

Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish



December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Staff

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Mass Schedule-SJOC

Celebration of Eucharist

Saturday Vigil.....4:00 pm

Sunday.....9:00 am & 11:00 am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00 am (Chapel)

Tuesday and Thursday

6:30 pm (Chapel)

Holy Days

8:00 am, noon, 6:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday.....9:00 am—4:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday.....3:00—3:30 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule-SRW

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

12:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday.....8:00 am

Saturday.....8:30 am

From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Gaudete Sunday! *Gaudete Sunday*, the third Sunday of Advent, so called from the first word of the Antiphon at Mass (*Gaudete*, i.e. Rejoice). The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (November 12), when it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"—a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. The introduction of the Advent fast cannot be placed much earlier, because there is no evidence of Christmas being kept on December 25 before the end of the fourth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks and by the twelfth century the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence. Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season, which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. On it, as on Laetare Sunday, the organ and flowers, forbidden during the rest of the season, were permitted to be used; rose-colored vestments were allowed instead of purple. Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a break, like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. In Mass throughout Advent, continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasized on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory, the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as it were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption which should never be absent from the hearts of the faithful.



As you know I was installed last Sunday as the pastor of St. John of the Cross. I am really excited about this challenge. Something I have heard people say lately, **that makes me a little sad, is that some people expressed in various ways that they are not comfortable approaching me because they fear I am too busy or it seems I am always on the run.** While it is true that I am very active, this should never stop anyone from approaching me or setting up an appointment to talk with me. Each of you is loved by me and I am here to serve each of you. I love to work and keep busy and at times that may "put people off" or cause them to second guess reaching out to me, but please never feel this way! I am here for you! Sometimes I might ask you to make an appointment or send me a note because I am in the middle of something at that very moment but please know I am managing both parishes well. I am blessed to have Frs. Thom and Tim here and they help us distribute the work well.

I want to draw your attention to our Mass and Confession schedule for Christmas.

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

Masses are at: 4 pm (Children's Mass) & 10 pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

Mass is at: 10 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil (New Years), Monday, December 31

Mass is at 4 pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Years), Tuesday, January 1

Mass is at: 10 am

Confessions

Friday, December 21:

6:30 – 8 pm

Saturday, December 22:

3 – 3:30 pm

Sunday, December 23:

12:30 – 2 pm

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



Scripture Readings for the Week

Sunday:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Monday:

Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Psalms 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
Matthew 1:1-17

Tuesday:

Jeremiah 23:5-8
Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [1]
Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday:

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
Psalms 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
Luke 1:5-25

Thursday:

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Luke 1:26-38

Friday:

Song of Songs 2:8-14 or
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
[1a; 3a]
Luke 1:39-45

Saturday:

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
[cf. 1a]
Luke 1:46-56

Next Sunday:

Micah 5:1-4a
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
[4]
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Mass Intentions for the Week



Monday, December 17 8:00 am (JB)	Late Advent Weekday Margaret Thome
Tuesday, December 18 6:30 pm (TR)	Late Advent Weekday John Burrello
Wednesday, December 19 8:00 am (EM)	Late Advent Weekday Kathy Avcin
Thursday, December 20 6:30 pm (TK)	Late Advent Weekday William Carrick
Friday, December 21 8:00 am (TK)	Late Advent Weekday Chuck Pophal
Saturday, December 22 4:00 pm (JB)	Late Advent Weekday Tom O'Toole
Sunday, December 23 9:00 am (TK) 11:00 am (EM)	Fourth Sunday of Advent Robert Kravos Martin & Ursula Sustarsic

Pray for the Sick of the Parish and their Caregivers

Beverley Argento	Mili Lekan	Pat Rossoli
Noella Burrows	Marie Lipold	Martha Rymer
Chester Campana	Mary Jane Lowery	Jerry Scarniench
Jane DePalma	Bob Lucas	Judy Schmidt
Constance Durrah	Joe Matejka	Rose Simek
Mary Frain	Ronald Maxey	Carole Smigelski
Marie George	Rudy Myeress	Frank Somrack
Margaret Hasto	Carla Moore	John Tarmann
John Hocevar	Larry O'Donnell	Abbie Vernon
Andrew Jarm	Linda Palko	Marilyn Wagner
Anna Jalovec	Anna Pepock	
Doris Kowalski	Joan Raddell	

Remember our elderly and homebound in prayer as well.

Please notify the Parish Office when a name can be removed from this list.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PRAYER NETWORK HOTLINE
216-289-0770 ext. 27

Call and leave a short message with your request. We can also offer prayers of thanksgiving. All information will be kept confidential.

Parish News & Events



In the second reading this weekend, St. Paul tells us to **have no anxiety at all**. Wouldn't that be nice? Keep in mind that at the time St. Paul was writing this, he truly believed he would see the second coming within his lifetime. If you are convinced the second coming is going to happen within the next five years, maybe it's easier not to worry about a mortgage, that job promotion you desire, or your children's education. The truth is, we don't know when Christ will return or when death will come. We have no way of predicting the future. The uncertainty of the future and our place in it has always been a cause of anxiety for some, if not all, of us. If St. Paul were alive today and could see that it's been over 2000 years and Christ still hasn't returned, would he still say to have NO anxiety? I think he would. Easier said than done, but **did you know that people who practice meditation and prayer report fewer instances of anxiety?** A consistent prayer life shows us that God has always taken care of us and that He always will. We may not always see the why or the how in the moment or even in this lifetime, and He may not always provide the outcome that we desire, but the stronger our faith in Him, the less anxious we will be. (Note: This is not to say anxiety is necessarily caused by a *lack of faith*, which could lead to very scrupulous thinking.) With prayers.....**Luke Brown**

Year-long Anniversary Celebration



"Mysticism and the Spanish Mystics"
Saturday, January 19, 2019 11am-4pm
Save the date!

A presentation by **Fr. Tim Roth** about mysticism in the Catholic tradition (and our call to holiness), as well as on the lives and examples of the Spanish mystics, St. John of the Cross and Theresa of Avila.

Fr. Mehok's Scripture Study

The Gospel of St. Luke will be on Monday evenings at 7:30pm in Room 6 in the Parish Community Center.



Scripture Study

Join **Fr. Tim Roth** and **Anney Roach** for Scripture Reflection on Tuesday's at 9:15am in Meeting Room #2. Come and experience the living Word of God speak to you in the context of your daily life.

Anniversary Cookbooks

The Parish Cookbooks are now available for purchase. What a great Christmas gift idea! So many wonderful recipes from our parishioners. The **Celebration Hospitality Committee** will be selling the cookbooks after Masses. They will also be available at the Parish Office.



Advent & Christmas Schedule



Dec. 15-16	Third Sunday of Advent Bambinelli Sunday
Dec. 21	Confessions 6:30-8:00 pm
Dec. 22-23	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec. 22	Confessions 3-3:30 pm
Dec. 23	Confessions 12:30-2:00 pm
Dec. 24	Nativity Vigil – 4 pm and 10 pm
Dec. 25	Solemnity of the Nativity – 10 am
Dec. 29-30	Holy Family Sunday
Jan. 1	Solemnity of Mary – 10 am
Jan. 5-6	Epiphany Sunday
Jan. 12-13	Baptism of Our Lord

Parish Family Life Events

Membership

If you wish to become a member of our parish, complete the online form, visit the parish office or call us at 216.289.0770. We look forward to welcoming you!

Baptism

Expectant parents are to attend a Baptism Class prior to scheduling a Baptism. Contact the parish office to discuss arrangements.

Marriage

Wedding arrangements are to be made at least six months in advance. Contact **Fr. John** at the Parish Office.

Gospel Meditation

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas? Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer. The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.

I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire."



More News & Events

Financial Peace ... a Gift Many Really Need

The gift-giving season can be a serious reminder of our cash shortage and excess of debt. Does this describe you, or someone you love? After many parishioner requests, we are conducting another series of weekly classes for **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, starting Jan. 14.** For tens of thousands of people, it has changed their lives. The first 10 new registrations cost of all materials will be \$99, after that they will be \$109. Register by calling 216.289.0770 or at www.saintjohnofthecross.org/financial-peace-university.



Keep Christ in Christmas

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of St. John of the Cross and share your faith with these beautiful yard displays! For more information or to order online visit: www.nativitytree.com/sjoc or contact **Annette Koballa** at 216-691-0198.

Bell Nativity
\$75.

Joy Nativity-3pc.
\$195.

Nativity Tree
\$70.



Your Financial Stewardship

Last Week Giving.....	\$5,976.18
Maintenance Giving.....	\$1,627.00
Online Giving.....	\$1,554.00
Online Maintenance Giving	<u>\$118.00</u>
Total	\$9,275.18

Thanks for your generous support toward our mission to serve God!

Parish Activities Schedule

Monday, December 17

7:30 pm Fr. Mehok's Scripture Study (Rm. 6)

Tuesday, December 18

9:15 am Scripture Reflection (MR2)

5:15 pm Legion of Mary (MR2)

Wednesday, December 19

7:00 pm Choir Practice (C)

Thursday, December 20

6:30 pm Bingo #4 (G)

Friday, December 21

6:30-8pm Confessions (C)

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Rm. 6)

Saturday, December 22

7:00 am Men's Prayer Group (Rm. 6)

Sunday, December 23

12:00- Confessions (C)

1:30 pm

C-Church G-Gym
P-Parish Office PG-Parish Grounds
MR2-Meeting Room #2
PC-Parish Community Center
PCB-Parish Community Basement
Rm. 6-8 in Parish Community Center
SRW-Ss. Robert & William

March for Life

Join us in our fight against the abortion industry as we march in Washington January 17-18, 2019. A collaborative trip between St. John of the Cross and Ss. Robert & William. The cost will be \$150./ person which includes overnight stay, transportation, dinner and a visit to the JPII Memorial Shrine. Please contact **Anney Roach** at aroach@saintjohnofthecross.org to reserve your spot.

Ss. Robert and William Catholic School:

SRW is a No Place For Hate School

The No Place for Hate student group sponsored a picture/essay contest asking students to reflect on *What SRW School Would Be Like Without Name Calling* as the topic. Here is the winning submission from the Grade 2-3:

Our school would be holy and Catholic. It would be a really good school to go to. Hundreds of people would want to come to SRW. It would make Jesus' heart smile. SRW would be the best school in the world! God's angels would be proud of us.

Written and illustrated by: **Liam Raddell, 2nd Grader**



Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or via email at response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org. You are asked to immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior.

Visiting Eucharistic Ministers

Richmond Heights Hospital Wednesday, Dec. 19**Rich**
Grande Pointe Sunday, Dec. 23.....**Chris & Dawnmarie**

Our Parish Mission

We are the Catholic Community of St. John of the Cross, established in 2009. Uniting the people of God as one family, we are rooted in, and empowered by, our sacramental life and Eucharistic celebrations. Living as disciples of Jesus Christ, we recognize our God given potential and challenge one another to share our giftedness, embrace our diversity, and engage in social outreach, service and education. In doing so, we seek to extend the reign of God in Euclid and the wider community.



Thank You

As **Mr. Lewis**, a widower who finds friendship and care at St. Martin de Porres Family Center, says: "Thank you. I am happy here."

Thank you St. John of the Cross Parish for bringing the light of Christ to others through your generous act of charity. Because of your mercy, **Catholic Charities** is able to respond to people suffering some of today's most pressing social issues: homelessness and hunger, families in poverty, abuse, isolation, and addiction, especially from opioids.

Thank you and God bless.