

St. John of the Cross
December 25, 2022
The Nativity of the Lord
Saint John of the Cross
Roman Catholic Parish / Cleveland Catholic Diocese



Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! Today we celebrate the birthday of our Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate the great incarnation. Throughout Advent we have been preparing our “Stable” for this celebration. We have solidified our *prayer* lives, worked to become focused on others in *giving* of our time, talent, and treasure, we have sought to *care* for one another in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus to all we meet and encounter, and have given *thanks* to God for our many blessings. The **INCARNATION** is the reality that our God loved us so much he became man, to save us and give us the greatest gift of all, *Salvation*.



On behalf of our entire staff, I wish a Merry Christmas to all our parish families and those who are visiting with us this Christmas and Christmas season. We hope you find your worship with us joy-filled! Thank you to all of you! Thank you for praying with us, for celebrating with us, and thank you for your generosity to the parish all year round, but especially this time of year.

I want to share that I will be leading a study on the Life of Jesus Christ. From the publisher: “The marvelous treasures of the Catholic Faith—the Eucharist, Mary, the saints, and the Creed—are all centered on a single figure: Jesus Christ. Jesus is more than a historical or theological figure. He is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God. While many of us already know a lot about him, how well can we say we really know him? Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life* is a new and fresh look at Jesus—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation. This encounter with Christ will inspire and empower you to center your entire life on him as you come to know and love him in an ever-deeper and more intimate way.” The study will be on Monday evenings, January 9 – March 20. It will be from 6:30 pm – 8 pm in the Upper Hall at Ss. Robert & William. Please register for the study by emailing Anita at alinsky@srweuclid.cc or calling her at 216.731.1515. The study is open to both SRW and SJC parishioners, as well as friends and neighbors interested in knowing more about Jesus. Come join us each Monday to come to know and love Jesus so we can faithfully serve Him.

Here is a cool little prayer I found for Christmas:

DEAR INFANT JESUS
IN A SHORT TIME YOU WILL COME
TO VISIT US AND YOUR HOLY, DIVINE COMING
IS FULL OF PEACE, JOY AND LOVE
FOR ME AND EVERYONE.
OUR HEARTS ARE FULL OF YOUR LOVE
IN OUR DAILY LIFE.
DEAR JESUS PLEASE HELP ALL YOUR DEVOTEES
AROUND THE WORLD.
THANKS MY DEAR LORD.

Again, Merry Christmas and have awesome week! See you in Church.

Peace,
Fr. John



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

**What is the meaning and significance of
the Incarnation?**



Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24

Masses are at 4:00 pm
11:30 pm Christmas Carols
12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

Mass is at: 10:15 am

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil
(New Year's Eve), Saturday, December 31**

Mass is at: 4:00 pm

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(New Year's Day), Sunday, January 1**

Mass is at 10:15 am

Confessions:

Thursday, December 22 — 7:00 pm
Friday, December 23 — 10:00 am

ACTIVITIES AT SJOC CAMPUS

Monday:

- Sacred Scripture Study: 6:30 pm, Room 8
- Men of Praise: 8:00 pm, Room 8
- 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
- Faith by Fire: every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, by the outdoor firepit .

Wednesday:

- Community Meal: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month 5:00 pm
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 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, 7:15 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
- Fire on the Hill Ministry every 3rd Saturday of the Month, 9:00 am, Room 8

Luke Brown's Reflection

December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas! The day is finally here and I hope that everyone has a blessed time with friends and family! While the holidays are a time of joy where we look forward to Jesus's arrival with expectant hearts, they can be a difficult time for some. Whether it is struggles with family members, financial hardship, or someone not present this year due to death or divorce, a season that is meant to bring with it such joy, peace, and gratitude can become a time of depression, anxiety, and sadness. Families are complicated. Wounds sustained by family members are difficult to overcome and can overshadow the occasion. Financial struggles make it difficult to live up to the increasingly materialistic aspect of Christmas. Death & divorce can make our families feel fractured and incomplete. In these moments, let us remember that Jesus is coming to save and heal us. Jesus wants us to jump for joy at His arrival as John the Baptist did in Elizabeth's womb! This is only possible if we keep Him at the center of our minds and hearts. Take those struggles to Him and you will find the healing power of Christ. If you have much to be thankful for, do not forget those that are struggling at this time. The holidays are a time for generous hearts. If you know someone who does not have anyone to share Christmas with, consider inviting them into your home for a meal this Christmas. Consider donating a scarf or winter hat to your local shelter for those who are cold. In moments we are the ones who need care, but there are also moments that we can care for others. I pray that all of you enjoy the season of Christmas!

HOLIDAY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED ON
Monday, December 26
Tuesday, December 27
Monday, January 2

Will Reopen on Tuesday, January 3



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 Fall Campaign of 40 Days for Life. God poured blessings upon the campaign and we know 502 babies, mothers, fathers, and families were spared from abortion, 6 abortion workers experienced conversion, and 12 abortion facilities closed. Praise God! Cumulatively over the 15 years of 40 Days for Life, there have been 22,289 babies spared from abortion, 242 converted abortion workers, and 131 abortion facility closures. Praise God! We look forward to praying with you from February 22 to April 2 in the 2023 Spring Campaign. God bless you and thank you.

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

Christmas Gifts: Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.



SS. ROBERT & WILLIAM
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Not Only Christmas Day by: Mary Fairchild

Lord, this is my prayer
Not only on Christmas Day
But until I see You face to face
May I live my life this way:

Just like the baby Jesus
I ever hope to be,
Resting in Your loving arms
Trusting in Your sovereignty.

And like the growing Christ child
In wisdom daily learning,
May I ever seek to know You
With my mind and spirit yearning.

Like the Son so faithful
Let me follow in Your light,
Meek and bold, humble and strong
Not afraid to face the night.

Like my risen Savior
The babe, the child, the Son,
May my life forever speak
Of who You are and all You've done.

So while this world rejoices
And celebrates Your birth,
I treasure You, the greatest gift
Unequaled in Your worth.

I long to hear the same words
That welcomed home Your Son,
"Come, good and faithful servant,"
Your Master says, "Well done."

And may heaven welcome others
Who will join with me in praise
Because I lived for Jesus Christ
Not only Christmas Day.

*Wishing you and yours the joy and peace of this holy season!
The students, teachers, and staff of Ss. Robert and William
Catholic School*



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

Ext. 115

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 8 am to 4 pm

**Closed Wednesday, Thursday, 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.

Our Financial Stewardship

TO BE POSTED AT A LATER DATE

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

MASS Intentions

Monday, December 26

8:30 AM † John Joseph Grippe (JL-TS-P)

Tuesday, December 27

6:30 PM † Greg Higgins (JB)

Wednesday, December 28

8:30 AM † Elenor Loncar (JL)

Thursday, December 29

6:30 AM † Tom O'Toole (JL/TS)

Friday, December 30

NO MORNING PRAYER

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturday, December 31

4:00 PM Darlene Brokamp (GB)

Sunday, January 1

10:15 AM Ray Polantz (JL)

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

*Evelyn Adamczyk; Helen Herman, Patricia Kavulich, Fr.
Edward Mehok, Katie Musarra, Nancy O'Toole, M.K.
Skvasik, Marion Malovasic, Judy Schmidt, 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 _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____