



Saint John of the Cross

Saint John of the Cross' Story...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 primitive 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.



December - A gift to US Catholic Sisters can make a difference in our efforts to confront the Human Trafficking pandemic. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainstrafficking.org)

ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA PARISH

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Phone: (575) 585-2793 (StFrancisdePaula@gmail.com) **New email**
Fr. Patrick Montgomery - Pastor (pmontgomery@rcdlc.org) Phone 575-642-6934
Deacon Mariano Melendrez (mcm344484@gmail.com)



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

Mission Santo Niño de Atocha, Three Rivers

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 AM & 1:00-3:00 PM (Closed Fri. & Wed.)

Office Closures: Closed Mon. - Fri. for Christmas Week
12/20-23/22

St. Francis de Paula Masses:

Weekdays: Tues. & Thur. 8am (Communion Ser.) and Wed. & Fri. 8am [Mass]
[1st Friday of the Month Anointing] Holy Days: 8:00 am Mass and 6:00 pm Mass]

Saturday: Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday: 11:00 am Mass, CONFESSIONS: Fri. 4:30 - 5:30 pm

PRE-BAPTISM: - For Appt. Call- Liz and Steve Chavez 575-585-6340

BAPTISM CELEBRATION: --LAST Saturday of the month 10:00 am

MARRIAGE: -There is a (6) month preparation period.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: -> Every Friday and Sunday each month: to schedule -
Call Barbara Reay (575-430-4547)

If you have information to be posted in bulletin, put it in writing and turn it in by Wed morning. Or email: StFrancisdePaula@gmail.com *** Try our new website: stfrancisdePaulachurch.org ***

**The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec. 18, 2022

Sat. Dec. 17th 5:30pm † -Raymond Lopez, Victor Calderon, Juan Salazar
 Sun. Dec. 18th 11:00am † Alice Pino, Henry Diaz & Lupe Gaston (B-Day)
 Mon. Dec. 19th No Mass -----
 Tue. Dec. 20th 8:00am † ****Communion Service**
 Wed. Dec. 21st 8:00am † Benny Wooten, Betty & Lorenzo Olascoaga
 Thur. Dec. 22nd 8:00pm † ****Communion Service**
 Fri. Dec. 23rd 8:00am † -----

MT 1:23

Mass Intentions for Dec. 25th
 † Juan Romero
 † Florencio Griego
 † Johnny Vallejos

Ushers For the month of December 2022

Sat. 5:30 Billy Artiaga
 Sun. 11:00 Tim Brooks

Sacristans for the Month of Dec. 2022

Sat. 5:30 Rose Baroz

Readers

Saturday Dec. 17th 5:30 Mass
 Reader 1 Irma Melendrez
 Reader 2 -----
Sunday Dec. 18th 11:00
 Reader 1 Andrea Carrillo

Altar Servers

Saturday Dec. 17th 5:30pm Mass
 Angel, Archie & Gabriel Vigil
Sunday Dec. 18th 11:00am
 Myles Gaston &

Annie's Cupboard: the pantry needs any and all donations especially canned meats and meats in general. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Volunteers Needed to be able to open Soup Kitchen.

Please kindly donate Poinsettias in memory of a loved one and help decorate our church for this year's Christmas Celebration. Poinsettias can be left in the Church or Sacristy.



DIocese of Las Cruces WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES – 2023
 All couples married in the Catholic Church celebrating their Paper (1st), Silver (25th), Gold (50th) or 50 plus wedding anniversary in 2023, are invited to attend a Mass at St. Peter Parish in Roswell on Saturday, February 11, 2023, or at the Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces on Saturday, February 25, 2023, and receive a blessing from Bishop Peter Baldacchino. Couples wishing to celebrate these milestone anniversaries must register with their Parish Priest no later than January 10, 2023 and provide him with a Certificate of Marriage from the Catholic parish where the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony was celebrated, or a recent Baptism Certificate (within the last 6 months) with notations on the back of the Certificate indicating the marriage is recognized by the Church.

Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion -> Schedule
 12-17-22 Rose Baroz & Quentin Rodriguez
 12-18-22 Irma Melendrez & Barbara Reay

We are in need for someone to setup luminarias for Christmas Eve Sat. 24th... Everyone wanting to help can report to the parish hall at 9am to put luminarias out... then we will need help to light the

Please do not take any decorations or church items from the Sacristy or Parish Hall that does not belong to you.



For Information on how to become a Knights of Columbus member
 Call: Tim Brooks at

No 2nd Collection for this week

Weekend Collection Total Regular Collections \$2,147.60

Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve Mass:
 Saturday 5:30pm
Christmas Day Mass:
 Sunday 11am

We are in desperate need of someone to help in the office. Please offer your services.

Office will be closed Mon. - Fri. Dec. 20th - 23rd 2022

Pray for the Sick

Annie Brady
 Anthony Mendez
 Antonio Romero
 Armado Lopez
 Billy Brady
 Bobby Baroz
 Brenda Barreras
 Brenda Travis
 Benji Montoya
 Carlos Hangarter
 Chano Flores
 Clara Bartlette
 Colleen Boyer
 Cuca Montoya
 Dale Ray Dixon
 Daniel Rael
 Danny Cordova
 Deama Silva
 Diana Dewitt
 Diolanda Moore
 Elisa Gutierrez
 Ernestine Huizar
 Frank Pino
 Gary Wolfe
 Gloria Gonzales

Pray for the Sick

Helen Guerra
 Hope Carrion
 Janie Portillo
 Jeff Aragon
 Jenni (BB)
 Alexander
 Joe Padilla
 Josie Duran
 Ken Servais
 Judy Aguirre
 Landon Wright
 Loyola Romero
 Leah Matinez
 Luna Bella Nevarez
 Manny Diaz
 Maria Elena Perez
 Lopez
 Martha Luna
 Monica Nik
 Natalia Walters
 Nina Brusuelas
 Rachelle Simons
 Raleigh Cordova
 Ramona Flores
 Rachael Sanchez
 Robert Diaz
 Robert Capuchin

Pray for the Sick

Robert Dixon
 Rosa-Maria A-Camarena
 Rose Baroz
 Rose Salazar
 Rosemary Cordova
 Rosie Romero
 Sandra Bartlette
 Soncera Brierer
 Sophia Banks
 Sylvia Pino
 Teresita Hutchings
 Ysidro S Monje
 Zack Evvs
 Zeke Kazhe

Let us pray for our troops in the military services:



Benjamin Grijalva
 Dyanna Ortega
 Isaiah Diaz
 Paulita Rocha