



Saint John of the Cross

Roman Catholic Parish

December 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying the 12 days of the Christmas season. Despite the pandemic, I thought it was an absolutely beautiful Christmas. It was very refreshing for the soul and gave me much reason to Hope! My prayer is that you were able to find that hope as well. On behalf of both the SJC/SRW staff and myself, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and blessings all season and year long. We give thanks for the gift of being able to serve you.

As I reflect on this past year, I think about the last nine months. I can still remember being in the chapel at the St. John of the Cross rectory on Monday, March 16 and reading an email that all public Masses were cancelled for the time being. That was a very surreal moment for me as I am sure for many of you when you heard word of it also. Then shutdowns, plans cancelled, social distancing, hand sanitizer, masks, division, civil unrest a very heated and contested election season and so much more. However, despite all this messiness and struggle, God has prevailed and our parishes are stronger for it. Why? Because we banded together and truly embraced the notion that “we are in this together!” I believe that SJC and SRW came together in a beautiful way and recognized that while we are each great parishes and will remain independent, we can do so much together and learn so much from each other.

- We have shared the celebration of Mass together via online LIVESTREAMING and SRW has helped SJC now LIVESTREAM and both parishes are able to LIVESTREAM their own Masses.
- We started Concerts of Hope. Francesco and Kyle did a great job starting these together and now each parish has their own monthly concert and people are able to watch and participate in both.
- We have had many “drive-thrus” for palms, Easter devotionals, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Anointing of the Sick, Donuts, etc. Great opportunities to interact in a “safe manner.”
- Weekly calls to all parishioners on Wednesday with a prayer and a Sunday check-in.
- Parishioners and staff have reached out to call our older parishioners and check on their needs.
- We have added a second Community meal at SRW and a Community meal is in the works at SJC for 2021.
- We did free Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.
- We have safely reopened Masses and have been at our full Mass schedule since August.
- Extreme generosity in our regular collections and fund raisers as well as special appeals.
- And we have prayed together many times and lifted each other up.

I could go on and on, but I share this to say THANK YOU! This is all possible because each of us has banded together around our Faith in Jesus Christ and have been a beacon of hope to our community. So as we end 2020, I certainly acknowledge the struggles but also acknowledge just how awesome it was to see so many people come together! Thank you! I will be away for the next week with Fr. Scott and some friends, refreshing my soul and body. I will come back very energized to bring in 2021 and all the Lord has in store for us! Don’t forget there is a Holy Day this week — January 1, Mary Mother of God. The Vigil Mass will be at 4 pm at SJC and SRW. The January 1 Mass will be at 10 am at SRW and 10:15 am at SJC. All Masses will be LIVESTREAMED.

Happy New Year! Make it a great week!

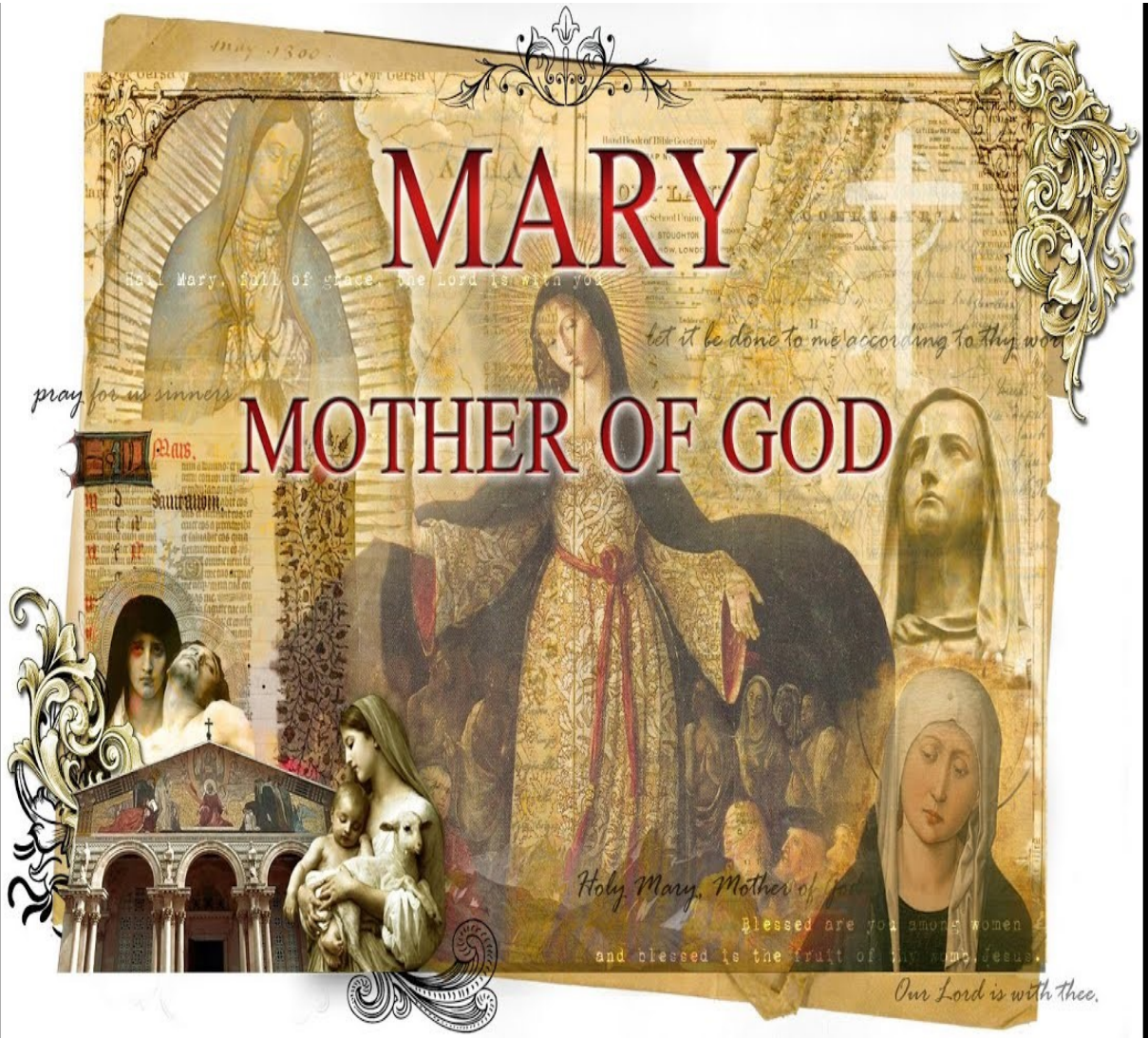
Peace,
Fr. John

FJB
BLOG



The
HOLY FAMILY
of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

©LPI



LUKE BROWN'S REFLECTION

Merry Christmas! I hope everyone had a great Christmas celebration and that you have all been filled with God's grace and blessings during this holiday season. This week's Gospel reading has always been one of my favorites. I love the story of Simeon as he holds the baby Jesus in his arms and his words, "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled." Imagine waiting patiently for Christ and then finally meeting and holding him. Simeon seems to be saying that he could die at that moment now that his greatest goal, vocation, and purpose has been fulfilled. It is like he knows that nothing can ever be greater than the experience of meeting and knowing Christ. I think about how easy it is to get discouraged, lose sight of God, and turn inward, even after coming to know Christ. I pray that we can all have the same humility, love, and contentment that we find in Simeon and in his words. I pray that we will find that same peace in the midst of the turmoil, anxiety, and stress that seems to be so present in today's world. Consider praying this week with Simeon's words and pray for the grace to model the example that Simeon has given us this week.



Mourning to Morning

SRW/SJC Bereavement Support

An informative and prayerful program to help people move through the grieving process and forward in faith.

New six-week session begins

Saturday, January 9, 2021

10:30AM – 12:00PM

Sacred Heart Room

Ss. Robert and William Parish Office Bldg.

There is no fee but registration requested.

Contact Renée Barber
216-731-1515 Ext. 262

or

rbarber@srweuclid.cc



Monday, December 28

8:30 AM (JL/TS-P) † Elaine Teknip

Tuesday, December 29

6:30 PM (GB) † Anna Pepock

Wednesday, December 30

8:30 AM (JL) † Del Mastrangelo

Thursday, December 31

4 PM (JL/TS) † People of the Parish

Friday, January 1

10:15 AM (TJ/TS) † Ray Polantz

Saturday, January 2

4 PM (JL/TS) † Marilyn Young

Sunday, January 3

7:45 AM (JL/TS) † Robert Miller

10:15 AM (JL/TS) † Kevin Holaus

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED DECEMBER 28 THROUGH
JANUARY 1

See you in the New Year!

Our Financial Stewardship

Last Week's Giving\$2,765.00
Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$ 833.00
Faith Direct*-Last Half November Giving.....\$
Faith Direct*-Last Half November 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!

CHRISTMAS DONATION TOTALS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A FUTURE BULLETIN

Family Life Events

Our Doors Are Always 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.sjceclid.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.

Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish and Their Caregivers

Evelyn Adamczak	Linda Palko
John Ballard	Bill Perko
Noella Burrows	Joan Raddell
Barbara Contorno	Pat Rossoll
Constance Durrah	Mary Rot
John Hocevar	Jerry Scarniench
Andrew Jarm	Judy Schmidt
Anna Jalovec	Rose Simek
Nick Kaluza	Colette Suhy
Joe Matejka	John Tarmann
Ronald Maxey	Rita Vaitkus
Sheila Moore-Baka	Abbie Vernon
Rudy Myeress	
Larry O'Donnell	

Please notify us when a name can be taken off this list.

Parish Staff

Rev. John D. Betters, Pastor
frjohn@sjceclid.com, Ext. 103

Rev. Gerald Bednar, Priest in Residence

Rev. John Loya, Priest in Residence
jloya@dioceseofcleveland.org

Deacon Tom Shetina, Deacon
deacontom@sjceclid.com, Ext. 112

Dr. Francesco Binda, Director of Music
fbinda@sjceclid.com, Ext. 104

Terri Burrello, Sacristan

Karen Duke, Office Manager
kduke@sjceclid.com, Ext. 100

Jim Granito, Business Manager
jgranito@sjceclid.com, Ext. 244

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.