



May 8, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

# Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish / Cleveland Catholic Diocese

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Mother's Day! Today is a wonderful day to celebrate the beauty and wonder of women and the gift of motherhood. God calls many women to be mothers and bear children. Other women may not physically bear children (for a variety of reasons) but nonetheless still serve to bring that motherly role to so many people as Godmothers, Aunts, and "Motherly Roles" in lives of loved ones. Every woman, no matter their state in life, is called to bring the beautiful feminine spirit to our world. Know of our deep love and appreciation to all women of the parish who in some way share in this motherly role and sharing of the beautiful feminine spirit in our world. We are truly blessed!



We are living in a world that I am not sure genuinely appreciates the magnificence of God's incredibly awesome creation. The *pinnacle* of God's creation is the creation of Man and Woman. God created mankind in His Image: "...in the image of God he created them; male and female<sup>2</sup> he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.<sup>3</sup> Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth." <sup>G (Genesis 1: 27 & 28)</sup> We have absolutely no right to challenge God's creation. He is God and we are not!

So how do we as Catholics respond to all this "gender" craziness in our world and the de-masculinizing and de-feminizing of humanity? I would suggest a few ways:

LOVE...there are so many people who do not know Jesus and when you do not know Jesus, a lot of this does not make sense and the lies that are being fed about gender are believable when you do not know your Lord and Savior. Let each person know they are first of all, loved and valued, no matter what their choices are in life. This does not mean you accept their choices, or even support, but you love them for their personhood as a son/daughter of God (even if they do not know or love it themselves) and bring Christ's love to them.

A willingness to dialogue with compassion while remaining rooted in the truth is so key here. Do not be quick to give your thoughts or opinions. Allow people to talk about their different opinions and then in love and truth, share yours. Make sure they feel heard. I have found this transformative in so many conversations.

Celebrate women and men, their differences and that they are complimentary of one another. Obviously, for many centuries, women were viewed as less than equal to men. This is simply not true. Different and complimentary does not equal any kind of superiority. Support equality of all human beings, male and female. When there is legitimate discrimination, be willing to speak out against it.

Help breakdown harmful stereotypes. This is key. Each faith tradition, culture and society tend to define what it means to be a man or woman. Those are good and can help give guidance, but be on the lookout for when someone feels on the outside. Love them, support them, and help them to know that stereotypes do not define God's creation. I personally do not like to wear pink. I "jokingly" say, real men do not wear pink. But the reality is, pink can be worn by anyone. The like or dislike of the color does not define gender.

Support those who have gender confusion or struggle and in love and compassion, --- help lead them to Jesus who will help them find their true identity. The answer is not to deny the gender that God has created you to be, but to walk towards finding peace in it and knowing that God loves you. We can walk with these people, journey with them, and help lead them to Christ who will help to bring truth in love and peace to all people.

I lift anyone and everyone in prayer who is not "feeling comfortable in their own skin," especially those who struggle to the point of mental/emotional illness. However, I also remind everyone of two posters my second-grade teacher had in our classroom: *God does not make junk* and *God does not make mistakes*. I believe the loving thing to do, the just thing to do, is to help people and guide people in love, compassion, and non-judgment of their personhood to the truth of the gender/sex that God has created them to be, however they want to live that out in constant discernment with Jesus Christ and His will for each person.

Happy Mother's Day! Thank you for sharing the beauty of the feminine spirit with the world!

Make it a great week. See you in Church.

Peace,  
Fr. John

**55 Plus  
SRW/SJC  
Book Club**

**Next Discussion  
May 18, 2022  
10:00 AM  
SRW Parish Office**

***Nine Essential  
Things I've  
Learned About  
Life***

**By:  
Harold Kushner**

***THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE***

The selection for our Wednesday, May 18 discussion has been changed. We will be discussing *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life* by Harold Kushner. Kushner is the author of fourteen books including the very popular *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Meetings take place at 10:00AM in the Sacred Heart Room of SRW Parish Office Bldg. No registration required. Just come and enjoy the conversation!

**CELEBRATING THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!  
JUNE 8, 2022 — 7 PM**



Dear friends in Christ, we invite you to participate in an event dedicated to the Holy Spirit! Join us for an evening of Scripture readings, reflection, prayer, music, dance, and healing. Let us all come together to feel the Presence, the Spirit, and the Power of the Lord! Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church.

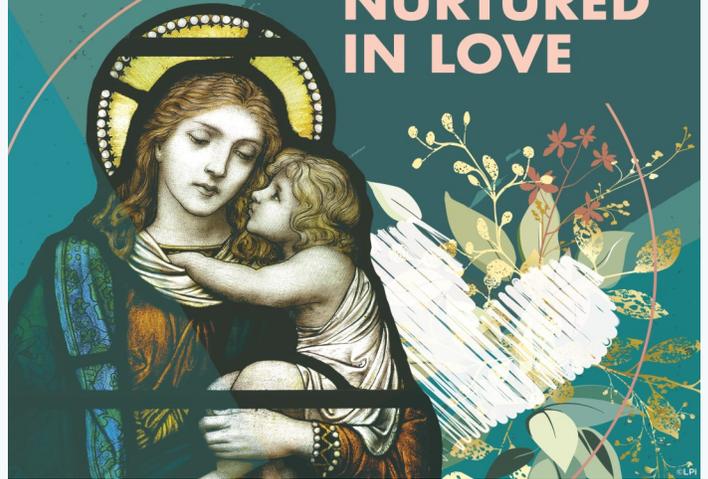


Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 Spring Campaign of 40 Days for Life. God poured blessings upon the campaign and we know 742 babies, mothers, fathers and families were spared from abortion, 10 more abortion workers experienced conversion, and another abortion facility closed. Praise God! Cumulatively over the 15 years of 40 Days for Life, there have been 21,528 babies spared from abortion, 239 converted abortion workers, and 115 abortion facility closures. Praise God! We look forward to praying with you from September 28 – November 6 in the 2022 Fall Campaign. God bless you and thank you.

John Noall, campaign director - 40 DFL/  
Cleveland/Bedford Hts/Painesville

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

MOTHER'S DAY  
**WE ARE  
NURTURED  
IN LOVE**



**SPIRITUAL LIFE &  
EVANGELIZATION MINISTRY**

**“Go and Make Disciples of All Nations**

The monthly meetings of the Spiritual Life and Evangelization committee are held the 2nd Thursday of every month. This Thursday, May 12, at 7:15 p.m., we will meet in Classroom 8.



Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, so please stop in anytime!



## St. John of the Cross Tree of Life

Our Tree of Life hangs beautifully in the Gathering Space as a testament of the love and commitment to our parish.

There are still many blank leaves left and can be purchased for \$125 each, which includes engraving. They can be purchased for individuals (living or deceased), families, etc. Also, you might want to consider purchasing a leaf as a gift to commemorate a communion confirmation, graduation, birthday or anniversary.

Order forms can be found below, in the Gathering Space or on our website [sjceuclyd.com](http://sjceuclyd.com).



Tuesday, May 31, 2022  
SRW/SJC 55 and Over  
Spring Day of Reflection

AT THE  
JESUIT RETREAT CENTER  
LED BY FR. PAUL O'CONNOR, S.J.

The Gospel of John tells us that Mary Magdalen "stayed outside the tomb weeping." But later, "... she turned around and saw Jesus there..."  
*When she turned around she discovered the resurrection*

On May 31st, Fr. Paul will help us to *turn around* and discover that resurrection and transformation can happen daily. It all depends where you look!

\$40.00 per person includes transportation, breakfast and lunch.

Bus departs SRW at 8:00AM and returns at 3:30PM.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:15AM

For reservations call 216-731-1515

### TREE OF LIFE ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**LEAF INSCRIPTION:**


**PAYMENT:**  
\$125.. Ea.

Check or Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

# MASS Intentions

## Monday, May 9

8:30 AM (GB/TS-P) † Joan and Gene Donnelly

## Tuesday, May 10

6:30 PM (JB) † Nancy Suhy

## Wednesday, May 11

8:30 AM (JL) † For the People of the Parish

## Thursday, May 12

7:00 PM (JL/TS) Maria Nych

## Friday, May 13

8:30 AM Morning Prayer (No Mass)

8:45 AM-2:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

## Saturday, May 14

4:00 PM 4:00 PM (JL/TS-P) † Lucille Corea

## Sunday, May 15

7:45 AM (TK/TS-P) † James and Mary Perko & Family

10:15 AM (JB/TS-P) † Steve Dreyer

*Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish  
and Their Caregivers*

*Evelyn Adamczyk; Gerald Scarniench & Helen Herman*



## MASS AT THE SHRINE 2022

Dear parishioners and friends,

Our season for the outdoor Masses starts on Sunday, May 8!  
From that day on and throughout the summer, our 7:45 a.m.  
Mass on Sundays will be held at our beautiful outdoor Shrine!

If you plan to attend this service, you might want to consider  
having with you a towel since sometimes the benches are slightly  
wet; or feel free to also bring a pillow to make yourself more  
comfortable (just take it with you when you leave!). We will do  
our best to communicate any cancellation due to the weather: in  
that case, the Mass will be held inside the church.

God bless all of you!



## FAITH BY THE FIRE

MAY 10, 2022

7 PM

It's that time of year again when we start up our "Faith by Fire" evenings of faith, discussion and fun. These gatherings will be taking place the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Please join us for our first of the year, Faith by Fire, on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7 p.m. Feel free to bring a lawn chair. All are welcome.



### HOSPITALITY:

.....can just be as simple as a friendly smile and a hello!

*Hebrews 13:1-2 "Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!"*

This stranger, could have just moved into the area and does not know anyone; this stranger could have no one in their life; this stranger could be going through a personal crisis; this stranger could be looking for the love and mercy of Jesus; this stranger could be looking for a community to call home.

A warm smile and a simple welcome can make all the difference in the world to a stranger.

St. John of the Cross parish is in need of Greeters at all Masses, **especially at the 10:15 Mass a.m.** No experience is necessary. Hospitality begins at the doors, but does not end there, it is to be extended throughout the entire church building. Do not be afraid to welcome a stranger.

Please consider the ministry of greeting. Contact Deacon Tom; [deacontom@sjceuclyd.com](mailto:deacontom@sjceuclyd.com)

### Our Financial Stewardship

05/01/2021 Sunday Giving.....	\$3,435.50
05/01/2022 Maintenance.....	\$1,270.00
Faith Direct*	
Faith Direct*	

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