

October 15, 2023

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



SS. ROBERT  
& WILLIAM



ST. JOHN OF  
THE CROSS

CATHOLIC PARISHES | DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Dear Parishioners,

It is very hard to believe it is already fall. This certainly has been a very eventful year for SRW and in our world. Amidst the seemingly crazy world we live in, I take such solace in being able to pastor such a great parish community. I always find such joy here. Even my toughest days are still filled with blessings. One of the reasons I can say this is because parishioners are so generous with their time, talent, and treasure. People here give so freely and generously, instilling a real sense of love and vibrancy. We are Blessed!

As a pastor I wear many hats. My favorite, of course, is presider at Mass when we celebrate the Word and the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ. While I prefer the titles pastor and shepherd, the reality is that in many ways I am the CEO of the parish. One of my duties under that title is to produce an ANNUAL REPORT of the finances and affairs of the parish. So much happens here it would be almost impossible to capture it in just a few short pages, but I have attempted to give a brief overview. This covers parish finances, our outreach to the community, and the Sacramental and faith formation of our young people. I hope you enjoy reading.



**I share with you the results of the 2022—2023 fiscal year for Ss. Robert & William.** We work on a July 1—June 30 fiscal year and recently closed our books and submitted our report to the Diocese. Our report was reviewed and accepted by the Diocesan Finance Office.

On the parish side you can see we finished in the black. Offertory collections are down and I am asking that we all work together to see if we can increase them. If we all just increase our offering a few dollars a week, it can make a big difference. Our goal is to continue to grow our ministries and having the available funds to do this. We have a wonderful staff who work very hard and we seek to offer them a fair and just compensation. Finally one of our goals this year is to proactively increase our loan payments so that we can get the loan paid off within the next few years.

On the school side you can see we finished in the black. Our most significant challenge in the school was our Early Learning Center as we continued to recover from COVID ratios and staffing. Staffing in the child care industry has become very challenging. I assembled a group of people to help our center and we have increased tuition/fees to match the compensation levels we are having to pay. We are almost at capacity. As of writing we have only three spaces open. I have every confidence that this trend will be reversed and this will become a break even to a profitable center. Our goal is to provide awesome faith based childcare and education for our littlest ones.

With the reality of the School Choice for all, we have been to significantly increase our school tuition without putting burden on our families. Our goal has been and continues to be to significantly increase teacher compensation. Our teachers deserve good compensation and we are working to get there.

We were able to complete a number of improvements over the past year including adding the outdoor lighting to the front of the church, new windows in the parish office and remodeled the first floor classrooms to bring them up to twenty-first standards for learning.

Check out our Outreach Ministry. It has been great! We have been able to help so many people.

**Continued >**

I cannot state this enough, your amazing generosity never ceases to amaze me! Despite being in difficult times, you all have stepped up to the plate and it is an honor and privilege to serve you as pastor.

Check out our Sacramental Stats. This is truly a sign of a very healthy parish community. How awesome! We are finishing our thirteenth year as a parish community. Overall, we are in a great position to move forward. I am so excited about all the possibilities the future holds for us. Please know that I very much appreciate your support in so many ways. The staff, volunteers, and I will continue to work very hard to make Ss. Robert & William Parish as strong as possible, both spiritually and temporally, for the greater glory of God.

Make it a great week. See you in Church!  
Peace, Fr. John

Parish Assets & Liabilities

	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
Checking Accounts	129,090	94,036
Savings & Investments	643,669	567,443
Accounts Receivable	23,556	58,599
Other Assets	1,800	7,212
<b>TOTAL ASSETS (Cash &amp; Investments)</b>	<b>798,115</b>	<b>727,290</b>
Accounts Payable	251,623	375,459
Payable to Diocese of Cleveland (Assessments from Closed St. Robert & St. William)*	296,615	296,615
Income Received in Advance	215,222	67,054
Employee Withholdings	3,617	930
Deferred Restricted Support	437,409	437,409
Loan (Bank Loan for Church Roof & HVAC)	523,912	604,509
<b>Total Liabilities (Monies owed to others)</b>	<b>1,728,399</b>	<b>1,781,976</b>

\*The Diocese has asked us to leave this amount on our books but at this time has no plans to collect on this money.

School Receipts	2023	2022	Budget 2024
Tuition & Fees	2,639,203	2,598,326	3,243,533
Government Assistance	203,295	185,118	195,000
Donations & Bequests	197,282	78,501	30,000
Net Fund Raising	126,509	114,651	40,500
Aftercare	11,097	83,679	3,838
Other Student Receipts	4,521	39,028	-
Interest & Endowment Income	83,552	(72,936)	15,000
<b>Total School Receipts</b>	<b>3,265,459</b>	<b>3,026,367</b>	<b>3,527,871</b>

School Disbursements			
Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	2,615,405	2,257,460	2,925,576
Instructional	39,615	55,488	107,090
Utilities	53,625	42,913	45,000
Maintenance, Repairs & Plant Operating	200,137	99,412	112,350
Insurance & Property Taxes	25,633	20,889	30,000
Student Services	16,821	48,472	8,050
Administration	175,499	151,932	168,750
Capital Expenditures	123,180	270,553	125,000
<b>Total School Disbursements</b>	<b>3,249,914</b>	<b>2,947,118</b>	<b>3,521,816</b>

**PARISH RECEIPTS**

	2023	2022	Budget 2024
Offertory Collections	657,639	678,263	672,000
Other Collections	25,390	24,110	25,100
Donations & Bequests	102,546	161,496	60,000
Net Fund Raising Income & Capital Campaign	86,446	7,032	64,650
Income from Parish Programs	38,943	33,887	35,700
Investment Income	1,660	1,687	-
Rental Income	4,200	4,525	1,800
Heart of the Shepherd Diocesan Campaign	-	90,213	-
Miscellaneous Receipts*	11,000	11,000	-
Designated Collections	22,279	20,253	10,000
Extraordinary Receipts**	236,906	7,076	-
<b>Total Parish Receipts</b>	<b>1,187,008</b>	<b>1,039,542</b>	<b>869,250</b>

**Parish Disbursements**

Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	535,419	536,899	510,274
Rectory & Household	16,624	17,108	17,000
Parish Office & Administration	114,051	103,945	94,833
Altar, Sanctuary & Liturgical	34,383	40,643	30,500
Community Outreach	5,065	12,767	6,000
Religious Education	20,317	14,195	20,250
Stewardship & Evangelization	26,471	22,042	15,600
Utilities	32,926	33,536	30,500
Property Insurance & Taxes	21,497	21,132	30,000
Maintenance, Repairs, & Plant Operating	34,471	46,768	22,750
Diocesan Assessments-Current	80,692	83,617	72,000
Designated Collections	22,277	20,253	10,000
Capital Expenditures	133,956	301,802	-
<b>Total Parish Disbursements</b>	<b>1,078,148</b>	<b>1,254,707</b>	<b>859,707</b>

<b>TOTAL PARISH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>108,860</b>	<b>(215,165)</b>	<b>9,543</b>
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\*Reimbursement for SRW providing Business Manager to SJC

\*\*Employee Retention Credit from IRS

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: 7.2.18 - 6.30.23**

Capital Campaign Income	1,899,090.72
Capital Campaign Expenses & Gym Renovation	1,117,726.05
Capital Campaign Money Paid on Principal of Loan	781,364.67
 TOTAL Money EXPENSED	 1,899,090.72
CC Money GYM & LOAN PAID	1,899,090.72
 Loan Amount in 2018	 1,320,200.00
Loan Balance as of 6.30.23	523,912.48

**\*There is about \$10,000 or so in outstanding Capital Campaign payments that will probably still come in this coming fiscal year. This will be applied to the loan principal. We will continue to make our payments.**

**Our plan is that starting in November to begin changing the payment to \$25,000 a month. This will put close to \$20,000 extra a month on principal and should allow us to pay off within 24 months. Goal will be to have paid off by November 1, 2025.**

## SRW OUTREACH

This ministry has grown due to the current, pandemic and related struggles. It is possible to meet these growing needs only because of your support of the Outreach Fund and the very generous, giving spirit of our volunteers and donors.

**\$19,395 was donated for SRW Outreach**

40 Day for Life (Ash Wednesday Collection): **\$1,266**  
 Bereavement Assistance: **\$600**  
 Birthright (Ash Wednesday Collection): **\$1,266**  
 Catholic Charities Adoption/Foster Care Gifts: **\$1,250**  
 Christmas Community Meal: **\$872**  
 Community Meal (Twice Monthly): **\$10,060**  
 Counseling: **\$2,880**  
 Easter Community Meal: **\$539**  
 Flowers & Missals for Homebound & Facilities: **\$1,639**  
 Housing Assistance: **\$2,961**  
 Pantry: **\$283**  
 Senior Birthday Card Ministry: **\$395**  
 Thanksgiving Community Meal: **\$1,341**

**\$29,754 was given out through SRW Outreach**

## PARISH STATISTICS

### Sacraments

Baptisms	30
First Penance	22
First Communion	22
Confirmation	41
Marriages	12
Funerals	56

### Faith Formation programs for our Youth

Day School (Infants—8)	498
PSR (Preschool—Grade 8)	48
LIFETEEN (Grades 9—12)	16

## DESIGNATED SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

These support the work of the Church beyond our parish. They are collected on behalf of various ministries and apostolates of the Diocese of Cleveland, the Catholic Church in the United States, and the Global Catholic Church. This past fiscal year, we collected the following amounts and forwarded them to their beneficiaries.

Catholic Education Trust, Faith & Values: **\$604**

Catholic Campaign for Communications: **\$635**

World Mission Sunday: **\$1,187**

Annual Mission Appeal: **\$6,660**

Hurricane Ian: **\$2,737**

Retirement Fund for Religious: **\$1,688**

U.S. Military Diocese: **\$731**

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: **\$652**

Catholic University: **\$825**

Latin America Missions: **\$977**

Catholic Relief Services: **\$731**

Black & Indian Mission: **\$671**

**There are 1,181 registered families at SRW**

## FUNDRAISING

2022—2023

Parish

(Amounts are NET of Expenses):

Youth Ministry (Ham Sales): **\$341**

Fish Fry (2023): **\$3,733**

Brick Pavers: **\$420**

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**GRAND TOTAL: \$4,494**

School

(Amounts are NET of Expenses):

## SJC MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, October 16

8:30 AM † Jacob Pike (JB/TS)

### Tuesday, October 17

6:30 PM † John & Margaret Walsh (JB)

### Wednesday, October 18

8:30 AM † Danny Polantz (JL)

### Thursday, October 19

6:30 PM Alexandra Reigert (JL/TSP)

### Friday, October 20

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

### Saturday, October 21

1:00 PM Gricar/Denson Wedding (JB/TS)

4:00 PM † Betty Guhde (JL/GB)

### Sunday, October 22

7:45 AM † Nancy Suhy (JB/TK)

10:15 AM † Fr. Edward Mehok (TK/JB)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parishioners of St. John of the Cross and Ss. Robert William Parishes are invited to be part of a steering committee to plan Outreach Services of both parishes. This committee will be exploring the scope of assistance and formulating the mission statement of our Pantry, Advent Giving Tree, Labre Program and Hot Meal programs. If interested in being part of this formational meeting, please email Deacon Tom ([deacontom@sjceucclid.com](mailto:deacontom@sjceucclid.com)) or Fr. Thom ([frkowatch@srweucclid.cc](mailto:frkowatch@srweucclid.cc))



## APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE



We are looking ahead...to Christmas. **Loaves and Fishes Advent Giving Tree** is a joint effort between St. John of the Cross Parish and Ss. Robert and William Parish to offer Christmas assistance to those in need. Do you anticipate needing assistance for your family this Christmas and would like to be considered as a recipient of food, gifts, or gift cards? Do you know of a family living in Euclid or Richmond Heights in need of assistance for Christmas? Applications for Christmas Assistance are available now through October 31 at either parish office. The availability of gifts is dependent upon the generosity of Parishioners of both parishes.

## COMING SOON! WOMEN OF GRACE® FOUNDATIONAL STUDY

Women of Grace is a "journey of discovery and transformation as you explore the great call and gift of your femininity."

Women join together to meet two women saints, receive wisdom from Holy Mother Church, unpack Holy Scripture, and discover how the Blessed Virgin Mary is our model of "discipleship and the pathway to her Son, Jesus Christ, and the heart of the Father".

The 17-week journey begins Thursday, **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at **7:00 p.m.** held also in the Sacred Heart Chapel of St. John of the Cross Church. (No meeting will take place the week of Thanksgiving and during the Christmas Holiday.) For questions, call Nancy Powell at 216-401-3605 or send an email to [nebpowell40@gmail.com](mailto:nebpowell40@gmail.com).



Fr. John and Fr. Thom will be offering a Home Mass at someone's house each month. To sign up to host a Mass, please contact Anita at [alinsky@srweucclid.cc](mailto:alinsky@srweucclid.cc) or call her at 216.731.1515.

All you have to do is host and invite. Fr. John or Fr. Thom will bring all they need for Mass. You can invite anyone but please focus on people who have fallen away from the church or are looking for Faith. Help us bring Jesus to our sisters and brothers in Christ.

## OUTREACH TO THOSE IN NEED

The SRW **Bereavement Ministry** offers assistance during your time of grief following the death of a family member. Please call the SRW Parish Office at 216.731.1515.

**Catholic Counseling**— Sacred Heart Counseling can help with anger management, anxiety, marital problems, trauma, depression, self-care and more. For more info call 440-305-6192 or email [lukebrown@sacredheartcleveland.com](mailto:lukebrown@sacredheartcleveland.com).

**Community Meal** program offers free hot meals at both SRW and SJC. At SRW meals are on the second and last Tuesdays of the month at 5:00 pm. SJC has a monthly meal every third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm.

**The SRW Pantry** is stocked with food to assist those in need of food.

Call the **Prayer Line** at 216-331-5075 to entrust your prayer requests to fellow parishioners.



## SRW MASS INTENTIONS#

### Monday, October 16

11:30 AM † Lou & Isabelle Blazic (TK)

### Tuesday, October 17

8:30 AM All Veterans (JB)

### Wednesday, October 18

11:30 AM Sandra & Denis Paus Sr. (GB)

### Thursday, October 19

8:30 AM † Diane Bevac (TK)

### Friday, October 20

11:30 AM † James Monreal (TK)

### Saturday, October 21

8:30 AM † Sabina "Sue" Lavelle (JB)

4:00 PM † George Putrich (JB)

### Sunday, October 22

9:00 AM † Wanda Betters (JB)

11:30 AM † Anthony Pingatore (TK)

6:00 PM † Nancy Higgins (TK)

## CYO OFFICIATING

The Diocese of Cleveland CYO are seeking high school, college students and adults interested in officiating basketball. Trainings will be held starting on Sunday, October 15 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, for six consecutive Sunday's. The trainings will be held at Walsh Jesuit High School, 4550 Wyoga Lake Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, 44224.

These are mandatory training sessions.

If you are interested, please register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W9X6XJF> or you may contact Tim Shovlin Academy Assigner at: [tshovlin@neo.rr.com](mailto:tshovlin@neo.rr.com)



## GRANDPARENTS' GROUP

The next meeting of our Ss. Anne & Joachim Prayer Group is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7 PM in the Ursuline Chapel of Ss. Robert & William Catholic Parish.

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of every other month, alternating with the Wednesday morning meetings of the Grandparents' Group. Our grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. all need our prayers. Join us as we lend them our spiritual support. Hope to see you on the 24<sup>th</sup> and bring a friend!! Please contact Linda at 216-261-9201 or [lin-dashenk@yahoo.com](mailto:lin-dashenk@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This will be the last grandparents' prayer meeting for 2023. There will be no meeting in December because of Christmas. Our next meeting will be February 27, 2024.

## SJC/SRW EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Three nights that will enlighten, energize, and empower!

Tues.  
Oct. 17



Witness:  
Parishioners who  
have learned how  
to Reach More

ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD IN SS. ROBERT & WILLIAM CHURCH  
7:00PM – 8:30PM

## FALL IN LOVE

Married Couple's Night Out

Oct. 21, 2023 | 6:00 -10:30 pm

Catered dinner by Tavcar - \$25 per couple

McGill Entertainment will provide music and dancing

Salad/roll, roast beef, pork chops, vegetable medley, red-skin potatoes, and assorted desserts. BYOB



Presented by Fr. Wally Hyclak

RSVP to the Parish Office at 216-731-1515

## CEMETERY PRE-PLANNING SEMINAR

The Catholic Cemeteries Association invites you to attend a 1-hour pre-planning seminar on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Room at SS Robert & William Parish 367 E. 260<sup>th</sup> St. Euclid, OH. Please join us to learn more about your Catholic burial options, including options for cremated remains. Attendees will receive a personal reference guide and savings certificate. Reservations are appreciated but not required. RSVP to the Pre-Planning Department at 216-539-7943 or email [bdejohn@clecem.org](mailto:bdejohn@clecem.org).

## Election Day Bake Sale

Tuesday, November 7th

We are in need of homemade cookies, sweet breads, and candies.

Drop off baked goods on Monday, November 6th during the school day to the front office.

All proceeds from this bake sale support student field trips and programs.

Contact Xylina Allender @ [xmallender@gmail.com](mailto:xmallender@gmail.com) with questions.



## LUKE BROWN REFLECTIONS

Serving Others (Part 3 of 3)

In the last two weeks, we have discussed the importance of serving others as a way to focus less on ourselves, as well as ways to maintain the delicate balance of serving others and taking care of ourselves at the same time. This week, I thought it might be useful to discuss serving and loving God. How do we love and serve God? When I reflect on serving God, it reminds me of how frequently we can forget the one-on-one intimacy that God is calling us to with Him. It is useful to imagine God like we would any relationship in our life. Imagine a friendship or spousal relationship in your life. Would it be loving to serve them by cleaning their home, washing their car, and serving them food, but then never sitting down to talk to them and spend time with them? On the other hand, would it be loving to spend time with them getting to know them, but then be unwilling to do anything for them? The same is true in our relationship with God. We love and serve God by praying AND serving our fellow brothers and sisters. If we try to do one without the other, we have missed the point of the Gospel. Praying and pursuing good boundaries helps us to maintain our spiritual life and mental health, while serving others helps us to get outside of ourselves and find compassion, peace, and joy in our service. Just like any loving relationship, God wants to know us and for us to know Him, and that only happens by taking the time to sit with Him. This week, consider reflecting on the call to love and serve God, as well as the call to one-on-one intimacy with Him like we do in our current daily loving relationships.

## PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS

### MEMORIAL MASS

In honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month and Right to Life Month, all families who have experienced this loss are invited to attend a memorial Mass to honor this tiny and beautiful lives at Ss. Cosmos and Damian Church, 10419 Ravena Road in Twinsburg on Monday, October 16th at 7:30PM. Refreshments will be provided after Mass.

This year's We Give Catholic fundraising will go to build a Green House Learning Space.



**NOV. 28TH**

**#weGIVECATHOLIC**  
with the Catholic Community Foundation on #GIVINGTUESDAY  
Northeast Ohio's Online Day of Catholic Giving



## WITNESS JESUS' REAL PRESENCE

You are invited to be part of renewing the Church by enkindling a living relationship with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Our parish will be participating, with all the parishes in our Diocese, a year long **EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL**. This program will highlight the real presence of our Eucharistic Lord and His transforming power in our lives. Each month we will explore the meaning of "REAL PRESENCE."

### ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

"God is everywhere, in the very air I breathe, yes everywhere, but in His Sacrament of the Altar He is as present actually and really as my soul within my body; in His Sacrifice daily offered as really as once offered on the Cross."

**FAITH DIRECT offertory totals.** We apologize that we have forgotten to report these most important numbers in the last few months. Please know that your generosity is SO GREATLY APPRECIATED! We appreciate your consistent and valued donations. For more information on online giving, please call the Parish Office.

#### SJC Faith Direct

July Offertory: \$9,853 and Maintenance Offertory: \$1,799

August Offertory: \$8,890 and Maintenance Offertory: \$1,799

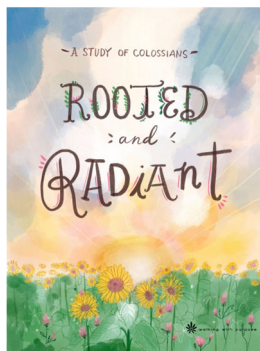
September Offertory: \$8,930 and Maintenance Offertory: \$1,855

#### SRW Faith Direct

July Offertory: \$20,951

August Offertory: \$17,783

September Offertory: \$17,934



## WALKING WITH PURPOSE

**Rooted & Radiant**

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00-8:30pm in the SRW Upper Hall**

The study is available at no cost, they are originally \$20.00. Any Good Will donations towards the cost of the books and program is greatly appreciated.



Please join us for the 6 week study starting on October 19<sup>th</sup> with our first Connect Coffee!

"Introduction to Colossians"





# ANGEL

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Turning taxes into tuition  
with the Catholic Community Foundation*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Ohio's new Scholarship Tax-Credit Program?

In 2021, the Ohio General Assembly established a new program whereby Ohioans can receive a 100% tax credit against Ohio income tax liability for contributions to certified organizations that grant scholarships to students, including those attending Catholic schools. The maximum credit amount is currently \$750. If you are filing a joint return and both you and your spouse make eligible donations, each of you can claim this credit (up to \$1,500 total).

### Who benefits from this Scholarship Tax-Credit Program?

The program benefits Ohio Catholic schools and students by prioritizing scholarships for low-income families that seek higher-quality education opportunities for their children. It also offers taxpayers the ability to reduce their Ohio state tax liability by making a contribution to Scholarship Granting Organizations such as the Scholarship Granting Organization of the Catholic Community Foundation ("Angel Scholarship Fund"). This is a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against your tax liability, or the tax you owe to the State of Ohio.

### What is the Angel Scholarship Fund?

The Catholic Community Foundation has established The Angel Scholarship Fund as a Scholarship Granting Organization to support our Catholic schools and students in the Diocese of Cleveland. This fund makes it possible to "turn tax dollars into tuition" by making a contribution to the Angel Scholarship Fund that may be eligible for a 100% tax credit on the donor's State of Ohio income tax return.

### Can I designate my contribution?

Yes. Donors have the option of making an undesignated contribution that supports schools and students across the Diocese of Cleveland based on financial need, or a contribution that is designated to benefit students at a specific Catholic school.

### May I designate my payment to a specific student?

No. The Angel Scholarship Fund does not accept contributions that are designated for specific students. However, you may direct your contribution to students of one or more Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. You can find a list of schools at [www.dioceseofcleveland.org/schools](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/schools).

### Who can contribute to the Angel Scholarship Fund?

Anyone can contribute to the Angel Scholarship Fund. Ohio taxpayers, single or married, with an Ohio tax liability are eligible to claim the state tax credit.

### Is the amount I claim a tax deduction?

No. Angel Scholarship Fund donors are eligible to receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit, which is different from a tax deduction. Tax deductions reduce your taxable income. This program offers a dollar-for-dollar credit against the taxes paid to the State of Ohio. The funds are directed to the Angel Scholarship Fund rather than to the state.

### How can I learn more about the Angel Scholarship Fund?

Please call 216-902-1312 or visit [www.catholiccommunity.org/angel](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/angel) for more information about this exciting initiative!

PLEASE NOTE: This document does not constitute legal or tax advice. ASF donors should contact a tax preparer with questions associated with payments to ASF.



# Parents Matter: Part 3

When I was 7 years old, I remember staring at the back of a box of Cheerios at breakfast. It promised that a working model submarine would be rushed to my house as soon as I accumulated 10 box tops. I was all in. Mom and Dad approved. Eventually we hit the magic number. Mom sent the box tops to General Mills, per the instructions. Every day, I expected a large box from Minneapolis. It took forever, but, finally, a small envelope arrived. It contained a two-inch plastic submarine with a tiny compartment for baking powder, which would allow it to rise from the bottom of the bath tub once per use.

Children's imaginations know no bounds. Their expectations expand to meet their desires. Those expectations, especially when manipulated by adults, promise fully satisfying results but often deliver only two-inch submarines. Adults can coax gullible children to question their sexual identity, and lead them to expect a satisfying excursion into the world of another sex. Their expectations expand to meet their desires. Ultimately, they discover the grim truth: boys cannot actually become girls, and vice-versa. The attempt results in profound disappointment, self-loathing and distress.

The proposed Ohio constitutional amendment would expose children to the influence of any adult operating outside the reach of the parents. Those who have access to children, such as teachers, would be in a position to suggest highly destructive surgeries and therapies, and accompany the children to a clinic in pursuit of their dreams.

The proposed amendment confers the right on every individual "to make and carry out" a full panoply of reproductive health care decisions. "Every individual" includes children and excludes parents as potential intruders. How so? The amendment allows every individual to make and carry out "one's own" reproductive decisions. If the parents object, they have no right to substitute their own judgment for their child's. As a constitutional amendment, it would override any State laws or statutes that contradict it.

The amendment guards "an individual's voluntary exercise of this right." Might an argument be made that a 10-year-old child is incapable of exercising any voluntary right? If the child is accompanied by an adult, say, a teacher, or an organization such as Planned Parenthood, the amendment suggests that such a person or entity could be acting in place of the parents (*in loco parentis*), although the amendment does not specify this. Sometimes laws make exceptions for a "mature minor" who makes a healthcare decision. Such a minor must be able to make a decision with "informed consent," which presumes the ability to comprehend the information given by the doctor and to make a mature judgment. These issues could have been addressed through careful drafting. They were not.

What if a teenager, unaccompanied by an adult, were to request sterilization services at a clinic? Ohio law permits minor children to enter into voidable contracts. In other words, a 16-year-old child may make a contract for a medical procedure, and, after the service is rendered, refuse to pay for it. However, the parents would remain liable for all expenses since courts have held that medical expenses are necessities. See *State, University of Cincinnati Hosp. v. Cohen* (1989, 1<sup>st</sup> App. Dist.) 57 Ohio App. 3d 30. The clinic would be under no obligation to contact the parents, and yet the parents would be required to pay the clinic. After all, parents don't matter—unless it comes to paying the bills.

According to the U. S. Supreme Court's decision in *Bellotti v. Baird*, 443 U.S. 622 (1979), if a court finds a girl to be sufficiently mature and well informed, she may decide whether to have an abortion without parental knowledge or consent, regardless of a state's statutes. If the girl is not mature enough to make the decision, the court may rule that it is in the best interests of that particular child to have an abortion, regardless of the opposition of the parents. The recent reversal of court-recognized abortion rights contained in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org.*, 142 S.Ct. 2228 (2022) may well overturn *Bellotti*, but the Ohio amendment would render that discussion completely academic. The amendment appears to eliminate even the need for a finding of the minor individual's maturity, and would allow a minor to make his or her "own reproductive decision" without regard to his or her competence.

In fact, the Ohio amendment is so poorly drafted, leaves so many questions unanswered and goes so far as to be very possibly unconstitutional at the federal level. When it comes to disputes with states regarding the upbringing of children, the Supreme Court has long recognized that parents have substantive due process rights guaranteed under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. For example, the state has no right to forbid parents from teaching children to read in German, nor can it forbid parents from educating their children as they choose. In addition, the State cannot unreasonably infringe on other basic rights, such as "the right to marry, establish a home and bring up children." See *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390 (1923) and *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925). Along those same lines, might the Court also hold that the state cannot, in every case, regardless of circumstances, substitute the judgment of a child or its own judgment for the parents' judgment regarding the full range of reproductive healthcare decisions for their immature minor child? Yet the proposed Ohio amendment envisions just such a result.

When I was 7, I learned something about the world and my own gullible imagination. Fortunately, I had loving parents who taught me a valuable lesson, and a government that allowed them to teach it. Indeed, parents matter.

Rev. Gerald J. Bednar, JD, Ph.D.

Retired



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### Confessions on Saturday at 2:30 pm



#### 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 SRW Collection: for October 8 was \$5,527.00

Loan Balance \$512,463.21

Monthly Loan Payment: \$8,362.00



Capital Campaign

Total of pledges \$1,910,888.74

Total received/posted \$1,903,489.72

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

### SJC Financial Stewardship



Sunday Giving 10/8/23.....\$2,549.00

Maintenance 10/8/23.....\$345.00



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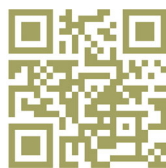
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**Gene Fiorelli**, Maintenance

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### Confessions on Saturday at 3:00 pm

#### Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday 8:00 am — 4:00 pm  
Closed Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday &  
Sunday  
140 Richmond Road, Euclid, OH 44143  
216-289-0770 | sjceucld.com  
SJC Prayer Hotline: 216-289-0770, Ext. 120

## PRAYERS NEEDED



Please pray for... Phil Beebe, Brody Blazetic, Ken  
Brickman, Kenn Brickman, Caesar Campanaro,  
Marianne Ellul, Parker Fine, Tom Golden, Ann  
Grossman, Jeanette Hocevar, Victoria Hodnik, Geraldine  
Hoffert, Patricia Johnston, Jela Katavic, John Kirk, Karen  
Long, Donna Lavdis, Dolly Luskin, Alice Martincic, James  
Molnar, Ann Monreal, Jim Moriarty, Bernard Novotney Sr.,  
Ryan Parker, Kathleen Pavicic, Paul Pavicic, Kathleen Pfahl,  
Carl Phillips, Sheila Reese, John Smith, Roberta Szmania,  
Glenn Terrell, Rosemarie Terrell, Jean Toth, Evelyn Troha,  
Laverne Varga, Peggy Yapel, and Stansa Zitnik



Evelyn Adamczyk, Helen Herman, Patricia Kavulich, Nancy  
O'Toole, Rudy Perme, John Riley, Mary Rot, M.K. Skvasik,  
Marion Malovasic, Judy Schmidt, Rita Vaitkus, Don Wagner,  
and Marcie Williams

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 Charlotte  
Wilkinson and the families of 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.