

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites

PARISH OFFICE:

6890 Glen Erin Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2E1
 Phone: 905-821-1331 • Fax: 905-858-8486
 Email: office@sjocross.org
 Website: www.sjocross.org



Leho zelatus sum pro domino deo exercituum
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
Youth Ministry

sjocym.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Monday to Thursday 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Alexandru Andrus

We, God's people, members of St. John of the Cross Carmelite Parish, and disciples called through baptism to be prophetic, priestly, and holy, have been chosen to serve, help, and guide each other on our Christian pilgrimage through life, to the Kingdom of God.

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT THE CHURCH

Monday through Saturday: 9:00 a.m.
 Every Wednesday: additional mass 7:00 p.m.
 followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 First Friday: additional mass 7:00 p.m.
 followed by Adoration

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
 Other times by appointment.

BAPTISM

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
 Parents are required to attend the Baptism Preparation Class. They are also encouraged to attend the class prior to the birth of the baby. Godparents are also expected to attend this class. A registration package is available at the Parish Office or at our website.

MARRIAGE

It is required that one of those to be married resides within the Parish boundary. Couples planning to be married must contact the Parish Office at least one year in advance of their proposed date. They are required to complete a Marriage Preparation Course.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Please contact the parish office if confined to home or hospitalization so sacramental care may be provided.

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Joyson George, O Carm., **Pastor** pastor@sjocross.org Ext 228
 Fr. Felix Antony, O.Carm., **Assoc. Pastor** rrfelix@sjocross.org 224
 Rev. Mr. John Cannon, **Deacon** deaconjohn@sjocross.org 222

Tel/Voice Mail

PARISH SECRETARY – Violanta Nicholson 223
YOUTH MINISTER – Ante Skoko ym@sjocross.org 226
RECEPTIONIST – Liane Harris

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Communion & First Reconciliation 225
 Confirmation 230

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

305

SCHOOLS

St. Albert of Jerusalem 905-785-9298
 St. Elizabeth Seton 905-821-2277
 St. John of the Cross 905-824-3058
 St. Richard 905-826-5572
 St. Teresa of Avila 905-858-3462
 St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus 905-785-0066
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel 905-824-1025

JOHN OF THE CROSS was born in 1542 at Fontiveros in Spain. He entered the Carmelite Community and was ordained a priest in 1567. Renowned for his wisdom and sanctity, he died at Ubeda in 1591. His writings are not only classics of spirituality, but also of Spanish literature. His best known books are The Ascent of Mount Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul, and The Living Flame of Love.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10

2nd Reading: Romans 15.4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12 – The Proclamation of John the Baptist

A Stewardship Examination

As Christmas carols take over radio stations and shopping malls are filled to capacity, it is easy to lose track of the true purpose of Advent. Essentially, Advent is a time to prepare for the Lord's coming on Christmas Day as well as his final coming at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our own individual judgment day is coming too, where we will stand before the throne of God and give an account of how we have used all the gifts and blessings we have received.

Cardinal Collins in his Pastoral Letter on Stewardship* states that "A steward is a servant entrusted for a time with the goods of the Master ... and must eventually give an account to the Master for the way in which [the gifts] have been cared for and made fruitful." This Advent season reminds us to conduct a humble examination of how are we best using our God-given gifts for His glory and the good of the Church.

Are we staying faithful to our practice of prayer? Are we using our time to serve and journey with others? Are we taking an active role in the life of the parish community? Are we serving the less fortunate in our community, remembering Christ's words to serve the poor? Are we living for the present world or for the world to come? Let us take this Advent to re-examine how we are being stewards of the gifts in our lives and recommit to fully living the Gospel.

"Life is like an escalator: You can move forward or backward; you can not remain still."

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Next EDGE Night: Mon Dec 9th - SOCIAL: Mario Kart LIVE

Next LIFE Night: Fri Dec 13th - Pathways & Providence

Schedule & Reg'n. @ www.jcym.ca/lifeteen



RESERVATIONS

CHURCH

Mon	Dec 9	St. Albert of Jerusalem School Advent Mass 7:00pm
Tue	Dec 10	Adult Choir Practice 7:00-9:00pm
Wed	Dec 11	Band Practice 8:00-10:00pm
Thurs	Dec 12	St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Advent Mass 7:00pm
Thurs	Dec 12	Folk Choir Practice 8:00-10:00pm

SEMINAR ROOM

Mon	Dec 9	RCIA 7:00—9:00pm
Tue	Dec 10	Baptism Class 7:00-9:00pm
Wed	Dec 11	Prime Time Craft 2:00-4:00pm
Wed	Dec 11	Sacramental Preparation 6:30-7:30pm
Fri	Dec 13	St. Vincent de Paul Society Assembly 5:00-9:00pm

NESSINGER HALL

Mon	Dec 9	EDGE 7:00-9:00pm
Tue	Dec 10	Prime Time Club Line Dancing 1:00-3:00pm
Tue	Dec 10	Knights of Hearts 7:00-9:00pm
Wed	Dec 11	CIC 6:30-7:30pm
Thurs	Dec 11	Knights of Columbus 7:00-9:00pm
Thurs	Dec 12	St. Vincent de Paul Society 6:30-9:00pm
Fri	Dec 13	LIFETEEN 7:00-9:00pm

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Mon	Dec 9	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Tue	Dec 10	Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wed	Dec 11	Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
Thurs	Dec 12	Zechariah 2:10-13; Luke 1:39-47
Fri	Dec 13	Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Sat	Dec 14	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:10-13
Sun	Dec 15	Isaiah 35:1-6a,10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS' MUSIC
MINISTRY PRESENTS:

AN EVENING MUSICAL OF SONG

Sunday, December 15th, 6pm,
\$5/Ticket

Proceeds will help support our new
sound system in the church.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
Novena Prayer



O glorious St. John of the Cross, through a pure desire of being like Jesus crucified, you longed for nothing so eagerly as to suffer, to be despised, and to be made little of by all; and your thirst after sufferings was so burning that your noble heart rejoiced in the midst of the cruellest torments and afflictions. Grant, I beseech you, O dear Saint, by the glory which your many sufferings have gained for you, to intercede for me and obtain from God for me a love of suffering, together with strength and grace to bear with firmness of mind all the trials and adversities which are the sure means to the happy attainment of all that awaits me in heaven. Dear Saint, from your most happy place in glory, hear, I beseech you, my prayers, so that after your example, full of love for the cross, I may deserve to be your companion in glory. Amen.

St. John of the Cross, pray for us.

Be transformed, Stay transformed, In His Holy Name
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH PRAYER GROUP
 Invites you, your friends, and your family to a transformational evening that includes:

Family Rosary, Holy Mass
 Adoration & Benediction
 Praise & Worship
 Preaching and Fellowship

Mark your Calendar!
 Friday, January 3rd, 6:30-9:30pm, in the church.
All are welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	Dec 9 9am	1. For the soul of Brandon Boomhower, requested by Jocelyne Flaman 2. For the soul of Octo Sequeira, requested by Bernadette Sequeira 3. For the soul of Tony Goveas, requested by Darryl and Sheila Goveas
Thurs	Dec 12 9am	1. For the living intention of Michael Harrison, requested by his family.
Fri	Dec 13 9am	1. For the soul of Nory Andrews, requested by Vincent Andrews 2. For the soul of Agnes D’Souza, requested by Gilbert & Peppy D’Souza
Sun	Dec 15 12pm	1. For the living intention of Maikel Michriky, requested by Maikel

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS STORY

Feast Day: December 14

Patron Saint of Mystics, Contemplatives, and Spanish Poets

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. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John’s life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the original 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.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John’s spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*. But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. 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.

To be taken with love for a soul, God does not look on its greatness, but on the greatness of its humility. ~ St. John of the Cross

JC Youth Ministry – December 2019 Update



EDGE helps Middle Schoolers (Grade 5-8) unleash who they were created to be, in Christ.



Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. Edge speaks to the physical, psychological, cognitive, relational, and spiritual maturation of middle school youth. Edge has different semesters of Edge Nights every year, retreats, and has an adult Core Team, to assist in ministry and teaching in a way that young people can understand.

Our doors are always open to new youth!



LIFE TEEN strengthens teens' Catholic identity, while rooting them firmly in Christ and His Church



We at JCYM believe a revolution is happening. And we believe that this revolution is taking place in our Church, in our homes, in our schools and in our workplaces. It is a Catholic revolution, it is a generation of teenagers, parents, young and old alike who are rising up to proudly live their lives for Jesus Christ. The LIFE TEEN ministry at St. John of the Cross is a small part of this larger movement that extends far beyond the walls of our parish. LIFE TEEN began as a ministry in 2005 in Arizona & has since spread through North America; guided by the Holy Spirit through the intercession of Mary, drawing strength through the Holy Mass & Eucharist.

Our doors are always open to new youth!

Follow us 😊



Youth Minister Ante Skoko | ym@sjocross.org | 905.821.1331 Ext.226

www.jcym.ca

www.facebook.com/jcym18 | www.instagram.com/jcym

JC Youth Ministry – December 2019 Update



CHOSEN

YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD CONFIRMATION

www.jcym.ca/confirmation
confirmation@sjocross.org

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SESS#	THU SES- SION	SAT SES- SION	THEME	DESCRIPTION	LESS #
5	Thursday, 5 December 2019	Saturday, 7 December 2019	When did my journey begin?	Baptism: Initiation into God's Family	9
			Why tell my sins to a priest?	The Healing Power of Confession	10
6	Thursday, 19 Decem- ber 2019	Saturday, 21 December 2019	How does God help when it hurts?	Anointing Sick & Redemptive Suffering	11
			Who is the Holy Spirit?	Meeting the Third Person of the Trinity	12



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1st Wednesday Monthly | Western Region Parishes

www.sjocym.com/young-adults | www.facebook.com/SpiritusVitaeTO



Our Next Movie Night: For Greater Glory

6:15pm Sat Jan 11th | Open to All | Free | Refreshments

www.jcym.ca/movienight

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having you as part of our Flock

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via email and text.

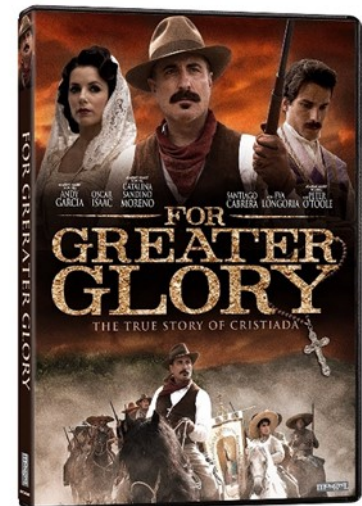
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In late 1920s Mexico, retired Gen. Gorostieta (Andy Garcia) and his wife (Eva Longoria) watch their country degenerate into violent civil war when the government enacts a series of anti-Catholic laws. Gorostieta is at first hesitant to join the rebels, known as Cristeros, until he begins to see the cost of religious persecution on his countrymen. Though the odds are against him, the general nevertheless transforms a ragtag band of rebels into a formidable fighting force.



Youth Minister Ante Skoko | ym@sjocross.org | 905.821.1331 Ext.226

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HISTORY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21).

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our

Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed

in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.



ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks
of Advent,
As we wait and prepare
for His coming.
We pray in the name of
Jesus Christ,
our Savior.
Amen.



*The family that prays
together, stays together.*

BIBLE STUDY: BIBLE TIMELINE

The Bible Timeline study program takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and give you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture.

In this revolutionary approach to Bible study, *The Bible Timeline* divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make it easier to follow its narrative thread. Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith. Through its 24 sessions, *The Bible Timeline* will teach you how to read and understand the Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of the Bible in a way that will transform your life.

Tuesdays, January 7—June 25, 7:00-9:00pm
No cost to participate.
Register in the parish office.

SL ShareLife

Learn more about how your gift to ShareLife is making a difference! ShareLife has released its annual Impact Report, detailing the results of the 2019 campaign and the many ways your generosity is improving the lives of those in need. Copies of the report are available at the parish or can be read online at www.sharelife.org.

SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday, February 8, 2020
 Knights of Columbus
 20th Anniversary Valentine
 Dinner and Dance
 Apollo Convention Centre



COFFEE SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND!

Come, enjoy a cup of coffee, cookies and juice next weekend hosted by the Children's Liturgy & Altar Society. Mingle around and get to know another family member in our community.



PARISH VOLUNTEER SCREENING

If you are interested in volunteering at St. John of the Cross Parish, please obtain the necessary application from the Parish Secretary. As a reminder, our volunteer ministries are either General Risk or **High Risk** (which involve working with vulnerable participants, e.g. children, the elderly, those with developmental disabilities or people experiencing trauma or abuse). **High Risk Ministry volunteers will be required to go through a screening process (interview, three reference checks and police clearance).** Please note that any current General Risk Ministry volunteer wishing to join a High Risk Ministry will still need to go through the screening process. We wish to thank all volunteers for their interest and valuable time.

VOCATION SEEDS!

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly “prepare the way of the Lord”? If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.969.0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Parish contacts for questions regarding sacramental preparation for baptized children attending Catholic schools are listed below. Message will be returned by one of the members of the Sacramental Team.

1st Communion/Reconciliation 905.821.1331 x 225
 Confirmation confirmation@sjocross.org

**Get your 2019—2020 Sunday Missal
 by the Parish Office
 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10**

A Christian should always remember that the value of his good works is not based on their number and excellence, but on the love of God which prompts him to do these things. — St. John of the Cross

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