

Sunday, December 20, 2020

# St. John of the Cross Parish

*Served by the Carmelites*



*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!*

#### PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Joyson George, O.Carm, Pastor Ext. 228  
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Fr. Felix Antony, O.Carm., Assoc. Pastor 224  
frfelix@sjocross.org  
Rev. Mr. John Cannon, Deacon 222  
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SECRETARY—Violanta Nicholson 223  
RECEPTION—Liane Harris

#### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

1st Communion & 1st Reconciliation 225  
Confirmation, confirmation@sjocross.org 230

Adult Faith Formation, sjocff@gmail.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 305

#### Holy Mass Schedule:

Monday to Saturday at 9am

Sunday Mass is celebrated at 5pm on

Saturday. The livestream link for Sunday

Mass is emailed to parishioners who are in the parish email list.

*All Public Masses are livestreamed.*



**Click here for  
Live Stream**

To be added into the parish email list, please click



Or copy and paste <http://bit.ly/SJOCAddme> in your browser.

#### PARISH OFFICE:

6890 Glen Erin Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2E1  
Phone: 905.821.1331 \* Fax: 905.858.8486  
E-mail: office@sjocross.org  
Parish Website: www.sjocross.org

#### OFFICE HOURS:

The church is on lockdown and the building is closed until further notice.  
Someone will be in the office from 9:30am to 12noon to answer your calls or to let you in if you have any appointment.

#### Email-Transfer Steps



1. Use email: admin@sjocross.org
2. Write your First & Last name
3. Your phone number
4. In the Message Box, indicate the Purpose of this fund, and
5. Answer to the security question



.... *From our Pastor, Fr. Joyson O. Carm.*

Dear sisters & brothers,

This year – 2020 - will go down in history as the year of the great pandemic of Covid–19, the sneaky little virus that turned our lives upside down and made everything never be the same again. A first and then a second wave reminded us of our fragility and our apparent powerlessness to protect ourselves from it. It is true: we are not completely in control of our destiny. We are only creatures even though we are beloved daughters and sons of God.

However, we took the opportunity to learn many things about the meaning of life, about death, about God. We have understood, at least I hope, how important it is to show solidarity, our behavior having a positive or negative influence on others.

It is with great hope and most probably with more humility that we prepare our hearts for the celebrations of the feasts surrounding the birth of the Son of God in our parish. We surely have many requests to entrust to Him. We will ask for His protection from the virus, His blessing on us and our loved ones, peace in several countries ravaged by sometimes selfish conflicts of interest and for many other needs. And we will have gifts to offer Him such as our commitment to take our quality of presence with others and to respect more our environment so battered by climate change.

I would like to conclude this message with words of thanks for your unconditional support to our church throughout this year 2020. Your heart to volunteer and your financial assistance have enabled our church to continue to meet the very concrete needs of the parish and its ministries. And we assure you of the support of our prayers throughout this Christmas season and the coming New Year. In the midst of the difficulties experienced by the Covid-19 pandemic, let Christmas be for each of us an opportunity to be grateful for the Lord's presence among us. He is Emmanuel – God with us. He knows our challenges and He still invites us today to use mercy, forgiveness and prayer to face them with success.

Wishing you all a Safe & Blessed Christmas!!

*Fr. Joyson*

DAILY MASS READINGS

December 21	Zeph 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
December 22	1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
December 23	Mal 3:1-4,4:5-6; Lk 1:57-66
December 24	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,16; Luke 1:67-79
December 25	Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-16
December 26	Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
December 27	Genesis 15:1-6,17:3b-5,15-16,21:1-7; Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2:22-40



Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle  
**LOVE**

**Galatians 4:4-5**

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.

**Prayer for Revealing**

O Lord, you promised in your Holy Scriptures to send your Son Jesus Christ as the Son of David, and your own Son. Reveal this saving promise also to us and move our hearts to faith and obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Advent Wreath Prayer Week 4**

Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate

skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

There is no greater gift than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. You willingly gave the gift of your life because of your love. Your righteous blood covered our sin. You redeem and restore us when we confess you as Lord and Savior of our life. At that moment, you give us the gift of your love for all eternity. We receive grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy at that moment.

*Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.*

**2021 OFFERTORY  
ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2021 offertory envelopes from the church as soon as possible.

The members of the Knights of Columbus may be dropping them off to your home in the coming days.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, December 21, 9am**

1. For thanksgiving for all our families, requested by Marina and Zeno

**Tuesday, December 22, 9am**

1. For 50th Wedding Anniversary thanksgiving and blessings for Marina and Zeno, requested by Marina and Zeno

**Wednesday, December 23, 9am**

1. For the soul of Sheila Pinto, requested by Marilyn Bansod

**Friday, December 25, 10am**

1. For thanksgiving to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, requested by the Nicolson Family
2. For the soul of Querobino Almeida, requested by Clara D'Souza and family
3. For the souls of Domingos and Alda Alves, requested by the Belkosky Family
4. For the souls of Fermin, Juana, and Artemio Pulido, requested by Edith Pulido

**Friday, December 25, 12noon**

1. For thanksgiving intentions to the Infant Jesus, requested by Ivy Carnelio
2. For thanksgiving from the Chan family, requested by the Chan Family
3. For the soul of Menino D'Souza, requested by the D'Souza Family
4. For the souls of Irene and Zolio Figueroa, requested by Analiza Gull

**Saturday, December 26, 5pm**

1. For the souls of Natalia and Guillermo Hernandez, requested by the Aquino Family
2. For the wedding anniversary thanksgiving and blessings for Tehnaz and Desmond Robinson, requested by the family

**Sunday, December 27, 10am**

1. For the 49th Wedding Anniversary thanksgiving and blessings for Angelo and Maureen D'Silva, requested by the D'Silva Family

**A Christmas Family Prayer**

O Father in heaven, You bless us with this festive season during which we remember the day when angels filled the sky and proclaimed the birth of your Son, Emmanuel. Bless us with generous hearts throughout the coming year. Keep us ever mindful of the poor and those who celebrate this season alone. Never let us forget that every gift comes from you and every generous act we perform is a gift from your bounty. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Pope Francis Homily**  
**The gift of grace**  
**at Christmas**

“Christmas reminds us that God continues to love us all, even the worst of us”, continued Pope Francis, because we

are precious in His eyes. His love is unconditional; it does not depend on us. “How often do we think that God is good if we are good and punishes us if we are bad”, said the Pope. “Yet that is not how He is... His love does not change. It is not fickle; it is faithful. It is patient”.

“Grace is a synonym of beauty”, continued Pope Francis, and in the beauty of God’s love, “we also discover our own beauty, for we are beloved of God”. In His eyes we are beautiful, “not for what we do but for what we are”.

**Accepting the gift of grace**

Pope Francis continued his reflections inviting us to “contemplate the Child and let ourselves be caught up in His tender love”. At Christmas, the question is: “Do I allow myself to be loved by God? Do I abandon myself to His love that comes to save me?”

Accepting this gift of grace means “being ready to give thanks in return”, continued Pope Francis. “Today is the right day to draw near to the tabernacle, the crèche, the manger, and to say thank you. Let us receive the gift that is Jesus, in order then to become gift like Jesus. To become gift is to give meaning to life. And it is the best way to change the world”.

**The gift of our lives**

Jesus did not change history with a flood of words, continued the Pope, “but by the gift of His life. He did not wait until we were good before He loved us”. In the same way, we should not wait “for our neighbours to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them”. “Let us begin with ourselves”, said the Pope. “This is what it means freely to accept the gift of grace”.

**The greatest gift of all time**

Pope Francis then related the legend of how, “at the birth of Jesus, the shepherds hurried to the stable with different gifts”, but there was one who was very poor and had nothing to give. Seeing that shepherd, embarrassed and with empty hands, Mary put the baby Jesus in his arms, continued the Pope.

# Jesse Tree

Jesse tree reminds us of the full history of God's plan for our salvation, which was completed with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The symbols represent people and events in this salvation history.

We begin with the **first** symbol, the sun. In the wonder of God's creation, the sun is nature's source of light and life dispelling the darkness of evil and chaos. In the same way Christ is the source of our eternal light and life. The **second** symbol is the apple. It represents Adam, who as the father of the human race, rejected God's love and brought death into the world. The **third** symbol is the ark. This represents Noah who saved the lives of some of his family and all the creatures in his ark. Noah saved his people; Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

Our **fourth** symbol is Jacob's ladder. In his dreams, Jacob envisaged a ladder reaching between earth and heaven, with angels on it as the saviour is our ladder, uniting us once more with the kingdom of God. The **fifth** symbol is Joseph, the son of Jacob. Deceitful brothers, Joseph was able to lead his people from starvation. God often speaks to us in dreams if we learn to listen. The **sixth** symbol is the Ark of the Covenant with them as they traveled through the desert dwelling place of God. Jesus gives himself to each of us in the Eucharist and each one of us becomes the dwelling place of God.

The **seventh** symbol is the tablet of the Ten Commandments, which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. God gave us these laws as a way for us to live, love our neighbour and they were fulfilled in Jesus himself. The **eighth** symbol is the key of David. David was a shepherd who became a king, Jesus was born into the family

and authority. David was a shepherd who became a king, Jesus was born into the family of poverty and simplicity, yet he is the key who opened up the way for us to the Kingdom of Heaven. The **ninth** symbol is the whale that swallowed the prophet Jonah. Jonah refused to do what God commanded. He would not go to Nineveh so being swallowed by the whale punished him and remaining there till he changed his mind and understood God's word was for everyone. Jesus spent three days in the tomb before rising to his new life with the Father. The **tenth** symbol is the Star of David. Even today this six-pointed star is the emblem of the royal house of David. This same star for us points to the birth of Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of God. The **eleventh** symbol is the city of Bethlehem, which means "House of Bread." It was in Bethlehem that Christ was born. The **twelfth** and final symbol is the root of Jesse. Isaiah had promised that the saviour would be born from the family of Jesse, and that he would sit on the throne of David. Christ, fulfilling that prophecy is symbolized here as a flower coming forth from the Root of Jesse. Our Jesse tree is complete. It is a family tree of moments in history which prepared the world for the Word made flesh. The Jesse tree itself prefigures the Christmas tree.



The parish office is now accepting debit and credit card for payments and contributions.

Credit card transactions can be called in over the phone.

