Nadia Bolz-Webber, the outspoken, tattooed Lutheran Pastor and author of *Pastrix: The Cranky Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint* and *Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People*, has an interesting take on being upbraided by her Bishop - yes it does happen in other denominations.

Asked if that bothered her, her response was basically, ‘Yes, but at the same time maybe I’m nuts. How many crazy Sunday mornings TV preachers do you listen to spouting nonsense? Did they start out that way? Probably not, but when you are a denomination of one, who is going to call you to task and say, “You know you might be crazy?”

Nadia is a lot more charitable than I am.

The readings today are about seeing. How do we understand things and make right decisions? Samuel sees each of Jesse’s sons and is convinced that Eliab, or at least one the others, is the chosen one of God…but he is wrong. Finally, in walks David, a good looking teenager, and this is who God picks. Why him?

He has many good qualities, but he also has many shortcomings which will present themselves to us later in his story: there is the heroic David of the Goliath battle and the wicked king who kills a man to obtain his wife. As Bolz-Webber hints at, we often find God in all the wrong people.

Seeing people as who they are is often hard because we are human. We can be noble and crass. Like Paul, we have to keep asking ourselves, “Why do I do the things I don’t want to do?” Today’s Psalm is one of the answers to the question of, “Why David?” The undeniable faith of the Lord as my shepherd is David’s salvation. Like Peter, no matter how much he has sinned, he falls back on the Lord.

The Gospel is the ultimate example of blindness. Sometimes we do not see what we do not want to see. If the power structure sees what really happened, then they would have to believe in Jesus; that would disrupt their power and world. So they try every trick in the book to discredit the blind man. It is a scenario played out by every autocrat who ever was. See what I see or pay the consequences.

What are the stones which block my seeing…the plank in my eye?

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**News from Mobile Loaves Twins Cities:**
- Due to the generosity of so many people, we do not need to collect any more winter items.
- We can use more socks; primarily crew type new socks for men/women/boys/girls.
- Please continue to donate unused travel size hygiene products (no conditioner).
- We need washcloths - any donations would be greatly appreciated.

**Food Shelf Donations Are Needed:** We will continue to accept non-perishable food items. They can be dropped off Monday thru Friday, 9am - 4pm in the bins in the Parish Center entry. Your food offerings are donated to the Foodshelf at Sabathani Community Center each week. Thank you for your willingness to help those in need.

Visit: www.stjoan.com
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, featuring cellist Jacqueline Ullman.

April 11, Easter Vigil: 7:30pm mass celebrating our 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. 11am with Fr. Cassidy, Robert Robinson and the SJA Choir. Family Masses, 9 and 11am in the church. Eucharistic celebration with Farmer Rick and his baby animals

Scripture Readings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun, March 22</td>
<td>1 Sam 16:1b,6-7,10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, March 23</td>
<td>Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, March 24</td>
<td>Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, March 25</td>
<td>Isaiah 7:10-14;8-10; Hebrews 10:4-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, March 26</td>
<td>Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, March 27</td>
<td>Wisdom 2:1a,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, March 28</td>
<td>Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, March 29</td>
<td>Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45</td>
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Looking Ahead...

Sunday and 11 am Gym Masses:


Family Mass at 9 am in the church with Heart of the Beast.


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

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

Week of March 9 - March 15, 2020
- Actual $18,311
- Budget $31,954
- Prior Year Actual $32,385

Year to Date (July 1 – March 15, 2020)
- Actual $1,529,889
- Budget $1,465,218
- Prior Year Actual $1,443,075

Thank You for your continued generosity!

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.
BREATHE...

Take a slow, deep inhale through your nose, allowing your abdomen to expand.
Exhale slowly through your mouth, allowing your abdomen to contract.
Inhale…Exhale.
Inhale…Exhale.

In Fr. DeBruycker’s March 17 SJA Important Announcement, he reminded us that our days are “filled with high anxiety.” Each update about COVID-19 impacts someone we know, the larger community, and ourselves. We are challenged to figure out what’s the best way to keep our families and friends safe, while being mindful that for the wellbeing of ALL, we are to physically distance ourselves from those we love and serve.

The need to cancel liturgies, ministry meetings, and events through March 31, goes against who we are. We come together, in small and large numbers, to be in community, to be support for each other, and to sustain ourselves so we can be our best in the world. Our Sign of Peace are celebrations of our joy of being together. Our communal Lord’s Prayer is an embodiment of our acknowledging the Sacred in each other and ourselves. Our sharing of the Eucharist is our individual, and communal, becoming the body of Christ – a visible grace we cherish.

So, what do we do now in this time of chaos, uncertainty, and fear?

We BREATHE to live, and to calm the anxiety we feel throughout our bodies and minds.
We remember that we can connect with others. Call. Facetime. Text. Email. Zoom or Google Hangout. Write a note.
We remember to take care of ourselves by doing the things that give us life and make us laugh.
We remember there is something we can do to be of support to others. What is yours to do? My dear friend Eric Massanari reminds us that “Social distance” places no limit on the heart’s capacity to be compassionate.”
We remember the immense comfort of Prayer. Pray for others. Pray for yourselves. Pray for our world.
We remember to identify at least two things we are grateful for each day.
And as we actively wait, we remember we are not alone. No matter our physical location, WE are the Beloved Community of St. Joan of Arc!

As a way to pray together each day, I offer the following prayer:

Holy God, ever present with us, we are mindful of these times in which we live.
Uncertainty, anxiety, and fear are present among us, as we listen to and care for one another in these days.
We ask that your peace and healing presence be us – those who are suffering from illness, anxiety, poverty, isolation; for the community of our parish; for those who tend to the ill; for all with whom we are connected as God’s family; for our earth; for hope, and for an ever widening circle of love and compassion.
We ask your guidance and direction as we live out your command to love one another as we are called to love you.
In the name of the one who has called us and prepared us for these challenging days, we pray, Amen. (Based on prayer from The National Officers of the United Church of Christ)

Peace Be with You…
Cynthia Bailey Manns, Adult Learning Director

RESOURCES

www.spiritualityandpractice.com (Spiritual Practices for the Coronavirus Pandemic)
www.fulleryouthinstitute.org (Helping Adolescents Work Through the Rising Tide of Anxiety)
www.ignatianspirituality.com (Coronavirus Response Examen and Lesson)
www.washingtonpost.com (What Happens When College Kids Leave the Nest-And the Coronavirus Sends Them Back)