



Saint John of the Cross

140 Richmond Rd., Euclid, Ohio 44143
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Roman Catholic Parish
March 14, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Ides of March tomorrow! It is so nice to know that Spring is just a week away.

As COVID 19 vaccines become more and more available and more people are getting them, a number of questions and concerns have come up about the morality of the vaccines. I would share that the stance of the Catholic Church is that each individual needs to make their own decision about getting the vaccine. However, the Church is strongly recommending that each person get a vaccine to help protect the common good. We have a moral duty to help keep people healthy and safe. Each person's individual situation will require prayer and discernment about what is best. For example, a nurse who works with elderly patients on a daily basis is going to have a much different discernment than a person who is retired, lives alone and does not go out a lot.

There are lots of various opinions on the ethics of the vaccines. I think it is important for you to get factual information especially in regards to Catholic teaching. I share the following with you that was written by Fr. Joe Koopman, who is the Moral Theologian of the Diocese:

“At this point, it appears as if the vaccine created by **Pfizer/Biontech**, along with the vaccine created by **Moderna** *have not been created using material of illicit origin (i.e., embryonic stem cells and/or the tissue of aborted children.)* For Catholics, this is *great* news. Theologically speaking, there are no moral or religious grounds that would restrict the consciences of Catholics from receiving these vaccines.

There have been articles and press releases that affirm that, while these above vaccines were not *created* with material of illicit origin, there is good reason to believe that these vaccines may have been *tested* (post production) utilizing the tissue of aborted fetuses. These articles and statements, therefore, conclude that it is immoral to use them. This sweeping conclusion is ***inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching***.

A critical question is: “Are Catholics always forbidden to perform an action if it touches upon evil, or cooperates, somehow, with the evil action of another?” The answer is ‘no’. There *certainly* are instances when Catholics *must* refrain from immoral cooperation. However, Catholic teaching on moral cooperation makes critical distinctions (mediate/immediate, proximate/remote, etc) to determine the *degree or level to which* one cooperates in evil. In some cases, some forms of cooperation, while unfortunate, can be allowed in certain circumstances.

Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world. Dig deep enough, and one finds that many of our actions somehow touch upon evil and the evil actions of others. While the Church draws a firm line in delineating certain acts of cooperation as immoral, it does not condemn *all* actions of cooperation as such. It challenges us to be aware of evil around us, to *always* choose the option that involves less evil (or no evil), and to speak and challenge others to desist from evil. It is for this reason that the Church, in the early months of vaccine development for COVID 19, boldly challenged (and continues to challenge) researchers and the medical industry to seek moral means of vaccine production (and to reject the use of material of illicit origin that involved the destruction of unborn life).

Regarding the previous statement regarding the immorality of taking the vaccine because of immoral post-production testing, or even statements from some bishops that have forbidden vaccines derived from material of illicit origin, the following paragraph from *Dignitas Personae*, issued from the CDF under Pope Benedict XVI, offers critical (and perhaps surprising) conclusions. In speaking of the use of embryonic stem cell lines or the tissue of aborted children, the document states in no. 35: “Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such ‘biological material’. Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to and from the tissue of aborted children, the *receiving* of these vaccines is in another moral category.

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BLOG



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make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available.”

While the statement uses the example of the danger to the health of children, the dangers of COVID-19 particularly to our vulnerable elderly or those with compromised health could reasonably be presumed as grave reason for vaccination. While the Church unequivocally condemns researchers and the medical industry for the creation, production, and distribution of vaccines produced from embryonic stem cells.

In conclusion, at this point there appears to be no moral issues to prohibit a Catholic from receiving vaccines produced by Pfizer or Moderna. If other vaccines are released which do have recourse to material of illicit origin, Catholic moral teaching would direct Catholics to utilize the option that is least morally problematic (i.e., the vaccines that were *not* created via such immoral means). Providentially, these two listed vaccines satisfy that criteria.

It does appear that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine that recently was approved by the FDA was made with material of illicit origin. Catholics in this case should seek an alternative and avoid the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

As more vaccines are produced, we recommend that you visit the following website, which provides a fairly complete list of all vaccines, and how they were produced and tested. <https://lozierinstitute.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

Be assured of my prayers for all of us as we discern what is best! Prayers also for all who are sick and their caregivers. Don't forget the parish mission this week! It will be awesome.

See you in Church!

Peace, Fr. John

ALMSGIVING

Lenten Almsgiving: Making a Difference in Nicaragua

Over the years that you have supported our outreach to Nicaragua, evolving needs have continually challenged us to concentrate on areas where we can truly make a difference. We know that while the power of prayer is limitless, financial resources are finite.

It is with that in mind that we focus this year's Lenten Almsgiving on helping Padre Roger replace the roof of his church, Parroquia Divino Niño Jesus (The Divine Child Jesus) in El Viejo-Chinandega, Nicaragua.

The roof was already leaking and supports were rotting even before the church sustained strong winds from two recent hurricanes. Temporary repairs with corrugated metal sheets have kept the interior dry until a new roof can be put in place. With your support, we hope the project can be completed very soon.

If you would like to make an Almsgiving donation, please use the special envelope or almsgiving box that was distributed in the Lenten Bags and bring to church or drop off at the parish office during Holy Week.

Since 2014, you have helped create and repair worship spaces, school facilities and rectories; provide rosaries and Spanish-language children's Bibles; supplement tuition and teacher salaries; obtain emergency medicines, food and supplies; and much more.

Political unrest and the global pandemic have further destabilized a struggling economy. Yet despite the hardships they face every day, Nicaraguans are among the happiest and most faith-filled people we have ever met. They deeply appreciate the hope you provide and the love you share through our ministry.

During this Lenten season, we ask for your continued prayers for the people of Nicaragua, most especially for:

Padre Tomás as he begins a new pastoral assignment at Nuestros Señor de Los Milagros (Our Lord of Miracles) in Malpaisillo while continuing to lead the Diocese of León's charitable arm.

Padre Adrian as he returns from a recent illness to shepherd the people of Chacraseca and Sacred Heart of Jesus parish.

Padre Roger as he oversees roof replacement on his church while facing the reality that his school may have to close.

The family of Padre Harold, who died of a brain tumor in October, soon after his father died of COVID-19.

Although we have had to put mission trips on hold indefinitely, we are confident that our ministry is reaching across the miles to make a difference. Thank you for making it possible.

Please fill your Lenten Almsgiving Boxes and Envelopes that were in the Lent Bags. Return during Holy Week Services. Or you can write a check or donate on line and just designate for Nicaragua.

Dale and Marie George — Hands United in Hope & Love Ministry



**Free Community Meal
St. John of the Cross**

Our next community meal is on March 17, 2021 beginning at 5 p.m.

This is a drive-through, take out meal.

All community meals will be held on the third Wednesday of each month.



FREE



EASTER DINNER

*Pick-up Holy Saturday,
April 3 from 1 - 2 pm
Delivery is available upon request*

Call 216.289.0770 or 216.731.1515 or email Anita at
alinsky@srweuclid.cc
367 E. 260th St. Euclid Ohio 44132



**FISH FRY DINNER
SRW LENTEN MEAL**

The SRW Fish Fry will be Drive-up and Carry-out Meals only. In the boxes below, choose your main fish and how many. All meals will come with mac and cheese, coleslaw, french fries, a dinner roll and a special dessert.

- Baked Atlantic Cod - \$12.00
- Beer Battered Pollock - \$12.00
- Breaded Shrimp - \$14.00
- Add a cup of Clam Chowder - \$1.00

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Please clip out this order form and return it to the parish office with payment. If you would like to order over the phone please call Fridays 12:00 pm- 2:00 pm at 216-731-1515.

Circle a Date: 2/17, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2

Write a time for pick-up from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

\$2.00 off any Adult Dinner.
Up to 4 people may use this coupon.

Order your Fish Fry Dinner ahead of time and set your time of pick-up.
Go to: srweuclid.cc/fish-fry-online-order



Monday, March 15

8:30 AM (JB/TS) † People of the Parish

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 PM (JB) † People of the Parish

Wednesday, March 17

8:30 AM (JL) † People of the Parish

Thursday, March 18

6:30 (JL/TS-P) † People of the Parish

Friday, March 19

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

Saturday, March 20

4 PM (JB/TS) † Mary Jane Thomas

Sunday, March 21

7:45 AM (JL/TS) † Lisa Kaluza

10:15 AM (JB/TS) † Ferdinand Krecic

Our Deepest Sympathies

To The Family of: Barbara Contorno

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



Our Financial Stewardship

Last Week's Giving\$3,647.63

Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$1,630.00

Faith Direct*-Half Giving.....\$

Faith Direct*-Half Maintenance . \$

***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!

Liturgical Tribute Fund

All money that is donated to this fund in memory of a loved one or friend, or a special occasion will be used to purchase items utilized in our worship and help us to do all that we can to assure that we have what we need to worship reverently and well.

Sincere thank you for your donations to our Liturgical Tribute Fund...

In Memory of

Vi Franco

Frank & Mary Jane Hiti

Parish Staff

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Tom Hagen, Maintenance Director

Gene Fiorelli, Maintenance

Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 8 am to 4 pm
Closed Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday

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.

Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish and Their Caregivers

Evelyn Adamczak	Jerry Scarniench
John Ballard	Judy Schmidt
Noella Burrows	Rose Simek
Constance Durrah	Colette Suhy
Frank Hiti	Nancy Suhy
John Hocevar	John Tarmann
Andrew Jarm	Rita Vaitkus
Anna Jalovec	Abbie Vernon
Nick Kaluza	
Joe Matejka	
Ronald Maxey	
Sheila Moore-Baka	
Rudy Myeress	
Linda Palko	
Bill Perko	
Joan Raddell	
Pat Rossoll	
Mary Rot	



***Please notify us
when a name can be
taken off this list.***