



Saint John of the Cross

140 Richmond Rd., Euclid, Ohio 44143
July 11, 2021

Roman Catholic Parish
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are well and had a great 4th of July celebration. Both SRW and SJC had beautiful Masses that celebrated God and His many blessings in our country and our lives. May we continue to trust in God and ask His intercession and blessing upon our country and our freedom.

I was recently asked to do a talk for a group of people in early August. The title will be *Lessons I Learned from leading a parish/school through the Pandemic*. As I began to write the talk realities began to set in. This past year has been one of the toughest years of my priesthood and pastoring. If you add the tensions and division of the recent election and the racial struggles to my plate, you had the perfect storm. As a priest, pastor and leader in our community, I had to navigate through uncharted territories. There was no playbook of how to handle the various realities we found ourselves in each day. I had to listen to what the leadership of the Catholic Church and Bishop were asking us to do and balance that against the reality of our lived experience and needs at each of the two parish communities. As many of you found, there was no one solid place to get good information and so many thought their way was the right way and were unwilling to dialogue. This led to many sleepless nights trying to figure it all out. Thanks to great mentors and an AWESOME God I was able to do stay on a good path.



Over the next few weeks, I am going to reflect on these realities and where I succeeded and where I fell short in my leadership as well as help to chart a course moving forward. I will focus in on three areas. I will focus on the pandemic, election (politics) and racial issues. In all three areas **I want to state sincerely and genuinely that if any way my words, choices, policies, decisions, etc. offended any one or caused anyone to stop coming to church or walkaway from the parish, I offer my sincere apologies!** My intention would never be such. I am old enough to know that rarely are we all going to be on the same page, but my hope and intentions are always to unite and not divide. If you find yourself in this category or know someone that is, please encourage them to reach out and set-up a time to meet with me so we can dialogue, heal and hopefully restore the relationship. As a pastor/shepherd that is my number one goal!

Regarding the pandemic, a few random thoughts to contextualize my thoughts/decisions:

I can clearly remember receiving the memo from Fr. Don Oleksiak, our Diocesan Administrator at the time, stating the parish and school were to shut down and everything was to go virtual. I felt like I was in some other reality. However, within minutes my mind jumped to reaching out to the staff and key parish leaders to figure out how to continue the mission and ministry of the parish/school. We did this through LIVESTREAMING Mass, Adoration, Talks, Concerts, Adult Ed opportunities, PSR, LIFETEEN, Men's Group, Parish Mission, etc. We started holding drive thrus for palms, holy water, Easter food blessing kits, carnations for Mom's, hot dogs/hamburgers for Memorial Day, and even a drive thru Anointing of the Sick. We added Robo Calls, Videos, Texts and Emails so we could stay connected to people. Staff and parishioners volunteered to call our older parishioners and check in on them. Anything and everything we could do to stay connected. And as soon as there was a way to allow for in person gatherings again (albeit sometimes with some "odd protocols") we did so. While we were not perfect, I think we did well because of the awesome staff and parishioners who were willing to go above and beyond to think outside the box and continue our ministry of Worship/Sacraments, Prayer, Faith Formation and Service/Outreach.

Once we were allowed to offer public Masses again, both SRW and SJC jumped in as quickly as we could. Within two months, our full Mass schedule was restored at both parishes as well as continued LIVESTREAMING of all Masses. At no point did we ever stop offering Confession, we just had to get creative during the shutdown of the when and where. We were able to reopen Adoration quickly. We tried our best to establish protocols for health and safety, while at the same time respecting the beauty and sacredness of the Mass/Sacraments and all that goes into them. While I am not sure anyone truly liked wearing a mask, we tried to be respectful of all the various places people fell on the spectrum of using them. This was done by offering outdoor opportunities and not being so strict and unreasonable that people who genuinely had an issue could not participate. For example, our policy with children was aged 8 and younger when most places were aged 2 and under.

(...continued)

I state all of this simply to say...we tried our best to walk down the middle in the response to the pandemic. We did not always do this perfectly and fell short at times. We saw throughout the entire world all sorts of extremes from total shutdowns/lockdowns to doing absolutely nothing. For me, I always try to lead us down the middle and to find "creative" ways to accomplish the same outcomes. While we still have COVID with us in our world, I do hope that those still taking precautions feel comfortable and welcome and those who have moved passed it feel the same. In other words, our number one priority is for the health and safety of every person physically, emotionally, and most importantly spiritually! I certainly hope we never see something like this again in our world, at least certainly not in our lifetime. I do believe we can and will come out stronger! If we do all things in Christ, for Christ and with Christ, we cannot and will not fail!

Make it a great week and see you in church!

Peace, Fr. John



MASS, PICNIC BUFFET, AND CAPTAINS GAME

Join us on Sunday, July 25, 2021, for Mass at the Captains' Stadium at 11:00 AM! An "all-you-can-eat" buffet will follow for 1.5

hours starting at 12:30 PM. The Captains' game will begin at 1:30 PM.

The tickets for the buffet and the game are as follows:

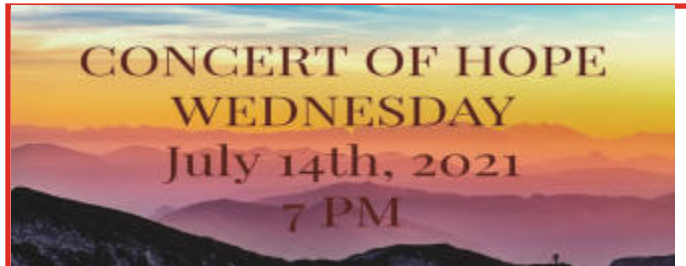
ADULTS:.....\$ 20
CHILDREN 4-12.....\$ 17
CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER = FREE

To purchase your tickets and to receive more information regarding our eventful day with God and the Captains, please call Karen at our office at 216-289-0770. All tickets must be prepaid at the time of your reservation. The last day we can accept any reservations and money is Monday, July 19, at 12 noon.

All tickets will be held at Will-Call at the Captains' Stadium on the day of the game.

One more thing: to obtain parking tickets in advance, please call the Captains Box Office at 440-975-8085, directly.

We hope to see you there!



As always, the Music Ministry gladly offers a free Concert of Hope the evening of the second Wednesday of each month. Come and join us for an hour (or so) of music, prayer, reflection, meditation, and thanksgiving!

Spread the word and invite your neighbors: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. We will be at the Shrine, weather permitting.

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.sjceulid.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.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH PRAYER

+

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust' with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy

Liturgical Tribute Fund

All money that is donated to this fund in memory of a loved one or friend, or a special occasion will be used to purchase items utilized in our worship and help us to do all that we can to assure that we have what we need to worship reverently and well.

Sincere thank you for your donations to our Liturgical Tribute Fund...

In Memory of

Bill Richards.....Kirchmeir Family

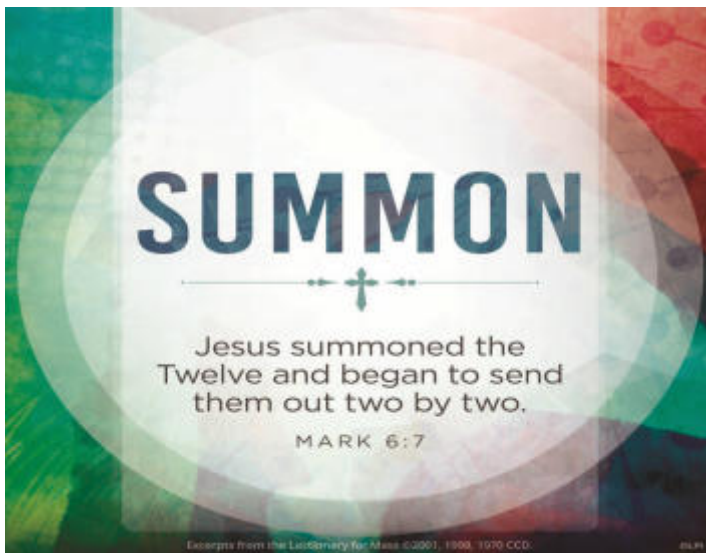
Rudy Myeress: Kirchmeir Family, Irene & Joe Klemens, Don & Carol Radachy, Ralph & Joanne Plavac, Dorothy Polantz, Jim & Carol Byrne, Barb & Dave Grauel, Ginny Bendula, Joyce & Eric Edelman, Molly & Cindy Evans, Helen Drozin, Kathy & Patrick Golden, St. John of the Cross Women's Bocce.



LUKE BROWN'S REFLECTION

The Gospel reading this weekend provides us with a rich reflection on boundaries with others. Jesus calls for the disciples to shake the dust off their feet and move on if they are not welcome. It seems like it would be very tempting for the disciples to stay where they are unwelcome and try to convince people to repent. It seems like this would be the path of generosity, charity, and perseverance. However, while generosity and charity are very important and holy virtues in our faith, many people could benefit from learning about boundaries. When people are called to help others or evangelize, some go too far and either try to force others to change or hurt themselves in the process. On one hand, we must acknowledge that people are free to make their own choices and we cannot force anyone to love God. We think if only we had the right words or tried harder, the other person will change. God offers people a choice, we need to as well. We do not stop loving people when we allow them to make their own choices and focus our time and energy elsewhere. If they change their mind, welcome them back with open arms. On the other hand, we can get frustrated with ourselves for not being able to change others which can result in anger, anxiety, and frustration. We internalize the other person's choices and can think of ourselves as a failure or inadequate. Finding the balance is difficult and it is a topic to be taken to prayer regularly. We need to ask God to guide us in our desire to share Him with others and acknowledge that others are free and responsible for their own choices.

Luke Brown, LPC



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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, July 12

8:30 AM (JB/TS) † Nancy Suhy

Tuesday, July 13

6:30 PM (JB) † Yolanda Bottiggi

Wednesday, July 14

8:30 AM (JL) † Ken Brickman-Special Intention

Thursday, July 15

6:30 (JL/TS-P) † Patricia Lombardo

Friday, July 16

No Mass (8:30am Morning Prayer; 8:45am-2pm Adoration)

Saturday, July 17

4 PM (JL/TS) † Mai Kralj

Sunday, July 18

7:45 AM (JL/TS) † Ferdinand & Frances Krecic

10:15 AM (TK/TS) † Geraldine Stipkovich

**CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN NEXT BULLETIN
Our Financial Stewardship**

Last Week's Giving.....\$

Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$

Faith Direct*-Last half May Giving.....\$

Faith Direct*-Last half May 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 Durrh, Frank Hiti, John Hocevar, Andrew Jarm, Anna Jalovec, Nick Kaluza, Ronald Maxey, Sheila Moore-Baka, Vera Baka, Katie Musarra, Linda Palko, Bill Perko, Joan Raddell, Pat Rossoll, Mary Rot, Jerry Scarniench, Judy Schmidt, Rose Simek, Colette Suhy, John Tarmann, 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.

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