

September 6, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



SS. ROBERT & WILLIAM

CATHOLIC PARISH

DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Labor Day weekend! I hope you are having a great holiday weekend! It certainly was a very "different summer!" However, the Lord blessed us with awesome weather and I hope that helped. We will celebrate Labor Day Mass at 8:30 am at the outdoor shrine at St. John of the Cross and 9:00 am at Ss. Robert & William in the Church. I hope you can make one of those Masses. I will be coming home from retreat on Labor Day.



As we enter into fall, we enter into election season. Our Catholic faith sees responsible citizenship as a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. "People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens" (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 220). The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person...As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915).

The United States Bishops, in their most recent document, Faithful Citizenship, state, "Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable... As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth and love."

In that spirit of helping to promote and nurture well-formed consciences and moral convictions, I invite you on a four-week journey to study and review Catholic Social Teachings throughout the centuries, and to renew our commitment to them. I invite you to come with an open heart and mind to look at the Scripture and Tradition of our beloved Catholic Faith through the lens of Christ. As you prepare to vote in November, it is important to have a solid foundation of Catholic Social Teaching so that you can have strong moral convictions and well-formed consciences. I will offer four sessions on Catholic Social teaching on Wednesdays: September 23 & 30 and October 7 & 14, at Ss. Robert & William in the Church. We can spread out well and keep socially distant. We will also live-stream so that those who are not able to come out can participate as well. It will be from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Each and every one of us was given the great gift of Free Will and I believe we each must study, pray, and discern our vote. No one can tell you for whom to vote; but I believe we can together study to form our conscience to be able to make a good choice. Mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Make it a great week! See you in church.

Peace,

Fr. John



COMMUNITY MEAL EXPANDED

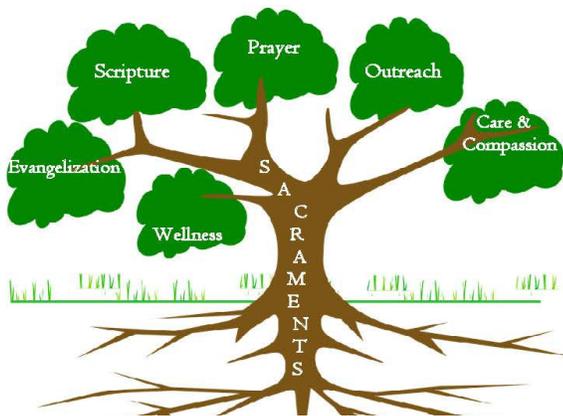
- Now serving meals twice a month!
- September 8th & 29th
- Starting at 5:00 pm (take-out meals only)

INSTALLATION MASS LIVE-STREAM WATCH PARTY



Join Fr. John & Fr. Thom for the Bishop's Installation Mass on September 14th at 2:00 pm. The live-stream will be held in the church. Please call the parish office to RSVP at (216)731-1515.

ACTION TAKING ROOT: CULTIVATING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



Saturday, September 26th 1:30 – 3:30PM @ St. John of the Cross Parish Rain Date: October 3rd

Join us as we gather on the beautiful grounds of SJC to reflect on what moves us from worship to action. We will hear reflections from parishioners of SJC and SRW sharing their personal experiences of faith in action.

Registrations requested: SJC @ 216-289-0770 Deacon-Tom@SJC.COM or SRW @ 216-731-1515 rbarber@srweuclid.cc

ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE NOV.3RD?

A CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOR THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Wednesdays: September 23, 30, October 7 & 14
in the church from 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join us for a series of presentations on the Scripture and Tradition of our Church and what they say about a consistent ethic of life from natural conception to natural death, about human dignity, and about how we interact with one another. It will be live-streamed. Don't miss out!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 7

9:00 AM (TK) † For All Who Labor

Tuesday, September 8

8:30 AM (TK) † The Poor Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, September 9

11:30 AM (JB) † Paul and Elizabeth Daskis

Thursday, September 10

8:30 AM (JB) † Lino Condotta

Friday, September 11

11:30 AM (TK) † Richard Weybrecht

Saturday, September 12

8:30 AM (JB) † Mike Pechatsko

4:00 PM (TK) † John and Vida Fink

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM (TK) † Goldie Ercegovic Family

11:30 AM (JB/TR) † Leo Dekleva

6:00 PM (JB) † Arthur Fellenstein

The Collection: for August 30th was, \$9,629.45

Loan Balance: \$972,715.26

Monthly Loan Payment: \$8,362



Capital Campaign

Total of pledges	\$1,978,281.34
Total received/posted	\$1,485,867.15
Total donors	559

PRAYERS NEEDED

Please pray for... Tom Brickman, Camelle Brown, Faye Bukovec, Eileen Driscoll, Pauline Dutcher, John Ellul, Donald Evanchick, Jean Feiten, Mary Ellen Fellenstein, Anthony Fratino, Tom Golden, Ann Grossman, Helen Herman, Jeanette Hocevar, Tony Hocevar, Geraldine Hoffert, Patricia Johnston, Karen Long, Dolly Luskin, Betty Mailander, Alice Martincic, Ann Monreal, Darlene Novotney, Ryan Parker, Ashley Phillis, Lydia Rydzinski, Laddie Stupica, Glenn Terrell, Rosemarie Terrell, Laverne Varga, Stansa Zitnik, Esther Zobec, and all those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit.

We thank, pray, and ask for God's blessings for those in the military and safety forces serving our community and country.

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Lee Bock and all those who have lost a loved one. May they know the peace and comfort of God's love, and find strength in the support of our parish community.

LUKE BROWN'S REFLECTION

In the second reading today, we are reminded to love our neighbors just as much as we love ourselves. This can be very hard to do and is one of the most difficult challenges that we find in the Scriptures. Everyone is our neighbor in this world and to love is to forgive and wish the highest good of the other. Some things are easier to forgive than others, but God asks us to forgive always. To forgive is to move towards Christ instead of away from Him. I have always been amazed at some of the stories of forgiveness in the lives of the saints. On her deathbed, St. Maria Goretti forgave the man who murdered her. He was also forgiven by St. Maria's mother 27 years later. St. Maria and her mother Assunta displayed true love for their neighbor with their forgiveness because they knew that even though the young man had sinned, Christ still wanted him in Heaven. This is often a good thing to reflect on in prayer. Think of someone who you struggle to get along with or who has wronged you in some way. Do you want them to go to Heaven? Do you pray for their holiness? If you do not, you may want to pray that you will be able to find forgiveness in your heart and that you can cultivate the love for neighbor that Christ calls us to. Forgiveness of others and love for neighbor is difficult, but it is ultimately what will bring peace and joy.