



Saint John of the Cross

Feast of the Epiphany

January 3, 2021

Dear Parishioners, Friends, and Neighbors,

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year! I wish for all of us a healthy 2021: spiritually, mentally, and physically!

Instead of talking about the difficult circumstances that 2020 brought (thank God it is behind us!), I am going to tell you about the strengths that kept us together: **1) God!!!** He was, is, and will always be the Entity Who keeps us going; **2) Our prayers.** When they say about the power of prayers, well, they are right — there is nothing more powerful than that; **3) Unity.** No matter the masks, no matter the distances, no matter the regulations, we remained “united” together as a community of children of Christ! Either at Mass, or at the concerts, or at your own home, we all prayed “together!”; and **4) God’s love!** He really likes when we keep our spirit uplifted and we keep praising and worshipping Him! Because He then really likes to send His Holy Spirit to help us out...



So! Grab a pen and mark your calendars! Our services will continue strongly! Daily Masses, weekends and special festivity Masses, concerts, and so on. Oh! Concerts! Here is a list for you:

- Concert of Hope No. 25 = Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the church
- Concert of Hope No. 27 = Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the church
- Concert of Hope No. 29 = Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the church
Tenebrae Service = Wednesday, March 31 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the church (Wednesday of the Holy Week)

Spread the word! You can come to church and participate or follow us on our website and Facebook page. SJOC Parish has been working hard and invested a lot to make you feel comfortable in the pews or at home, with Livestreaming (which we constantly labor to improve). Either way, be with us! More importantly, be with God!!

And guess what? Are you guessing? Events are not stopping there. We are currently planning 2021 (past Easter) and we will let you know soon about our projects! Yes, “projects,” plural, and the projects include starting new Ministries... So... Let us continue to praise and worship the Lord together and let us nourish and lift our most beautiful SJOC Parish Community even more!

One last thing: most people would tell about the “New Year Resolution.” I have myself try to read this onr every day as soon as I wake up:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

May God Bless you and your families, friends and neighbors and may He grant you a joyful New Year,

Francesco Binda, D.M.
Director of Music



Monday, January 4

8:30 AM (JL/TS-P) † Jeff Melvin

Tuesday, January 5

6:30 PM (JB) † People of the Parish

Wednesday, January 6

8:30 AM (JL) † William Sedar

Thursday, January 7

6:30 (JL/TS) † A Soul in Need

Friday, January 8

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

Saturday, January 9

4 PM (JL/TS-P) † John & Margaret Walsh

Sunday, January 10

7:45 AM (JB/TS-P) † Marianne Chinchar

10:15 AM (JB/TS-P) † Rose Rico

Euclid Hunger Center-

You may drop off your donations at the Church.

FOOD DONATIONS

- cereal, canned fruits/vegetables, canned tuna/chicken, soup
- toiletry items (deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, feminine hygiene items)

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, *MTS*

LUKE BROWN'S REFLECTION

As a counselor, you would not believe how many times I hear about New Year's Resolutions. They are most frequently made about things like diet, exercise, and saving money, but the possibilities are endless. I find myself having very little faith in New Year's Resolutions alone to actually change anything in a person's life. While there are exceptions, I have found that most people start building up January 1st as a big transformative day months in advance, find the courage to stop or start their behavior resolution, and then inevitably slip up, crash and burn, and refrain from trying again until next year. Friends I have in the gym business say that January 1st is the biggest day of the year for new memberships, followed by a sharp decline in attendance throughout the rest of the month. My issue with these resolutions is that failure is very common and having this significant start date for a resolution just leads to increased self-loathing, disappointment, and despair. Who cares if you fail on January 7th? Now the new start date is January 7th- start again. You went 7 days without eating Oreos! Excellent! Now try for 10 days. My other issue with these resolutions is that we should be setting these goals constantly throughout the year. January 1st and Lent aren't the only times we should be practicing sacrifice, generosity, and almsgiving. This week, consider praying about your goals for self-improvement and remember that the process is lifelong, not restricted to January 1st.



**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

2020 OFFERTORY STATEMENT

If you would like to request your 2020 Offertory statement, please complete the below statement request and either drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office. Requests can also be made by calling the parish office at 216-289-0770 x.100 or emailing kduke@sjceuclid.com.

Please Note:

- Statements will only be issued upon request and will be available at the end of January.
- Capital Campaign statements will be mailed automatically.
- Faith Direct statements were generated and mailed out from Faith Direct.

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PLEASE SEND ME A 2020 OFFERTORY STATEMENT

Name: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

Our Financial Stewardship

Last Week's Giving \$3,294.00
Last Week's Maintenance Giving.....\$1,483.00
Faith Direct*-1st Half December Giving.....\$2,060.00
Faith Direct*-1st Half December Maintenance.....\$ 515.50

***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.sjceucld.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@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

Jim Granito, Business Manager

jgranito@sjceucld.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.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
[cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt
4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk
6:34-44

Wednesday: Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk
6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17
[cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
[12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and
9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/
Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is
12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Observances for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National
Migration Week

Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop