

October 2, 2022

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish / Cleveland Catholic Diocese

Dear Parishioners,

In Matthew 16, 13-16 we read, “When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi* he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

As a parish we will be reflecting on this theme of “Who do you say that I am,” and how our response to that question can transform our lives. My hope is that we can come to KNOW Him as our Lord and Savior, to LOVE Him as our best friend, and to SERVE Him in our everyday words, choices, and actions.



I want you to know that I love each and every one of you and want to encourage you to develop and/or nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ. I am convinced that He is the only way. I want what is best for you, and I believe that pointing you to Jesus will help you to live your best life now and prepare you for eternal life with Him. There is so much noise and divisiveness in our world these days. But I believe, at the heart of it all, are good people, created in God’s image and likeness, longing for that relationship in their hearts and souls.

We will be doing activities each month to reflect on this theme:

October: We will ask everyone to bring their favorite picture of Jesus to be displayed in church

November: We will ask everyone to send us their favorite Scripture quote of something Jesus said. We will display the quotes in the church.

December: We will have joint SRW/SJC Christmas party on Friday, December 9. We will have “Jesus” Christmas music and “Jesus” trivia.

January: We will ask everyone to bring a picture of family member or friend that reminds them or “is” Jesus for them. These will be hung in the church.

February: We will have an Art show with parishioner and school student Art of Jesus.

March: We will have our annual parish mission that will focus on relationship Jesus.

April: Musical Production of *Lamb of God* at SRW.

May: We will ask everyone to bring their First Communion picture to hang in the church.

June: We will record sixty second video testimonials on “Who do you say Jesus is?” We will share on our website.

July: Get your picture taken with Jesus at the SJC Freedom Celebration or the SRW Festival.

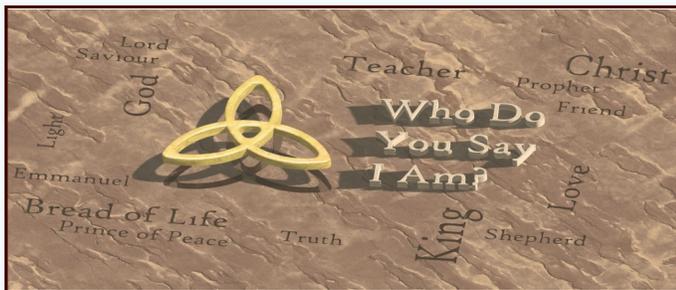
August: Celebration around the Feast of the Assumption

Watch the bulletin, website, social media for many more details, but I am really looking forward to this journey together of who is Jesus for each of us.

Please keep Fr. Thom, Fr. Bednar, me and all the priests of the Diocese in your prayers as we attend the priest convocation where we will pray and reflect together. We will be away, October 4 (late afternoon) – October 7 (late afternoon).

Make it a great week. See you in Church!

Peace, Fr. John



Grow in your awareness of “Who do you say I am?”

This week describe the depths of your relationship with Jesus.

Is He an acquaintance, friend, or stranger?

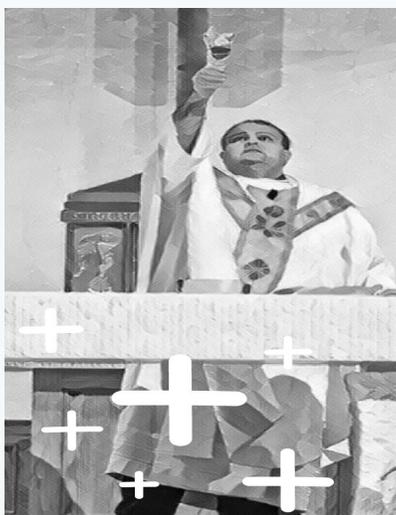
Blessing of the Animals



Our annual Blessing of the Animals will take place on:

OCTOBER 4, 2022
5:30 PM

Meet at the Bocce Courts



Teaching Mass

Join Fr. John for a Teaching Mass. Come to Mass as he goes through the Mass and shares with you the beauty and sacredness of the Mass. He will explain as he goes and help you better understand what we are doing. Invite your friends and family and share the beautiful experience.

October 18 at SJC: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
October 24 at SRW: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Ss. Robert and William Catholic School is blessed with a strong and dedicated Parent Association. The moms, dads, and grandparents active in this special group are a treasure! They volunteer to plan both fundraisers and “fun raisers” for the students and their families. The first meeting held in September included an ice cream social for students and parents in the playground grove to welcome all and to “Get the Scoop” - to share their plans for the upcoming school year. Over 80 parents and students were in attendance! Some of the planned events are for students and some for adults, some are traditional favorites, and some are new: Trunk or Treat, Busy Bee Christmas Ornament Paint Night, Santa Shop, Holiday Lights Tour, Princess Prom, Monster Games, Ladies Night Out, Kids’ Maker Fair, Mother/Son Bowling, Kalahari Weekend, skating parties and more.



Throughout the year, the Parent Association raises money with offerings that are beneficial services for all such as the Christmas and Spring plant sales, cookie dough sales, and dinner opportunities from Moe’s Southwest Tacos, Chipotle, and LaVera Party Center. An Election Day Bake Sale is also a successful fundraiser! Another very valued service the Parent Association provides is a continuous uniform exchange.

Everything the Parent Association does benefits EVERY student at SRW. The money raised is used to fund field trips and assemblies for students, provide lunch on Field Day, supply treats for the special occasions of First Communion, Confirmation, Catholic Schools Week, and Graduation, fill the teacher cart weekly with treats, host a teacher appreciation dinner, and more! The greatest gift of the Parent Association to our SRW school community is the opportunity that their efforts provide to build camaraderie between the families, students, and the teachers. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all who volunteer to enhance the school experience for our students.

Mrs. Martha Dodd
Principal

Luke Brown's Reflection

October 2, 2022

As a counselor, I regularly hear people say that they do not have hope that their mental health or the difficult situation that they find themselves in will improve. It reminds me of when priests say that penitents often get frustrated about confessing the same sins week after week. This weekend's Gospel is a good reminder of the hope that is required but often difficult to maintain in discouraging times. The mustard seed is the faith and hope that things will get better. Like many things in life, growth and change often involve taking two steps forward and one step back. One of my counseling teachers once told me, "If you measure in small enough increments, everyone is getting better." These are good things to remember when we get discouraged. We often speak platitudes about how broken we are and we talk about the Fall in Genesis, but do we really realize what that means in our daily lives? As far as mental health goes, I interpret that to mean that our journey of healing will not be over until we are in Heaven. This also means that no matter how many insights, peaceful moments, or "breakthroughs" that we have, we will never be able to live perfectly and without suffering in this life. When I get discouraged, I reflect on Jesus sitting with me and gently saying, "It is OK. Let's get up and try again together." The real failure is to stop trying and give up, which is exactly what the Evil One wants. If you find yourself struggling to continue in the midst of a struggle, consider praying for the virtues of faith and hope to continue on in God's love for you.

Luke Brown, LPCC



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Join Us for a One -Day Men's Retreat...



From time to time, many men think about making a retreat. Maybe this October is your time to do it! The Men of Praise Prayer Group is honored to invite you, to spend some time together, to share our faith, and grow in Christ. The group has been conducting retreats for over 30 years and have experienced the Lord's blessing every time.

Our Theme: **Being Men of Joy, while Making Sense of Suffering**

When: Saturday, October 15, 2022
Arrive at 8 - 8:30 AM
Close with Mass at 5:00 PM

Where: St. John of the Cross - Community Center
140 Richmond Road in Euclid, Ohio

There will be talks and discussion on the theme. A time for praise and worship, prayer, and fellowship with like-minded men. The setting offers a time to get away, reflect, and energize. Snacks and lunch will be provided. All men, 18 and over, are invited. Asking \$20 to cover costs. Contact Frank Mokris at 216.233.3563 for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there. It won't be the same without you!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION

Fall is here and it won't be long before the Church is once again celebrating those men and women who have led exceptional lives of holiness and are the inspiration of many. **Join us on Wednesday, October 19, in Ss. Robert & William Parish Office Building as the Wednesday Morning Book Group discusses *My Life with the Saints* by Fr. James Martin, S.J.**

One of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of the Year. Winner of the Christopher Award and winner of the Catholic Press Association Book Award. Witty, wryly honest, and always original, *My Life with the Saints* is James Martin's story of how his life has been shaped by some surprising friends—the saints of the Catholic Church. In his modern classic memoir, Martin introduces us to saints throughout history—from St. Peter to Dorothy Day, St. Francis of Assisi to Mother Teresa—and chronicles his lifelong friendships with them. Filled with fascinating tales, Martin's funny, vibrant, and stirring book invites readers to discover how saints guide us throughout our earthly journeys and how they help each of us find holiness in our own lives. Taken from Amazon book review



Mourning to Morning is an informative and prayerful program to help people move through the grieving process and forward in faith.

New six-week session begins Saturday, October 15,
2022 2:00PM – 3:30PM

Ss. Robert & William Parish Office Building

There is no fee but registration requested.

Contact the parish office at
216-731-1515 Ext. 262



Thea Bowman Center

Many thanks to St. John of the Cross Parishioners and Social Justice Ministry for your longstanding financial support, gifts, and volunteer service commitment to Thea Bowman Center. Because you have played a significant role in our community, we would love to have you join us for:

We Are Community!

***A virtual benefit for Thea Bowman Center: October 7,
2022***

On **October 7** sign on to our website, **theabowmancenter.org**, to see an **exciting, informative video that will warm your hearts as it illustrates our relationship with the people of Mt. Pleasant**, our home for more than 50 years. Hear inspirational accounts from seniors, adults, youth, staff, and community leaders that bring to life our mission: ***We listen to the people of Mt. Pleasant, learn, and do what they want and need.***

It has guided every step as we've responded to needs during a pandemic none of us could have predicted. At Thea Bowman Center, neighbors find the resources they need to live and thrive in their own backyard. ***People trust us, believe in us, come back to us, and send friends!***

Generous sponsors have contributed close to \$50,000! Please, help us match their gifts: Donate via **theabowmancenter.org** or send a check to Thea Bowman Center, 11901 Oakfield Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44105-1872. Many, many thanks!!!!!! We couldn't do it without you.

Our Financial Stewardship

9/25/2022 Sunday Giving.....\$2,862.50
9/25/2022 Maintenance.....\$ 880.00
Faith Direct* 1st of September Giving.....\$4,047.50
Faith Direct* 1st of September Maintenance.....\$1,188.50

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

MASS Intentions

Monday, October 3

8:30 AM † Diana Tobias (JB/TS)

Tuesday, October 4

6:30 PM † Merlin Boellner (JL)

Wednesday, October 5

8:30 AM † Faustina Maria Raddell (JL)

Thursday, October 6

6:30 PM † John Baco (JL/TS)

Friday, October 7

8:30 AM Morning Prayer (No Mass)
8:45 AM-2:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, October 8

4:00 PM † Richard Willkomm (JB)

Sunday, October 9

7:45 AM † Lois Tosti (JL)
10:15 AM † Erdani & Stergar Families (TK)

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

*Evelyn Adamczyk; Helen Herman Fr. Edward Mehok,,
Nancy O'Toole, and all those who are ill in any way.*

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 _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____