

St. John of the Cross



Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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,
8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

216.289.0770
www.sjceucld.com
info@sjceucld.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.srweucld.cc
info@srweucld.cc

January 12, 2020

Baptism of the Lord

Saint John of the Cross Parish, 140 Richmond Rd., Euclid OH 44143 216.289.0770

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From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is the day in which Jesus entered the river Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist. It's at this point that Jesus began his public ministry. Jesus' baptism reinforces the message of the Christmas narratives. Jesus' baptism tells us that God's chosen way of being with us is not as an awesome ruler of the universe, but as one who chooses solidarity with us in all our weakness. Jesus' baptism depicts Emmanuel as one of us.



As we enter into this new decade of 2020 and the new decade of SJC history we will continue to seek ways to fulfill our mission. I think this will be challenging in the world we live in as so many of the younger generations just do not know Jesus Christ and/or do not desire to know him in their hearts.

A growing number of Americans are religiously unaffiliated. The Pew Research center recently asked a representative sample of more than 1,300 of these “nones” *why* they choose not to identify with a religion. Out of several options included in the survey, the most common reason they give is that they question a lot of religious teachings.

Six-in-ten religiously unaffiliated Americans – adults who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” – say the questioning of religious teachings is a very important reason for their lack of affiliation. The second-most-common reason is opposition to the positions taken by churches on social and political issues, cited by 49% of respondents (the survey asked about each of the six options separately). Smaller, but still substantial, shares say they dislike religious organizations (41%), don't believe in God (37%), consider religion irrelevant to them (36%) or dislike religious leaders (34%).

For me I believe that the reason they question a lot of religious teachings is that they do not know Jesus Christ. This is where we must start. Our teachings and belief do not make sense apart from Jesus. We must first help people to feel they belong, know and are loved by Jesus Christ! That is a challenge for us in the 2020's. More on this in coming months.

As we enter back into ordinary time it is good for us to be grateful for a wonderful Christmas season and also for a great celebration of our 10th Anniversary as a parish this past year and for all the many blessings that will be bestowed upon us in this coming new decade.

Make it a great week! See you in Church.

Peace,

Fr. John

Gospel Meditation

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives four reasons for the Incarnation, why God became man in Jesus Christ. The third reason is “to be our model of holiness.” All of Jesus’ words and actions model for us what we ought to do. He also shows us how we’re meant to *be*. Jesus’ baptism ought to remind us of our own baptism and of the importance of baptism in the Christian life.

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our Trinitarian identity. When we are baptized, we stand in solidarity with Christ, bathed in the waters he sanctified. There, the Father proclaims our adoption into the family of God. *“This is my beloved son [this is my beloved daughter], with whom I am well pleased.”* And the Spirit, too, descends. We are filled with the Spirit’s grace and power to continue Christ’s mission on earth. We received these gifts in the sacrament, and they continue to dwell within us through sanctifying grace. We can — and should — invite God to stir up these graces of our baptism and consider them in our own lives.

Does Christ feel like a distant relative two thousand years in the past? Or do you see him as someone who can be encountered here and now? Ask yourself where you find your sense of dignity and worth. Do you still search for it in success, social status, and selfish pursuits? Or are you able to rest in being a beloved child of God? Remember, baptism gives us a call and a charge to change the world. Do you pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you? Or are you so focused on your own life that you miss the mission? This week, let’s do as Jesus did. Let’s live in our baptism!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 13 8:00 am (JB)	Weekday Marie Ross
Tuesday, January 14 6:30 pm (JB)	Weekday Jane DePalma
Wednesday, January 15 8:00 am (EM)	Weekday Mary Shelangoskie
Thursday, January 16 6:30 pm (AM)	Weekday Strancar Family
Friday, January 17 8:00 am (AM)	St. Anthony St. John of the Cross Parish Family
Saturday, January 18 4:00 pm (JB)	Weekday Anna Pepock
Sunday, January 12 9:00 am (AM) 11:00 am (EM)	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time St. John of the Cross Parish Family Annie Kaluza



Pray for the Sick of the Parish and their Caregivers

Evelyn Adamczak
John Ballard
Noella Burrows
Michael Cinalli
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

The St. John of the Cross Annual Giving Tree

Dear Parishioners,

Just as this is the tenth anniversary of Saint John of the Cross Parish, It is the tenth anniversary of the Giving Tree for Saint John of the Cross Parish. This year and all the previous years have been more than awesome. Thank you for your love and kindness in prayers and gifts!

All 95 tags for the 17 Rose Mary Group homes here in the area were taken. Even the artificial palm tree requested by one lady who we are told absolutely loves palm tress was purchased and delivered. Folks with developmental disabilities at Rose Mary who live on a limited budget had many smiles as requests from pajamas to CDs to "Slime" were delivered. There were so many extra gift cards that items needed all year were also delivered. All 24 tags were taken for seniors which the Legion of Mary delivered to nursing homes. (The Legion of Mary is looking for new members for this very dedicated ministry.) The Birthright on East 185th Street received a vanload of gifts. These gifts will be shared all year as parents come for counseling and help with medical and legal matters. The Thea Bowman Center in the Mount Pleasant area of Cleveland received \$1165.00 in gift cards. The Giant Eagle, Walmart, and Marc's cards will be used to help folks coming to the food bank and to buy items for Thea Bowman Center events. The McDonald's cards will be used this coming summer for the children on field trips. For many of these children this is the only time they leave the Mount Pleasant area. The sweatshirts, T shirts, gloves, hats, and scarves were distributed to families at the Saint Aloysius Food Bank on Saint Clair Ave and East 109th. Again, a van load went to Saint Aloysius Parish. Father Neil Walters at the Catholic Ministry for the Incarcerated at the Cuyahoga County jail received \$421.30 in first class stamps. Each prisoner received two stamps to enable him or her to write to a love one at Christmas. Three senior ladies received \$50.00 grocery store gift cards each. We hope they had a wonderful Christmas dinner. Our Nicaragua Mission received \$775.

Bishop Perez at a Rose Mary fundraiser a couple of years ago said "Love ultimately means to strive for the good of others. That is the work of the church " On behalf of our recipients thank you for all the love.

Peace to all.....The Social Justice Ministry

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.



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.

Luke Brown's Reflection

Many people come away from the holidays filled with dread, sadness, and anger instead of the joy, gratitude, and holiness that seem typical of the season. People may realize that their families have issues that they were unaware of, new problems may have come up, or fighting and arguing happened that put a damper on the time together. As a counselor, I hear about these bad holiday experiences regularly at this time of year. I often find myself asking them why their cousins, siblings, in-laws, and parents bother them so much when these issues arise. Many people conclude that they feel badly because they feel like their family's dysfunction is their fault, that they can't escape the dysfunction, and that they are the only family dealing with these issues. Their family's dysfunction becomes an *identity* for them. However, this weekend's solemnity is a wonderful reminder of who our real family is. We are baptized into the faith and the church becomes our new family. We do not belong solely to our blood relatives or in-laws, but to an entire congregation made up of millions of people. This new family is not perfect, but it gives us the chance to meet the needs of love and support that are sometimes unavailable within our own families by meeting virtuous, holy, and supportive people. I am not suggesting that anyone abandon their family entirely, but simply providing a reminder that we are *more* than our family of origin- we are the Body of Christ, joined by our baptism. This week, consider reflecting upon your own baptism and the family of nearly a billion people that you are now a part of because of it.

Hands United in Hope and Love Ministry

Once again, the tremendous generosity of the Saint John of the Cross' parish family is sending hope and love across the miles that separate us from our friends in Nicaragua. Your Christmas Giving Tree gifts of \$775 were recently wired to our Nicaraguan partners – a gift of hope beyond all measure!

Your loving support is truly changing lives, as it will help Padre Roger keep his impoverished school open and pay his teachers with something other than rice and beans!

Words cannot adequately convey the gratitude of our Nicaraguan friends or how much you have brought hope. On behalf of our friends in Christ in Nicaragua, we send our sincerest thanks and blessings for your continued love and support for the poorest of the poor...It is in the giving that we truly receive! *Muchas gracias por el fondo de nuestros corazones!*

As a reminder, we are planning a week-long mission trip to El Viejo Nicaragua late this fall. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Dale George at maridalegeo@msn.com or 440-343-0329.

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.sjceucld.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 Laura Bandish and Beverly Argento

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



Parish News & Other Events



Legion of Mary

Ever wonder how you could serve and grow closer to Jesus more while honoring his Blessed Mother *at the same time*? There are actually lots of ways to do so! To learn more on how, the Saint John of the Cross Legion of Mary would like to invite you to one of their meetings which are held every Tuesday at 5:15 pm in meeting room #2. We always start with a Rosary and meetings last about one hour. If you have any questions, feel free to call Ann Buda at 216-956-9875.

"The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and the Church's work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ."
The Legio Mariae (Official Handbook of The Legion of Mary)



Adoration

Join us and the **Legion of Mary** for Holy Hour on January 20th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Church. Through song, scripture and silence, we invite you take time to experience Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. Reflections on Mary will be featured.

"My joy, my pleasure, my delight is to be with you."

—Proverbs 8:31

Unplanned Movie

Join us at SRW on Sunday, January 19th, 1-3:00pm in the Upper Hall for the viewing of the movie *Unplanned*.

Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation.



2019 Contribution Statements will not be mailed out this year unless requested. Please fill out the form below and drop off the form either at the parish office or in the collection basket. All statements requested will be mailed out before the end of January.

Name _____

Address _____

Parish Staff

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

Rev. Edward E. Mehok

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

Deacon Charles Doerpers.....Deacon

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

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

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

Terri Burrello.....Sacristan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parish Activities Schedule

Monday, January 13

7:00 pm KofC Meeting (PCL)
7:00 pm Social Justice (MR2)
7:30 pm Fr. Mehok's Scripture Study (Rm. 10)

Tuesday, January 14

9:15 am Scripture Reflection (MR2)
5:15 pm Legion of Mary (MR2)
6:30 pm Bingo (G)
7:00 pm Finance Council (P)

Wednesday, January 15

Thursday, January 16

Friday, January 17

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Rm. 10)

Saturday, January 18

Sunday, January 19

9:00 am Pancake Breakfast (G)

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

December 29 Giving.....\$3,597.00
December 29 Maintenance Giving\$623.00
Last Week's Giving\$4,724.14
Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$780.00

Faith Direct December, First Half.....\$6,177.50
Faith Direct December, First Half Maintenance\$1,318.50

Online Faith Direct Collections will be posted twice a month.
Thanks for your generous support toward our mission to serve God!

Visiting Eucharistic Ministers

R.H. Hospital Wednesday,
January 15.....**Kathy**
Grande Pointe Sunday,
January 19.....**Kathy & Celeste**

Counters

Tuesday, Jan. 21....."C" Team