

St. John of the Cross



Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish



4th 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 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy 4th Week of Advent. This is the shortest of the Advent weeks as Christmas is this Wednesday. But I encourage you to use these last few days of Advent to spiritually prepare your hearts to celebrate the Incarnation, the reality that our God loves us so much that He became man in the person of Jesus Christ, born over 2,000 years ago in a cave in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph.



Check out the last opportunities to go to Confession. The times are listed in the bulletin. The best gift one can give oneself is the wonderful gift of God's mercy through the Sacrament of Penance. This beautiful Sacrament is an encounter between Christ and you. As with every Christmas we will have lots and lots of visitors this Christmas at the Masses. This can be such a great time for evangelization and helping people to feel welcome! I have been encouraging you to invite a friend, family member or neighbor to church with you. I also encourage you to make sure we all go out of our way to welcome people to the parish and share that great hospitality that makes us so well known here at SJOC.

Thank you so much for your most generous response to the Giving Tree. We have helped a large number of individuals, families, and organizations have a great Christmas. You all never cease to amaze me with your generous spirit.

Make it a great week and a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Peace,
Fr. John



Gospel Meditation

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit." For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect. For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension. Yet "do not be afraid," the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to "expose [Mary] to shame." Yet he was prepared to "divorce her quietly" all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 23 8:00 am (JB)	Late Advent Weekday Bill Carrick
Tuesday, December 24 4:00 pm (AM) 10:00 pm (JB)	Late Advent Weekday St. John of the Cross Parish Family St. John of the Cross Parish Family
Wednesday, Dec. 25 10:00 am (EM)	The Nativity of the Lord St. John of the Cross Parish Family
Thursday, December 26 6:30 pm (AM)	St. Stephen Joseph & Marie Ross
Friday, December 27 8:00 am (AM)	St. John Tom O'Toole
Saturday, December 28 4:00 pm (AM)	The Holy Innocents Darlene Brokamp
Sunday, December 29 9:00 am (EM) 11:00 am (TR)	Holy Family St. John of the Cross Parish Family Martin & Ursula Sustarsic



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

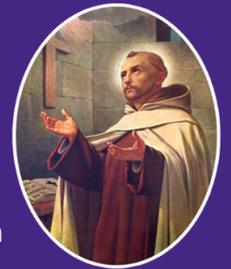
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(New Years), Wednesday, January 1**
Mass is at 10 am

Confessions

Saturday, December 21: 2:30-3:30 pm (SJC)
Sunday, December 22: 12:00-1:30 pm (SJC)
Monday, December 23: 10:00-11:00 am (SJC)
and 7:00 – 8:00 pm (at SRW)

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.

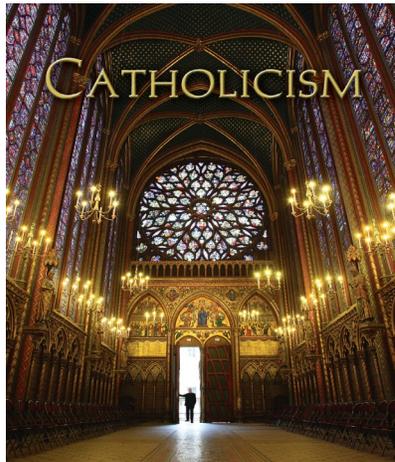


Luke Brown's Reflection

The Diocese of Cleveland was hit hard this Advent with the arrest of a beloved priest. These things are never easy to talk about and leave people feeling betrayed, hurt, embarrassed, and confused. In my work, I often assist people who have abuse and trauma in their past. While people often find healing and peace for their pain, events like this often reopen wounds that were considered resolved. When this happens to an individual or community, it is not their fault, it is not shameful, and it does not mean that they are weaker than anyone else. Our wounds stay with us for a long time, sometimes for life. We should not feel ashamed for needing help and healing for our woundedness. If these events stirred something in your heart and you find yourself in spiritual or emotional pain, please consider seeing someone about it. My door is always open, and the surrounding area has plenty of counseling services available if you would like to see a trauma specialist. With Christmas in only a few days it's difficult to write about sin and evil, but it's the reality that our diocese is going through right now. Please keep everyone involved in your prayers- the victims, the community, the presbyterate, and even the accused. In the end, we are all in need of God's mercy. I hope and pray that all of us find healing and peace during this Christmas season where God's light comes into our darkness.

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.

Our Deepest Sympathies to the

**Families of Marilyn Wagner
and Fritzie Holtcamp**

May they know the peace and comfort of God's love and find strength in the support of friends, family and our parish community.



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

\$75  \$205 

216-691-0198

Parish News

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.



Thoughts from Spiritual Life and Evangelization Committee

Pope Francis in an Apostolic Letter dated December 1, 2019 asserts that the Nativity Scene provides a special way to pass on the faith to our children. It even provides a way to evangelize to those who know little of Jesus or who have turned away from Him. The Christmas Creche, **Pope Francis** explains that “Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God’s love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with Him.” Be ready in the days ahead to share your memories or teach anew to those around you the amazing story of God’s Love come to Earth. For help, go to <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-12>

Visiting Eucharistic Ministers

R.H. Hospital Wednesday,
December 25.....**Sandy**
Grande Pointe Sunday,
December 29.....
.....**Chris & Dawnmarie**

Counters

Monday, Dec. 30**“C” Team**

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” — Mt 1:20-21



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
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Deacon Tom Shetina	Deacon
deacontom@sjceucid.com.....	Ext. 112
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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 23

10-11am Confessions (C)
 7-8:00pm Confessions (C)
 7:30 pm Fr. Mehok's Scripture Study (Rm. 10)

Tuesday, December 24 *

4:00 pm Children's Mass (C)
 10:00 pm Mass (C)

Wednesday, December 25 *

10:00 am Mass (C)

Thursday, December 26 *

Friday, December 27

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Rm. 10)

Saturday, December 28

7:00 am Men's Prayer Group (Rm. 10)

Sunday, December 29

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

* Parish Office Closed

WHEN YOU CAN'T
 PUT YOUR PRAYER
 INTO WORDS,
God Hears Your Heart.

Your Financial Stewardship

Last Week's Giving will be posted in next weekend's bulletin.

Faith Direct November, Second Half \$3,757.50

Faith Direct November, Second Half Maintenance \$1,036.00

Online Faith Direct Collections will be posted twice a month.

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

