PASTOR
Rev. Raymond Sacca
DEACON
Rev. Mr. John Durden
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
Bob Cummings

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Parish staff will be checking email and voicemail messages on a daily basis.

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, all public Masses are suspended. To view streamed Masses on demand, please log on to our St. Joan of Arc website at www.sjasr.org and click on “Shelter at Home Resources”

Communal Anointing of the Sick
Temporarily suspended

EUCHARIST
TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND
If you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist at home, contact the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION
Check parish website

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL
Open 24 hours (at this time, please limited to three people at a time).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Temporarily suspended

PRAY THE ROSARY
Temporarily suspended

FOR THE RIDE HOME & INTO THE WEEK: “He is Risen!”

Adults: What area in your life has experienced new hope, or a new resurrection? Relationships? Your prayer life? A renewed faith?

Kids: How can you share joy of Easter - Christ’s resurrection - with your friends? Can you do something extra for someone this week?
OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE  2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  San Ramon, CA  94583

Phone:   925 830-0600  Fax:   925 830-5059
Email:   ParishOffice@sjasr.org  Website:  www.sjasr.org
Realm:  https://onrealm.org/sjasr  FORMED:  https://sjasr.formed.org
Hours:  The Parish Office is temporarily closed until further notice.

Rev. Raymond Sacca  x223  rsacca@sjasr.org
Deacon John Durden  x223  jdurden@sjasr.org
Bob Cummings - Pastoral Associate  x221  bcummings@sjasr.org
Wendy Bankson - Office Administrator  x221  wbankson@sjasr.org
Raymond Figueroa- Ministry & Comm.  x228  rfigueroa@sjasr.org
Janet Magtoto - IT and Administration  x243  jmagtoto@sjasr.org
John Cummings - Facilities Plant Manager  x232  jcummings@sjasr.org
Barbara Pinto-Choate - Music Director  x227  barbarapc@sjasr.org

FAITH FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

Phone:  925 830-4710
Mary Machi - Director  x244  mmachi@sjasr.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Phone:  925 830-0600
Rosemarie McKenney - Director  x248  rmckenney@sjasr.org
Maureen Tiffany - RCIA  x222  mtiffany@sjasr.org

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE  Grades 7 - 12

Phone:  925 830-4720
YouthMinistry@sjasr.org
Mary Machi - LIGHT (high school)  x244  mmachi@sjasr.org
Gina Camp - Confirmation and EDGE (7-8 grade)  x233  gcamp@sjasr.org
Michelle Cooke- Office Administrator  x234  mcooke@sjasr.org

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION  Pre-School - Grade 6

Phone:  925 830-4710
CFF@sjasr.org
Mary Machi - Children’s Sacraments  x244  mmachi@sjasr.org
Marie Pena - Office Administrator  x230  mpena@sjasr.org

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM  Held Sundays. Please allow 8 weeks for preparation. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

CONFIRMATION  Preparation for teens begins in grade nine. Contact the Youth Ministry Office. Adults, over 18, contact Maureen Tiffany at 830-0600.

MARRIAGE  The bride, the groom or their parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joan of Arc. The couple must also meet with a priest at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

ANointing of the Sick  For anyone experiencing chronic illness or preparing for medical treatment, surgery, long-term care, etc., please call the Parish Office to arrange an appointment with a priest. Anointing is also celebrated in the communal form on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9 AM Mass.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)  For individuals interested in becoming Catholic, and for adult Catholics who have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, contact the Parish Office.

“the Sacraments are the manifestation of the Father’s tenderness and love towards each of us.”

~Pope Francis

PREPARE FOR MASS

Read the readings before you come to Mass. The daily readings can be found in many places, including:
• page three of the bulletin
• online at www.usccb.org
• on the Catholic phone app Laudate

RESOURCES FOR YOU

SJASR.FORMED.ORG - free Catholic movies and books.

Join Realm, our parish communication system for the latest parish news, group and ministry updates, and service opportunities. If you’d like to join Realm, please contact Ministry and Communications Coordinator Raymond Figueroa at rfigueroa@sjasr.org or send your request via the parish website.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information changes please notify the Parish Office.

RESOURCES TO ASSIST YOU WITH A STRUGGLE YOU MAY BE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING

Autism and Special Needs Support
Sue Walsh  sbwjobs1@mac.com

Chronic Illness or Ongoing Medical Condition Prayer Group
Parish Office  925 830-0600

Divorce and Separated Support
Sue Pieraccini  925 819-1809
smc9@sbcglobal.net

Grief
Susan Fusselman  925 830-1737
sunshine_suzy@perrytool.com

Financial Needs
St. Vincent de Paul
Leave message at office:  925 830-0600

General Social Service Needs
Addiction, Domestic Violence, Education and more. Pick up the Faith in Action Catholic Social Services Directory in the vestibules or go to faithinactionoakdiocese.org

Job Support
Rosemarie McKenney  925 830-0600
rmckenney@sjasr.org

LGBT (for individuals/family members)
Tim Corcoran  925 963-3859
sja.LGBTQ@gmail.com

Marriage Trouble - Get Hope
HelpOurMarriage.com
www.sjasr.org/MARRIAGE

Resources Directory in the vestibules or go to faithinactionoakdiocese.org

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www.sjasr.org/MARRIAGE
MAS SCHEDULE, READINGS AND INTENTIONS

We strive to accurately record the names for the Mass intentions. We apologize for any errors. In addition, due to the various liturgical observances, Feast Days, and visiting clergy, it is not always possible to announce the Mass intention. However, be assured that the presiding priest is aware of the Mass intention and remembers them during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Saturday, April 11:
Readings for Easter Vigil
7:00 PM  Members of St Joan of Arc

Sunday, April 12: (Easter Sunday)
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9; or Mt 28:1-10
10:00 AM Live streamed Mass offered for:
Frank Barry+, John Francis Cotaoco+, Kumar Jayasuriya +, Members of St Joan of Arc, and Dobson Clan

Monday, April 13:
Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
9:00 AM  Ed & Eve Cummings +

Tuesday, April 14:
Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
9:00 AM  Helen Block +

Wednesday, April 15:
Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
9:00 AM  Dr. John R. Walsh +

Thursday, April 16:
9:00 AM  Johnny Alcazar +
Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday, April 17:
9:00 AM:  Morni William Cua +
Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday, April 18:
Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15
7:00 PM  Members of St Joan of Arc

Sunday, April 19:
Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31
10:00 AM Live streamed Mass offered for:
Donald J. Newpower+, Julie Disch+, Corine Orquioila, June Chandler

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

Palm Sunday

Entrance: All Glory, Laud, and Honor  St. Theodulph
Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Renewal  Stephan
Prayers of the Faithful: Taize Berthier
Presentation & Preparation of the Gifts: You Alone  Hart
Mass Parts: Mass of Renewal  Stephan
Communion: Do This in Memory of Me  Muglia
Reposition: O Sacrament Most Holy  Fulda
Sending:: Jesus, Remember Me/Drums  Berthier

LOVED ONES WHO ARE DECEASED:  FREDDY MANUEL

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE IN NEED OF PRAYER?

+ Submit a prayer request through the prayer boxes in each vestibule or send an email to PrayStJoan@yahoo.com. If desired, a card can also be sent telling of our prayers for your friend or loved one.

+ Request a Prayer Shawl  The EDGE Prayer Shawl ministry makes & prays over Prayer Shawls for recipients. Request forms available in vestibules or contact Gina at 830-4720 or gmccormick@sjasr.org

LOVED ONES WHO ARE SICK

Those added this week are in red.

Margaret Abbott           Elizabeth Magno
Paddy Allen              Angela Malit
Danielle Allison         Fernando Manuntang, Sr.
Heston Arroyo            Dorothy Mariscal
Evelyn Asper             Alex Media
Kathy Barnard            Aurora Mercado
Christy Bartolome        Linda Mertes
Janet Bertolero          Carlos Moralejo
Reyka Best               MaryAnn Moran
Emma Bueno               Greg Morris
Davis Bullock            Joseph Nguyen
Roseno Cagara            Penny Candelaria
Penny Candelaria         Lolita Ortu
Cristobal Family         Robert Otto
Harriet Allen            Todd and Verla Ann Pelley
John Cryer               Mary Pham
Lisa Davis               Judy Quadraccia
Barbara Digiorio         Gary Rudolfi
Vivian Eng               Audrey Schumacher
Armando Fernandez        Mehesh Shah
Larry Fisher             Charles J. Sickels
Allison Flamez           Donny Garber
Charles J. Sickels       Ron Giblin
Connie Gleeson           June Smith
Barbara Gormaly          Luke Souza
Iris Gonzalez            Trish Sorensen
Maria T. Grande          Maricel Soriano
Barbara Gray             Sadiki Stalo
Rosalina Jazmin          Philip Sullivan
Eric Johannsen           Thomas Sullivan
Hailey Joseph            Anne Marie Tassone
Robert Tornberg          Don Giblin
Deloris Kahn             Kate Tionson
Stephen Kasa            Doiyes Torres
David Katreeb           Rene Torres
Maureen and Delmar Kolda        Stella Torres
Mary Lenihan             Robert Turner
Shum Leung               Bob Vailon
Ted Lim                  Raquel Villon
Veronica Lim             Mary Vnensak
Margaret Linderman       Peter Wilson
Aurelio Liwag            Kelli & Kevin Yamashita
Daryll London            Nathan Joseph Young
Missy Lutz               Merry Yuhico Lim

PRAYERS

LOVED ONES WHO ARE SICK

Freddy Manuel
Masses and Services update during “Shelter in Place” directive

Masses:
Public Masses are suspended until further notice. Daily Mass is being celebrated privately by Fr. Ray Sacca for the Mass intentions of the day, and is available for streaming on demand on our parish website. Click on "St. Joan of Arc Shelter at Home Resources." Similarly, Sunday Mass will be available on demand for streaming.

Holy Week Streamed Masses on-demand:
- Holy Thursday (The Lord’s Supper): 7 p.m.
- Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, meditative prayer and music: 12-3 p.m.
  Evening Service of the Passion of the Lord: 7 p.m.
- Easter Vigil Mass: 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Mass: 10 a.m.

Parish Office:
The Parish Office is closed until further notice. Staff will be checking voice mail and email messages daily (send your email message to wbankson@sjasr.org).

Prayer:
The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open 24/7. Occupancy is limited to three people at a time. Please use the sanitizing wipes after your visit.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Fr. Ray will be hearing Confessions on Fridays at 5:00 p.m.
Please proceed to the glass doors near the statue of St. Joan of Arc, where you will find a chair. Fr. Ray will be on the other side of the glass door. Please be mindful of the need for privacy for the penitent and maintain a respectful distance from one another as recommended by the County Health Authority.

Anointing of the Sick:
The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is offered to anyone in danger of death. Please call the parish office at 925-830-0600 and follow the prompts, which will connect you to a priest.

Baptism:
The Sacrament of Baptism is limited to those with an urgent pastoral need.

Giving:
At this time, we realize that for some, finances are in flux. Please give what you can. For more specifics on giving during the closure, Office Manager Wendy Bankson (wbankson@sjasr.org) offers three convenient ways to give:

- Go to www.sjasr.org and click on Online Giving; (near the bottom of the webpage). You can set up one-time donations or choose the frequency that works best for you.
- Login to your REALM account, click on Giving, and click on Enter online gift; you can set up one-time donations or choose the frequency that works best for you.
- Send any checks donations to:
  St. Joan of Arc Church
  2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
  San Ramon, CA 94583

Please be sure to specify where you would like your donations to go if you are not using regular offertory envelopes.

The Easter Octave
Sunday, April 5 - Sunday, April 12, 2020

Eastertime lasts fifty days: seven weeks of seven days (seven equals Biblical perfection) plus one day: perfection plus! Like an eight-day Jewish wedding, or a child who can’t bear to let go of Christmas, birthdays, and school vacation, the Church celebrates the Easter Octave: “the marriage of heaven and earth,” as the Vigil calls Jesus’ resurrection; our new members’ baptismal rebirth; our renewal of baptismal vows; our hearts’ “divine vacation” (Latin vacare, “to be empty”), newfound time and space for love of God and neighbor. Make home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your “paschal candle”), a bowl full of water (ideally, from the parish’s baptismal font), a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even non-singers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): “Be known to us, Risen Lord Jesus, as You were to the first disciples, in Your word, in the breaking of bread, and in everyone we meet.”

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Seeds of Faith

There is a brevity, a certain terseness, in the scripture readings for Easter Sunday. Peter’s speech in Acts is built of direct, pointed sentences. Paul’s letters are based on straightforward creed-like statements. Even the Gospel story only briefly recounts what will turn out to be one of the most remarkable events in human history—the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Advertising agents call these encapsulated points of information “bullet points.” Scripture scholars call them *kerygmata*, or “kernels” of our faith. Actually, “kernels” or “seeds” are good terms for these statements, since throughout the Easter season, we will hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, and the Gospel accounts of the days following the Resurrection exactly how these *kerygmata* began to flower, how they continued to grow through the life of the early church. May these Easter “seeds” of faith serve a similar purpose for us, too, so that the life of the Risen Christ will flourish in us and through our witness in the coming days.

Virtual Workshop on the Eucharist in April

In the month of March, we had to cancel our half-day workshop on the Eucharist, but now we are pleased to announce that Chris Cavalier, the workshop Facilitator, is offering an abbreviated 90 minute virtual workshop on **Sunday, April 19th at 1:30 p.m.**

Check your electronic newsletter sent via Flocknote for additional log-in instructions.

Catholic Relief Services Update

**Opportunity to Dream:** Young people must be provided good nutrition to be able to pursue their dreams. Did you have the opportunity to dream? What can you do to give young people the opportunity to dream? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

**During this Shelter in Place order,** in lieu of using the CRS Rice Bowls, we strongly encourage you to donate directly to CRS by visiting their website at www.crsricebowl.org/ When the church re-opens for public worship, we will accept your rice bowl donations at the Parish Office, and will forward them to CRS.

**Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way; BUT NEVER forget the blessings that come each day.**

Spiritual Act of Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if
You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Special Observances and Saints

**Sunday:** Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord;
Julian Calendar Palm Sunday
**Monday:** Monday within the Octave of Easter
**Tuesday:** Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
**Wednesday:** Wednesday within the Octave of Easter;
Income Tax Day
**Thursday:** Thursday within the Octave of Easter
**Friday:** Friday within the Octave of Easter;
Julian Calendar Good Friday
**Saturday:** Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Prayers for our military

Keep in prayer our brave parishioners, relatives and friends of our parish family who are in service to their country in the Armed Forces abroad: **Ben Young, Megan Harkins, Joe McAndrews and Benjamin Phillips.**

We ask the Lord to keep them safe from harm and pray for their families while they are far from home. To add a name to this list, please email rfigueroa@sjasr.org

**Save the Date: Morning with Mary Retreat:** Saturday, May 16, 2020. For more information, or to help plan the day, please contact Liz Mooring at lizmooring@gmail.com or call 925-336-1105.
Loving God,

We, the people of the St. Joan of Arc community, turn to You in prayer, confident that You are with us and with all people in every moment.

We stand before You as people of hope and joy, trusting in Your care and protection. May Your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

Our hope springs from the knowledge that just as this virus is spreading throughout the world, so too is prayer and goodness spreading because the power of prayer to You is infinite. Our union in prayer with Your Son, Jesus Christ, is our act of faith in You and Your goodness. We know You will send a flood of grace and consolation for those who suffer.

God of Peace,

We are frightened and we are sorrowful. Please calm us. Send us Your peace and overwhelming presence.

Grant us peace in our households, where we are sheltering in place, some of us working remotely, others without work, many looking for ways to spend their time. Comfort the lonely, who may be isolated, living alone during this time.

God Who has a plan for each of us,

Help us to LEARN what You want us to learn.

Help us to DO what You want us to do during this time.

Help us to CHANGE what You want us to change.

Help us to GROW in the ways You want us to grow.

Teach us, Abba, to use this time wisely for Your purpose.

God Who gave us the Eucharist,

This time without Mass and the celebration of the Eucharist has made us hunger for You, Jesus.

Help us to experience the gift of Spiritual Communion.

And teach us to cherish the amazing gift that being able to celebrate Mass and receive Your Eucharist every Sunday and any weekday has been for us.

We pray that these privileges will return to us very soon and that we will receive You with renewed joy and appreciation.

Join us as we pray in virtual community every morning and evening: https://tinyurl.com/SJA-Novena

Generous God,

Fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Give us eyes to see how we can love and serve Your children well. Help us to be creative in finding ways to unite with others, even as we shelter in place.

May those who have died rest in Your eternal embrace. Comfort their family and friends. Bless the workers who carry out essential services to respect the dead and prepare their bodies for their final earthly resting place. Touch the hearts of our leaders, especially those in healthcare and government. Give them wisdom, that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. Reveal Yourself to them and instill in them a sense of love, mercy, fairness, generosity, reason, caution and good judgment. Help them to trust in You.

Teach Your people patience and understanding towards those who sometimes have to make difficult choices on behalf of others, the consequences of which are not always clear. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe.

Merciful God,

Have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to You today with our fears and concerns -- You know our hearts. We love You, we trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

Give us the grace to forgive others as You forgive us, swiftly, completely and with love. Make us be ever people, more and more like You each day, during this time.

Healing God,

We know You are the Divine Physician, the healer of all, so we ask that You bring Your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Please be with the most vulnerable now among us. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.
You once traveled through towns and villages healing every disease and sorrow. At the sound of Your voice, the afflicted were set free. By the power of Your Most Holy Name, grant us healing and protection from all sickness of body and soul. By the merits of Your precious blood deliver and defend us from every evil.

Place Your Holy Spirit at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others. Bless them with the courage to do what they need to do to care for Your children. Strengthen and protect them and all who work in our medical facilities.

Grant them knowledge, patience, tact and compassion to enable them to provide the best care possible. Inspire them to find soothing words and comforting gestures and provide support and friendship.

Prompt patients to understand the often difficult life of doctors and nurses and encourage them to minimize their requirements and whims in order to make the lives of their medical staff a little easier and to avoid unnecessarily increasing their burden. Also, inspire patients to express their admiration and gratitude for work that the medical profession carries out every day.

**God of the meek, the humble, the outcast**

So many people around the world are suffering as their means of support are taken away. Some have been homeless before this virus and many more are becoming homeless. Some have been living in care facilities and can no longer receive visitors; care may be lessened due to workers there being ill, themselves. Some have been trafficked and depend on captors whose means and willingness to feed and shelter them may be disappearing and some are becoming victims of crimes due to these times.

We ask for Your special comfort and care for these special souls: the homeless, the trafficked, the lonely, the downtrodden, the vulnerable, the victimized, the exploited. Let them feel Your strong and loving arms around them. Give them peace and guide them to find a way to care for themselves.

Guide us, too, God. Show us the way to do our part to care for these special souls.

Enable us to care for each other in ways that limit the spread of this virus. Teach us, God, to love each other the way You care for us. Please give all of us the self-control to avoid exploiting this situation and other people for our own benefit.

**Dear God, Who commissioned us to be Your Church,**

We ask You, during these difficult days, to be more aware of our individual and collective fragility and to inspire us, Your Church, to welcome all in its loving embrace. You, Who, even in the middle of thunderstorms, watch over Your Church, lead our mission and give it Your breath, bless us for eternity.

Bless Your priests, pastors, deacons and lay Church leaders: with Your company to fight the loneliness of being isolated from their communities; with courage to overcome their fears; with confidence in their vocations and the importance of their prayers and works; with assurance of Your love and the love of their flocks.

Make us new, God, in Your image. Bring us a New Pentecost that will embolden us to bring more and more souls to You. Help us to love Your children as You do, seeing all the potential You have bestowed on each and every one of us.

**God of creation and life,**

We place ourselves in Your protection. Keep our children safe. Guide us to give our children and grandchildren virtuous examples of how faithful people deal with extraordinary times like these. Breathe new life into our families, our communities and our world ... new life that honors and obeys You, our Creator. May the mantle of Your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.

**At this time, we lift up our special intentions to You.**

[Mention your special intentions to God. Then pray the day’s Intercession on www.sjasr.org/parish-novena.]

**We appeal to Special Intercessors,**

Mother Mary, un-doer of knots, please pray for the knot of this virus to be undone for the greater glory of God. Be a mother to us now, and always. [See www.sjasr.org/parish-novena for the day’s Intercessor.]

St Joan of Arc, pray for us. St. Joseph, pray for us.

All the saints of God, pray for us. Amen.
VBS WEEK
JUNE 15TH - JUNE 19TH

TEEN LEADERS: 8:30AM TO 12:45PM
SIGN-UP AT bit.ly/SJAVBSteesens
CAMPERS: 9:00 AM TO 12:15 PM

Young Neighbors in Action

High School Teens are invited to attend a week-long mission trip, July 5th through July 10th, in Walnut Creek. Perform meaningful service, learn about social issues and grow in your faith. Cost is $575

Forms available at http://www.sjasr.org/youth-ministry/light/

Steubenville NorCal-RESTORED

High School Teens (including incoming freshmen) are invited to join over 1000 teens for inspiring talks, fabulous music and small group activities. Event is located at Concord Hilton, July 31st-Aug 2nd. Cost is $250

Forms available at http://www.sjasr.org/youth-ministry/light/
ST. JOAN OF ARC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!  
JUNE 15-19  
9 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.  

VBS is open to PRESCHOOLERS - 4 & 5 year olds who have not yet started Kindergarten and to CAMPERS who are incoming Kindergarten thru 6th grade. (Yes, we have a VBS preschool program!)  

FEE: $75 per child  

Visit our website (www.sjasr.org) to see instructions on how to register online OR stop by the Children’s Faith Formation Office to fill out forms and make payments.  

Questions? Email us at CFF@sjasr.org  

Gospel Reading  
John 20:1-9  
Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.  

Family Connection  
In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.  

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.  

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”
Dear Father Ray,

As I sat in mass listening to your talk on the Law of the Gift and seeing envelopes in your hand, I immediately thought you might be handing out something to pass on to others. I have heard from some of my Christian friends that their pastor has done this at their church. I was surprised and overwhelmed to hear someone in the parish had donated 10 envelopes of $100 to each to every mass. I couldn’t help but think what a wonderful heart that person has.

I’m typically more shy and reserved and would not want to volunteer so quickly especially having to walk up to the alter but I was really moved by the Holy Spirit to take an envelope. I had many ideas running through my mind but really, none I thought, would be worthy of the Law of the Gift.

My first action was to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom in sharing this money. My second action was to discuss this event at church with my husband and adult children. They all gave me suggestions as to what I should do with my $100. Whatever I did with the money I wanted to make sure not only the receivers of the gift but others would benefit by it as well. With the help of the Holy Spirit and talking to my husband I decide to give $50 to a gentleman friend of mine who lives in Richmond. I work with John at a soup kitchen at the Baptist Mission church on Barrett street. He is a kind, hard-working and God loving man and does not have much financially. He cleans and keeps the kitchen tidy as the ladies prepare the soup. The other $50 I gave to my husband so that he could share the Law of the Gift with someone. He decided to share his money with the elderly at Saint Mary’s center in Oakland. This led my husband and I to think we wanted to spread this giving into something more than the $100 I was given.

We decided to give our son Tyler and daughter in-law Jasmine each $100 to spread giving in NYC where they live. We gave our daughter Stephanie and her boyfriend Alex $100 each as well. They live in San Francisco and we wanted to see how they would spread kindness in the city. We then gave our youngest daughter Madaline and her boyfriend Matt $100’s for each to spend as well.

They all said it was a big responsibility to spend the money with wisdom and kindness. The family spread their kindness to fire victims, (our son and daughter-in-law doubled their donation to the family who lost their house in a fire) the homeless, city bus drivers, the humane society, children in need and to random people in the drive through line of McDonalds and more.

It has been a great lesson in prayer, wisdom, charity, joy, generosity, love and kindness. It has made me think of others before myself and what would make them happy. It has allowed me to see my children and how they also can become generous kind and loving through this experience as Jesus Christ is with us. This experience has allowed us to begin to notice people in need in our life and find ways to help. It can be a family member, co-worker, neighbor or just someone you see on street. It can be someone who is poor, rich, sick or just having a bad day.

I am thankful to the parishioner who donated this $100 bill to help open my eyes and heart to be more aware of those in need financially and spiritually and to be Christ for others as Christ is for me. I think this is a new family tradition that we will continue to do each Christmas! Blessings,

Nanette Renzi

When you handed out the ten $100 bills in envelopes, Diane coaxed me to step up and take one of the envelopes. We had the idea to take our cue from Scripture, when the master gave talents to his servants and expected ·them to do something worthwhile with them.

On the way home from Mass, Diane and I discussed what we would do with our gift. We decided to return the gift five-fold to those who needed it most.

Diane had previously donated a large sum to purchase a well in Uganda for a village that desperately needed fresh water. She wanted to donate once again to Wells of Life. I have always fought for the right to life of the unborn. My choice was to donate to 40 Days for Life. At the time, the National 40 Days for Life organization was offering matching funds for a donation.

We each put in $200 of our own, and divided the $500 equally between Wells of Life and 40 Days for Life. Both of these charities are doing God’s work - and we feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to help promote the quality of life for those they serve. Thank you for all you do for our parish and for your support of the Knights of Columbus.

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