Pastor’s 2 Cents From: Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Every religion has in its mythology or theology - we call it mythology if we don’t believe it, theology if we do - and almost every mythology has a trickster figure, a demigod who bothers the gods and who both helps and tricks mankind to take bold steps they otherwise would not have risked doing. In native cultures, the coyote and the raven often have that connotation. In Greek mythology Prometheus causes havoc when he brings humanity the gift of fire; he pays for it by having his liver devoured for all eternity.

Judaism and Christianity’s closest cousin to a trickster is the devil. In the Hebrew Scriptures he appears as the snake who tempts Adam and Eve, and the angel who bets with God about the faithfulness of Job - he seems to have not fallen at that point. As a trickster he often only speaks half-truths, like when he tells Eve they will be like gods if they eat the forbidden fruit. He was partially correct as they now knew about good and evil, but they also found they couldn’t control anything. They were only like God, but not God.

Humankind’s attempt to control the world was off and running. It would help us to build and plan and grow, but still presenting us with a constant fight against the evil of our need for power and control. Now, this is not Catholic theology; it’s more Jungian or Freudian than anything. Jung often saw the Adam and Eve story as the birth of consciousness and the formation of the ego. But this is only one way of seeing what is meant by original sin.

We cannot go back to where we were, we cannot un-know, so our task in life is to grow through it. This Lent our theme is Roll Away the Stone, clearing the path towards God and inner peace. In Hebrew one of the meanings of the word Satan is something which obstructs, even a rock which blocks a path. We did try to rent a huge fake rock from a theatrical agency, but it was in use. So when you walk into the welcome center try to imagine it.

As we begin the Lenten Season, this Sunday’s solos reflect our desire for personal, inner peace and peace in our world. The St. Joan of Arc Choir is joined by Lee Vague singing Billy McLaughlin’s beautiful Serenity Prayer Song and Grant Vague will lead us in Arlo Guthrie’s classic, All Over the World. Thank you for music that carries our spirits into Lent and challenges our hearts and hands!

Family Mass

On the First Sunday of Lent, Josée Defly comes to tell us the story of life in her West African country of Togo. We begin our Lenten drive for warm-weather clothes and shoes for youth in Togo. Worship together as a family each Sunday in Lent at our joyful family liturgies at 9:45/11:45. All are welcome!
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, March 1
First Communion Registration Meeting, 12:30pm in the gym
Young Adults Social Group, 12:30pm in the Welcome Center

Tuesday, March 3
8am Mass in the Orleans Chapel

Wednesday, March 4
Soup Supper, beginning at 5pm in Hospitality Hall
Centering Prayer, 5:15pm in the church
Education and Spirituality, 7pm in the church

Thursday, March 5
8am Mass in the Orleans Chapel
Parish Council, 5:15pm in the Upper Room
Choir at 7pm in the Welcome Center

Sunday, March 8
First Communion Registration Meeting, 12:30pm in the gym

Scripture Readings:
Sun, March 1: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11
Mon, March 2: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tues, March 3: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Thu, March 5: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12
Fri, March 6: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Sat, March 7: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
Sun, March 8: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matt 17:1-9

Looking Ahead...

Sunday 9 and 11 am Gym Masses:
Sunday, March 8: Roll Away the Stone: Rise Up! Second Sunday of Lent with Fr. DeBruycker and speaker Cynthia Bailey Manns, our Adult Learning Director. Musical group Sofia - Tim Frantzich, Dean Magraw and Carin Vagle - will be with us.

Sunday, March 15: Roll Away the Stone: We Are Beloved. Third Sunday of Lent with Fr. Cassidy presiding.

Sunday, March 22: Roll Away the Stone: We Are Healed. Fourth Sunday of Lent. Fr. DeBruycker is presiding, Kate Tucker returns to us as pre-mass speaker, and our musician is Ann Reed.


9am: Fr. DeBruycker, Robert Robinson and the SJA choir.
11am: Fr. Cassidy, Robert Robinson and the SJA choir.

Family Masses at 9 and 11am in the church with Farmer Rick and his baby animals.

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: 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.
Parish Life

Choir will rehearse for Holy Week and Easter this Thursday, March 5 at 7pm in the Welcome Center. Thank you for being prompt!

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.

Soup Supper: Join us Wednesday evenings in Hospitality Hall, beginning at 5pm, for soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. This is great time for the whole family! This week’s collection will go toward scholarships for SJA youth traveling to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation this summer.

- We Need Soup Makers: If you can bring soup for any Wednesday during Lent, call the Parish Center. Thank you!
- Centering Prayer: Join our Prayer Partners following Soup Supper, 5:15 - 5:45pm, in the church, followed by an event focused on education and spirituality, 7 - 8pm.
- This Wednesday, March 4, following Soup Supper, join our Adult Learning Director, Cynthia Bailey Manns for a presentation in the church at 7pm on Rolling Away the Stone of Racism. Cynthia will share experiences and transformations from her recent travels with 18 St. Catherine University students through the American South.
- Lenten Service Evening: On Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 - 8pm, come to the gym for an evening of service projects for local nonprofits. Come when you can and go when you like. Fun and meaningful service opportunities for all ages. Bring a friend! FFI contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.
- 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!

SJA 2019-20 Concert Series! Tickets are on sale after masses or through the SJA website. Tickets are $25 / students $10.

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

Save the Dates! All are welcome to join the RCIA candidates at 7pm in the church, as they journey through Christianity 101 as we focus on ourselves as members of a listening church, and how our life together could affect our thinking about both church moral teaching and our own moral lives.
- March 18: Ethics and Conscience with Dr. William McDonough, St. Catherine University

SJA EcoHint: Unplug this Lent and take time to read Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland. There is leadership on climate change, and there are grassroots efforts to join.

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, Saturday, March 14.

Archdiocesan Synod/Prayer Listening Sessions:
- Saturday, March 7, 9am - Noon,
  Transfiguration, 6133 15th St. N., Oakdale
- Saturday, March 14, 9am - Noon,
  St. Alphonsus, 7025 Halifax Ave., N., Brooklyn Center

SJA 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 to 15 page survey online through the link on the SJA website or pick-up a copy in the SJA Parish Center. The deadline is today. Thank you! FFI contact Cynthia.

The Arm In Arm In Africa Delegation will be in South Africa until next Sunday, March 8. Join them in spirit by following their journey on their website at www.aiaia.org, or you can 'Like Us' on Arm In Arm In Africa’s Facebook page. There is also a link from the SJA website.

Clothing Collection for Togo: Arm in Arm in Africa is launching a collection for families in Togo, West Africa. During Lent, we are asking for donations of clothing and shoes for youth from birth through high school. The clothing should be new or gently used and suitable for warm climate. Please bring items to the bins in the Welcome Center or church vestibule each Sunday, March 8 - 29. FFI contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com. Merci!

Sole Care for Souls: Volunteers wanted for a ministry providing free foot care to people experiencing homelessness through Calvary Baptist Church in Mpls. FFI https://www.solecareforsouls.org/get-involved/.

Mentor Families: 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.

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

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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 and all are welcome. FFI please contact Sherri at 612.823.8205 ext. 231 or sstella@stjoan.com.

**Did You Know?** According to 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 Norine Larson at 952.925.2437.

**Coalition for Grief Support**: Please join us on Thursday, March 5, 6:15 - 8pm, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2914 W 44th St., as Maggie Bauer, Owner of Grief Recovery, presents, *The Loss of a Sibling*. 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.

**More Housing Ministry News**:

- **Today**: Sign Postcards in the Welcome Center and Church Vestibule After Mass: Urge our state legislators to support funding for housing and supportive services. There is space on the postcard to write a comment about why ending homelessness and supporting affordable housing matters to you - your comments matter to the people you elected. Thanks to our volunteers and our partners at Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative for this effort!

- **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 Julie Madden at jmadden@stjoan.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.

**ISAIAH Today**: Did you go to your precinct caucus? We want to hear about it! Whether you were a first-timer or an old hand, stop by the ISAIAH table after gym masses to share highlights of your experience, learn how it went for others, and get the big picture of ISAIAH’s statewide caucus engagement. More than 300 SJAss signed up to caucus with our faith agenda, and we will carry it forward to fruition!

**Border Delegation**: Our Welcome the Stranger ministry is coordinating a delegation to the U.S./Mexico border March 26-29. This unique trip will be both an immersion in the issues facing migrants, and a day of training with the School of the Americas Watch on ending the root causes of migration. FFI, contact Julie Madden.

**A Collection of Items for Women in Our Community**: Next Sunday, March 8, please bring donations of feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and toothbrushes to support two of our youth who are collecting these items for a local nonprofit serving women and girls. There will be a box in the Welcome Center and in the church vestibule for drop-off. We’ll only be collecting next Sunday, so don’t forget your items, and we thank our young people for bringing this effort to us.

**SJA Outreach Fund**: The Outreach Fund is separate from our operating budget and we are grateful to all who contribute so that we can do the following:

- Provide emergency financial assistance through our CARE Committee for rent and utilities to parishioners and neighbors in need.
- Award Justice Grants twice yearly to nonprofit organizations in which you (our parishioners!) are volunteers and leaders. Contact Julie Madden for an application.
- Support our Sustaining Partners: Sister Parish; Women Against Military Madness; Arm in Arm in Africa; Mobile Loaves Twin Cities and Risen Christ School!
**Faith Formation and Adult Learning**

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

Our Family Lenten Program: 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. RSVP to Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com. $10 fee/person or $25/family.

Can You Help with our play for our Palm Sunday with *In the Heart of the Beast*? We need donations of 2’ x 2’ and larger, clean pieces of cardboard and newspaper. FFI Gabrielle gdane@stjoan.com.

SJA Children’s Choir 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. To sign up, contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Video Screenings of Our Palm Sunday play with HOBT: Jeff and Rita Nohner have created a video about our annual family Lenten project with In the Heart of the Beast puppets, SJA families, dance, masks, music, and song. Watch the play in the gym on March 22, after the 11am mass or March 25 at 6pm. Special showing for families, May 3, between the Family Masses in the church.

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 meets today or next Sunday, 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.

March Madness Game Night: 7th - 12th graders are welcome to join us for a game night like no other. Giant Jenga, Blow Up Jousting Arena, four-square in the air, and so much more, including Black Light Dodge Ball! Come for pizza and fun. Friends welcome! Wear neon or white! March 13, 6-8:30pm. Register on our website!

Pine Ridge Delegation Serving Soup: This Wednesday, March 4, SJA’s Delegation to Pine Ridge will be serving soup with the free will offering going to offset the costs of our trip. Hope to see you there for soup and conversation!

Pancake Breakfast: Save the Date for SJA Youth Ministries Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on April 26 to help support our Summer Delegation to Pine Ridge. Youth participating in our trip will be serving and sharing what they look forward to learning from our service on the Reservation. All funds raised at the breakfast through a free will offering will go directly to cutting the cost per participant. Hope to see you there!

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

Lent is the season in our lives which invites us into a deeper relationship with God, to recognize the importance of prayer, and to fully commit ourselves to building a better world through acts of love, compassion, and justice. What kind of prayer brings you closer to God and to your neighbors in your family or community, or in the world?

**SAGES 2nd Monday Dialogues**: Monday, March 9, 1:30 - 3 pm in Hospitality Hall. Join us for coffee and discussion as we welcome audiologist, Jenny Nordberg. Hearing loss affects relationships, self-esteem, and is related to dementia. Learn more! Everyone is welcome.

Scripture Matters: Tuesdays, Mar. 10 and 24, 1 - 3pm in the Arc. Meet with our study group to discuss the Bible. FFI contact Rose Aspholm.

Parish Book Club: This Wednesday, March 4, please pick up a flyer with the Gospel readings in the Parish Center, the Welcome Center, or at the SJA website. All are welcome!

**SJA Young Adults Social Group**: Please join the group for conversation and activities **today**, at 12:30pm in the Welcome Center.

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.