Pastor’s 2 Cents From: Fr. Jim DeBruycker

Like every person of faith, there are times when I ask myself, Is there anyone out there?, not only for myself but for others whose life just seems too unlucky to be real. I remember standing once in Trauma ICU and saying to the head nurse about a particularly tragic case how unfair it was that one stupid mistake led to this disaster. Her response was, “Grow up and look around you.”

Not a very kind answer, but an honest one. I was looking at twelve beds with people who ended up there because they turned left instead of right that day. The randomness of life can sometimes be overwhelming; add to it our own poor choices it can be downright depressing. We could all do with a little assuredness that everything is going to be all right, or at least there will be some rhyme or reason behind what happens.

Surely the disciples got this in today’s Gospel. With Jesus predicting his own death and pressure building against Jesus by the authorities, the disciples were wondering if they were mistaken in following this Nazarene. Then-wham! Out of nowhere he turns glorious and Elijah, the prophet of the coming Messiah, is speaking with him, as is the giver of the law, Moses. The voice of God then speaks and says, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him.”

You can’t get better confirmation than this. Even with this confirmation, the disciples had a hard time staying loyal when the chips were down. Only John was there at the cross. It would take the Resurrection to finally bring them back, and the Holy Spirit to confirm them in their ministry.

So, don’t give up the ghost if you sometimes doubt; you didn’t get to go up on that mountain and hear God’s voice. Sometimes though, we do occasionally get that sense of confirmation. On a few occasions, after a really trying time in ministry, I have suddenly felt that sense of maybe I just did the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason. I have heard people at the birth of a child express that sense of peace, and that peace is from God.

I think it is that recognition of hope that comes from doing the right thing, or seeing and recognizing the beauty of creation coming to fruition, that is our confirmation. It is also what we are called to be to one another- bearers of hope in a world where everything seems random.

Risen Christ School Here Today: Friends from Risen Christ School, a Sustaining Partner of the SJA Outreach Fund, are in the Welcome Center today with raffle tickets for their upcoming gala on Thursday, April 23. Risen Christ is a wonderful neighbor of SJA, the only Catholic school in Minnesota providing a quality dual language education of Spanish and English to a diverse community of learners. Please stop by and support their efforts.

Weekend Masses are Celebrated at:
5pm Saturday & 7:45am Sunday in the Church
9am & 11am Sunday in the Gym
Family Masses at 9:45am & 11:45am in the Church
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 8
First Communion Registration Meeting, 12:30pm in the gym

Monday, March 9
SAGES 2nd Monday Dialogues, 1:30pm in Hospitality Hall

Tuesday, March 10
8am Mass in the Orleans Chapel

Wednesday, March 11
Soup Supper, beginning at 5pm in Hospitality Hall

Thursday, March 12
8am Mass in the Orleans Chapel

Friday, March 13
Youth Ministry March Madness, 6pm in the gym

Scripture Readings:

Sun, March 8: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matt 17:1-9
Mon, March 9: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tue, March 10: Isaiah 1:10,16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wed, March 11: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thu, March 12: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Fri, March 13: Gen 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a; Matt 21:33-43,45-46
Sun, March 15: Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

Looking Ahead...

Sunday and 11am Gym Masses:

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.

Sunday, March 29: Roll Away the Stone: We Are Alive! Fifth Sunday of Lent. Fr. DeBruycker presiding. Pre-mass Speaker; Jane Cavanaugh. Our own Tim Roehl will share special music.


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

Wednesday, April 8: Seder, 6pm in the gym. RSVP required.

Thursday, April 9: Holy Thursday Mass, 7pm in the gym.

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Services, 3pm & 7pm in the gym.

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 rehearses this Thursday, March 12 at 7pm in the Welcome Center. Preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Let’s make a joyful noise!

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 a great time for the whole family!
- **We Need Soup Makers:** If you can bring soup for any Wednesday during Lent, call the Parish Center to let us know.
- **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 11,** following Soup Supper, join us in the church for a contemplative prayer service with Sofia.
- **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.
- **Our Sunday mornings** will reflect on our theme in our prayers, music and scripture. We hope you will join us!

Cake for Kids: For our Community Service Evening on April 1, we’ll be making birthday bags for the Sabathani food shelf, we are collecting cake mix, frosting and candles. Please bring these items to the church by March 29. FFI contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Thank you, SJA: On Ash Wednesday, our soup supper free will offering received $801 for the Church of Gichitwaa Kateri, in South Minneapolis. We thank Gichitwaa Kateri for their powerful partnerships in the Native American community in our city.

Saint Joan of Arc Holy Week Schedule

April 5, Palm Sunday: 7:45am mass in the church; 9 and 11am gym mass, Passion of Jesus with parishioner readers, gospel singer, Robert Robinson and the SJA Choir. **Family Mass:** 9 and 11am, in the church with the Heart of the Beast Passion project.

April 8, Seder: Ritual Seder Celebration and meal with Klezmer music, 6pm in the gym. Reservations required (612.823.8205)

April 9, Holy Thursday: Special Eucharistic celebration with washing of feet in the gym at 7pm. Choir sings.

April 10, Good Friday: Contemporary Stations of the Cross at 3pm and 7pm in the gym. Cellist Jacqueline Ulan.

April 11, Easter Vigil: 7:30pm mass celebrating our liberation from death to life with baptisms, confirmations. Reception follows.

April 12, Easter Sunday Gym Masses: 7am Sunrise Service with Fr. Cassidy and SJA musicians, 9am with Fr. DeBruycker, Robert Robinson and the SJA Choir. **Family Masses:** 9 and 11am in the church. Eucharistic celebration with Farmer Rick and his baby animals.

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.

LGBTQ Group Happy Hour: All are welcome to join us on March 30 at 4pm at Downtowner Woodfire Grill, St. Paul. Come and meet wonderful fellow SJAners!

Archdiocesan Synod/Prayer Listening Session: Saturday, March 14, 9am - Noon, St. Alphonsus, 7025 Halifax Ave., N., Brooklyn Center.

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.

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)

Next Sunday, March 15: **Sofia - Chambers of the Heart** (Dean Magraw, Carin Vagle, Tim Frantzich)

Sunday, April 26: **Michael Monroe - From My Back Yard**

Christianity 101: All are welcome to join the RCIA candidates on March 18 at 7pm in Hospitality Hall, as they continue on their journey exploring more deeply what it means to be Catholic.

Dr. William McDonough of St. Catherine University will present, Ethics and Conscience, to help us focus on ourselves as a listening church. Let’s discover how our lives together affect our thinking about both church moral teaching and our own moral lives.

Democracy Talks: On March 18, you are invited to join the discussion of Democracy in Chains by Nancy McLean at 1:30pm in the Parish Center. If you haven’t read the book, join us anyway!

Cyril Paul is Turning 90! Join a special tribute to this incredible man and musician who has blessed us for so many years. Open house, Sunday, March 22, 2 - 4pm in the SJA gym. RSVP to Kevin at kfuhrman@fuhrmanmusic.com or 763.427.5604.

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

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<th>Week of February 24 - March 1, 2020</th>
<th>Actual $31,944</th>
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**Year to Date (July 1 – March 1, 2020)**

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<th>Actual $1,476,155</th>
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<td>Prior Year Actual</td>
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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?** 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.

**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, March 12, 6:15 - 8pm, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2914 W 44th St., as Mary Anne Kelly-Wright, retired Pastoral Minister and Director of Religious Education, presents, *What to do with the Stuff.* 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.

**A Collection of Items for Women in Our Community: Today** in the Welcome Center and in the church vestibule, two of our youth are collecting feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and toothbrushes for a local nonprofit. We thank Emma and Maggie for bringing this to us, and we thank all of you for your help!

**Housing Ministry News!**

- **Transforming Our State:** We have collected 400 postcards from SJAers urging our legislators to support funding for affordable housing and supportive services and shelter for those who are homeless in MN. Thank you so much for your participation. The postcards represent almost 30 legislative districts. The numbers of people experiencing homelessness are rising and the cost of rent and home ownership is skyrocketing. We will have additional actions this legislative session to increase our state’s investment in this crisis.

- **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.

**Every Church a Peace Church:** On Monday, March 16, Rep. Ilhan Omar will speak at this gathering of peace churches on *How My Muslim Faith Has Influenced My Activism.* 6:30pm potluck; 7pm presentation, in SJA’s Hospitality Hall. Please join us for this great discussion.

**ISAIAH:** To the 300+ SJAers who attended your precinct caucuses, and to all who are going on to your city and senate district conventions, thank you! Be sure to check out the SJA website for photos of our community members in action at their caucuses. FFI on ISAIAH’s Faith Agenda and our work to create a democracy and an economy that includes everyone, please contact Julie Madden.

**SJA Outreach Fund:** The Outreach Fund is separate from our operating budget, and contributions to the Outreach Fund are not subject to the assessment by the archdiocese. 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.
- Support our Sustaining Partners: Sister Parish, Women Against Military Madness; Arm in Arm in Africa; Mobile Loaves Twin Cities and Risen Christ School
- Award Justice Grants twice yearly to nonprofit organizations in which you are volunteers and leaders. Our next deadline is May 1 - contact Julie Madden for an application.
Faith Formation and Adult Learning

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

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 & 26, May 3, 9 & 10. Make new friends. Learn about music. Give back to your church family. 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.

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 Minneapolis. FFI go to https://www.solecareforsouls.org/get-involved/.

Join the Clare Housing Supper Club, 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. Gourmet skills are not required! FFI, contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

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.

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.

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

First Communion 2020: Parent/Child Registration Meeting meets today, 12:30pm in the gym. Extravaganza Sunday, March 29, 4pm. First Communion celebrations Saturday, April 25 or May 2, 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!

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: Join us for coffee and discussion tomorrow, March 9, 1:30 - 3 pm in Hospitality Hall 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, March 10 & 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!

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. April 15 (3rd Wednesday, due to Seder): Emma by Jane Austen.
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Tues June 2 – Thurs June 4
Take a deep dive into the remarkable stories of biblical women through discussion, story-telling and fun activities.
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