

Sunday, May 23, 2021

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
E-mail: office@sjocross.org
Parish Website: www.sjocross.org

Church is in lockdown. For private prayer and confession, please call the office and make an appointment.

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Joyson George, O.Carm, Pastor Ext. 228
pastor@sjocross.org
Fr. Felix Antony, O.Carm., Assoc. Pastor 224
rfelix@sjocross.org

SECRETARY—Violanta Nicholson 223
RECEPTION — Liane Harris ○

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 305

LOCKDOWN SCHEDULE

RECONCILIATION

Contact the parish office to make an 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.



**REGISTER FOR
COMMUNION
SERVICE**

All public Masses are cancelled. Registration is required for Sunday Communion Service. Registration opens on Tuesdays, 8pm. Please be on time.



**Click here for
Live Stream**

Daily 9am Mass and Saturday Vigil 4pm Holy Mass are livestreamed. Click 'Click here for Live Stream' to join in.

AddMe

To receive parish notifications, weekly bulletin and Sunday Mass link, click **AddMe** to be added into the Parish Email List.

LET US LIVE OUT CHARITY!

SOCIAL DISTANCE— WASH HANDS

OFTEN - WEAR MASK PROPERLY—

**DISINFECT THE SPACE THAT YOU USE
GO OUT FOR ESSENTIAL REASONS ONLY.**

Stay safe and healthy!

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HAPPY FEAST OF THE PENTECOST!



***“Come Holy Spirit
Make our ears to
hear***

***Make our eyes to see
Make our mouths to
speak***

Make our hearts to seek

Make our hands to reach out

***And touch the world with your
love. AMEN.”***

St. Cardinal Newman

WEDNESDAY ADORATION & BENEDICTION

7:00-8:00pm

Weekly Adoration & Benediction every Wednesday evening during the lockdown here in our beautiful parish.

The Parish Youth Group will lead the reflections. The Rosary Apostolate will lead the Holy Rosary. The Adoration will be livestreamed.



[https://
stjohnofthecrossmi.archtoronto.org/en/
parish-life/livestream/](https://stjohnofthecrossmi.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/livestream/)



WEEKEND COMMUNION SERVICE

Every Saturday 5:00pm-6:30pm and on
Sunday from 8:00am-1:00pm
during lockdown

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register at:

[https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/st-john-of-
the-cross-parish-30474838986](https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/st-john-of-the-cross-parish-30474838986)

Registration opens on Tuesdays at 8pm

The Liturgy of the Hours

St. John of the Cross Parish

Let us gather to pray together as a community the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the church. It is a journey to contemplation as we allow the psalms, readings, and hymns penetrate our minds and our hearts and sanctify the day.

You will have a chance to offer your intentions during our virtual gathering of prayer in front of the statue of our Lady of Mount Carmel.

To register:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/
tJModOuprDsjG9Ouf06HkqVKAJ-
PffRJyFpB](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJModOuprDsjG9Ouf06HkqVKAJ-PffRJyFpB)

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 24, 9am

- 1. Healing of Nadine & Adrian Kenny, requested by Anne Kenny
- 2. 40th Wedding Anniversary of Monica & Sidney Mendes, requested by Michelle & Allan Mathews

Tuesday, May 25, 9am

- 1. For the soul of Ida Maria Lewis, requested by Nicholson Family
- 2. For the soul of Raul Perez, requested by the Family
- 3. For the soul of Eva Galvin, requested by John Galvin

Wednesday, May 26, 9am

- 1. For the soul of Phillip Christopher, requested by the D'Silva Family

Thursday, May 27, 9am

- 1. For the soul of Civia Silveira, requested by the Silveira Family
- 2. For the soul of Zelina Rampersad, requested by Diane Mejia

Saturday, May 29, 4pm

- 1. For the soul of Roque Soares, requested by Cyrus & Rolinda D'Almeida
- 2. For the souls of Maria Della Riza Fernandes and Vila Nova Fernandes, requested by their Families
- 3. Thanksgiving for those recovered from Covid-19, requested by a Parishioner
- 4. Thanksgiving for Blessings & Graces Received, requested by the Lewis Family
- 5. For the soul of Natty D'Souza, requested by the D'Souza Family
- 6. For the soul of Hughe Fernandes, requested by Larissa D'Souza
- 7. For the soul of Michelle Pereira, requested by Larissa D'Souza
- 8. For the living members of the Lewis Family, requested by Mavyn Lewis

Two Steps to 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.**
i.e: mass intention and the date the mass intention is offered, weekly/ monthly donation.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

There is a promise of marriage this Saturday, May 29th, between



WESLEY DECRUZE
&
CRYSTAL BENSON

Please pray for this couple as they prepare for their wedding.



HAPPY VICTORIA DAY!

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, May 24th. Stay safe and healthy!

DAILY MASS READINGS

May 24	Gen.3:9-15,20; Jn 19:25-27
May 25	Sir.35:1-15; Mark 10:28-31
May 26	Sirach 36:1-2, 5-6, 13-22; Mark 10:32-45
May 27	Sir.42:15-25; Mark 10:46-52
May 28	Sirach 44:1, 8-13;
May 29	Sir. 51:12-20; Mark 11:27-33
May 30	Deut. 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom.8:14-17; Matt.28:16-20

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH!



The first reading (Acts 2:1-11) explained:

Today's reading describes in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus' promise to the apostles. There was first "a noise like a strong driving wind." Then there were "tongues as of fire" resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestation of their reception of the Holy Spirit came when the apostles began to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, and everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages), was able to understand them "in *his own tongue*." The Jews in the crowds came from sixteen different geographical regions. The miracle of tongues on Pentecost thus reverses the confusion of tongues wrought by God at the Tower of Babel, as described in Genesis 11. Later, the Acts of the Apostles describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by their sharing love and strong Faith. This "anointing by the Holy Spirit" also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed.

In the second reading (I Cor 12:3-7, 12-13), explained:

St. Paul explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church. He refers to the varieties of gifts, fruits, and charisms given to the Church as coming from the same Spirit Who activates all of them in Christians for the common good. They may take different forms like prophecy, teaching, administration, acts of charity, healing and speaking in tongues, and they may reside in different persons like apostles, prophets, teachers, healers and so on. Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians "*What the Spirit brings is ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*" (5:22). He continues, "*Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit*" (5:25). Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good and for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Today's Gospel relates how the risen Jesus gave his apostles a foretaste of Pentecost on the evening of Easter Sunday by appearing to them and sending them to carry on the mission given him by his Heavenly Father. He then empowered them to do so by breathing upon them and saying, "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*" On the day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Advocate or Paraclete. The gift of the Spirit would enable them to fulfill Jesus' commission to preach the Gospel to all nations. Today's Gospel passage also tells us how Jesus gave to the Apostles the power and authority to forgive sins. "*Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.*" These wonderful words, which bind together inseparably the presence of the Holy Spirit *and* the gift of forgiveness, are referred to directly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But they have a much wider meaning. Those words remind us of the Christian vocation we *all* have, to love and forgive as

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we have been loved and forgiven, in the world of today, which is often fiercely judgmental and vengeful.

Exegetical notes: The role of the Holy Spirit in Christian life,

summarized: 1) As an indwelling God, the Holy Spirit makes us His Living Temples (I Cor 3:16). **2)** As a strengthening God, He strengthens us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ by transparent Christian lives. **3)** As a sanctifying God, He makes us holy through the Sacraments: **a)** He makes us children of God and heirs of heaven through Baptism. **b)** He makes us temples of God, warriors and defenders of the Faith, through Confirmation. **c)** He

enables us to be reconciled to God by pardoning our sins through Reconciliation. **d)** He gives us spiritual nourishment via the Holy Eucharist by converting bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood through Epiclesis. **4)** As a teaching and guiding God, He clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's teachings. **5)** As a listening and talking God, He listens to our prayers and enables us to pray, and He speaks to us mainly through the Bible. **6)** As a giver of gifts, He enriches us with His gifts, fruits and charisms.

Role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and of the Church further

explained: How beautiful is the thought that the Holy Spirit lives within us! Saint Paul reminds the Corinthian community of this fact when he asks, "*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*" (I Corinthians 3:16). It is the Holy Spirit who develops our intimacy with God. "*God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, 'Abba!' ('Father!')*" (Gal 4:6). "*God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us*" (Romans 5:5). "*No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit*" (I Corinthians 12:3). Moreover, we know that the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray (Romans 8:26). By the power of the Spirit, we also know the Lord Jesus through his Church. Pentecost Sunday is the birth date of the Church, which the Holy Spirit enlivens, enlightens, guides, and sanctifies.

Life Messages:

1) We need to permit the Holy Spirit to direct our lives: **a)** by constantly remembering and appreciating His Holy Presence within us, especially through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation; **b)** by fortifying ourselves with the help of the Spirit against all types of temptations; **c)** by seeking the assistance of the Spirit in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and in the breaking of our evil habits; **d)** by listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Bible and through the good counsel of others; **e)** by fervently praying for the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Holy Spirit; **f)** by renewing our lives through the anointing of the Holy Spirit; and **g)** by living our lives in the Holy Spirit as lives of commitment, of sacrifice, and of joy. We are called to love as Jesus loved, not counting the cost. As Saint Paul exhorts us, "*Walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit*" (Galatians 5:16, 25).

2) We need to cultivate the spirit of forgiveness. The feast of the Pentecost offers us the chance to look at the role which forgiveness should play in our dealings with others. Thus, we are challenged

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to examine our sense of compassion, patience, tolerance and magnanimity. Learning to forgive is a lifelong task, but the Holy Spirit is with us to make us agents of forgiveness. If we are prepared on this day of Pentecost to *receive* the Holy Spirit into our lives, we can have confidence that our lives will be marked by the Spirit of forgiveness.

3) We need to observe Pentecost every day. "It will always be Pentecost in the Church," affirmed Blessed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, on Pentecost Sunday 1978, "provided the Church lets the beauty of the Holy Spirit shine forth from her countenance. When the Church ceases to let her strength rest on the Power from above which Christ promised her and which he gave her on that day, and when the Church leans rather on the weak forces of the power or wealth of this earth, then the Church ceases to be newsworthy. The Church will be fair to see, perennially young, attractive in every age, as long as she is faithful to the Spirit that floods her and she reflects that Spirit through her communities, through her pastors, through her very life" (*The Violence of Love*, The Plough Pub. Co., Farmington, PA: 1998). [Archbishop Oscar Romero was beatified May 23, 2015 by Pope Francis.] Archbishop Romero's declaration reminds us -- as does today's Gospel -- that Pentecost is not just one day, but *every* day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones. The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, "Even though we are God's *chosen people*, we often behave more like God's *frozen people*--frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our Faith."



4) We need to be Spirit-filled Christians: Spirit-filled people acknowledge their weaknesses, ask for the strengthening, anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit every morning, ask for His forgiveness every evening and pass on that forgiveness to those who sin against them. Spirit-filled people are praying people. Paul encourages us, "*Pray on every occasion as the Spirit leads. For this reason, keep alert and never give up; pray for all God's people*" (Eph 6:18). Spirit-filled people are praying and worshipping God in their families and parishes. They try to grow continually in their Faith, and they seek out every opportunity to discover Christ and what it means to be children of God. Spirit-filled people are people who allow the Spirit to change their lives through their daily reading of the Bible and their frequenting of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Spirit-filled people speak words that heal, restore, make people happy and build people up instead of tearing them down. Spirit-filled people pass on the love of God to the people living around them by their acts of kindness, mercy and charity. Hence, let us pray for a spirit of love instead of hate, a spirit of helpfulness instead of non-cooperation, a spirit of generosity instead of greed and a spirit of gentleness instead of ruthlessness.

(Excerpts from Fr. Antony Kadavil' reflections on Pentecost Sunday, Vatican News)