



# Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish

140 Richmond Rd. Euclid, OH 44143 216-289-0770

September 20, 2020

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Fall! The great season of fall starts tomorrow and while I will miss summer, I love the fall and the magnificence of God's beauty of creation we see in the colors. It never ceases to amaze me!

Today is Catechetical Sunday and we recognize those people in our parish community who serve as catechists in the role of helping to form others in the ways of our Catholic faith. Please lift them all up in your prayers!

A few weeks ago, as part of the early work of the joint parish (SRW/SJC) task force on racism, a member of the task force was reflecting on racism from her perspective and experience in our "Views from the Pews section." She expressed her personal fear and struggle that her son, a young black man, would experience police brutality. She said it was a concern of hers as a mother. This is not the first time I have heard this over the years. It makes me so sad (as I know it does her). I struggle (as I imagine a lot of us do) with this perspective. This is not my experience of the police. When I was a kid and still today, I think and know police as my heroes! Men and women who everyday seek to protect and serve so nobly. I think back to September 11 as I saw so many of them running into collapsing and burning buildings to rescue people and giving of their lives to save them. I think of the great interactions I have had over my 10 years serving and living in Euclid with our fine men and women in blue. I think of my Uncle, a retired PA state trooper, who does so much for my grandma! I mourned with the rest of Cleveland the senseless killing of Detective James Shernivitz as he worked undercover to keep drugs off our streets. I realize as a white male in middle class America I have a certain perspective. This got me thinking of what can I do to help promote and support the many men and women who serve in law enforcement who seem to be under a lot of suspicion lately. Certainly, there is no denying there have been some very distressing high-profile cases in the news that paint the police in not such a great light. However, this is not the vast majority of police officers. It occurs to me that we need to take this issue, like the issue of racism against our brothers and sisters because of their skin color or ethnic background, to the Lord and ask His Divine intercession in helping us to end this terrible reality. We need to help build bridges, especially, between the black community and the police, so people, like our parishioner who shared her fear, do not have to have this fear any longer. I certainly believe some of this is because of the stain that men and women who choose to abuse their power/authority bring to the profession (we priests certainly know this reality!) However, I think it is also the reality that we live in a society that has lost respect for authority, truth, law & order, etc. We live in a society that does not treat all human beings with dignity and respect from the moment of conception until natural death. I think it is the media and the narratives they choose to lead us in. I think it is the abuse of social media. I could go on and on. **I believe the number one source of so many of our issues in society is that we have lost touch with Jesus Christ and the Love his soul radiates to each of us. We start from so many other perspectives and points, instead of starting with running to Jesus and allowing Him to penetrate our mind and heart with His.**

As we wrestle with the reality of overcoming racism and seek to hold people accountable who abuse power and help people to have respect for authority and truth; it is important, I believe, that we root ourselves in the strong moral and justice convictions of our Catholic faith. I suggest that we ask Jesus to fill our minds, hearts, and souls with this perspective as we prepare for another general election. It seems to me that this can be done in two very concrete ways. **One is prayer** — need to storm heaven with our prayers! I invite you to consider giving one hour a week to prayer in our Eucharistic Adoration. I am hoping that SRW can do 960 hours and SJC can do 48 hours of prayer before the Eucharist for our country and for her citizens to have Christ like wisdom in discerning and voting for our leaders. Please see elsewhere in the bulletin on how to participate in this endeavor. **Second, I hope we can educate/refresh ourselves on the teachings of the Scripture and Tradition of our church on morality and justice.** I invite you to a four-week series on this topic each Wednesday. See elsewhere in the bulletin for more information. It is available both in person and virtually.

I wish I had all of the answers of how-to bring peace to our world. **I may not have many of the answers, but I do know where we can look for them...in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** Together let the parishes of SRW and SJC prepare ourselves in prayer and education/formation.

Make it a great week! Enjoy the start to fall. See you in Church or online.

Peace,

Fr. John

*From Our Pastor*



## St. John of the Cross (140 Richmond Road):

### **Masses:**

**Saturday Vigil at 4 pm.**

**Sunday, 7:45 am.** (in the shrine weather permitting); & **10:15 am**

**Monday, 8:30 am**

**Tuesday, 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, 8:30 am**

**Thursday, 6:30 pm**

**Morning Prayer:** Friday, 8:30 am

**Adoration:** in the Church every Friday, 9 am to 2 pm.

### **Masses At Ss. Robert & William:**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 11:30 am

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 8:30 am

\*All six SRW Masses will be  
LIVESTREAMED

### **Confessions:**

St. John of the Cross **Saturday 3 pm**; and Ss. Robert & William **Saturday 2:30 pm**



### **Monday, September 21**

8:30 AM (JB/TS) † Albert Sustarsic

### **Tuesday, September 22**

6:30 PM (JB) † Anna Pepock

### **Wednesday, September 23**

8:30 AM (JL) † People of the Parish

### **Thursday, September 24**

6:30 PM (JL/TS) † Adolph Rot

### **Friday, September 25**

No Mass (8:30 am Morning Prayer; 9am-2pm Adoration)

### **Saturday, September 26**

4 PM (JB/TS) † Special Intention

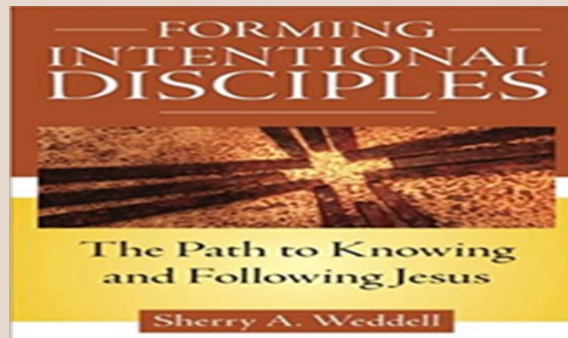
### **Sunday, September 27**

7:45 AM (JB/TS-P) † Joe Nalepka

10:15 AM (JL/TS) † Marcey Kaluza

### **PRAYERS NEEDED**

Evelyn Adamczak, John Ballard, Noella Burrows, Barbara Contorno, Constance Durrah, Mary Frain, Joe Hocevar, John Hocevar, Andrew Jarm, Anna Jalovec, Nick Kaluza, Peggy Kiikka, John Malovasic, Joe Matejka, Ronald Maxey, Sheila Moore-Baka, Rudy Myeress, Larry O'Donnell, Linda Palko, Joan Raddell, Pat Rossoll, Mary Rot, Jerry Scarniench, Judy Schmidt, Rose Simek, Colette Suhy, John Tarmann, Rita Vaitkus, Abbie Vernon, Nick Zanella



**“the glory of God is a human being fully alive!” St. Irenaeus 130 – 202 D)**

As we continue the path of intentional discipleship, we will be finishing up Chapter 2: We do not know what normal is.

### **What is Discipleship?**

Discipleship is never unconscious. What does that mean? It is not like “one day you wake up and you are different.” It first begins with a transformation process when we cooperate with the graces that God bestows on us.

***How do we become disciples? By acting like Simon Peter.***

***Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”***

***When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. Lk 5:10-11***

***Simon Peter’s “drop the net” decision is what we mean by intentional. From the moment he dropped his nets to follow Jesus, he was a disciple. Pg. 65***

***It is the same with us. Intentional discipleship is not accidental or merely cultural. It is not a “following the rules.” A disciple’s primary motivation comes from within, out of the Holy Spirit – given “hunger and thirst for righteousness.” Pg. 66.***

What “nets” in our lives are we tangled up in that we need to drop so we can grow closer to our Lord Jesus as Intentional Disciples?

Thank you to those who have sent in comments they are very much welcomed.

Please do not be shy, your thoughts and comments have tremendous value.

Contact Deacon Tom:

[deacontom@sjceucld.com](mailto:deacontom@sjceucld.com) or 216-289-0770 ext. 112



FRIDAYS BETWEEN SEPT. 25 - NOV. 3



## 48 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

We invite you to pray one hour a week to help us get to 48 hours of prayer for our country, the USA. Pray for us to live in a country that embraces Gospel Morals & Justice.

Sign-up for one hour a week in our Adoration Chapel. Call the Parish Office or email Fr. John ([frjohn@sjceucld.com](mailto:frjohn@sjceucld.com)) to sign-up



### **SCRIPTURES AND TRADITION**

You are invited to participate in a four-week journey to study, review and renew our commitment to Catholic Social teachings throughout the centuries. I will offer four sessions on **Wednesdays, September 23 & 30, and October 7 & 14 at Ss. Robert & William, 7 p.m. to**

**8:30 pm** in the church. We can spread out well and keep socially distant. We will also LIVESTREAM so that those who are not able to come can participate as well. Mark your calendar and plan on attending.

*Fr. John*



From September 23 – November 1, you are also invited to stand and peacefully pray anytime between 7 am to

7 pm during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside **Preterm** - 12000 Shaker Blvd, Cleveland, 44120 or **Planned Parenthood** - 25350 Rockside Rd, Bedford Hts, 44146, or **Family Planning** – 462 Chardon St, Painesville, 44077.

Join us at the Kickoff Rally at St. John Vianney Church Parish Center in Mentor on Monday, September 21 at 7 PM.

### RACIAL JUSTICE REFLECTION

I did a little research and it appears that former U.S. Congressman and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is credited with coining the phrase, “You don’t know what you don’t know.” Never was that phrase truer for me than when I earnestly began delving into our county’s racial history. I am at once embarrassed by how little I understood and grateful for our newly formed Racial Justice Task Force that has begun freeing me from my delusions. I just want to share one thought and then the names of a few people we should all get to know.

Several months ago I would have proudly identified myself as a *non-racist*. I didn’t consider myself to be racist, at least not by the standards of my predominantly white upbringing. Today I realize that “you don’t know what you don’t know.” I’ve learned that being a *non-racist* is a passive stance on a crucial issue. That realization has moved me to aspire to become an *anti-racist*; someone who is active in the fight for racial equality. And I understand that it is not simply a matter of understanding the difference in terms. That’s the easy part. What the SRW/SJC Racial Justice Task Force hopes to keep our communities updated issues and encourage us to be agents of change.

For those of you who would like to read more, I suggest *How To Be An Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi and *White Fragility* by Robin Di Angelo. On the internet, *The Danger of a Single Story*, a Ted Talk by Chimamanda Adichie, and a YouTube interview with Fr. Bryan Massingale are both truly enlightening pieces.

There is so much to learn! And every time I think I have a grip on things, I just have to keep telling myself, “Renee, you don’t know what you don’t know.”

Renee Barber

## Parish Staff

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## *SJC Prayer 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 OFFICE HOURS:

**OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
8 am to 4 pm**

**CLOSED: Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays**

## Your Financial Stewardship

Last Week's Giving.....\$2,243.00

Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$ 880.00

Faith Direct\* - 2nd half Month Giving .....\$2,378.00

Faith Direct\* --2nd half Month Maintenance..\$ 581.00

**\*Online Faith Direct Collections will be posted twice a month for both Giving and Maintenance.**

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