As I write this, it is the first days of spring and I have more than a little trepidation wishing you a “Happy Spring”. We have just missed 10 inches of snow and another weather nose dive is predicted. I’m just hoping for it to get above freezing by May. Congratulations for making it this far. The tilt of the earth guarantees at least a few warm days ahead.

My Spring 2013 letter was all about fundraising. The Archdiocese’s plans fell through with the accumulating news stories. We, on the other hand, did very well and have some beautiful new bathrooms, and probably bad timing in saying this, renovated air conditioning in the Church and new air conditioning in the Gym. They have yet to be tested and completed because of the inclement weather.

Fingers are crossed as we close in on launching our remodeling of Grace House. Our plan is to have it ready by the end of September. A number of other parish renewal projects are in the planning stages and we will report on them as they begin.

Our Religious and Adult Education staff are already in full planning mode for next year even as we near the end of the current year’s program. It looks like a fun and eventful year coming up. Our SJA parish picnic will be held on May 18 at Fort Snelling State Park and this year will include naturalists to help us know the Fort Snelling area better, new games and maybe even some native American history and story tellers. You will be hearing more about the picnic soon.

Camp St. Joan planning is underway and this year we will take a virtual trip to Ethiopia. Camp director, Therese Pendleton, has been testing native foods on us. There is a lot more information on Camp and you can sign up now on our Web site: www.stjoan.com. Delegations are being planned to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to our Sister Parish in Guatemala.

Of course our great St. Joan of Arc liturgies will continue through the summer and we hope to see you there. The unpredictable weather notwithstanding, I wish you a filled Spring and Blessed Easter time.

~Father Jim DeBruycker
Wednesday, April 23, New Member Dinner: Welcome to the St. Joan of Arc Community! If you've registered as a member since January, you and your family are invited to this fun, informal dinner hosted by staff and volunteers at 6 pm in Hospitality Hall. Registered this past year but were unable to attend a previous dinner ~ join us at this one! RSVP by April 20 to the Parish Center.

Saturday, April 26:
- **Youth Got Talent**: Join us at 7 pm in the Gym for the annual Youth Got Talent show. It's a fun evening with some of SJA's most talented youth. Get ready to laugh, cry with joy and have an overwhelming sense of pride for our young people. All proceeds from the show go to end youth homelessness.
- **Crafting Spirituality**: Enhance your spiritual gift of creativity. Bring your unfinished crafts and explore the pastimes of others. 6 - 10 pm. RSVP to reserve your workspace. $5.
- **Adoptive Families Book Club**: 10 am at Turtle Bread will discuss The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

Monday, April 28, Put Yourself on the Line for Our Earth: At 7 pm in the Parish Center, join our SJA EcoSpirits and guest presenter Pastor Gwin Pratt of St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church. He will share his congregation’s training to join a nationwide movement of nonviolent civil disobedience if the Keystone Pipeline is approved. Is this where the Spirit is leading you? Join us and learn more.

Wednesday, April 30, A Special Vigil: at 5 pm on the Lake St Bridge to mark 15 years of resistance to war and its weapons. Led by our own Marie Braun and featuring special music by the Vagles. FFI contact Julie Madden.

Thursday, May 1:
- **Funeral Planning Workshop**: SAGES and SJA Staff will guide you through liturgy, eulogies, cremation, support, music, and our SJA Memorial Garden at 1:30 pm. RSVP at the Parish Center.
- **Justice Fund Deadline!**: If you volunteer for a great non-profit, please consider applying for a Justice Fund grant from St. Joan of Arc. Go to our website, click on “Peace and Justice” and “St. Joan of Arc Outreach Fund” for our application.

Sunday, May 4: Join our SJA ISAIAH Core Team after the 11:00 Mass in the Parish Center, for coffee and conversation about our work for justice.

Sunday, May 4, June 1, June 6, August 3, #SJAYOUTH Brunch: All adults under forty are welcome to connect beyond Mass at Turtle Bread Company, 4762 Chicago Ave S, after the 11 am Mass.

Friday, May 9, The Mystique of Chocolate with Jackie Witter: Wonderful Women of SJA spring event at 5:30 pm in Hospitality Hall. Hearty hors d’oeuvres and chocolate. Tickets $15; available online beginning April 12.

Mondays, May 12, June 9, July 14 and August 14, Mental Health Ministry: Light supper 5:45 pm; program 6:30 - 8:15 pm. FFI contact Mary Ann at the Parish Center.
- **May 12**: Mental Health Awareness Month. Discussion about stigmas using TPT videos from the Make It Okay campaign.
- **June 9**: Mental Illness and Shame: Rev. Bob Albers leads a discussion on how shame often is a stigma linked to people living with mental illness, family and friends.
- **July 14**: Summer Celebration! A relaxing evening with a picnic supper, fun and entertainment.
- **August 11**: Schools and Mental Illness: Panel discussion on mental health issues and resources in today’s schools.

Tuesday, May 13: Parenting Ministry Founding Meeting: What does an active parenting ministry look like for SJA? Be part of the planning! 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. FFI contact Julie McConaha at jmconaha@stjoan.com or Jennifer Gessner at jgessner@stjoan.com.

Wednesday, May 14: Expectant Family Blessing: Expecting a new arrival in your family? Come and receive a special Blessing for Expectant Families, at 7 pm in the Church, as you wait in anticipation.


Thursdays, May 15 - July 24, TRUST Summer Grief Support Series: Methodist Walker Place, 3701 Bryant Ave South, Minneapolis. Registration, check-in and refreshments 6:15 pm; speaker 6:30 pm, facilitated small groups 7 - 8 pm. (No meeting July 3). FFI contact Norine Larson, 952.925.2437.

Sunday, May 18, Parish Picnic: Be our guests at Ft. Snelling State Park! Mass will be celebrated at 11 am at Shelter A. Lunch served from Noon to 3 pm. You are welcome to bring non-refrigerated snacks or deserts to share. Activities planned for all ages. Reservations required by May 11 on-line at www.stjoan.com or call the Parish Center (612.823.8205). FFI check upcoming bulletins and website.

Monday, May 19: Our own Polly Mann, co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and powerful peacemaker, will speak at SJA for a network meeting of Every Church a Peace Church. Potluck starts at 6:30 pm in Hospitality Hall and Polly will speak at 7 pm.

Tuesday, June 3, Bible Journey I or Wednesday, June 4, Bible Journey II: Let’s study the Bible together. Small groups forming this summer and fall. Choose evenings (Group I) Tuesdays, June 3 – July 29, 6 – 7:30 pm or daytime (Group II) Wednesdays, June 4 – July 30, 8:30 – 10 am. FFI contact Julie at jmconaha@stjoan.com.

Saturday, June 7, SJA Housing Ministry: Join our team of volunteers rehabbing a home in North Minneapolis that will become beautiful and affordable housing for a low-income family. No experience necessary. FFI/to volunteer contact Julie Madden at jamdden@stjoan.com

Wednesday, June 11: The award winning Thief River Falls Lincoln High School Choir (on their way to New York) will present a free concert at 7 pm in the SJA Gym. Bring the entire family!! (free will offering)

June 15 - June 28, Youth in Theology and Ministry: Spend two weeks building leadership skills, friendships and faith! Are you looking for a camp that promotes social justice? Provides prayer experiences? Theological learning? Having fun with friends and building community? YTM is the summer camp for you! For those who have completed grade 9 - 11. $600- deadline May 25. Scholarships available. FFI contact Donelle Poling at dpoling@stjoan.com.

Tuesday, June 17, Open Knit: Whether you are a beginner or an expert knitter, develop your passion while meeting others. We won’t discriminate, crocheters welcome too! 6:30 - 9 pm in the Parish Center. FFI jmcconaha@stjoan.com.

Wednesday, June 25, Prayer Service: We celebrate the many gifts of SJA’s GLBT members. Join our Prayer Partners for this Service of Thanksgiving at 7 pm in the Church.

Saturday, June 28, Binding the Covenant: Faith in Minnesota’s Future: Join a great contingent of SJA parishioners and hundreds of people of faith from ISAIAH’s 100+ member congregations at the Minneapolis Convention Center from 1 - 4:30 pm. We will be launching a civic engagement effort to mobilize participation in the fall elections on behalf of the common good of our state.

July 19 - 25, Sacred Hoop Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation, SD for 9th - 12th graders! Interested in having a meaningful experience, working at various projects across the reservation while learning about the culture, history and spirituality of the Lakota people? Join us on our Mission trip this summer! FFI contact Donelle at dpoling@stjoan.com.

Wednesday, July 23, New Member Dinner: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community welcomes our newest members! If you’ve registered since April, you and your family are invited to an informal dinner hosted by staff and volunteers at 6 pm in Hospitality Hall. Registered this past year but were unable to attend a previous dinner, join us at this one! RSVP by July 20 to the Parish Center.

Sunday, June 29, Bandshell Service: SJA hosts the Summer Bandshell Service at Lake Harriet. Bring the family at 10 am.

July 31 - August 3, Splashfest: Junior High retreat in Wisconsin Dells! Come celebrate faith and friends! Two day water park pass with programming, CLUB, prayer and small group activities in the evening. $225 includes transportation, lodging, water park passes, breakfast and dinner each day. $100 non-refundable deposit due and permission slip by June 15. FFI contact Kelley Deshler.

Friday, August 1: Delegation of SJA parishioners will leave for Guatemala, to share faith and friendship with our Sister Parish family in Tierra Nueva Dos. The delegates return on August 11. Godspeed, safe travels and bring our love to TNII!
Upcoming Gym Mass Highlights

- **April 27:** Our guest speaker will be former U.S. Senator and health care leader Dave Durenberger. Join us for an after Mass discussion with our newly formed network of SJA health care professionals for universal care.
- **May 4:** Special presentation on "The Road to Emmaus" with readings, reflections and incredible music. Don’t miss it!
- **May 11:** Children and Youth Sunday. Join us to celebrate our future - the SJA young people! Children’s Choir will sing. No Family Masses.
- **May 25:** Mission Sunday speakers Dr. Mark and Molly Druffner will share their work with Mission Doctors. A second collection will be taken to benefit this organization.
- **June 1:** Our beautiful Earth Sunday Mass: We celebrate the wonder and beauty of God’s creation. Using visual images, music, poetry and scripture, our musicians and poets tell the cosmic story of this beautiful planet we call home. The SJA Children’s Choir joins the adult choir to celebrate God’s creation! No Family Masses.
- **June 8:** On this Pentecost Sunday the Tibetan monks from Gyuto Wheel of Dharma Monastery will pray the holy spirit into our liturgies.
- **June 15:** Father’s Day at SJA. Our guest speaker is longtime SJA musician (and Woodbury Police Chief) Lee Vague.
- **June 22:** Outreach Sunday! Guest speaker Julie Madden will share the good news of our outreach, and we will be joined in Hospitality Hall by representatives from our SJA CARE Fund; all the organizations awarded Justice Fund grants this past year; and our four Sustaining Partner organizations. Share the good news and enjoy an ice cream sandwich on us!
- **July 20:** Celebrate a World United with our Camp St. Joan children and leaders at the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses.

- **Special Family Mass:** **April 27:** Earth Day Celebration in the Church at 9 and 11 am. Come hear our Children’s Choir lead us in song!

**We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey**