



Saint John of the Cross

140 Richmond Rd., Euclid, Ohio 44143
December 19, 2021

Roman Catholic Parish
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners,

Happy 4th Week of Advent! Today we enter the final week of preparation for the great celebration of Christmas. I really encourage you to take some time this week to prepare your hearts, souls and minds for the celebration. While the lights, foods, decorations, family time, gifts, etc. are all great, this is about celebrating the incarnation... God loved us so much that he became Man to save us. One of the great ways to prepare is to go confession before Christmas. We have confessions scheduled for 7 pm on Tuesday and 10 am on Wednesday of this week.



We have our Christmas Concert this Wednesday at 7 pm. I do hope you can attend. I have confessions at SRW that night but I will definitely watch the LIVESTREAM video. I know it will be a phenomenal evening and should put you in the Christmas spirit. Our music ministry works hard all year round, and I know that this concert is the highlight of their year. We have several new members of our music ministries, and I hope more will consider joining in the new year.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is a little different this year. Of course we have our regular 4 pm vigil, probably the most popular Mass of the entire year. However, pre-COVID, I was concerned about the 10 pm as in 2019, we only had about 80 people attend and 20 of those people were there because they came to Mass I was presiding at as they were family and friends of mine and not parishioners. We struggled to get Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Servers. So I was considering cancelling it and just doing the one on Christmas Eve. However, in talking to the staff and some parishioners, we had the idea of doing a traditional Midnight Mass. Very few parishes do this anymore and it was such a beautiful tradition. So...I decided to give it a "try." So... please consider coming to the midnight Mass, really at 12 Midnight. Invite friends and family. We will have Christmas Carols starting at 11:30 am. On Christmas Day we will have Mass at 10:15 am.

I hope to see many of you at Christmas Masses. Know that I love you all and so blessed to serve you and this beautiful season allows me to express that.

Make it a great week! See you in Church.

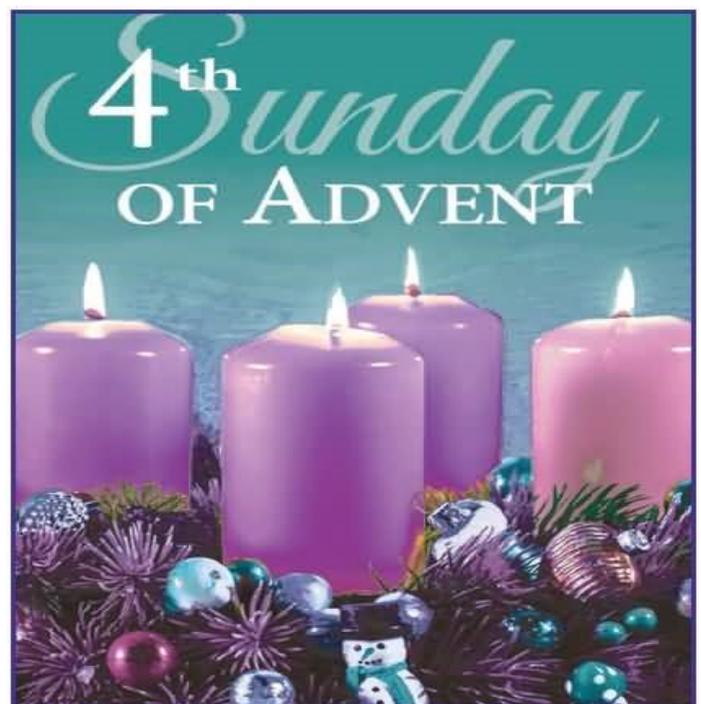
Peace,
Fr. John



Jingle Bells!

The Music Ministry invites you, your families, and friends for an evening of music and carols, anticipating the coming of Jesus. Join us, then, on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow the event.

Thank you!



Luke Brown's Reflection

Family and the Holidays (Part 3 of 3)

In the last two weeks, we have discussed strategies to navigate potential family issues that commonly arise during the holiday season. This week, I thought it might be useful to discuss how we can help family members who struggle with mental health issues. Encouraging someone to get help with their mental health can be a very delicate subject. Some people get offended by the recommendation, which is very understandable. If you think a family member or loved one would benefit from mental health services, it would be good to spend some time reflecting on why you want their mental health to improve. Telling someone you think they should attend counseling because you love them and want them to experience peace, fulfillment, and joy is very different than pointing out their problems, accusing them of various things, and telling them to go to counseling to "get their act together." One obviously sounds more charitable and loving than the other. It is also useful to explain that a person going to counseling does not mean that the person is bad, terribly dysfunctional, or "crazy." Counseling is for people who are having a difficult time, would benefit from having someone to talk through things with, and could learn some tools for improving their mental health. The stigmas around mental health have improved, but there are still many influences that prevent people from getting the help they need. Encouraging people out of love and explaining that counseling is not a radical thing for extreme cases can go a long way. This week, consider reflecting on how you can better encourage loved ones with their mental health and how you can accompany them on their journey to healing and fulfillment.

(All parts of this series will be available at sacredheartcleveland.com/blog in coming weeks)

Luke Brown, LPCC

DISCOVER TODAY HOW COUNSELING CAN HELP YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES THRIVE, GROW, AND HEAL.



SACRED HEART
COUNSELING

OUR CARING TEAM CAN HELP WITH:

- ANGER MANAGEMENT
- ANXIETY
- MARITAL PROBLEMS
- TRAUMA
- DEPRESSION
- SELF-CARE AND MORE...

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, COUNSELING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL PARISHIONERS. SERVICES OFFERED INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING.

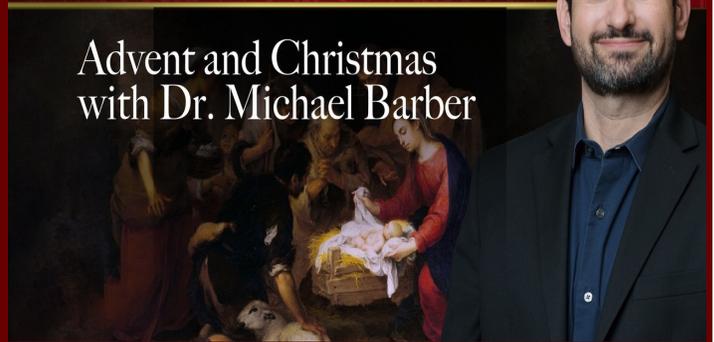
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LUKE BROWN, LPCC
E: LUKEBROWN@SACREDHEARTCLEVELAND.COM
P: 440-305-6192

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” — Lk 1:43-45

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

THE TRUE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS

Advent and Christmas
with Dr. Michael Barber



Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Tune in for Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes. To go deeper, be sure to get his accompanying book "The True Meaning Christmas", available on Catholic Market.

WATCH ON FORMED

LOG IN: SRWSJCEUCLID.FORMED.ORG

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are available to be scheduled with no limit. If you would like to schedule mass intentions, please feel free to stop by the office or contact Karen at 216-289-0700 x. 100. Mass intentions can be for the deceased or the living. The suggested donation is \$10.



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

MIDNIGHT MASS

We are rekindling the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass tradition here at St. John of the Cross.

Join us starting with the singing of Carols at 11:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 12 Midnight.

Our Deepest Sympathies to the Families of

**Alphonse Kender
John Tarmann**

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

St. John of the Cross Parish Confession Times

December 21, 7-8pm

December 22 10-11am

December 23, 7-8 pm

Ephesians 1:7

The Blood of
Jesus Christ:
The Forgiveness
of Sins.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND 4.0

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.

EXITING THE CHURCH AFTER MASS

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Out of respect for the liturgy and for the music that accompany the services, we would like to invite you to exit the church through the gathering area and/or through the new entrance, which provides a wonderful ramp and very efficient buttons to operate the opening of the doors. Thank you for your cooperation.



In preparation for the upcoming Synod (Meeting) of Bishops in Rome 2023, our parish has been invited to participate in a process of prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, dreaming,

and discerning God's call for the Church amid the present signs of the times. The theme for this synod is **"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission."** Synodality expresses the nature of the Church as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Pope Francis has invited everyone to participate in a dialogue with one another and with the worldwide Catholic Church.

In the weeks ahead there will be opportunities for parishioners to gather together. We will reflect back on our experiences of Church, both collectively and individually, and then project forward and ask, "Where is the Holy Spirit leading us as a diocese?" Look forward to more information in the weeks ahead and the opportunities to gather prayerfully being attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Young Adults! — The "Lakeshore Pod" is a reality! If you are in your 20s and/or 30s, come and join us for this incredible opportunity to pray to Jesus and get to know new people in the area. We invite you to be part of this journey in preparation for Christmas. Below are the events locations, dates and times. If you have any question, please contact Joe at YoungAdults@sjceucld.com.

JOURNEYING TO CHRIST

DEC 2 at St. Jerome
DEC 9 at St. John of the Cross
DEC 16 at Our Lady of the Lake
DEC 23 at Ss. Robert and William

PREPARE . NAVIGATE . ANTICIPATE . ARRIVE.

7pm every Thursday during Advent
Journey from parish to parish

LAKESHORE YOUNG ADULTS

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass Schedule

Mondays & Wednesdays.....8:30 am
Tuesdays & Thursdays.....6:30 pm
Fridays:- Morning Prayer 8:30 am with
Eucharistic Adoration 8:45 am to 2:00 pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturdays.....4:00 pm
Sundays.....7:45 am & 10:15 am

Confessions

Saturdays.....3:00 - 3:30 pm

MASS Intentions

Monday, December 20

8:30 AM (JB/TS-P) † John Burrello

Tuesday, December 21

6:30 PM (JB) † Chuck Pophal

Wednesday, December 22

8:30 AM (JL) † People of the Parish

Thursday, December 23

6:30 PM (JL/TS) † James and Rose Zeman

Friday, December 24

4:00 PM (GB/TS) † People of the Parish

11:30 PM CAROLS

12 MIDNIGHT MASS (JB/TS) People of the Parish

Saturday, December 25

10:15 AM (JL/TSP) † People of the Parish

Sunday, December 26

7:45 AM (JL/TS) † People of the Parish

10:15 AM (JB/TS) † People of the Parish

Our Financial Stewardship

Last week's Giving.....\$3,951.50
Last week's Maintenance.....\$ 509.00
Faith Direct* Giving.....\$
Faith Direct*-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!

Parish Staff

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

Rev. Gerald Bednar, Priest in Residence

Rev. John Loya, Priest in Residence
jloya@dioceseofcleveland.org

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

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

Terri Burrello, Sacristan

Karen Duke, Office Manager
kduke@sjceucld.com, Ext. 100

Tom Hagen, Maintenance Director

Gene Fiorelli, Maintenance

Parish Office Phone Number: 216-289-0770

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, John Ballard, Noella Burrows, Constance Durrach, Marie George, Frank Hiti, John Hocevar, Andrew Jarm, Anna Jalovec, Nick Kaluza, Ronald Maxey, Vera Baka, Linda Palko, Bill Perko, Joan Raddell, Pat Rossoll, Mary Rot, Jerry Scarniench, Judy Schmidt, Rose Simek, Abbie Vernon

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

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FAMILY

If you would like to be a member of our Parish, please complete this form and drop it in the collection basket or send it to the Parish office and someone from the Parish will contact you.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____