



Dear Parishioners,

Happy Third Sunday of Advent! This week we light the pink candle and focus on Joy. I think there is a challenge this Advent/Christmas season to really avoid focusing on all that we do not have because of the pandemic. Instead, let us use this as an opportunity to focus on all the many blessings we have in Christ. I think with some of the “hoopla” of Christmas cancelled or being virtual, this will allow us to really focus on Christ and the celebration of his birth to be the central focus on what we do in our traditions.

Next weekend at Ss. Robert & William we will host a joint SRW/SJC drive thru donut event with Santa Claus. We invite you to drive thru starting at 12:30 pm in the SRW parking lot for a donut and to see Santa Claus. He will be there to offer a pre-Christmas greeting. This is for kids and adults. It is for EVERYONE to enjoy the magic of Christmas. Bring yourself, or bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, whoever you want. Come celebrate! It is free and open to all.

Our Advent Communal Penance will take place this Monday, December 14 at 7 pm at St. John of the Cross Parish. It will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour with confessions. Frs. Thom, Bednar, Loya and I will be available for individual confessions. Also, we will have extra confession times before Christmas:

Monday, December 21: 10 am at SRW and 7 pm at SRW & SJC

Tuesday, December 22: 10 am at SRW & SJC and 7 pm at SRW

Wednesday, December 23: 10 am at SRW

I hope you can go to Confession before Christmas. It can be the best gift you give yourself!

One of the graces and blessings during the pandemic has been our *Concerts of Hope*. These have been very popular with parishioners and members of the community at large. We have some special concerts coming up. **At St. John of the Cross, we will have our Christmas Concert this Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm in the church.** This concert will also be LIVESTREAMED on the SJC website (www.sjceucclid.com). **At Ss. Robert & William, we will have our Epiphany Concert Saturday, January 9 at 7 pm.** It will be LIVESTREAMED from the SRW website (www.srweucclid.cc). Francesco, Kyle and the both the SRW/SJC music ministries do a phenomenal job and I really encourage you to either attend in person or online. It will bring such joy to your soul. We are blessed at both parishes with phenomenal music ministers!

Our Christmas Mass schedules have been mailed to each home and are on our website and in this bulletin. **This year we are asking you to make a “reservation”, so we know how many people are coming to each Mass.** I am going to entrust this to the Lord, and he will provide. For probably this year only, we are doing two Masses at the same time on Christmas Eve. At both SRW and SJC, we will have Mass in the church and the Gym at 4 pm. For SJC, the second Mass will start at 4:30 pm. This will hopefully allow us to social distance a bit. For SRW, you can call the office or go on our website to make a reservation. For SJC, just call the office to make a reservation. No one will be sent away, but we want to gauge and plan accordingly.

Sometime this week you will receive a letter from me highlighting all the great things we have all done since the start of the pandemic with keeping both parishes moving forward and still vibrant and active; albeit a bit different. It also has **a request in there from me to be faithful to your weekly/monthly offertory collection, even if you are not attending in person.** While our collections were maintaining, in the last few months we have seen a decrease. I am not asking for more money, just that each person remains faithful to their contributions. If you are watching online, consider mailing in or dropping off your donation or you can donate online via our website or on a regular basis through Faith Direct. I am also asking you to consider a generous Christmas donation to help make up the shortfall. Hopefully, this can keep us strong and vibrant! I realize some people have taken a financial hit and please know I understand this, and my request is not to you. In fact, the parish has access to some funds from various outside sources to help struggling individuals and families. Just let me know and I can confidentially connect you with these resources. They have been great. This is how we paid for the free Thanksgiving meal we gave out! So, again whatever you can do is most appreciated!

Make it a JOY FILLED week! See you in Church or online.

Peace,

Fr. John

FJB
BLOG





ADVENT

The term "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming," and it focuses not only on the past coming of Jesus on the first Christmas; but also on the present coming of Jesus in the gospels.

Advent Events

Monday December 7th Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration at 7:00 pm

Monday December 14th Communal Penance Service at 7:00 pm

Monday December 21st Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration at 7:00 pm



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 16, 2020
7 pm in the Church
Also will be Livestreamed

Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish and Their Caregivers

Evelyn Adamczak
John Ballard
Noella Burrows
Barbara Contorno
Constance Durrah
John Hocevar
Andrew Jarm
Anna Jalovec
Nick Kaluza
Joe Matejka
Ronald Maxey
Sheila Moore-Baka
Rudy Myeress
Larry O'Donnell
Linda Palko

Bill Perko
Joan Raddell
Pat Rossoll
Mary Rot
Jerry Scarniench
Judy Schmidt
Rose Simek
Colette Suhy
John Tarmann
Rita Vaitkus
Abbie Vernon

*Please contact the office
when names can be
removed. Thank you*

Our Financial Stewardship

Last Week's Giving\$4,335.56
Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$1,615.00
Faith Direct*-Half Month Giving.....\$
Faith Direct*-Half Month 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!



Monday, December 14

8:30 AM (JB/TS-P) † James Czaplicki

Tuesday, December 15

6:30 PM (JB) † Tom O'Toole

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 AM (JL) † Martin & Ursula Sustarsic

Thursday, December 17

6:30 PM (JL/TS) † Valerie McDanel

Friday, December 18

No Mass (8:30 am Morning Prayer; 9am-2pm Adoration)

Saturday, December 19

2 PM Wedding of Janel Berquist & Bruce Moore
4 PM (JB/TS) † Burrello Family

Sunday, December 20

7:45 AM (JB/TS) † Linda Prosser
10:15 AM (JL/TS) † Frank Kaluza

MASSES NOW LIVESTREAMED FROM SJC

You can go to our sjceulid.com website and click on LIVESTREAM Masses where you can join in with us for the celebration of Mass.

Masses are Monday & Wednesday at 8:30 am,
Tuesday & Thursday at 6:30 pm.

ALL WEEKDAY MASSES WILL NOW BE HELD IN THE CHURCH TO ALLOW FOR THE LIVESTREAM

In addition we LIVESTREAM the 4 pm Saturday Vigil Mass and 10:15 am Sunday Mass.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY OF

Marianne Guarino Lorini

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

Moral Guidance regarding Vaccines and COVID-19 (23 Nov 2020)

(Prepared by Rev. Joseph Koopman, Moral Theologian- St. Mary Seminary)

With the prospect of the FDA approving one (or more) COVID-19 vaccines within the next few weeks, many questions have been raised regarding the ethical status of these vaccines (particularly questioning whether embryonic stem cells or tissue from aborted fetuses were used in their creation, and whether Catholics can morally receive such vaccines). The following is a brief moral analysis to help provide you some guidance when these questions arise. *Be mindful that this analysis is dependent on current information, and therefore could change once more information is released.* It has only been within the last few days that the findings of some of the vaccines have been submitted to the FDA for approval, so more information will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks as the government and independent researchers have access to data.

At this point, it appears as if the vaccine created by **Pfizer/Biontech**, along with the vaccine created by **Moderna** *have not been created using material of illicit origin (i.e., embryonic stem cells and/or the tissue of aborted children.)* For Catholics, this is *great* news. Theologically speaking, there are no moral or religious grounds that would restrict the consciences of Catholics from receiving these vaccines.

There have been articles and press releases that affirm that, while these above vaccines were not *created* with material of illicit origin, there is good reason to believe that these vaccines may have been *tested* (post production) utilizing the tissue of aborted fetuses. These articles and statements, therefore, conclude that it is immoral to use them. This sweeping conclusion is ***inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching.***

A critical question is: “Are Catholics always forbidden to perform an action if it touches upon evil, or cooperates, somehow, with the evil action of another?” The answer is ‘no’. There *certainly* are instances when Catholics *must* refrain from immoral cooperation. However, Catholic teaching on moral cooperation makes critical distinctions (mediate/immediate, proximate/remote, etc) to determine the *degree or level to which* one cooperates in evil. In some cases, some forms of cooperation, while unfortunate, can be allowed in certain circumstances.

Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world. Dig deep enough, and one finds that many of our actions somehow touch upon evil and the evil actions of others. While the Church draws a firm line in delineating certain acts of cooperation as immoral, it does not condemn *all* actions of cooperation as such. It challenges us to be aware of evil around us, to *always* choose the option that involves less evil (or no evil), and to speak and challenge others to desist from evil. It is for this reason that the Church, in the early months of vaccine development for COVID 19, boldly challenged (and continues to challenge) researchers and the medical industry to seek moral means of vaccine production (and to reject the use of material of illicit origin that involved the destruction of unborn life).

Regarding the previous statement regarding the immorality of taking the vaccine because of immoral post-production testing, or even statements from some bishops that have forbidden vaccines derived from material of illicit origin, the following paragraph from *Dignitas Personae*, issued from the CDF under Pope Benedict XVI, offers critical (and perhaps surprising) conclusions. In speaking of the use of embryonic stem cell lines or the tissue of aborted children, the document states in no. 35: “Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such ‘biological material’. Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available.” While the statement uses the example of the danger to the health of children, the dangers of COVID-19 particularly to our vulnerable elderly or those with compromised health could reasonably be presumed as grave reason for vaccination. While the Church unequivocally condemns researchers and the medical industry for the creation, production, and distribution of vaccines produced from embryonic stem cells and from the tissue of aborted children, the *receiving* of these vaccines is in another moral category.

In conclusion, at this point there appears to be no moral issues to prohibit a Catholic from receiving vaccines produced by Pfizer or Moderna. If other vaccines are released which do have recourse to material of illicit origin, Catholic moral teaching would direct Catholics to utilize the option that is least morally problematic (i.e., the vaccines that were *not* created via such immoral means). Providentially, these two listed vaccines satisfy that criteria.

As more vaccines are produced, we recommend that you visit the following website, which provides a fairly complete list of all vaccines, and how they were produced and tested.

[Update: COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates and Abortion-Derived Cell Lines | Charlotte Lozier Institute](#)



*Glory To
God
In the
Highest*

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Thursday December 24
4:00 pm (Church)
4:30 pm (Community Center)

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25
10:15 am

Solemnity of Mary Vigil
New Years Eve, Thursday December 31; 4:00
pm

New Years Day, Friday, January 1,
10:15 am

*Please call or email parish office to let us know
which Christmas Mass you are attending.*

*Social distancing & masks are required for all
people ages 8 and over.*

*Call: 216-289-0770 ext 100 or email Karen at
kduke@sjceucld.com*



**DONUTS
WITH SANTA
DRIVE-THRU**

December 20th
12:30 pm

AT

SS. ROBERT & WILLIAM

MASSES

St. John of the Cross (140 Richmond Rd)

Saturday: Vigil 4 pm (LIVESTREAMED)

Sunday 7:45 am

10:15 am (LIVESTREAMED)

Monday: 8:30 am

Tuesday: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: 8:30 am (LIVESTREAMED)

Thursday: 6:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am *Morning Prayer:*

Adoration: in the Church every Friday, 9 am to 2 pm

Confessions:

St. John of the Cross **Saturday 3 pm**

Ss. Robert & William **Saturday 2:30 pm**

Ss. Robert & William (367 E. 260 St.)

Saturday: Vigil 4 pm (LIVESTREAMED)

Sunday: 9 am

11:30 am (LIVESTREAMED)

6:00 pm

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 11:30 am (LIVESTREAMED)

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 8:30 am (LIVESTREAMED)

Parish Staff

Rev. John D. Betters, Pastor

frjohn@sjceuclyd.com, Ext. 103

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Rev. John Loya, Priest in Residence

jloya@dioceseofcleveland.org

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Karen Duke, Office Manager

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Jim Granito, Business Manager

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Tom Hagen, Maintenance Director

Gene Fiorelli, Maintenance

Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 8 am to 4 pm

Closed 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.