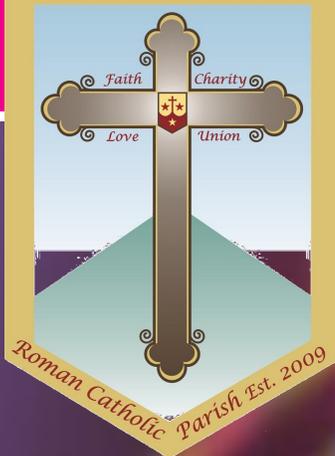


St. John of the Cross



Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish



3rd Sunday of Advent

St. John of the Cross Parish

140 Richmond Road

4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

M, W & F, 8:00 a.m. (Chapel)

T & Th, 6:30 p.m. (Chapel)

Saturday, 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

First Friday of each month,
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

216.289.0770

www.sjceuid.com

info@sjceuid.com

Saturday Vigil Mass

Sunday Masses

Weekday Masses

Confessions

Eucharistic Adoration

Information

Ss. Robert & William Parish

367 E. 260th Street

4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

M, W & F, 12Noon (Church)

T, 8:00 a.m. (Church)

Th, 8:00 a.m. (Chapel)

Sat., 8:30 a.m. (Chapel)

Saturday, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

24 hours/day, 7 days/week in
Perpetual Adoration Chapel

216.731.1515

www.srweuid.cc

info@srweuid.cc

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Today is “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon this Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored. The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us: Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory. We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand.



I want to thank you so much for your participation last weekend in the Survey. The Strategic Planning committee met this past week and we were so grateful at the wonderful response we received. It was very affirming of our work and our desire to move this parish forward. We will use this data in the coming months to begin to formulate a plan moving forward. The next major step will be an event in Lent in which we will have some groups answer questions in person. It will be sort of like a focus group on steroids. We do hope to get as many of you as possible to participate in this.

As we move forward we celebrate all the many good things that happen here at SJC. We celebrate our incredible music ministry, our beautiful and sacred Masses, our outreach ministry to those in need both locally and internationally, our spirit of service in the care for our gardens and our ability to reach out to those who are homebound and in the hospital or healthcare facility. We have many challenges and growth opportunities as well. We will get into those later. However, for now we focus on the greatness of each and every parishioner. We focus on lifting up in prayer to God a sincere petition for Him to faithfully guide us and move us forward!

I also want to thank you so much for your most generous response to our Increased Offertory Program, *This is our Home, We are Family*. Our results were very encouraging. Almost 53% of the parishioners who gave to the Sunday offertory in the last year made a commitment for the next year. We also had 44 families newly identify themselves as active supporters of our church. Overall, the commitments reflect a 224% increase in the offertory over previous donations from those that responded with a commitment card. Please – it is important that parishioners maintain these commitments throughout the year, so that our church is able to continue its mission. I realize so many of you make significant sacrificial gifts to our parish and for this I am most grateful. I loved reading your notes on the campaign cards because they affirmed to me that as a parish, you all are good and faithful stewards who take your commitment to the Lord and this parish very seriously. Thank you!

Please check the bulletin for our Christmas and Holy Day schedule. Check out the extra confession times to make sure you get a chance to go to confession prior to Christmas.

Make it a great week! See you in Church.

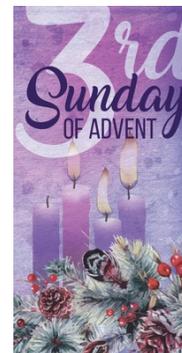
Peace,
Fr. John

Gospel Meditation

Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today's Gospel. *"What did you go out to the desert to see?"* There is something innately human about "seeing." Animals have eyes — some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that's not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. "What are you looking for?" "What are you longing for?" "Whom do you seek?" It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus' identity. *"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"* Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. *"Go and tell John what you hear and see."* God recognizes our desire to see. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don't need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin *"regain their sight."* People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen. Let's pray for the grace to see God's movement in our lives this week. How have you seen the work of God?

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 16 8:00 am (JB)	Advent Weekday Lisa Kaluza
Tuesday, December 17 6:30 pm (JB)	Late Advent Weekday Denise Yeza
Wednesday, Dec. 18 8:00 am (EM)	Late Advent Weekday Jim Proctor
Thursday, December 19 6:30 pm (AM)	Late Advent Weekday John Burrello
Friday, December 20 8:00 am (AM)	Late Advent Weekday Robert Kravos
Saturday, December 21 4:00 pm (JB)	Late Advent Weekday Chuck Pophal
Sunday, December 2 9:00 am (AM) 11:00 am (EM)	Fourth Sunday of Advent Jennie Pograis Kyle Phyllips



Pray for the Sick of the Parish and their Caregivers

Evelyn Adamczak
John Ballard
Noella Burrows
Matthew Dolenc
Constance Durrah
Mary Frain
John Hocevar
Andrew Jarm
Anna Jalovec

Nick Kaluza
Lucille Kucharski
Bob Lucas
Joe Matejka
Ronald Maxey
Rudy Myeress
Sheila Moore-Baka
Larry O'Donnell
Joan Raddell

Pat Rossoll
Jerry Scarniench
Judy Schmidt
Christia Schutt
Rose Simek
Frank Somrack
John Tarmann
Jennifer Tennyson
Abbie Vernon

Please notify the parish office when a name can be removed from this list.

Remember our elderly and homebound in prayer as well.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PRAYER NETWORK HOTLINE
216-289-0770 ext. 120

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

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

Masses are at: 4 pm & 10 pm



Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

Mass is at: 10 am

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

Mass is at 4 pm

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

Mass is at 10 am

Confessions

Saturday, December 21: 2:30-3:30 pm

Sunday, December 22: 12:00-1:30 pm

Monday, December 23: 10:00-11:00 am and
7:00 – 8:00 pm

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.



Luke Brown's Reflection

In the second reading this weekend, we are instructed to refrain from complaining about each other. This is an incredibly difficult task and complaining about each other is a very human thing to do. I remember as a teenager being told, "I'm just venting." Earlier that week, my dad and I had built a wood stove and my understanding of a vent was that it allowed the fire to receive more oxygen, thus burning hotter than before. For a long time, I didn't understand what people really meant when they said they were venting. However, I learned a lesson through this misunderstanding. Too often when we complain about each other, even if we justify it by saying we are just venting, we end up more entrenched in our dislike of the person we are complaining about than when we started. To this day, I still like to think of venting in the way I did as a teenager in that the hatred and anger only grow hotter, especially when we have others to agree with our complaints about the person. If we feel the need to complain about someone, I think there are two options that serve us and our mental health best. The first option is to discern whether or not it is something that we should forget and move on from. Maybe nothing needs to be said. The second option is that this might be an opportunity to talk to the person that we want to complain about. Is someone stealing pens off your desk at work? Is someone speaking inappropriately when they come into your home? Maybe instead of complaining to your friends about them, it's time to talk to the individual about how their behavior is affecting you or your loved ones. This week, consider praying about complaining and its effect on your spiritual and mental health.

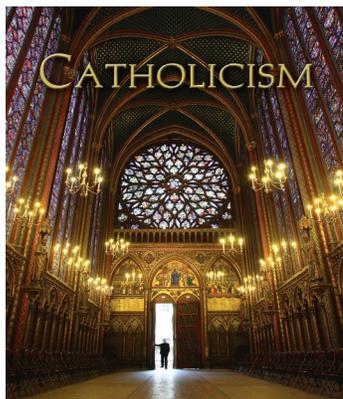


Join us for Holy Hour on December 16th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Church. Through song, scripture and silence, we invite you take time out

of this hectic season to reflect on how Jesus at birth brought Light to a darkened world. Stay after for a hot beverage and a snack in the Gathering Space where we can share memories of Christmas past.

Fr. Robert Barron's Catholicism series

We will do five this winter of Fr. Barron's Catholicism series starting on Monday, January 6 at 6:30 pm and run for five weeks in the All Saints Room of Ss. Robert & William Parish. It is a joint parish event with SRW. Please call the Parish Office to register. It is free and open to all adults. Journey around the world and deep into the Catholic Faith in all its richness, history, beauty, goodness, and truth in breathtaking, high-definition cinematography. Travel to more than 50 locations throughout 15 countries with acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian Bishop Robert Barron. You'll be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture, claiming more than one billion of Earth's people. From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda; from the glorious shrines of Italy, France, and Spain to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata, and New York City; the fullness of CATHOLICISM is revealed. Veteran NBC Today Show correspondent and acclaimed filmmaker Mike Leonard is the Executive Producer of the series.



Parish Family Life Events

Our Doors Are Open:

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self image, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. John of the Cross. To become a registered parishioner, please pick up a form at the parish office or visit our website at www.sjceclid.com

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.

Keep Christ in Christmas
OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENES
 Proceeds benefit:
St. John of the Cross Parish

\$75  \$205 

216-691-0198

Visiting Eucharistic Ministers

R.H. Hospital Wednesday,
 December 18.....**Rich**
 Grande Pointe Sunday,
 December 22.....**Eric & Jeff**

Counters

Monday, Dec. 23**"B" Team**

Parish News & Events

December 1st we accepted **Denise** and **Norm** as a Catechumen and Candidate for initiation into our church. Welcome! Please keep them and Anney Roach in your prayers as they journey to the Easter Vigil.



St. John of the Cross Tree of Life

This tree will hang in the Gathering Space and will serve as a testament, for generations to come, of the love of and commitment to our beloved parish. We are asking each parishioner to consider obtaining a “leaf” on the tree with a \$125 donation. Your leaf can display your family name(s), honor a graduate of St. Felicitas or St. Paul, remember a deceased parishioner, etc. Order forms can be found in the kiosk or on our website.

Great weekend at SJC, our two second graders enrolled in First Penance and First Holy Communion Prep. Thank you to Mrs. Roach and Mrs. Matlock for preparing them. Please keep them and their families in your prayers during this special time.



*Soul*CORE

Our next SoulCore session will be held on Saturday, December 21, at 9:30 AM in Room 10 of the Community Center. For more information contact **Anney Roach** at aroach@siceuclid.com

Parish Staff

Rev. John D. Betters.....Pastor
frjohn@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 103

Rev. Edward E. Mehok

Rev. Andrew Morkunas.....Parochial Vicar
frandrew@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 108

Deacon Charles Doerpers.....Deacon

Deacon Tom Shetina.....Deacon
deacontom@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 112

Dr. Francesco Binda.....Director of Music
fbinda@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 104

Luke Brown.....Wellness Minister
lbrown@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 106

Terri Burrello.....Sacristan

Karen Duke.....Receptionist
kduke@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 100

Jim Granito.....Business Manager
jgranito@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 102

Anita Linsky.....Office Manager
alinsky@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 100

Bill Olson.....Ext. 111
bolson@sjceucid.com.....Youth & Young Adult Minister

Nancy Powell.....Spiritual Care Minister
npowell@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 101

Anney Roach.....DRE
aroach@sjceucid.com.....Ext. 105

Parish Activities Schedule

Monday, December 16

6:30 pm Holy Hour (C)
7:30 pm Fr. Mehok's Scripture Study (Rm. 10)

Tuesday, December 17

9:15 am Scripture Reflection (MR2)
5:15 pm Legion of Mary (MR2)
6:30 pm Bingo (G)

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 19

Friday, December 20

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Rm. 10)

Saturday, December 21

9:30 am Soulcore (Rm. 10)

Sunday, December 22

9:15 am PSR (PC)
9:30 am RCIA (P)
12-1 pm Confessions (C)

C-Church
G-Gym
P-Parish Office
PG-Parish Grounds
MR2-Meeting Room #2
SHC-Sacred Heart Chapel
PC-Parish Community Center
PCL-Parish Community Center Library
Rm. 10 in Parish Community Center
SRW-Ss. Robert & William

Your Financial Stewardship

Last Week Giving\$4,199.87
Last Week Maintenance Giving\$1,610.00

Online Faith Direct Collections will be posted twice a month.

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

*"This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none
greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."* -Mt. 11:10-11