

May 29, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish / Cleveland Catholic Diocese

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Memorial Day Weekend! I hope you are having a great unofficial start to summer. My hope and prayer for all of us this summer is that it may be a time of rest and rejuvenation. It has been a rough couple of years. While I can't make heads or tails of where we are at with the pandemic, (depends who you listen to 😊) it seems like we are in the phase where we learn to live with COVID allowing each person to make their own choices on how to protect themselves and keep themselves nice and healthy! I continue to lift up in my prayers all the sick, but especially those who continue to struggle with effects of COVID.



For me, one of my greatest concerns about the pandemic, the political craziness, the division, violence, etc. is the toll this is taking on our mental and spiritual health. As we celebrate Memorial Day and reflect on the men and women who so bravely served our country to protect us from harms way, it has made me think of the *Greatest Generation*. The *Greatest Generation* is a term used to describe those Americans who grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II, or whose labor helped win it. The term "the Greatest Generation" is thought to have been coined by former NBC Nightly News anchor and author Tom Brokaw in his book by the same name. This generation put God first, family second, country third and hard work fourth. If you notice in all four of those priorities, they are *other centered*. They are focused on service, but more importantly on love. I am not so naïve to think that this was a perfect time in our world, but I do think we can learn much from them. I challenge all of us to look at the way we view our lives and the way in which we prioritize.

God is number ONE! We are created in the image and likeness of God. We are His beloved sons and daughters. Every blessing and grace are ours. Even despite our sinfulness and lowliness, He continues to shower us with his mercy, forgiveness and love. Many times we hear parents telling their kids, "don't embarrass me." In other words, live up to the expectations I have set for you. In many ways, God our Father is saying the same to us. He is asking us to live in the manner in which He created us to live. He is God and we are not!

Family is number Two! I often think that family is our greatest blessing and our greatest curse. But God has given us our family to journey with us and support us on the journey of life that will hopefully lead us to share in eternal life with our heavenly family. I think the challenge here is to heal some of the division and brokenness of the family. Support the human family as created by God.

Country/Community is number Three! I believe that the intense and sharp division in our country and communities can be healed by reminding us "In God we Trust." We may have differences and even some serious ones, but if at the end of the day we can have a cup of coffee or a beer together as we work through those differences, I think we can get so much further.

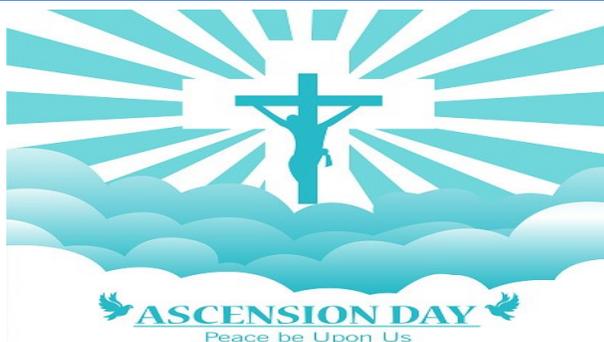
Hard Work is number Four! For me this is key! God has given each of us so many gifts and talents. However, these gifts and talents must be used for the common good of all humanity. We are actually not entitled to anything but the very basics of life. Everything else is a gift, grace and blessing from God. When Jesus gave us his second commandment to "love one another," it is to work hard to be in the service of one another.

My hope is that we can gain improved spiritual and mental health through a reordering of our priorities and/or strengthening areas in which we are falling short. We can and will do this with God's help, as all things are possible with God.

Make it a great holiday weekend! See you in church.

Peace,

Fr. John



St. John of the Cross Invites Community to Come Together

Come Holy Spirit – Let your fire of humility fall upon us.

By Deacon Tom Shetina

Let us humble ourselves as Jesus humbled himself. St. John of the Cross Catholic Parish offers several opportunities during June for parishioners and other members of the community to come together. As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance.”

For Christians, Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. Jesus humbled himself by taking on the nature of a servant (Philippians 2:5-7), and God became human when Mary humbled herself and said yes to be the Mother of God. This was made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).

St. John of the Cross is located just south off Euclid Avenue at 140 Richmond Rd. in Euclid. We invite and welcome all to join us.

Celebrating Pentecost. We celebrate the Holy Spirit with the Solemnity of Pentecost on **Saturday, June 4, at the 4 p.m. Mass** and on **Sunday, June 5, at the 7:45 a. m. and 10:15 a.m. Mass.** On **Wednesday, June 8, at 7 p.m.,** we will host a Praise and Worship Concert focusing on the Holy Spirit.

Building a welcoming environment. On **Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m.** (and the second Tuesday of every month) Faith by the Fire offers a time to socialize, pray and build community around the fire pit on our beautiful, parklike campus.

Free community meal. At St. John of the Cross, we not only feed the spirit, we also feed the body. Our Free Community Meal for June is on Wednesday, June 15, and takes place on the **third Wednesday of each month.** The drive-thru-style event starts at 5 p.m.

Father’s Day cookout. The Knights of Columbus will host a Father’s Day Cookout on **Saturday, June 18, after the 4 p.m. Mass.** Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, soft drinks and water. All are welcome.

Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 19. Also known as the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, this feast honors Jesus Christ, Really, Truly and Substantially Present under the appearances of bread and wine. This Presence happens through the change, which the Church calls transubstantiation (“change of substance”) during the Mass. Our observance of the feast will include Holy Hour with adoration and benediction between the 7:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Masses.



Memorial Day – Patriotic Rosary

SJOC – Men’s prayer Group will be leading the Patriotic Rosary after the 8:30 am Memorial Day Mass. All are welcomed.

the **WORD**
among us®

Pick up a copy of the devotional publication **The Word Among Us** and spend a few minutes each day reflecting on the word of God and applying it to your daily life. Copies are located at the church exits.

The Word Among Us includes:

- A daily meditation, based on one of the Mass readings, that will help you understand the Scriptures and lead you into prayer.
- Articles to help you grow in your Catholic faith and walk with the Lord in everyday life.
- Inspiring witnesses by everyday people about how God has worked powerfully in their lives.

Upcoming issues include:

- June: The gift of the Eucharist
- July: Finding peace amid life's trials
- September: The dignity of every human person, created in God's image and likeness

To defray the cost a donation of \$3.00 dollars is recommended.

Luke Brown's Reflection

I heard a very interesting discussion lately on negativity and how we as people tend to see negative things more readily than we do positive things. The point was being made that throughout history, pessimists were more likely to survive longer than optimists, meaning that "pessimistic genes" were more likely to be passed on to future generations. The example was given of two people observing a rustling bush and the pessimist says, "I don't want to see what is in there. It's probably bad." The other, an optimist, says, "It's probably nothing! I'm going to check it out!" The story ends with the optimist sticking his hand in the bush and dying of a snake bite and the pessimist lives on. While being distrustful, pessimistic, and negative tends to preserve us in the short term, it is not a joyful or peaceful existence. I see this in people who have been hurt by a friend, significant other, or family member and they refuse to trust anyone again in an effort to avoid the pain of another heartbreak. It is easy to be negative and keep others away. It is difficult to remain hopeful and serve our brothers and sisters. In the midst of all the negativity that may be present in our communities, families, or even the news, we must continually cultivate a heart of gratitude, hope, and perseverance. If we continue to let our negativity and pessimism dominate, which are brought on by our fallen nature and brokenness, we will experience nothing but depression, loneliness, and despair. This week, consider praying for a renewed heart of hope and perseverance to guard against the pessimism and negativity that can come so naturally.



SACRED HEART
COUNSELING

PO BOX 34114
PARMA, OH 44134
E: LUKEBROWN@SACREDHEARTCLEVELAND.COM
P: 440-305-6192
WWW.SACREDHEARTCLEVELAND.COM



You are invited to golf for a cause at Zelie's Home 2nd Annual Birdies for Babies Golf Scramble on Friday, June 24th at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course in Brecksville, Ohio. All proceeds support our home in Garfield Heights serving pregnant and parenting women and their children. You can be a part of changing lives two at a time! \$150 per golfer / \$600 per foursome. Fees include 18 Holes, Cart, Breakfast, Lunch, Beverages and Raffle opportunities. For more information, visit www.zelieshome.org/events/2ndbirdiesforbabies or contact [Erin Hathaway](mailto:Erin.Hathaway@zelieshome.org) at executivedirector@zelieshome.org.

What's Happening

ACTIVITIES AT SJOC CAMPUS

Monday:

- Sacred Scripture Study: 6:30 pm, Room 8
- Men of Praise: 8:00 pm, Room 18
- Calls of Love Ministry: Every 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm—8:00 pm, Parish Office

Tuesday:

- Lectio Divina Bible Study: 9:30 am, Room 8
- Legion of Mary: 5:15 pm, Room 8

Wednesday:

- Community Meal: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month 5:00 pm
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm

Thursday:

- Family in Christ Jesus: Every 1st Thursday of the month, 8:00 pm, Gym
- Spiritual Life & Evangelization Ministry: Every 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm -- 8:30 pm, Room 8

Friday:

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00 pm, Room 8
- Young Adult Ministry, Every 3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 pm

Saturday:

- Men's Prayer Group, every 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, 7:30 am, Room 10

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 8th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church.

We'll see you then. God bless all of you!

MASS Intentions

Monday, May 30

8:30 AM (JL/TS) † For the Active, Retired, & Deceased
Military

Tuesday, May 31

6:30 PM (JB) † DiFranco Family

Wednesday, June 1

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

Thursday, June 2

6:30 PM (JL/TS) † For the People of the Parish

Friday, June 3

8:30 AM Morning Prayer (No Mass)

8:45 AM-2:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, June 4

4:00 PM 4:00 PM (GB) † Minka Kmetich

Sunday, June 5

7:45 AM (JB/TS) † Kevin, Mary & Francis "Bud"
Holaus

10:15 AM (JL/TS) † Berkopec Family

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

Evelyn Adamczyk; Gerald Scarniench & Helen Herman

Our Deepest Sympathies to the Family of:

Anna Jalovec

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

Donated Religious Items: While we appreciate everyone's
generosity, we ask that you please not leave any religious articles
or items in the church or on the parish grounds. At this time, we
have no need for anything nor do we have a place to store
additional items. Thank you for your understanding.

Our Financial Stewardship

05/08/2022 Sunday Giving.....\$2,617.50
05/08/2022 Maintenance.....\$ 280.00
Faith Direct* 1st of May Giving.....\$4,452.50
Faith Direct* 1st of May Maintenance.....\$1,188.50

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

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

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

Renee Dzurhoff, Business Manager rdzurhoff@srweucld.cc
216-731-1515, ext. 224

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.