



Holiday 2018

Calendar

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us. -Teresa of Avila

With these words and a special musical meditation we begin Advent Sundays at St. Joan's. This year's Advent wreath-lighting ritual includes witnesses from the community giving testimony to, 'You are exactly where you are meant to be,' as we pray and sing in this season of waiting and watching, of light and hope. Together we journey toward Christmas joy!!

Sunday Gym Liturgies for Advent through Epiphany

- **Sunday, December 2:** *Fr. Jim DeBruycker*. The SJA Choir will "sing in" our Advent season.
- **Sunday, December 9:** *Fr. James Cassidy*. We are visited by the *Tibetan Monks* who will share their prayer chanting.
- **Sunday, December 16:** *Fr. James Cassidy*. *Dean Magraw* will provide our musical meditation.
- **Sunday, December 23:** *Fr. Jim DeBruycker*. The SJA Schola will lead our sung prayer.
- **Sunday, December 30:** *Fr. James Cassidy*. Holy Family Sunday: *Melina Dane Dodson* will share her experience as a translator for families being detained and separated at the U.S./Mexico border.
- **Sunday, January 6:** Feast of the Epiphany: We are once again visited by the award-winning Lincoln High School choir from Thief River Falls under the direction of Darcy Reese.

SJA Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses



Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve Masses

4 pm: *Fr. James Cassidy*: Especially for families in the Gym

4 pm: *Fr. Peter Nosbush* and the SJA musicians in the Church

6 pm: *Fr. James Cassidy* and the SJA Choir in the Gym

10 pm: *Fr. Jim DeBruycker* and the SJA musicians in the Gym

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day Masses

9 am: *Fr. James Cassidy* and the SJA musicians in the Gym

11 am: *Fr. Jim DeBruycker* and the SJA Choir in the Gym

Tuesday, January 1, 10am New Year's Day Mass with *Fr. James Cassidy*. Parishioners will share their hopes for the new year as we begin 2019 together in prayer and song.

The Nursery will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Family Mass/Faith Formation: No Family Mass or Faith Formation classes
Sundays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. Family Mass and classes resume Jan. 6.

The Parish Center Offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 31 & Tuesday, Jan. 1.



Friday, November 30 at 7pm and **Saturday, December 1** at 10am: **SJA's Annual Christmas Musical, *Back to the Manger!*** in the gym. Come join our talented children as they perform this fun musical production to usher in the season.

Family Masses for Advent through Epiphany (9:45am or 11:45am in the church):

- **December 2:** On the First Sunday of Advent, we have a tale about the community of birds present at the Nativity who share the special message of the Baby Jesus. The Children's Choir performs *A Song of Peace*.
- **December 9:** On the Second Sunday of Advent, to help us prepare the way, three animals speak about how they prepare for the darkness of winter, which is not an end but the way a New Beginning comes.
- **December 16:** On the Third Sunday of Advent, we tell the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus as refugees in a strange land, seeking protection and the kindness of strangers. The Children's Choir performs *There Is a Child*.
- **January 6:** On Epiphany, we hear the adventures of Nathan, servant to Balthazar, who comes to share his story of a great escape and a miraculous birth.

Sunday, December 2:

- **SJAunder40(ish)**, 12:30pm in the Welcome Center.
- **Sign a Christmas card** to families in immigration detention and let them know they are remembered. Stop by our Welcome the Stranger table after mass.

Monday, December 3, Addiction Resources Gatherings, 7 - 8:30pm in Parish Center. Grief & Loss.



Tuesday, December 4: *Home for the Holidays: How to Talk with My Family*. Our SJA Antiracism ministry invites you to explore how we talk with loved ones when we have wildly different views and beliefs. 7pm in Hospitality Hall.

Wednesday, December 5, Expectant Family Blessing Service at 7pm in the church. Come, all who are expecting the arrival of a new family member through birth or adoption and receive a special blessing of support and comfort in this time of waiting.

Sunday, December 9:

- **Advent Evensong Reconciliation Service:** A prayer service of forgiveness will be celebrated in our candlelit church at 4pm with music from the SJA Schola, reflections from our Pastor and Prayer Partners, and a reconciliation ritual. Quiet your hearts as we prepare for Christmas and the joy of Jesus' birth again!
- **Our EcoSpirits** will share info on home composting, trash reduction and use of plastics following the 11am mass in the Arc.



Monday, December 10, SAGES 2nd Monday Dialogues, 1:30 – 3pm in Hospitality Hall. *Dementia by Dementia Friends* with Ann Dunagan. All are welcome!

Tuesday, December 11, Scripture Matters, 7 – 9 pm in the Parish Center. Join us for a review of *Infancy Narratives*: 2 narratives from the Bible and some birth stories from various references that group members bring for sharing. Come for an evening of snacks and lively conversation.

Wednesday, December 12:

- **SAGES Christmas Mass and Luncheon:** Join us at 11:30am for Mass in the church, followed by a traditional turkey dinner, music, and door prizes in Hospitality Hall. All Seniors are welcome. RSVP to the Parish Center by Monday, Dec. 10 at 11am.
- **Parish Book Club**, 6:30 – 8pm in the Parish Center. *Christmas Day in the Morning* by Pearl Buck

Sunday, January 6: The MN Literacy Project, will have a table after mass with info on volunteer opportunities.



Monday, January 7: SJA LGBTQ Group Happy Hour, 4pm, at Boca Chica restaurant. All are welcome!

Holiday Volunteer and Giving Opportunities:

- **Project Kateri:** To donate items needed by families in the homeless encampment, contact Mary Ellen at 763.535.7241.
- **Christmas with Dignity:** Volunteers needed for this program (SJA Justice Grant recipient), in which low-income families can purchase gifts for children at 10% of cost. To volunteer, contact Paula Larsen at paulaannelarsen@gmail.com or 763.228.2493.
- **Jesse Tree Gift Collection:** Pick up gift requests from the trees outside of the Church and in the Welcome Center. We are collecting for children at People Serving People, and the American Indian Center Golden Eagles Project, and adults at PPL Cabrini Partnership. Bring **unwrapped** gifts back to where you picked up your gift tag **by Dec. 9**.