

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites

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Feast of the Holy Family

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Mon	Dec. 31	1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
Tues	Jan. 1	Numbers 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Wed	Jan. 2	1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Thurs	Jan. 3	1 John 2:29, 3:1-6; John 1:29-34
Fri	Jan. 4	1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Sat	Jan. 5	1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Sun	Jan. 6	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

CHURCH

Wed	Jan. 2	Band Practice 8:00-10:00pm
Thurs	Jan. 3	Folk Choir Practice 8:00-10:00pm
Sat	Jan. 5	Children's Choir 10am-11:15am

SEMINAR ROOM

Wed	Jan. 2	Prime Time Crafts 1:30-4:30 pm
Sat	Jan. 5	Lay Carmelite 9am-4pm

NESSINGER HALL

Sat	Jan. 5	CFC 7:00-10:00pm
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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.*

**1ST FRIDAY MASS
FOLLOWED BY
ADORATION &
BENEDICTION**

**JANUARY 4TH, 7:00pm
COMMUNITY ROSARY, 6:30pm
BRING YOUR FAMILY!**



FEAST DAY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

VIGIL MASS, DEC. 31st at 5:00PM, 7:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

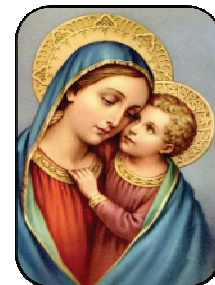
JANUARY 1st, 10:00AM and 12:00PM

O, give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The life of Jesus begins with Mary. Therefore, it is appropriate that we begin the New Year with a Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Since Mary is the Mother of God, she is the mother of joy, joy to the world. So, the traditional greeting on this first day of the New Year is one of joy: **Happy New Year!**



It would be a mistake to expect perfect happiness this year or any year in this life. This innate, insatiable drive we all have for perfect happiness can only be satisfied in the next life. As St. Augustine said, "Lord, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." But there is a deep, lasting peace that everyone can have in this life.

It would also be a mistake to identify happiness with pleasure. Pleasure and happiness are not synonyms. They are not one and the same thing. In fact, pleasure can be the cause of very great unhappiness.

It would be a mistake also to think that happiness consists in amassing possessions. If things could make people happy, Americans would be the happiest people in the world. We have more things than any other generation. Unfortunately, we begin by possessing things and end up with things possessing us.

It would be a mistake also to think that we can find happiness by seeking it. The fact of the matter is, the moment you seek it you lose it. Happiness is always a by-product, green stamps, lagniappe.

But what is happiness a by-product of? What is it that has happiness as a side effect? The answer is to be found in Bethlehem. Let us go to Bethlehem to see what it is. Look into the cave. Take your eyes away from the beautiful babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger and look around. There is none of those things in which we seek happiness. There are no riches, no fame, no power, no conveniences, no pleasure, nothing but an empty, cold cave on the outskirts of town.

Now, look at Mary and Joseph kneeling before the manger. They must be tired. They have traveled 75 miles or so from Nazareth to Bethlehem on foot and on the jolting back of a donkey. They must be very hungry. They haven't had a real meal since they left Nazareth some 3 days ago. They must be cold in this damp cave in the midst of winter. It must have been very humiliating for them to discover no room among their relatives in their ancestral home or at the village Inn.

Yet, in the midst of all of this, Mary and Joseph are the happiest people to walk the face of this earth. Here in Bethlehem, they are teaching us the amazing paradox that it is only when we lose ourselves in the love and service of Jesus do we find happiness. Happiness that this world can never give and no one can take from us. But how can we lose ourselves in the love and service of Jesus? Jesus has made it very simple, "Whatever you do for one of these least brethren you do for me." So, on this first day of the New Year let us ask for the grace to know Jesus more intimately, love him more ardently and follow him more closely so that this may be a truly **Happy New Year!**

(Excerpts from Fr. Rodney Kissinger, SJ Reflections)

PRIME TIME CLUB - (a social group for those over 50)
 Membership - \$10 per year.
 Held occasionally are outings, Saturday evening dinners in Nessinger hall and luncheons in local restaurants. Held weekly are Line Dancing on Tuesdays at 1pm and Craft Group on Wednesdays at 2pm.

Contact Mary at 905.824.8537.

A CARMELITE MOMENT

January 3 – St. Kuriakos Elias Chavara

Born at Kainakary in Kerala, India in 1805.

Prayer: Lord God, you raised up St. Kuriakos Elias your priest to strengthen the unity of the Church. Grant that through his intercession, we may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to read the signs of the times with wisdom and spread the news of the Gospel by both word and example. Amen.



Gift Certificate can be used towards:

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

More info at www.sjocym.com/gift



SAVE THE DATE

Knights of Columbus

Annual Valentine Dinner/Dance on Saturday, February 2nd at Swagat Banquet Hall.

2019 SUNDAY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

As of January 1, 2019, please use **only** your 2019 envelopes. **DO NOT USE** any 2018 envelopes.

PARISH LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will be open before and after the 5 pm mass on Saturday, January 5, and before and after the 10 am and Noon masses on Sunday, January 6, 2019. The Library is located outside Nessinger Hall. This is a **free** service for all registered members of the Parish. We have religious books for children, teens and adults. Please drop by and take a look. Returns can also be made at this time. See you there!



PROCEDURES FOR THE ORDERING OF PAPAL BLESSING SCROLLS

Papal Blessings scrolls are only available directly from the Vatican. To order, please visit the Vatican website, www.vatican.va under the Roman Curia tab the Office of Papal Charities.

Thank you to all those who donated this year. Donations received by Sunday, Dec. 30th will be reflected on your 2018 tax receipt.



Thank you for your generosity.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Psalm 25:1

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