

Sunday, December 19, 2021

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites



PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Joyson George, O.Carm, Pastor	Ext. 228
pastor@sjocross.org	
Fr. Felix Antony, O.Carm., Assoc. Pastor	224
frfelix@sjocross.org	
Liane Harris, Pastoral Associate	226
LHarris@archtoronto.org	
Secretary—Violanta Nicholson	223
VNicholson@archtoronto.org	
Reception—Diane Mejia	221

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

1st Communion & 1st Reconciliation	225
Confirmation, confirmation@sjocross.org	230
St. Vincent de Paul Society	305

Two Steps for E-Transfer:

- 1) Send donations to: admin@sjocross.org
- 2) Send a separate email message to admin@sjocross.org with your Security Answer, your Name, Phone number, and purpose of this fund.

PARISH OFFICE

6890 Glen Erin Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2E1
Phone: 905.821.1331
E-mail: sjocrossmi@archtoronto.org
Parish Website: www.sjocross.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.
Monday to Thursday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm. Saturdays:
9:00am-12:00pm, 3:30-6:30pm. Sundays: 8:30am-1:30pm.

**PLEASE OBSERVE SAFETY
PROTOCOLS FOR EVERYONE'S
SAFETY:**

1. 6-ft distancing
2. Wear mask
3. Sanitize your hands when you come inside the church

BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021

DAILY MASS READINGS

Table with 2 columns: Date and Readings. Rows include December 20 through December 26 with corresponding Bible verses.

“Heavenly Father, thank you for granting us the gift of our freedom and Christ's example of self-giving love. We pray that strengthened with your grace, we will freely choose to offer our lives in loving service to our fellow human being. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Registration for Christmas Masses will open on Monday, December 20th, at 8pm. Registration link is on the parish website or at https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/st-john-of-the-cross-parish-30474838986



CLICK TO REGISTER FOR WEEKEND MASS

Registration is required for in-person participation in the weekend Holy Masses: Saturday at 5pm; Sunday at 8am, 10am, 12noon, & 4pm.



Click here for Live Stream

All 9am morning masses, Monday to Saturday and the Saturday 5pm (Sunday Mass) Holy Mass will be livestreamed.

RECONCILIATION

After the 9am Masses Mon. to Saturday or by appointment.

BAPTISM

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 expected to attend the class. A registration package is available at the Parish Office or at our website for download. Email the completed forms to the parish office.

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 office.

Mark your calendar!

LIVESTREAMED CHRISTMAS SEASON HOLY MASSES

- Friday, December 24th, 4pm
Sunday, December 26th, 8am
Friday, December 31st, 5pm
Saturday, January 1st, 10am
Sunday, January 2nd, 8am

There will be no morning 9am Holy Mass on Friday, December 24th.

FAITH GLOSSARY

Freedom: the power, rooted in will and reason, to perform (or not) deliberate actions on one's own responsibility.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Violanta Nicholson, Parish Secretary, for her 25th Year of Service in the parish. God bless you!

BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021

“... Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

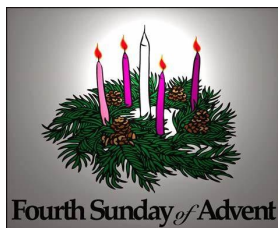
Matthew 19:14



**FAMILY ACTIVITY
FOR THE WEEK:**

Lighting the Candle of LOVE

Boys and girls, it's almost Christmas! We're on the fourth Sunday of Advent. On this day, we will be lighting the last purple candle—the candle of LOVE. Jesus is reminding us about self-giving love. We can show our love for others by being kind to them, sharing with them, thinking about them, and helping them. By loving others, we are demonstrating our love of God. Ask Mom or Dad to light the 4th advent candle in your wreath and pray together:



Prayer for Advent Lighting Candle

4th Week: Candle of Love

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Share! Share! Share!

Hi, guys!

Now that you are on a Christmas break, how about sharing with us your family Christmas tradition? What do you usually do for Christmas? I know ...



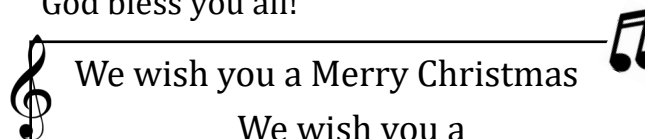
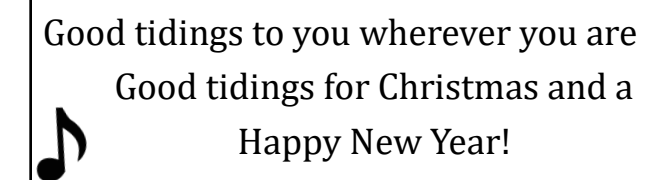
with the pandemic, our traditions sometimes change and maybe you now have a new family tradition.

Share it with us and we'll put it in the bulletin. Ask Mom or Dad for help in writing it out. It does not have to be long, maybe just a few sentences.

Email it to Liane. My email address is LHarris@archtoronto.org

Looking forward to see your sharing!

God bless you all!

 We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
 Good tidings to you wherever you are
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021



Dear Parishioners,

What's the great news of Christmas?

Turn on your television or surf the web this Christmas, and you'll discover all sorts of Christmas messages. But for the One who invented Christmas, there's only one message that really matters:

God wants to share eternity with us.

That's what Christmas is all about.

We weren't created just to live 80 or 90+ years on Earth and then die. We're far more valuable than that to God. God has long-range plans for us, and he made us to live forever.

That's true of every person who belongs to our parish this Christmas season. God made all of us to live forever.

One day our hearts will stop. That'll be the end of our physical bodies, but it won't be the end of us. We'll last for eternity—trillions of years! And God wants us to be a part of his family.

He sent Jesus to Earth as a baby so one day he could die for our sins, and we'd be able to spend forever with him.

That's the great news of Christmas. This offer is available to anyone. The Bible says of Jesus, "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Nothing our church does this Christmas matters more than this simple, yet life-changing message. You can have the most beautiful Christmas service, but it'll be a complete failure if people leave without hearing this message.

We welcome you all this holy season to our beautiful St. John of the Cross to share the joy of this great news and to celebrate it as one family of God.

I would like to conclude with words of thanks for your unconditional support to our church throughout this year 2021. 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.

Wishing you all a very Merry & Blessed Christmas!!

Fr. Joyson



BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 20, 9am

1. For the soul of Edith D'Souza, requested by the Family
2. For the soul of souls of C P Carvalho & Carvalho Family, requested by the Family
3. For the soul of Natty ?D'Souza, requested by Husband, Childrend & Grand-children

Tuesday, December 21, 9am

1. For the souls of Anna Severina & Affonso Family, requested by the Family
2. For the souls of Dias & Coutinho Families, requested by the Family
3. For the conversion of Cleve Kenny, requested by the Family
4. For the Healing of Judith D'Costa, requested by the Family

Wednesday, December 22, 9am

1. Birthday Blessings for Zeno & Wedding Anniversary Blessings for Marina & Zeno, requested by Marina & Zeno
2. For the souls of the Fernandes, Lobo & Saldanha Families, requested by the Family
2. For all the souls in purgatory, requested by the Family
4. For the souls of Bernadette & Morgan Preston, Requested by Mary Jane Allen

Thursday, December 23, 9am

1. For the soul of Rose Menezes, requested by the DaCosta & Menezes Families
2. Thanksgiving & Birthday Blessings for Marivic Bustos, requested by the Bustos Family
3. For the soul of Corey Ham
4. For the spiritual & emotional healing of Greg Harrison & Judy Haim
5. 50th Wedding Anniversary Blessings for Fely & Paul Campana, requested by the Campana Family
6. For the soul of Sheila Pinto, requested by Marilyn Bansod

Friday, December 24, 4pm

1. For Monica, Mark Harris Family & Natalie Kisielewicz, requested by Parents Bogusia & Henry

Friday, December 24, 6pm

1. For the soul of Lucy D'Souza, requested by the Gomes Family
2. For the soul of Pedrinho Rodrigues, requested by His Family

Friday, December 24, 10pm

1. For the souls of Bernadette & Morgan Preston,

requested by Mary Jane Allen

Saturday, December 25, 10am

1. Thanksgiving to Infant Jesus, requested by the Nicholson Family

Saturday, December 25, 12pm

1. For the souls of Irene & Zoilo Figueroa, requested by Annalisa Gulli
2. For the soul of Menino D'Souza, requested by the D'Souza Family

Sunday, December 26, 8am

1. 25th Wedding Anniversary Blessings for Mervyn & Doris Rodrigues, requested by the Family

Sunday, December 26, 10am

1. Thanksgiving for the Siqueira Family, requested by the Vaz Family
2. For the deceased members of the Enright Family, requested by Mary Jane Allen

Sunday, December 26, 4pm

1. Anniversary Blessings for Beverly & Joe Lobo, requested by the Lobo Family

***For these intentions, we pray
to the Lord.***

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

These are now available for pick-up and are on the table outside the parish office. Envelopes are numerically arranged. There is a list on the table to refer to, if needed. Please inform the office if your address has changed.

CHURCH YEAR END

*To make your financial donations included in your 2021 tax receipt, please send your contributions **no later than Tuesday, December 28th**. This will allow us to record the amount and deposit the money by December 29, 2021.*

Thank you for your generosity!

Faith "is like the feet wherewith the soul journeys to God, and love is the guide that directs it."

St. John of the Cross (1542—1591)

BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Advent Parish Reconciliation

Monday, December 13th, 7:00-9:00pm

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th

4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, and midnight

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th

10:00am and 12:00pm

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 26th

8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm and 4:00pm

Registrations for December 24, 25, and 26 open on

Monday, December 20th at 8pm

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st

5:00pm and 7:00pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 1st, 2022

10:00am and 12:00pm

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2nd, 2022

8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm and 4:00pm

Registrations for December 31, January 1 and 2 open on

Monday, December 27th at 8pm

BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Christ's self-giving love and freedom in "The Passion of the Christ"

Love is a word whose meaning has been spun so weirdly in our time that it has in many ways lost connection with the divine meaning. In 21st century America, loving someone means making them feel good, emotionally or physically. Feel good, but don't bind. The fundamental idea of love binding a man and woman together for life is difficult work, so in a culture that promotes self-gratification, we have chosen to cast it aside.

We've broken it not because love is wrong, but because there is something we value more than love our personal freedom. Freedom has become our absolute good, the highest value humanity strives after. If love binds one person to another, it limits personal freedom. See the quandary?

Everyone knows Jesus is all about love, but all he does in *The Passion* is suffer. In the Garden of Gethsemane, his anxiety and fear press him so intensely that he sweats blood. Is that loving? Lashed by the whip, his flesh ripped by the torturer's cruel instruments, Christ sags to his knees, blood spattering the pavement. Stupidly, insanely, he struggles to stand, and freely chooses to do so is that loving? The two torture specialists are driven demonic by this display of courage and nobility, and they unleash all the fury their brawny muscles and metal-tipped leather can inflict. How does this brutality relate to love?

Freedom fulfilled through love

Pope John Paul II teaches that freedom is not greater than love, but rather freedom is *fulfilled* in self-giving love. Freedom is not man's absolute goal, love is. Freedom without love is useless, like so many wheels free to roll anywhere; the wheels are useless without a vehicle to harness them love is that vehicle. Love is far greater than freedom, for a person can be happy without freedom as long as he loves.

Freedom intensifies love, proves it genuine. That is where suffering plugs in. Because genuine love must be freely given, love's intensity is seen by the amount of suffering it bears because everyone hates suffering and strives to avoid it. So if a person freely chooses to suffer for someone else, for love, then that love is great. Suffering is a thermometer, which shows love's temperature, the degree of its reality.

That is why watching *The Passion* moves us to admire and love Jesus Christ. He chose freely to undergo his unfathomable suffering, which forever marks the zenith both of a man's love for other men, and God's love for man. This is a love that is best defined as *self-giving*, as St Paul writes: "He poured himself out for us." Viewed from the perspective that Christ's Passion affords, our understanding of love and freedom changes radically. Instead of love giving me something like enjoyment and fulfillment, I look to give of myself, to bring fulfillment and joy to others by serving them, even if in serving others I endure suffering.

Love transforms

Revolutionary that is Christ's love. It ignites, breaks up and shakes up our lives. Look at the individu-

BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

Sunday, December 19, 2021

als who were touched by Christ's love-they all bought a share in suffering, and discovered love. Pilate's wife Claudia could not prevent Jesus' scourging; the only thing she can do is offer Mary linen cloths with which to wipe her son's blood from the pavement. Her sharing in Mary's own agony upon watching her son flayed alive, opens her to an act of love, offering her friendship to Mary through a humble gesture. Simon of Cyrene's sharing in carrying the cross opens him to understand the self-giving nature of Jesus' sacrifice. Simon will not be crucified, is not beaten, but his closeness to Jesus Christ while carrying the cross reveals to him Jesus' patience, humility and overpowering love for the very men who kill him. Simon's world is blown to bits, for instead of avoiding suffering, he wants to take it on in order to protect this man Jesus whom he has not known but has experienced.

Freedom's purpose is revealed in love motivating us to serve others. Suffering intensifies and purifies love, makes it genuine, real, solid. And the ultimate experience of love IS Jesus Christ, but he is a challenge, the rock against whom the waves of every generation crash and are divided: some follow Christ along the path of self-giving love, others reject Him in the hopes of discovering a self-fulfilling love. The reality of the resurrection shows us that if we choose Christ's path of self-giving love, then we will find true peace and everlasting life.

Source: www.catholiceducation.org

Merry Christmas!

Our parish community is blessed with a diversity of peoples of different background and culture, each a member of one mystical body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, gathered together at St. John of the Cross Parish as one community of believers.

We praise and thank God for the many blessings that He generously bestowed on His Church and for the gift of each other.

To all our dear brothers and sisters, Merry Christmas!

Frohe Weihnachten

May our Triune God's Presence be always in you.

vrolijk kerstfeest

क्रिसमस की शुभकामनाएँ

christmas key shubhkamanayen

Maligayang Pasko

ക്രിസ്തുമസ് ആശംസകൾ
chrismas ashamsakal

joyeux Noël

sretan bozic

聖誕快樂

shèng dàn kuài lè

Nollaig Shona

Selamat Natal

സ്വസ്തീ വർഷദിനം

Feliz Navidad

Il-Milied It-Tajjeb

Geseënde Kersfees

கிறிஸ்துமஸ் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

Sretan Božić

christmas vaazhththukkal



BULLETIN DEADLINE—MONDAY AT NOON

<p>CATHOLIC CEMETERIES FUNERAL SERVICES www.catholic-cemeteries.com Assumption Cemetery 905-670-8801 Catholic Cremation Services 905-670-8801 Funeral * Cremation * Burial</p> 		<p>Dr. Beena George DMD, BDS</p>  <p>905-542-9999 2275 Britannia Rd. W., Unit 10, Mississauga www.drbeenageorge.com</p> 
		
<p>Trevorlyn Menezes Chief Executive Officer Mentra Logistics, Vonova Logistics, CPR Funerals, Sombrero Sports Mississauga 30+ Years Global Logistics Experience Cell: +1 416-543-5503 www.mentralogistics.com www.vonovalogistics.com</p>	   	
		<p>www.goanspices.com Karmas: Cooking Pastes, Spice Powders, Seafood and Veg Pickles Costas: Bebinca East Indian Bottle Masala All items are imported from India. (416)-770-4998  </p>
		
		<p>To advertise here, please contact the parish office sjocrossmi@archtoronto.org</p>