

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites

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|---|--|---------|
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prepare the way...



ADVENT

READINGS OF THE WEEK

| | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Mon | Dec. 17 | Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-7 |
| Tues | Dec. 18 | Jeremiah 12:5-8; Matthew 1:18-24 |
| Wed | Dec. 19 | Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 |
| Thurs | Dec. 20 | Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Luke 1:26-38 |
| Fri | Dec. 21 | Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 |
| Sat | Dec. 22 | 1Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 |
| Sun | Dec. 23 | Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45 |

CHURCH

| | | |
|-------|---------|---|
| Sun | Dec. 16 | Carol Services 5:30pm |
| Mon | Dec. 17 | Parish Advent Reconciliation 7:00pm |
| Tues | Dec. 18 | St. Elizabeth Seton Advent Mass 6:30pm |
| Tues | Dec. 18 | Adult Choir Practice 8-10pm |
| Wed | Dec. 19 | Band Practice 8:00-10:00pm |
| Thurs | Dec. 20 | Folk Choir Practice 8:00-10:00pm |
| Sat | Dec. 22 | Children's Choir Practice 10:00am-12:00noon |

SEMINAR ROOM

| | | |
|-----|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon | Dec. 17 | RCIA 7:00-9:00pm |
| Wed | Dec. 19 | Prime Time Crafts 1:30-4:30 pm |
| Wed | Dec. 19 | Sacramental Preparation 6:30-7:30pm |

NESSINGER HALL

| | | |
|------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon | Dec 17 | EDGE Night 6:00-9:00pm |
| Tues | Dec. 18 | Prime Time Line Dancing 1:00-2:30pm |
| Tues | Dec. 18 | St. Elizabeth Seton 6:30-9:00pm |
| Wed | Dec. 19 | RCIC 6:30-7:30pm |



Would you like one of the priests or the deacon from St. John of the Cross Parish visit you while you are in the hospital? Or would you like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick? *Please let us know by calling the parish office.*



Advent Gift: HOPE THAT LASTS

*Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.*

They shall be like a tree planted by water sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Faith "is like the feet wherewith the soul journeys to God, and love is the guide that directs it." – St. John of the Cross

3rd Week of Advent Reflections

Impossible Dream

Imagine how young Mary—probably no more than 15 or 16 years old—must have felt upon receiving the news that the impossible was about to take place within her, that she would give birth to the Savior. How could she tell her betrothed, Joseph? What would her family think? Who would believe her?



“Do not be afraid, Mary,” the angel says to her. “Nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1:30, 37). We know the rest of the story. The impossible was indeed made possible, not only at the birth of Jesus, but in the many miracles he performed, and most of all at his Resurrection. If God could accomplish all this, imagine what God can do in your own life. Advent is the season for imagining what is possible, for dreaming new dreams, for hoping beyond hope.

But it is also the season when hope can be hardest to find, dreams hardest to believe. The days draw short, the nights are long and the air turns. Expenses may loom at a time when resources are scarce. Separation, grief, loneliness, and depression are no strangers to the season. Hope may be in short supply during this time. We need Mary’s inspiring example of courage and trust in the face of uncertainty more than ever.

What Mary can offer us is a remarkable and inspiring example of courage in the face of adversity, patience in the face of uncertainty, and hope beyond hope that the impossible is indeed possible.

Mary stood with her son as he was crucified (John 19:25–27); she stood with his fearful followers who huddled after his death (Acts 1:13–14). She knew that the story wasn’t over yet. And she was right.

Our story isn’t finished, either, no matter what challenges or wounds burden us this season. All

things remain possible with God. This is the miracle of Advent. We can once again dream the impossible dream—and reach the unreachable star.

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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Monday, December 17th
Starting at 7:00pm

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, December 16th, 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm, and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00AM and 12:00PM

FEAST DAY MARY MOTHER OF GOD,

VIGIL MASS, DECEMBER 31

5:00PM and 7:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1

10:00AM and 12:00PM



POINSETTIAS NEEDED

Please bring your poinsettias donation to the church and place them by the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the rotunda by December 20th.

Thank you for helping bring the spirit of Christmas to our parish!



Gift Certificate can be used towards:

- a. **EDGE Registration**
- b. **EDGE Camp**
- c. **Camp Cross**
- d. **Lift Jesus Higher Rally**
- e. **Stuebenville Toronto, Etc.**

More info at
www.sjocym.com/gift



NEIGHBORING PARISHES ADVENT RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's Parish: Dec. 18, 7:00 – 9:00pm

St. Francis Xavier Parish: Dec. 20, 7:00 – 9:00pm

St. Martin of Tours Parish: Dec. 20, 7:00-9:00pm



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS' STORY

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: “of the Cross.” The folly of the cross came to full realization in time.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God. But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly “of the Cross.” He died at 49—a life short, but full.

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