

Sunday, December 6, 2020

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites



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 Masses are livestreamed.



**Click here for
Live Stream**

If you see VIDEO UNAVAILABLE
message, click

WATCH THIS VIDEO ON YOUTUBE.

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Joyson George, O.Carm, Pastor Ext. 228

pastor@sjocross.org

Fr. Felix Antony, O.Carm., Assoc. Pastor 224

frfelix@sjocross.org

Rev. Mr. John Cannon, Deacon 222

deaconjohn@sjocross.org

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

RECONCILIATION

Contact the parish office to make an appointment.

BAPTISM BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Parents are required to attend the Baptism Preparation Class which are currently being given online.

They are also encouraged to attend the class prior to the birth of the baby. Godparents are expected to attend the class. A baptism package is available at the Parish Office or at our website for completion.

Baptism process starts when the parish office receives the completed baptism forms that are in the package. Please call the office for assistance.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS continue to be celebrated in our parish at this time. Please contact the office for details.

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

DAILY MASS READINGS

December 7	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
December 8	Gen 3:9-15,20; Eph1:3-6,11-12; Luke 1:26-38
December 9	Isaiah 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
December 10	Isaiah 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
December 11	Isaiah 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
December 12	Zech 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38
December 13	Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (NRSV)

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God for ever.

(A person now lights the second candle)

Livestream from your home parish

- ➔ Monday to Saturday, 9am Weekday Mass
- ➔ Saturday evening, 5pm Weekend Mass
- ➔ Sunday, 10-11am, Holy Hour

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

**Second Candle:
The Candle of Peace
The prophets who foretold the
birth of Jesus**

Leader: May your hearts be filled with peace as you hear the words of the prophet Isaiah who told of one who would be born the Prince of Peace.

All: Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we lit the First Candle of Hope in our Advent Wreath, and

celebrated the patriarchs. We light it again as we place our hope in Jesus the blessing of God for all nations.

(A person now lights the first candle)

Isaiah Chapter 9



Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord God you spoke through your prophets and promised a kingdom of peace. We welcome you Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace and our hearts long for the establishment of your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Amen.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The Knights of Columbus are having their **Keep Christ in Christmas** poster contest for kids ages 5 to 14 years.

If you are interested please fill out the attached form, scan your drawing and submit them via email to

joshuasilveira1102@gmail.com no later than **December 15th, 2020**.

Please refer to the form for further details and guidelines. The drawings will need to be submitted electronically. If you have any further questions, email Joshua at joshuasilveira1102@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7, 9am

1. For the soul of Nury Andrews, requested by the Andrews Family

Tuesday, December 8, 9am

1. For the soul of Francis Yap, requested by Jessie Yap & family
2. For the special intention of Nadine Kenny, requested by Ena Barrett
3. For the soul of Roy Thuraisingham, requested by the family

Wednesday, December 9, 9am

1. For the soul of Octo Sequeira, requested by Bernadetta Sequeira

Wednesday, December 9, 7pm

1. For the soul of Raymond D’Cunha, requested by Anne D’Cunha

Thursday, December 10, 9am

1. For the birthday blessing of Liam Monisse, requested by Sabrina, John & family

Friday, December 11, 9am

1. For the 90th birthday blessings of Rosie Menezes, requested by Charlotte Dacosta & family

Saturday, December 12, 9am

1. For the soul of Esmeralda Silveira, requested by Joshua Silveira
2. For the healing of Homero Lopez, requested by Olga Nava
3. For the soul of John & Argentina D’Silva, requested by D’Silva Family
4. For the soul of Joseph Malcolm D’Souza, requested by Sheldon, Jamie, Declen D’Sylva
5. For the living intention of J. W. Fletcher clan, requested by Ena Barrett

Sunday, December 13, 10am

1. For the soul of Fred Casino, requested by the Casino family
2. For the soul of Januario Alejandro, requested by Carmelita Alejandro
3. For the holy souls in purgatory, requested by Remy Barry

Sunday, December 13, 12noon

1. For the soul of Alfredo Fernandes, requested by Fernandes & DeSouza family

Sunday, December 13, 4pm

1. For the soul of Agnes D’Souza, requested by Gilbert and family

For these intentions, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayers.

MEN’S FRATERNITY

That Man is You! **(TMIY)** is a program that combines Scripture, Solid secular research, and a little fun to address the pressures and temptations facing men in our modern culture. It seeks to form authentic leaders who will be capable of transforming homes and society. We gather at 7:00am on Saturday, December 5th through the Zoom platform with video presentations, which will be followed by breakout groups that provide an opportunity to discuss what’s been presented. We will be done by 8:30 am.

The best way to judge a program is by its success. Men who’ve attended the program and have been Catholic their whole lives say this is the program they’ve been waiting for. Due to the COVID guidelines there will be no in person meetings. We would encourage you to register yourselves by email at the following address:

sjocmensfraternity@gmail.com

Attached is a link to a typical testimonial from participants, who have completed the program.

<https://vimeo.com/342469814>

Thank you for your patience!

This is an extremely difficult and challenging time for all of us. During this Advent season, let us pray for one another, to dialogue in charity and kindness, to remember those who are sick and serving on the front lines of this pandemic, to reflect the face of Jesus to all those whom we encounter.

Our faith remains our most powerful source of strength and comfort through these very difficult days of pandemic. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones!

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 cruelest 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.



Mention your intention ...

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

St. John of the Cross, pray for us.

Let us pray together:

<http://bit.ly/SJOCNovena>

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Know our patron saint, St. John of the Cross!

The Dark Night of the Soul, Yesterday and Today Revisiting John of the Cross' Classic Text and Symbol

Inaugural Lecture

For the Endowed Chair of Carmelite Studies



Fr. Steven Payne, OCD

December 14th, Feast Day of St. John of the Cross

3:30—4:30pm

Online Access Link:

<https://cua.zoom.us/j/84245640017>

No registration required.

*"The soul that walks in love neither
tires others nor grows tired."*

St. John of the Cross, 1542-1591



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TINY TIM'S COMMUNITY Christmas Auction

Your Knights of Columbus Council would like to invite all of our fellow St. John of the Cross parishioners, families and friends to wrap up their Christmas shopping this year by using our on-line *Tiny Tim On-Line Christmas Auction* at www.32auctions.com/tinytim

Check off all the people on your gift-giving list while promoting our local businesses and helping our neighbours in need. "Secret Santa"? Corporate Gifts? Kids, Family and Friends? Look no further! Take advantage of our "one stop shopping" convenience using our on-line auction.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. COVID-19 has ravaged our community and its businesses with devastating consequences. Yet, there are those in our neighbourhoods that have suffered far worse. The *Tiny Tim Community Christmas Auction* is a COVID friendly way to promote local businesses by auctioning off products and services donated by them. Donated products and services are then offered to the public on our virtual auction site. Auction proceeds are then passed on to our neighbours in most need.

In effect, this auction is all about "neighbours helping neighbours". As the saying goes: "One good turn deserves another!"

Why Tiny Tim? A character from the famous Victorian-era story, "A Christmas Carol", Tiny Tim, his family the Cratchett's and old Ebenezer Scrooge tell a heart-warming story of repentance, redemption, and the transformative power of love and charity. It is a story that is especially poignant during the season of goodwill to all. Tiny Tim has become synonymous with the holiday season.

"As good as gold," said Bob, "and better. Somehow, he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

- Bob Cratchett, Tiny Tim's father, Charles Dickens, 1843





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ENTRANT

I wish to enter the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST in the age division (as of Nov. 1st) checked below. I realized that my entry becomes property of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Office.

- AGE 5-7 DIVISION (GRADE K-2)**
 AGE 8-10 DIVISION (GRADE 3-5)
 AGE 11-14 DIVISION (GRADE 6-8)

COUNCIL NUMBER _____

Name of Entrant _____ Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Signature of Applicant _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

The undersigned hereby request and approve the Entrant's registration and participation in the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" POSTER CONTEST. In consideration of such registration and participation, the undersigned hereby agree to hold the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and any of its subordinate units and their officers, members, agents and employees, blameless and without liability, and hereby agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless all of the above mentioned from any and all claims and expenses resulting from or relating to Entrant's said participation. The Entrant may compete in only one council-level contest. **Entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council which retains exclusive rights to use said entries in future promotional materials, with creative credit given to the artist.**

_____ Witness
 _____ Father/Guardian
 _____ Date
 _____ Mother/Guardian

SCORE SHEET

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY K OF C OFFICIALS

Scoring instructions: A 100-Point Scoring System is used to determine winners.

Competition Level	Slogan 30-points	Artistic Merit 30-points	Overall Impact 40-points
Council Total: _____			
District/Regional Total: _____			
State-Level Total: _____			
International Level Total: _____			

Information on Rules and Judging are on other side of this form.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

“KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS” POSTER JUDGING FACT SHEET

RULES

- Poster must reflect the theme of **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**.
- Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and any visual images) of a single person.
- Poster must be approximately 11x17 inches in size. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used, the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic. Posters may be in color or black and white.
- Each poster must be submitted with a Knights of Columbus “Keep Christ in Christmas” Poster Contest entry form. The name and age of the person entering the poster should be included on the back of the poster.
- All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. **Posters will not be returned.**

JUDGING

Judging should be done by teams composed of students, Knights, teachers, administrators, Chaplin, Pastor, etc. In keeping with the theme of giving young people the opportunity to develop their own feeling towards Christmas and our savior Jesus Christ, it's important young people are included in all phases of the judging process.

A **100 point scoring system** will be used to determine the winner.

30 Points: Slogan — How clearly is the theme presented?

30 Points: Visuals — How well do the visuals convey the message?

40 Points: Overall impact — How effective was the poster in capturing your attention and causing you to reflect on the topic?

Council's Contact Information

Covid-19 and the Archdiocese of Toronto

Frequently Asked Questions - December 4, 2020

We share the frustration of all those who are struggling with the current restrictions on places of worship, especially in lockdown regions identified by the Province of Ontario. In response to numerous inquiries at both the archdiocesan and parish level, we have compiled answers to frequently asked questions so that the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto may have access to complete and accurate information.



Archdiocese
of Toronto

1. What has the Archdiocese of Toronto been doing to advocate for churches during this period of pandemic?

The Archdiocese of Toronto has been directly engaged in conversations with provincial, municipal and public health officials since the original “lockdown” in March 2020. From March to June, our archdiocese, working in partnership with all Catholic dioceses in Ontario, enlisted medical and legal experts to collaboratively develop the “WorshipSafe” protocols that are in use in Catholic churches throughout Ontario.

This WorshipSafe plan demonstrated to government officials, medical experts and parishioners that we were ready with a safe and clear procedure, allowing us to responsibly re-open churches. Catholic dioceses did not wait for the government to develop a plan. In fact, we proactively approached the government with our WorshipSafe protocols and other recommendations. Most of these recommendations were accepted and our WorshipSafe protocols have been used by other faith communities in preparing their own health and safety guidelines.

Since the first lockdown, the archdiocese has remained in dialogue each week with provincial and municipal officials to hear their perspective and to express our point-of-view, highlighting that our ministry and outreach are essential, especially in this time of pandemic. Cardinal Collins has proactively engaged in conversations with political lead-

ers and local medical officers of health. The celebration of the Mass and the sacraments is vital for Catholic Christians, and not only gives them spiritual strength to deal personally with this crisis, but also strengthens them to reach out to help others. Physical sickness is an obvious element of our present affliction, but spiritual and psychological trauma is also being experienced by everyone affected by the pandemic, and religious communities are there to sustain all who suffer so grievously. Any deprivation of the sacraments is devastating, but especially if it is extended, and particularly when it is clear that our parishes are both ready and able to operate safely. The Eucharist especially is the breath of life for us; for a good reason, we can hold our breath, but not for long.

The political leaders in our province, and the public health officials who advise them, and who are directly responsible for fighting the spread of the virus, are acting out of a desire to save lives. They are not intentionally seeking to limit religious freedom.

As Christians, we also share the desire to protect and love our neighbours in the midst of the pandemic, and we co-operate with reasonable public health requirements in order to care for the common good. We appreciate the desire of public officials to do the maximum to fight the virus and protect us all. But any limi-

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tation of religious gatherings, especially when it causes even a temporary deprivation of the sacraments, must be justified by a proportionate need, and evidence that there is legitimate cause for public health concern in such activities.

2. Have Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto been a source for community transmission of Covid-19?

No. There is no evidence that has been presented to us that Catholic churches in the archdiocese have been a source of community transmission. Since our re-opening in June, with attendance of more than 1.5 million, we have experienced an extremely small number of positive cases (less than 50). To our knowledge, none of these cases have been directly traced back to the church as the origin of transmission.

3. If Catholic churches haven't been a problem, why did the government impose restrictions?

On November 20 2020, the Province of Ontario, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of the Province, introduced severe restrictions in regions where Covid-19 cases have increased significantly in recent weeks. These measures are intended to limit the potential spread of the virus and to keep Ontarians safe.

Understandably, medical experts are concerned about the potential for transmission at any large gathering, including religious gatherings. Some of the government's current restrictions can be fairly criticized by people of goodwill. However, our approach throughout this pandemic has been to respect the direction of the medical and political authorities as part of our broader mission to protect the community and one another. While recognizing the good intentions of those seeking vigorously to fight a rapidly spreading virus that causes great harm, we believe that a focus on situations in which the virus clearly is actively spread is wiser than a more general effort that causes the collateral damage of preventing the reception of the life-

giving sacraments which give strength to so many in this great crisis.

4. Why isn't the church doing more to push back against these restrictions?

The Archdiocese of Toronto is in conversation, at least weekly, with elected officials, medical officers of health and others with extensive experience in pandemic transmission. We continue to advocate for the opening and safe operation of our churches, pointing to the protocols and safe environment fostered since our doors opened once again in June.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford acknowledged in his remarks during a November 20, 2020 press conference that his caucus debated the restrictions on places of worship at great length. There is no evidence that there has been an intentional desire to suppress religious freedom. There are strong feelings on all sides of this issue. One thing is certain: if we can collectively work to reduce the number of Covid-19 cases, we will return to full worship without restrictions much sooner.

At a time when the archdiocese is actively speaking out against the expansion of euthanasia and advocating for greater access to palliative care, we clearly will not take actions that would endanger the lives of the vulnerable or overburden the medical system.

As Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, shared in a public letter in May 2020:

While it makes sense for all citizens to follow the reasonable restrictions that have been imposed to contain the virus, for Christians doing so is also a matter of faith, charity and justice. After all, these are some of the stars we steer by:

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes, we are responsible for others. In justice, as well as charity, we have no right recklessly to endanger others,

or to cause their death.

“Thou shalt not kill.”

“Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Those who attend church may also visit loved ones in long-term care facilities or spend time with a relative with a compromised immune system. How would any one of us feel if we were to transmit the virus to someone who then succumbed to Covid-19? In short, we must make every effort to combat a pandemic that has taken the lives of 12,000 Canadians and a half million people worldwide. This is why we have such strict protocols in place when we worship.

These strict WorshipSafe protocols (masks, sanitizing, physical distancing, etc.) also include elements which cause great distress to many Catholics. For example, for the duration of the pandemic, we do not allow communion on the tongue. This is because medical authorities sensibly point out that when we are in the midst of a pandemic in which the virus is largely transmitted through the nose and mouth, it is not safe for the priest to place his hand in close proximity to the nose and mouth of each communicant.

5. Why did you cancel Masses in lockdown areas? Places of worship in lockdown regions are restricted to no more than 10 persons inside the building. On November 20, Cardinal Collins asked parishes that have the ability to do so, to remain open for private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Of course, even when there is no public Mass, priests continue to celebrate private Mass each day for the intentions of the faithful and for those suffering from Covid-19. In addition, close to one hundred parishes livestream Sunday services, some with daily Mass.

“I am deeply disappointed that, in some regions of the archdiocese, we must restrict participation in the sacraments. This will inflict a great spiritual pain upon those who safely and with great dedica-

tion have been drawing spiritual strength to sustain them, and to help them to serve those suffering in this pandemic.”

*- Cardinal Collins
November 20, 2020*

Offering public Masses when the civil authorities set a limit of only 10 people (in practice, that would mean 8 or 9 parishioners) creates numerous challenges to do so in a fair manner: many parishes in the affected regions have daily Mass attendance approaching 100 people or more, and several hundred worshippers attending Sunday Masses. The challenge in allowing only eight or nine people to attend Mass are significant, if we are to be fair to all. Who is permitted to attend? How does one deal with the 10th or 11th person wishing to attend? For nine or fewer people, online reservation systems are not practical nor equitable.

While some priests may wish to offer multiple Masses, many of the same challenges still remain, and it is also not reasonable to expect our clergy, especially our older priests, to sustain this effort over a period of many weeks.

6. I wish to contact my local Member of Provincial Parliament to express my concerns. Parishioners are welcome to respectfully contact their Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to express their concerns about the restrictions currently in place. You can find contact information for your MPP by visiting: www.ola.org/en/members.

7. How do I stay updated on the latest communication from the Archdiocese? You can visit www.archtoronto.org/covid19 - click on [statements](#) for the latest news or to subscribe to periodic updates from the Archdiocese of Toronto. You can also follow our social media accounts – be sure to stay connected with your [local parish](#) by contacting them or visiting their website or other communication channels.

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

Credit card transactions can be called in over the phone.

