



July 25, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SS. ROBERT & WILLIAM

CATHOLIC PARISH | DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Dear Parishioners,

I hope your July is going well. I will be away this week. Fr. Scott and I are going on vacation to celebrate his appointment as Administrator/Pastor of St. Mary in Chardon and St. Patrick in Thompson. I know the clergy and staff will take good care of the parishes while I am away. I will be back Tuesday, August 2.

As I mentioned the last two weeks, I was recently asked to do a talk for a group of people in early August. The title will be *Lessons I Learned from leading a Parish/School through the Pandemic*. As I began to write the talk realities began to set in. This past year has been one of the toughest years of my priesthood and pastoring. If you add the tensions and division of the recent election and the racial struggles to my plate you had the perfect storm. As a priest, pastor, and leader in our community I had to navigate through uncharted territories. There was no playbook of how to handle the various realities we found ourselves in each day. Over these weeks, I am reflecting on these realities and where I succeeded and where I fell short in my leadership as well as help to chart a course moving forward. I am focusing in on three areas: pandemic (7/11 bulletin), racial issues (7/18) and election (politics) (this bulletin). In all three areas **I want to state as sincerely and genuinely that if any way my words, choices, policies, decisions, etc. offended any one or caused anyone to stop coming to church or walk away from the parish, I offer my sincere apologies!** My intention would never be such. I am old enough to know that rarely are we all going to be on the same page, but my hope and intentions are always to unite and not divide. If you find yourself in this category or know someone that is please encourage them to reach out and set-up a time to meet with me so we can dialogue, heal, and hopefully restore the relationship. As a pastor/shepherd that is my number one goal!

Regarding Political (Election) Issues:

As Catholic Christians, there is only one Savior, and his name is Jesus Christ. It is through Him, with Him and in Him all will be made right, and we will receive eternal life. He is the only way, the only truth, and the source of all life. But with that said we must live on this earth and find ways to co-exist. Since Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden until today there has been division. While Christ came to unite us all as one, this is still a work in process and will not be complete until the end of time/second coming. The source of this division seems to exist in all political, social, and economic systems as people fall into the sins of pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth.

The other reality we live with is the gift of Free Will. This gift of Free Will from God is a great blessing and a great curse. But it is ours and we are called to respect and honor it. The freedom that we are blessed with in this country, the United States, to vote is a sacred duty and honor and ultimately must be everyone using their well-formed conscious to make a good choice.

I think the role of the church is to help to form the consciences of her people. To help root people in the non-negotiables in choices that affect the political, economic, and social systems of our country. It is not the role of the church to tell you who to vote for and for sure not to endorse candidates for political office, but instead equip her people with the ability pray and discern what Jesus Christ is calling them to do.

I do believe most, if not all, politicians are good people, go into politics for good reasons and many serve very nobly. However, it seems more and more that some of them are falling into corruption and promotion of downright evil. At one time in the history of our country we all subscribed to a basic morality based on the protection all human life from conception until natural death, the protection of the human family and other basic good moral principles. Now, we are not all on the same page. Many people subscribe to some evil ideas and some of our laws no longer support protection of all human life, family, etc. Another major issue is the dawn of the twenty-four-hour news and the explosion of social media. This has led to a biased media and other significant issues.



THE FJB BLOG

CONTINUED

For us as a church I think we need to look to Catholic Social Teaching and the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation

We can use these principles to form our conscious and help to promote the Common Good of all people. We can be the voice of Christ in a world that so desperately needs it. No one political candidate, not political party embraces the entirety of Christ's teachings; however, we can keep calling people to it and help people to form their consciences so they can follow Divine Will of God in their decision making as they navigate through earthly living.

My hope is that as a parish, as a diocese as the church in the United States we can unite and end division and help to establish the Christian universal vision.

Make it a great week and see you in church!

Peace,
Fr. John



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 26

11:30 AM (TK) † Jim Cosgriff

Tuesday, July 27

8:30 AM (TK) † Genevieve Lewandowski

Wednesday, July 28

11:30 AM (GB) † Omanski-Jablonski-Vidergar
Families and Noah Selby

Thursday, July 29

8:30 AM (GB) † Vincent Granito

Friday, July 30

11:30 AM (TK) † Sandra Rybka & Tursic Family

Saturday, July 31

8:30 AM (TK) † Harvey Mantei
4:00 PM (TK) † Greg Cosgriff

Sunday, August 1

9:00 AM (TK) † Lucille M. Zahler
11:30 AM (TK) † Clarence & Dolores Myslinski
6:00 PM (TK) † William Udics

This week's Gospel reminds us of what God can truly do with the gifts that we bring to Him. When I reflect on this Gospel, I like to think of the boy that brought the loaves and fish to share. With such a large number of people, his gift could have been perceived as insignificant and dismissed as a useless contribution. However, Christ took what the boy brought to Him and performed miracles with it. I think the lesson here is that Christ works with what we bring to Him. We may view ourselves as insignificant or our talents as unimportant. We can see needs in our community and dismiss the impact that our talents and skills will have on improving anything. It is easy to think that we need a significant amount of money, a degree in theology, or some saintly level of holiness to make a difference, but this is a lie. We have many saints who serve as an example of how small and silent acts have an incredibly far-reaching impact. No matter how small or insignificant we think we are, or our talents are, God will take them and make great things happen because they are offered. He will take our offering and change, develop, and perfect it. We always have something important to contribute to the Body of Christ and no offering is too small, unimportant, or insignificant. If we continue to offer ourselves and our gifts to Christ, we will continue to be like the boy in today's Gospel who's offering was loved by God and used to feed five thousand.

Luke Brown, LPC



Ss. Robert & William Family Festival

August 13, 14 & 15



FOOD & TREATS

We will have traditional festival food such as hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, funnel cakes and so much more. If you have a sweet tooth, we have a novelty ice cream selection that will keep you cool in the August heat.

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale for the Ss. Robert & William Family Festival Grand Prize Raffle. Enter for your chance to win \$10,000! \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00.
Go to [HTTPS://BRURL.CO/SSRW](https://BRURL.CO/SSRW)



KID ZONE

Rock Climbing
Games and Prizes
Inflatables
Pony Rides



FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT

PIECES OF EIGHT

FRIDAY 6:00 - 9:30 PM

ABBY NORMAL

SATURDAY 6:00 - 9:30 PM

WOJTLA

SUNDAY 1:00 - 3:00 PM

PHIL IN THE BLANKS

SUNDAY 3:30 - 6:00 PM

ADULT MIDWAY

BIG 6 WHEEL
BEER TENT
BLACK JACK
BEER SLIDE
INSTANTS

BLOOD DONATION UPDATE

I want to begin by thanking all those who signed up to donate blood last Sunday! Here is the good news/bad news follow-up. We filled up all the available time slots for the in-person registration! There were actually more people willing to donate and they were directed to the online schedule. Now the bad news. We were overbooked and about eight people who signed up had to be told they could not be seen. Also, a couple of our regular walk-in donors were told there would be an hour wait.

While this is a great problem to have (it was our biggest response to date) it is a real inconvenience for those who thought they had an appointment as well as for those who were accustomed to donating as walk-ins. And to all those who had that experience, I greatly apologize. I am in communication with our Vitalant representative to make certain this will not happen again. I was told that Vitalant only sends enough workers to handle what has been the typical volume of donors and they did not have enough staff to send additional people. All that being said, they were able to collect 14 units of blood. Suggestions have been made to avoid overlap in the future. And I sincerely hope this will not discourage anyone from donating. If we cannot schedule a make-up date, please save SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH as it is our next regularly scheduled drive.

Vitalant also informed me that you can donate blood at other Vitalant blood drives and have it credited to SRW. Just inform them when you register and give them our code: 4053

Now I have a favor to ask. After sharing the story about my father during the blood drive announcement, several people approached me with similar stories of gratitude for donations that were available for their own loved ones in time of need. If you have a story you would like to share, please send your story to rbarber@srweuclid.cc and I will share them with our community.

Thank you again for your response! Keep watching the bulletin and our website for further information.

Renee Barber

OUTDOOR MASSES

Our Sunday, 6:00 pm Masses will be outside now - early October. (weather permitting)



The SRW Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassadors will be hosting a table at this year's Parish Festival. We will once again be working to assist our brothers and sisters in developing countries. Our fundraiser is called Lead the Way: Ark of Hope and through it we hope to raise \$2000 (or more!) to purchase tree saplings and farm animals which will enable our neighbors to become self-sustaining. Stop by our booth at the festival to donate or just to say hello and learn more about what CRS is doing. You can also purchase a raffle ticket for a Fisher-Price Noah's Ark which will be raffled off on Sunday, August 15. A great gift for your toddler or grandchild!! If you'd like to donate now, you can find info and the link to the donation page on the parish website under Ark of Hope or use this link: <https://crs.donordrive.com/campaign/Lead-the-Way--Ark-of-Hope>



PARISH SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Nathan Raddell, Director of Communications
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Anney Roach, DRE
aroach@srweuclid.cc, ext. 248

Parish Office Hours:

Monday—Friday: 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Closed Saturday & Sunday

367 E. 260th Street Euclid, OH 44132
216.731.1515 216.731.0300 (Fax)
info@srweuclid.cc www.srweuclid.cc

The Collection: for July 18 was \$6,307.00

Loan Balance: \$698,091.00

Monthly Loan Payment: \$8,362.00



Capital Campaign

Total of pledges \$1,966,126.54

Total received/posted \$1,677,844.79

Total donors 561

Please consider a donation to help lower our long-term debt.
Please call me at the Parish Office at 216.731.1515 or email me at fjb@srweuclid.cc. Thank you very much for your continued generosity. ~Fr. John

PRAYERS NEEDED

Please pray for... Brody Blazetic, Kenneth Brickman, Ken Brickman, Tom Brickman, Camelle Brown, Marianne Ellul, Jean Feiten, Mary Ellen Fellenstein, Tom Golden, Ann Grossman, Helen Herman, Jeanette Hocevar, Tony Hocevar, Geraldine Hoffert, Patricia Johnston, Brian LeQuyea, Karen Long, Dolly Luskin, Betty Mailander, Alice Martincic, Ann Montreal, Darlene Novotney, Ryan Parker, Paul Pavicic, Kathleen Pfahl, Carl Phillips, Ashley Phyllis, Liza Raddell, Margaret Reilly, Lydia Rydzinski, Laddie Stupica, Judy Sullivan, Roberta Szmania, Glenn Terrell, Rosemarie Terrell, Jean Toth, Evelyn Troha, 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 families of Nancy Lowe and Norman Lexa 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.

Bulletin # 948050:
Ss. Robert and William
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Euclid, OH 44132-1495

216-731-1515 X280

Contact: Nate Raddell/Anita Linsky ext. 221

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