



FROM OUR PASTORAL STAFF

What is it about Christmas? The gifts around the tree? The cookies covering the table? The items stuffed in our stockings hanging from the mantle? The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ?

It is all of these, yet for some, more than others. Of course when we were children, we could not contain our joy waiting for Christmas morning, when we would wake up and find multitudes of presents under the tree, and then even more joy when the family arrived in the afternoon for a wonderful homemade dinner. As we grew older, for some it was not all about the gifts, but more importantly it was the family gatherings that meant more, especially with the passing of loved ones over the years. It is time to hold on to those that we have left. For some it is the joy of watching their own children now waking up on Christmas morning, and creating new family memories.

We all celebrate in different ways, and in different focuses. I certainly was never able to sleep on Christmas Eve. I would leave out cookies for Santa, and carrots for the reindeer, and listen to Christmas music after attending Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve at my home parish. But for the past eleven years since I have been involved in Church Music Ministry, Christmas for me has taken a different angle. I am not married, yet, and do not have a family of my own. My Christmas is spent here, in the holy Church of Christ, serving the people God. To me, welcoming the Christ Child into the world with proclamation, song, scripture, and the Holy Eucharist is most humbling. Yes, it is every week, but there is just something that touches me at Christmas time. This year I anticipate this Christmas with even greater joy, and ponder what I will feel this year, especially at the Candlelight Midnight Mass, in this new parish community, as Jesus is welcomed into this world. What will Christmas mean to you.....?

May He bring you Peace, Joy and Blessings this Season.....Matthew Fodor

*Christmas Mass Music Ministry
 Christmas Eve: 4:00pm-Children’s Choir
 6:30pm-Cantor
 Midnight Mass-All Music Ministry
 Christmas Day:
 8:00am-Cantor, 10:00am-Cantor, Small Ensemble
 String Ensemble will be playing at all Masses*



Readings for the Week

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18[1-5, 9-14]
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-20 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

December 24th, Christmas Eve:
 4:00pm(Children’s), 6:30pm, and
 12:00Midnight
 December 25th, Christmas Day:
 8:00am and 10:00am

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD
 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
 MASS SCHEDULE:**

December 31st, Vigil for Holy Day:
 4:00pm
 January 1st, Mary, Mother of God:
 10:00 am

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE:

The first St. John of the Cross social justice committee meeting took place Wednesday December 9, 2009 with four parishioners and Sr. Gale in attendance. The group discussed their individual experience with social justice, learned about the (7) pillars of Catholic social justice teaching, and committed to evaluating the needs in the community and beyond through the prism of Catholic social justice teaching, thereby forming and presenting fitting and unique role(s) for the St. John of the Cross community to the service of social justice. Catholic social justice rests on the belief that all life is sacred and that the dignity of every human life is the foundation of a moral society. As the group seeks to build on this foundation and find its capacity to address social injustice it welcomes all to participate and contribute. Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the school library.

As a beginner's project the committee recommends all to wish the ACLU a Merry Christmas by mailing a Merry Christmas card to: ACLU 125 Broad St. 18th Fl. New York, NY 10004. The ACLU is a prime organization involved in removing God and Christ from all aspects of our Christian heritage, society and Christmas itself.

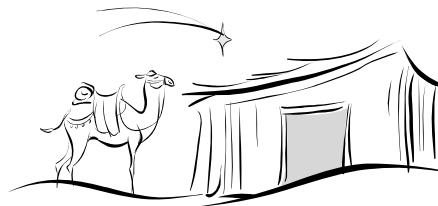
The Parish of St. John of the Cross is in the process of forming a new Liturgy Commission.

The Liturgy Commission prepares for and ensures good liturgical celebrations and implements plans and action steps related to parish liturgical functions and catechesis based on the Diocesan guidelines for Worship Commissions, the priorities and goals for the parish as determined by the Parish Council and ultimately by the Pastor and Pastoral Staff. This commission also strives to provide opportunities for education, with respect to our Church's Liturgy. **If you would like to serve on this commission please call Lisa Radey at the parish office. Our first meeting will be Thursday, January 7th, after the 7:00pm Mass.**



**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
PRAYER NETWORK HOTLINE
216-289-6456**

Call and leave a short message regarding your request. Let us know when your request has been answered, we can offer prayers of thanksgiving.



**PREPARE A PLACE FOR JESUS
IN THE STABLE
AND IN YOUR HEART**

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

—Luke 1:45

Today we see that the greens have been added to the stable scene. Evergreens represent the eternity of God. In Jesus, "God is with us". Let us ponder in our hearts these words of Isaiah: *Do you not know or have you not heard? The Lord is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint nor grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny...They who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, and they will soar as with eagles' wings (Isaiah 40:28,31)*

Let us now join Mary in awaiting the fulfillment of the promise from the Lord. (thoughts from *The Greatest Gift of All* by Mark G. Boyer and *Prepare a Home* by James E. Adams).



GOOD NEWS AT ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

First Ever Saint John of the Cross Ministry Fair

Our Saint John of the Cross Ministry Fair is coming up the Weekend of February 13 and 14, 2010. All ministries are asked to be represented at the directions meeting on Monday, January 4, 2010 in MR3 at 7:30 p.m. Please watch the mail for your invitation letter.

“ If today, you hear his voice, harden not your heart.”


Supporting our seminarian, Stephen Calderone

Our seminarian Stephen Calderone has expressed an interest in being a part of a third world experience with five other seminarians in Honduras. While Stephen will be responsible to pay a portion of the cost himself, the seminary is asking that we, as a parish, consider assisting with the expenses of the trip as well. Having done mission work in Honduras and in Zimbabwe and South Africa myself, I truly understand the positive impact that such an experience can have on a person's life and on the ministry that they do. I believe that this experience will truly help Stephen in his preparation for priesthood. If you would like to provide any financial assistance to Stephen, please place your contribution in an envelope marked Stephen Calderone. Checks can be made payable to Saint John of the Cross. Thank you, in advance, for helping us to support our seminarian in this Year for Priests.....

.....Fr. Sal

CHURCH DIRECTORY: Don't forget to pick up your finished photographs at the Parish office during normal business hours. The office hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you missed getting your portrait taken for the first church directory of St. John of the Cross, you may submit your own photograph. The fee is \$12 to cover the cost of your copy of the directory. Call Prelude Photography at (440) 266-1677 for more information. Also, you can still get reprints in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support.

SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS: We will be saving stamps for the Maryknoll Sisters. The Sisters can sell used stamps at an auction house to support their work. Stamps must be cut leaving a ¼" margin on all four sides. You can place your stamps in the basket provided in our gathering area.



**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
BEREAVEMENT CORNER**

For those who are grieving this time of year can be somewhat fearful as we feel there can be no joy in the holidays as we may have experienced in years past. It is difficult to run away from the sights and sounds of Christmas. Make sure to find some balance and quiet time to be with your thoughts.

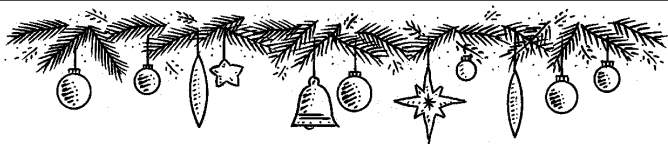
- * Light a candle and place it in the window, on a mantle or at the dinner table to remind you of the presence of your special person.
- * Make photocopies of treasured photos to frame and give as gifts.

DONATIONS FOR ITEMS FOR NEW WORSHIP SPACE

Several people have approached me regarding making donations for items to be used in the new worship space. We are currently in the process of designing a statue of Saint John of the Cross and a new presider's chair, and looking to purchase a matching funeral vestment and pall as well as votive candle holders for the area where the statues of Mary and Joseph will be so that people will have an opportunity to light candles in prayer. Please note that the cost of the renovation has been budgeted for, so we have planned for the expenses that will be incurred...we will not be asking parishioners to cover any of these costs, but we also understand that there are those who wish to donate to a specific item. Should you desire to make donations to any of these, please contact Fr. Sal at 216-289-0770.

DVD PICK UP REMINDER: If you ordered a DVD Memoir of St. Felicitas, be sure to stop in the Parish Office to pick it up. Thank you.

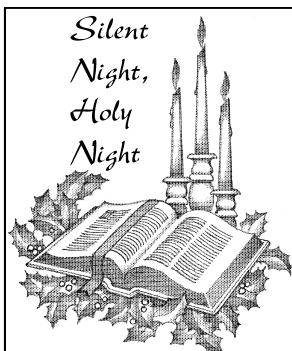
ST. FELICITAS PRESCHOOL SESSION 2 TOTS: St. Felicitas Preschool is offering an eight week program for you and your 2 or 3yr. Old non-preschooler beginning January 13th, 2010 from 9:00am-10:30am. Registration begins Wednesday, January 6th, 2010 from 8:00am-1:00pm. Cost is \$80.00. Call 216-732-9116 for further information.



NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

DONATE THAT OLD CAR TO THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Donate your used car, van, or pickup truck to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Diocese of Cleveland and avoid the hassles and headaches of trading it in or selling it yourself. Your vehicle will be sold and the proceeds used by the St. Vincent de Paul Society in their charitable programs that assist the needy and suffering throughout the Diocese. You may also be eligible for an income tax deduction. For more information call 216-696-6525, ext. 3150, or 1-800-869-6525, ext. 3150; check out our website at www.svdpcle.org.

Come Discover the **BIBLICAL BASIS OF YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH** in a series authored by **Dr. Scott Hahn**, world renowned theologian (seen regularly on EWTN). This nationally-acclaimed study, entitled "**Genesis to Jesus**" (**G2J**), is being presented locally by an instructor trained and certified by Dr. Hahn's St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, **Greg Miller, J.D.** Of Greg, Dr. Hahn writes: "One of the reasons (G2J) is so effective is because it uses trained, live presenters. The Cleveland diocese happens to be blessed with *one of the best. Greg Miller is one of the most experienced, knowledgeable, and vibrant presenters we have seen.* When & Where? Two options each week-end: beginning Saturdays, Jan. 9th., at St. Vitus parish (Lausche Ave.-Cleveland), or Sunday, Jan. 10th, at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine (Chardon Rd.-Euclid); from 5-7pm at each. Cost: Book (\$10.) plus a free will offering. Register/Questions, please call Greg at 216-261-7792/gjmiller11@gmail.com or Ed at 440-729-6117/slovenci@aol.com ...or just come and see.



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS QUOTE

Be content, however puzzled and uncomfortable you may be, to remain in the presence of God, lovingly attentive, your mind so quiet, so unoccupied, that it will seem that you are doing nothing, that you are idling, wasting your time. Quieting our busy, distracted souls is no small achievement, No small gift. "Be still and know that I am God."



RAFFLE WINNER



Congratulations to Mary Jane Lowery of Euclid, our winner of the **Week #11 PTU Weekly Raffle**. Mary Jane Lowery was also the seller winner.

COLLECTIONS

Last Week's Regular Collection.....\$9,909.00
 Children's Collection.....\$62.75

Thank you for your generosity. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.



LOOKING AHEAD

C-Church
P-Parish Office
S-School
MR1-Meeting Room #1
MR2-Meeting Room #2
MR3-Meeting Room #3
G-Gym

WEEK OF DECEMBER 21ST

MONDAY-DECEMBER 21st

SFS-Christmas Vacation-1/1/10
6:30-7:30pm PSR (S)

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 22nd

7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 23rd

7:00pm Adult Music Group Practice (C)

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 24th

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule:
4:00pm(Children's Mass), 6:30pm, and
12:00am Midnight

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 25th

Christmas Day Mass Schedule:
8:00am and 10:00am

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 26th

6:45pm Bingo-Team B (G)

SUNDAY-DECEMBER 27th

10:00am Children's Liturgy (C)



WEEK OF DECEMBER 28TH

MONDAY-DECEMBER 28th

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 29th

7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 30th

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 31st

4:00pm Vigil Mass for Holy Day
6:45pm Bingo Team #2

FRIDAY-JANUARY 1st-

**Mary Mother of God –
Holy Day of Obligation**

10:00am Mass-only Mass for today

SATURDAY-JANUARY 2nd

SUNDAY-JANUARY 3rd

10:00am Children's Liturgy (C)

