Democracy in Chains* by Nancy McLean, Duke University history professor. Clean Elections MN is sponsoring a talk by Ms. McLean in April. Along with our justice ministries, we encourage all SJAers to participate in our electoral process, beginning with precinct caucuses on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

**Welcome the Stranger**: Next Sunday, Feb. 23, following the 11am mass in the Upper Room, learn about an upcoming delegation to the U.S./Mexico border March 26 - 29 with our Welcome the Stranger ministry. This unique trip will be both an immersion in the issues facing migrants, and a day of training and action with The School of the Americas Watch on Ending the Root Causes of Migration.

**ISAIAH Precinct Caucus Trainings**: We’re on the Home Stretch! On Feb. 25, we will have the opportunity to examine our right and responsibility as Catholic Christians to act on our values in the political arena at our neighborhood caucus meetings. Have you signed up for a precinct caucus training? Stop by our table in the Welcome Center and our ISAIAH core team will get you connected!
**Our Family Lenten Program Is Back!** Each year, we partner with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre to create a unique production of Jesus’ last days, to be presented before both Family Masses on Palm Sunday, April 5. Come for Soup Supper and stay for evenings of fun and learning for all ages! Five nights during Lent (March 4, 11, 18 & 31 & April 4) participants will make masks, prepare and rehearse for the play, and reflect on Lent guided by SJA staff and In the Heart of the Beast artists. To register for the project, contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com. We ask a $10 fee/person or $25/family.

**Can You Help with Our Play?** For our Palm Sunday play with In the Heart of the Beast, we need donations of large (2’ x 2’ and larger), clean pieces of cardboard and newspaper. If you can help, please contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com. Thanks!

**SJA Children’s Choir:** The choir, directed by Seth Boyd, is open to all in grades 3 - 7. Rehearsals start with a Choir Camp on Saturday, March 14 (11am - 4pm), then on Sundays, March 15, 22, 29, April 5 & 19 (12:45 - 2pm). There will be five spring performances: April 25, April 26, May 3, May 9 & May 10. Make new friends. Learn about music. Give back to your church family. Join the SJA Children’s Choir! To sign up, contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

**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 three community care homes for people living with HIV. This is a great way to help preserve your family’s mealtime, while providing comfort and care to others. Gourmet skills are not required! FFI 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! They 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.

**Mark Your Calendars** for Camp St. Joan - Dreaming A World United: Somalia, for 4 to 12 year olds, July 13 - 16. Register your children now for early bird pricing, your teen to volunteer and earn community service hours, and/or yourself as an adult volunteer, at www.stjoan.com under the ‘Ministries’ tab. FFI contact Brooke, bbarnard@stjoan.com or Crystal, cdaugherty@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.

**First Communion 2020:** Parent/Child Registration Meeting Sunday, March 1 or March 8 at 12:30pm in the gym. Extravaganza Sunday, March 29, 4pm. First Communion celebrations Saturday, April 25 or May 2 at 10am.

**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.

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

**Scripture Matters:** Tuesdays, Feb. 25, Mar. 10 and 24, 1 - 3pm in the Arc. Please join us as we explore the Gospel readings of Lent. Please pick up a flyer with the Gospel readings in the Parish Center, the Welcome Center, or at the SJA website. All are welcome!

**SJAJ is Participating in a Parish Wide Survey** about discipleship as part of the Archdiocesan Synod process. The survey asks you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and will provide feedback to Archbishop Hebda and Fr. DeBruycker this spring. Please participate in the anonymous 10-15 survey online at www.disciplemakerindex.com or download a copy from SJA’s website or pick up one in the Parish Center. The deadline is March 1, 2020. Thank you! FFI contact Cynthia at cmanns@stjoan.com.

**Parish Book Club** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to join! 5:30pm Social Hour, 6:30 - 8pm discussion in the Parish Center.

- March 11: Illuminations by Mary Sharratt

**SAGES St. Patrick’s Day Senior Mass and Luncheon:** Join us Tuesday, March 17 for 11:30am Mass in the church followed by lunch, song and door prizes in Hospitality Hall. Reservations required! RSVP to the Parish Center by noon on Saturday, March 14.
A $500 donation will be made to St. Joan of Arc when you sell a home or buy a home with Carrie Sink.

Carrie Sink
Parishioner | Realtor
612-298-2809
carrrie.sink@cbburnet.com