When I began writing this article last week, it was the same week Fr. Frank was on vacation. While the workload was not much different than other weeks and Fr. Greg at St. Joan of Arc is a big help, it did get me thinking. How are we going to do daily Masses, school Masses, and funeral Masses when we have three parishes and only two priests?

It’s not like I didn’t know this situation was coming, but the blunt reality of it hit me pretty hard this week for some reason. So, being the problem solver that I am, I started considering some different scenarios. Answers were not coming easily. The puzzle really distracted me even during my quiet prayer time in the morning. I wish I could say God gave me an answer and I solved the puzzle, but He didn’t. Rather, I was beginning to envision all the conversations about who gets what Mass, when, and where. I became very discouraged. I began to envision all the difficult and possibly heated discussions with parishioners about what is fair for each parish. I even began to imagine a strange competition among neighboring parishes for retired or resident priests to live at their rectories so that a parish would not have to change its Mass schedule. I began to envision a very siloed church made up of financially competing parishes, competing for parishioners and money. It’s a scene that would make Jesus roll over in his tomb if He hadn’t already risen from the dead, of course.

Every pastor faces this dilemma. When you change your Mass schedule, you risk making parishioners mad and losing them. When you lose parishioners, you lose revenue; and when you lose revenue, you risk losing programs, ministries, and extra capitol for building improvements. At the heart of it for most pastors though, is that we risk being a failure, or at least looking like one to others. Yes, because we are human and sometimes not very holy, we pastors often find comfort in our self-importance and false sense of success.

So maybe God did give me an answer. Turns out, the puzzle I was trying to solve was how to make everyone happy, which is impossible. And it turns out, that’s not my task as pastor. My task is to ensure that the word of God is proclaimed in a compelling and effective manner, that the sacraments are reasonably available to all those within our parish boundaries, and that our parishioners join in the mission of reaching more people for Jesus Christ so that more people know that Jesus Christ is within reach. Whatever decisions are made, whether it be about Mass schedules, personnel, or programs, they have to be based on what is best for the whole and not just what is “fair” for a particular parish. We are in this together as a family of parishes. Every parish will have a part to play, but not every parish will have the same part to play.

The real puzzle to solve here at our Midtown Catholic parishes has nothing to do with Mass schedules but has everything to do with how to achieve our ultimate mission to “go and make disciples.” This is what success looks like.
Liturgical Ministers
May 15, 2021 and May 16, 2021

EMHCs
5:00 pm - Bill Harden
8:00 am - Mary Beth Branscombe
10:30 am - Valerie LaCrosse

Lectors
John McKinstra
Steve Branscombe
Valerie LaCrosse

Calendar of Events

Monday, May 10
7:00 pm  SwDp Conference Meeting

Tuesday, May 11
8:00 am - 8:00 pm  City of Omaha General Election

Wednesday, May 12
6:00 pm  Ascension Thursday Vigil Mass

Thursday, May 13
8:30 am  Ascension Thursday Mass

Friday, May 14
6:00 pm  Coleman/Paskach Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, May 15
2:00 pm  Coleman/Paskach Wedding

Sunday, May 16
11:30 am  Quilts will be blessed after the 10:30 am Mass
Quilts will be on display until 1:00 pm
in the Social Hall

SJA St. Vincent De Paul Conference
“Our SJA St. Vincent DePaul Conference will be having our first post-covid meeting on May 10th at 7:00 pm in the 1st floor Teachers’ Lounge. In addition to our regular meeting, we will be seeking new members 21 years of age or older who would have some time during the day to call, with a current member, on a client in our parish area when necessary. Also on the agenda will be volunteers for open officer positions. All interested, please come.”

- Bill Bayer, Treasurer, 402.819.1700

Special Mass for Vocations - Monday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m.
The Serra Club of West Omaha invites you to join us for Holy Mass on Monday, May 17, at 5:30 PM at the JPII Newman Center, 1221 S. 71st Street in Omaha to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life within the Archdiocese of Omaha. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Frank Baumert. Immediately following Mass, we invite you to attend our brief Meeting & Mixer. Rev. Patrick Moser, Associate Pastor at St. Patrick in Elkhorn, will speak to us about The Beauty of Serving “in Persona Christi”: My First Three Years as a Priest. Youth discerning a religious vocation are encouraged to attend. Parents and all the faithful are welcome to attend and enjoy light refreshments with us. For questions, contact John Lin- go, Serra VP, 402-290-4670 or John@JLingoLaw.com.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mass Attendance</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2021</td>
<td>1,469</td>
<td>$37,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2021</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>$33,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2020</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$31,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2020</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$39,600</td>
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SAINT JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

PARISH PERSONNEL
Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Lorig
402-556-1456, ext. 207
Email: jplorig@archomaha.org
Senior Associate Pastors:
Rev. Greg Benkowski
Rectory 402-393-8918
Rev. Frank Baumert
Cell 402-677-1565
Deacon Ron & Julie Ryan
402-551-4330
Deacon Tim & Ruth Leininger
402-731-7474
Parish Business Manager
Martha N. Saettele
402-393-2005, ext. 4
Bulletin Editor: Linda Boyer
Email: bulletin@sjaomaha.org
School Principal: Kayleen Wallace
Secretary, Renae Vorland
402-393-2314, ext 3
Fax 402-393-4405
Religious Education: Jennifer Muckey
Email: jennifermuckey@gmail.com
Athletic Director: Dylan & Beth Biros
402-210-5407
Email: sjasports@yahoo.com
Prayer Assistance Line
Melinda Kenton 402-390-9470
Kim Large: prayer@sjaomaha.org
Holy Communion to Homebound
Deacon Tim 402-731-7474
Food for The Francis House
Mary Kentch 402-593-8703
Funerals: Please call the Parish Office

SACRAMENTS
Baptism
Contact Patty at St. Thomas More Office, 402-556-1456, or psettles@stm.omhcoxmail.com
3 months prior to baptism.
Marriage
Please call Fr. Lorig at least 9 months in advance for date and instruction information.
Always verify priest and church availability before reserving reception venue.
Penance
Saturdays, 4:00-4:50 pm.
Anytime by appointment

Mass/Confession Times at St. Thomas More
Monday - Friday: 7:00 am
Saturdays: 8:00 am & 5:00 pm
Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:30 am
(Note: 10:30 am Mass is livestreamed via stmomaha.org)
Confessions on Saturdays: 4pm-4:40 pm

500 Confraternity
May 9, 2021 - Mike & Ruth Wieczorek

500 Confraternity
May 9, 2021 - Mike & Ruth Wieczorek

Si necesita alguna información o tiene preguntas acerca de la iglesia por favor comuníquese con Martha Nevárez Saettele al 402-393 2005 ext. 4
St. Joan of Arc School Highlights

St. Joan of Arc DLA Transition Assistance

Background

There is growing excitement at St. Joan of Arc about the emerging relationship with the Dual Language Academy (DLA) of the Omaha Catholic Consortium. In the upcoming school year (2021-2022), we will take the first step in this journey by providing space for the DLA’s 150-175 students, and its innovative dual-language format. Much research shows that this format provides a superior educational foundation for students of all cultures. We are impressed with the diligent planning the DLA has put into the launch of this bold initiative and thrilled that our parish will become the face of the program across the Archdiocese.

Next Year

The DLA will offer Pre-School, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grades 1 through 3 at the St. Joan facility in the upcoming school year under its dual language format. As already announced, St. Joan of Arc will not offer a Pre-School or Pre-K program next year, but will offer all other classes in its traditional format.

We are strongly encouraging parents of Pre-School and Pre-K children to enroll in the DLA program. Students entering Kindergarten are welcome to continue in the traditional format at St. Joan, but we encourage parents to consider the DLA program. Students entering first grade are also eligible to enroll in the DLA program next year, though these students must complete a jump-start program in preparation. This program will be offered to interested families at no charge this summer.

Purpose of the DLA Transition Assistance Program

The tuition schedule at the DLA is somewhat higher than the schedule at St. Joan of Arc. We want each family to make its decision about the dual-language format without concern about the financial impact of transitioning to the DLA. The DLA Transition Assistance Program has been funded by the parish to help in this regard. The program offers to “equalize” the tuition paid by an SJA family next year to match what the family would have paid under the SJA tuition schedule.

Eligible Families

A family with a student interested in enrolling in the DLA program for the upcoming school year is eligible for transition assistance if either of the following is true:

* The family has a student enrolled at SJA in the current school year (2020-2021) or if
* The family is a registered parishioner of St. Joan of Arc.

Interested families should contact the school office for more information.

Kayleen Wallace

Principal

Catholic Cemeteries will be hosting a workshop discussing Catholic funeral rites, final arrangements, and costs on May 15, 2021. This workshop is in the Calvary Office at 78th and West Center Rd., 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This workshop will demonstrate how faith, liturgy, and practical cemetery planning can assist you in the immediacy after death. Space is limited, so please RSVP by the Monday prior to the workshop with Deacon Jim Tardy at 402/391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

Mass Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Requested by</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 10, 2021</td>
<td>(Mary Anne Dworak)</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>School Mass for Christendom Academy*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 11, 2021</td>
<td>(Doris Luebbert)</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Poor Souls - Ascension Thursday Vigil Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 12, 2021</td>
<td>(McClellan Family)</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>School Mass for SJA 6th thru 8th Grade*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 14, 2021</td>
<td>(Paul Favara)</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>School Mass for Christendom Academy*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 15, 2021</td>
<td>(Pat Adams)</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>School Mass for SJA 6th thru 8th Grade*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>May 16, 2021</td>
<td>(Edward Burns Family)</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Patrick Bystrek</td>
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<td>(Brett &amp; Cindy Lundin) Fr. Lorig</td>
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*Students will use the entire section of pews to the right of center aisle.

Please remember those who are sick in our parish, and those we have been asked to pray for:

- Oliver Smith, Ron D’Agata, Rosemary Hays, Dolores Nevárez, Father Greg’s family, Julie (Nebbia) Hamrick, Sherry Smisick Nickel, Josynne Sherlock, Anna Maria Leo, Jerry Hogya, Bev Sladoynik, Shirley Barsdley, Connie Wade, Maxine Kantor, Maria Menjivar, Ken Renkenberger, Sam Marchese, Nadine Hansen, Anto Kinsley, Steve Hamill, Andrew Ascherl, Bob Mercier, Grace Fascianella, Roger Pedroza, Robert Swanson, Patricia Toye, Dr. Jim Elston

Quilts on Display

The SJA Sew Comfort group has been working on quilts to donate to the Furniture Project. Those quilts are completed and will be on display for anyone who is interested. Father Lorig will bless the quilts after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, May 16th, and they will be on display in the Social Hall until 1:00 pm. We want to thank all those who donated material and money for this project. It was a wonderful success.

Unbound is Grateful

“On behalf of Unbound, thank you very much for welcoming us to your parish. Our hearts are full of gratitude for the generosity you have shown to the children, youth, and the elders in our sponsor-ship program. Through your willingness to partner with Unbound, your parish community has taken steps toward a closer walk with Jesus in the name of the poor. We pray that members of your parish community who answered the call to sponsorship will be richly blessed by their experience.” Fr. Greg Schmitt

Garage Sale news – The parish garage sale is fast approaching. The drop off and pricing is May 27-June 2 (no drop off on Memorial Day May 31) and the sale is June 3-5. However, we need lots of help. The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area. We need both adult and student volunteers. This is a great way to get volunteer hours for school. Proceeds from the sale will be used by the school to purchase books and supplies.