

**FROM OUR PASTORAL STAFF**



A couple of weeks before Christmas I was fortunate enough to participate in a one day retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House. During that day I was really mindful of the fact that my prayer has not been what I needed it to be. I have been caught up in many activities and only “sort-of” been faithful to my time with God. I **need** to come to God each day and sometimes each hour of the day to refresh my spirit, to keep me peaceful and focused on what really matters.

As we begin to think about the New Year, think about putting God and time for prayer at the top of our to do list. We have all been through a year of great change, and that change has given us an opportunity to rethink what Church means to us. It is not about the building nor about the externals or just going through the motions. It is about “**why we do what we do**”. Does God really have our hearts? Can we go to that place deep within us where God dwells and we find the peace and acceptance that we seek relentlessly. Only God fills the holy longing, but never completely—it is our life’s work.

So we ask ourselves are we really living our lives faithful to the Gospel of Jesus? Scripture tells us over and over through His ministry what is important. His life is the message. The purpose of His life and ours is to develop a preferential option for the poor; take care of those who are not as fortunate than we are. Our best prayers lead us to care for the marginalized, the broken and the oppressed, the lonely, outcasts, children and widows. **This is what God really cares about. “God has told you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.” Micah 6:8**

For this New Year, I suggest we wrestle with the needs we think we have to have and the things we think we have to do, and try to replace some of them with the people we have to help and the Peace we long for that is found in the stillness of our prayer and the kindness that will be born in our hearts.

Today, you have celebrated the Liturgy of the Holy Family and its meaning for us. We look at our families and see them as gift. We are all gifts of God to each other. We begin our prayer and ministry in our family so that we as a family are united in our Church and in our world we will all be what God calls us to be.

.....Sister Gale



Readings for the Week

- Monday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
- Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
- Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**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**

**ADULT FORMATION:** the parish of St. John of the Cross has the responsibility to meet the spiritual needs of all of its people. If you are interested in being a part of the adult faith formation by helping to provide spiritual opportunities such as parish missions, guest speakers, adult education classes and retreat experiences, please contact Lisa Radey at the parish office, our first meeting will be Thursday, January 14th at 7:30pm. Thank you!

**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. 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**LITURGY STUDY GROUP:**

Our parish is in the process of forming a liturgy study group to prepare for what will be the work of our future liturgy commission. By studying and discussing the Church's teaching on liturgy and assessing our liturgical experiences here at St. John of the Cross, we hope to implement plans to provide the best liturgical experience possible. If you would like to be a part of this study group, please call Lisa Radey at the parish office.

**Our first meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup>, after the 7pm Mass where we will be joined by Christina Ronzio of the Diocesan Worship Office.**

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**

Olivia & William Allender, Charlotte Farinacci, Lucy Glavac, Stefanie Hainrihar, George Halgash, Andrew Jarm, Donald Justus, Cindy Kinley, Lucille Kucharski, Ruth Lamm, Dottie Maher, Ronald Maxey, Joanne Nale, Jim Nolan, Mark O'Bannon, Dorothy Pinto, Joan Raddell, Justin Raddell, Gerald Scarniench, Norma Sedar, Henry Sepko, Tony Stepec, Edward Slavkovsky, Milton Taisey, John Tarmann, Alberta Ulrich, Richard Warman, Catherine Yert, and Jackie Zupan

**Please notify the Parish Office when a name can be removed from this list.**



**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.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: "As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) *or Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14.*

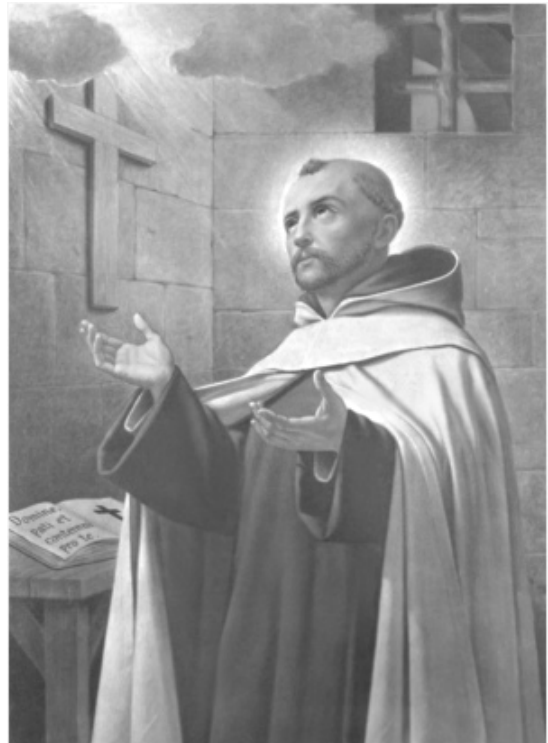
**Psalms** — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) *or Psalm 128.*

**Second Reading** — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) *or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].*

**Gospel** — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>MONDAY</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Holy Innocents, martyrs</b> Orazio DiFranco	<b>Dec. 28</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 8:15 a.m.	<b>Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas</b> Tom O'Toole	<b>Dec. 29</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas</b>	<b>Dec. 30</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 4:00 p.m.	<b>Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas</b> Dorothy Carrick	<b>Dec. 31</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God</b> Anton & Sylvia Milavec	<b>Jan. 1</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:00 p.m.	<b>St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen</b> Robert Grossman	<b>Jan. 2</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> Bob Miller Frances Kostansek Linda Rossino	<b>Jan. 3</b>



**REMINDER TO ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS** The weekend of January 9th and 10th, at each Mass, we will be commissioning all of you that completed your training and are now ministering at St. John of the Cross Parish. We thank you for your faithfulness to our community.

**COUNTERS**

Counters for Sun. Jan. 3rd....."B" Team  
Counters for Mon. Jan. 4th ..... "E" Team

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Richmond Hts. Hospital-Wed. Dec. 30.....  
.....Thomas-Greaves  
  
Grande Pointe-Sun. Jan. 3 .....Legion of Mary

**MINISTERS SCHEDULE —JAN. 2-3, 2010**

MASS	PRESIDER	HOSPITALITY	LECTOR 1	LECTOR 2	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	SERVERS
Sat. 4:00pm	Fr. Timothy	A. Barteld C. Knox	P. Mayer	K. McVoy	L. Kucharski, M. Monger, J. Monger, M. Monger, W. Nalepka, J. Page, K. Zigman, M. Zoul	T. Capek J. Monger
Sun. 8:00am	Fr. Mehok	S. Glavic C. Otters	T. Hlabse	L. McVoy	C. Gricar, M. Gricar, J. Kirchmeir, P. Mastrangelo, A. Rodriguez, S. Ruggeri, K. Ruggeri, R. Smith	A. Champa L. Rosace
Sun. 10:00am	Fr. Sal	M. Chinchar J. Chounet	T. Bluntzer	M. McVoy	L. Bochenek, M. Chinchar, M. Corbo, J. Kovelan, J. Miozzi, E. Perme, M. Somich, R. Somich	M. Abate R. Corbo
Sun. 12:00pm	Fr. Sal	J. Berquist S. Thomas-Greaves	T. Gorenssek	L. Williams	C. Cinkole, B. Dennis, S. Johnson, M. Proctor, J. Solpa, J. Vajda, K. Wetzel, T. Wetzel	P. Bozak J. Bozak

**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 informational meeting on Monday, January 4, 2010 in meeting room #3 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

**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.

Who doesn't love **DONUT SUNDAY!** Besides the great donuts it is a chance to enjoy the company of each other. We are looking for someone who would be willing to organize our Donut Sundays. This involves purchasing supplies and assigning different ministries to host each month. If you are interested (and you know you are out there) please call Lisa Radey at the parish office 216.289.0770.

**Saint John of the Cross Giving Trees**

Thank you so very much. Thank you to the parishioners who took tags and bought the designated gifts. Thank you to the confirmation class who bought underwear and socks for children. Thank you to the PSR classes who bought hats, gloves, and scarves for children. Thank you to the people who brought boxes and cans of food to the beautiful Lessons and Carols Program. Thank you to the four families who sorted and packed the gifts for pick-up. All these gifts were given to the Saint Aloysius Hunger Center, the Mount Pleasant Thea Bowman Center, Birthright, Rose Mary Center, the Prison Ministry, the Legion of Mary for nursing homes, and parishioners.

As Saint Gregory Nazianzen tells us “ Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Nor is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”

Peace Always.....The Giving Tree Ministry

**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:**

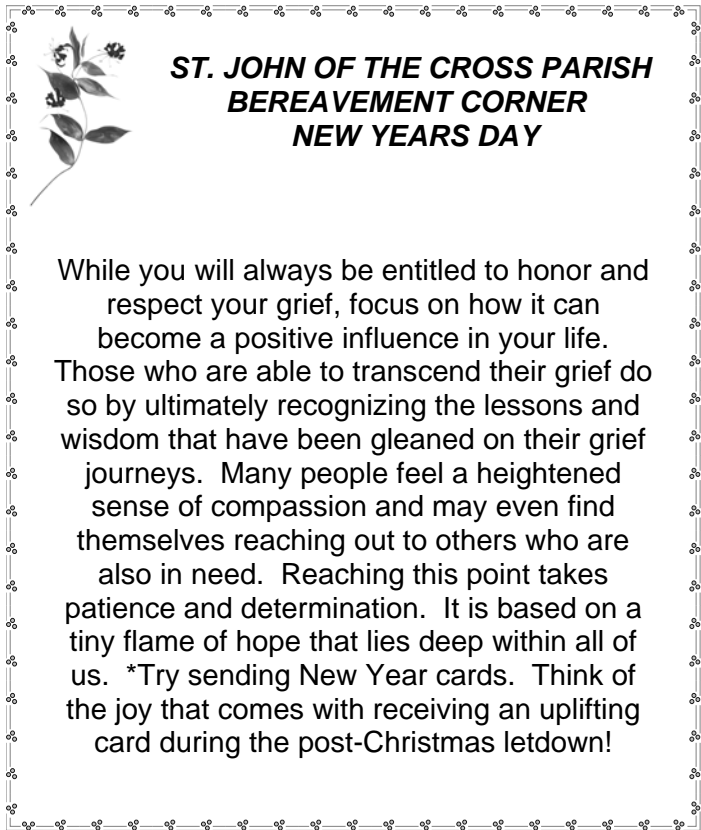
St. Felicitas Preschool is offering an eight week program for you and your 2 or 3yr. Old non-preschooler beginning January 13th, 2010 from 9:00am-10:30am. Registration begins Wednesday, January 6th, 2010 from 8:00am-1:00pm. Cost is \$80.00. Call 216-732-9116 for further information.

**NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS**

**BREADTH OF LIFE:** *“The Cleveland Years of Eliot Ness”*, presented by Rebecca McFarland, luncheon will be Wednesday, Jan. 13th from 12:00pm-2:00pm at St. Noel's Parish Hall, 35200 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills. The cost is \$17.00. For reservations please call 216-289-3593 or Judy Schmidt at 440-946-6932 by January 6th.

**HOT MEAL MINISTRY:** Beginning Monday, Jan. 18th, 2010 Our Lady of Mount Carmel will serve dinner to anyone or any family that is in need of a hot meal from 5:30-6:30pm. You are invited each Monday evening for a wholesome meal and fellowship in the Lower Church Hall, at 29850 Euclid Ave.

**CATHOLIC EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM:** Catholic Charities Health and Human Services has introduced a transformational leadership development program called Catholic Emerging Leaders (CEL). Through CEL you will meet top leaders of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Cleveland, develop leadership skills and knowledge, and join with fellow team members on a Catholic Action Project (CAP) to contribute to the community. Please visit [www.CatholicEmergingLeaders.com](http://www.CatholicEmergingLeaders.com) for more information. There is still time to be part of the 2010 class. The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Join now!



**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH  
BEREAVEMENT CORNER  
NEW YEARS DAY**

While you will always be entitled to honor and respect your grief, focus on how it can become a positive influence in your life. Those who are able to transcend their grief do so by ultimately recognizing the lessons and wisdom that have been gleaned on their grief journeys. Many people feel a heightened sense of compassion and may even find themselves reaching out to others who are also in need. Reaching this point takes patience and determination. It is based on a tiny flame of hope that lies deep within all of us. \*Try sending New Year cards. Think of the joy that comes with receiving an uplifting card during the post-Christmas letdown!

**RAFFLE WINNER**



**Congratulations** to Lara Scott of Cleveland, our winner of the **Week #12 PTU Weekly Raffle**. Lara Scott was also the seller winner.

**COLLECTIONS**

Last Week's Regular Collection and Children's Collection will be posted in next week's bulletin.

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

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of Hosts

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**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS QUOTE**

***“Deepen my desire to be alone in quiet, loving awareness of your presence, without a need to console myself with images and prayers that once might have served me well but that are no longer needed.  
Descend on my soul now like a river of peace to take away my uncertainties, my fear of the dark.”***



# LOOKING AHEAD

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

## 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 (G)

**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 of the Word(C)

Mary, Mother of God



## WEEK OF JANUARY 4TH

**MONDAY-JANUARY 4th**

**TUESDAY-JANUARY 5th**  
6:30pm Finance Commission Mtg(MR1)  
7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)

**WEDNESDAY-JANUARY 6th**

**THURSDAY-JANUARY 7th**  
6:45pm Bingo Team #3

**FRIDAY-JANUARY 8th**

**SATURDAY-JANUARY 9th**  
6:45pm Bingo Team "A" (G)

**SUNDAY-JANUARY 10th**  
10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word(C)



**Baptism  
of the Lord**

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