

Advent

The Season of

Lord, let us
see your
kindness, and
grant us your
salvation.
Psalm 85:8

Muéstranos,
Señor, tu
misericordia
y danos al
Salvador.
Salmo 85:8



Second Sunday of Advent | Segundo domingo de Adviento

St. Anthony of Padua Church

5770 N. Maroa Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704
559-439-0124 | www.stanthonyfresno.org

DEC
10
2023

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Parochial Vicar

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(closed 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch)

BULLETIN/WEBPAGE

Bulletin Editor: bulletin@stanthonyfresno.org

Bulletin inserts are due 4 weeks

prior to publication.

*Welcome to
St. Anthony of Padua*

The Catholic Christian community of St. Anthony Padua welcomes all to our celebrations of God's love. Through prayer, education, sacraments, caring and stewardship, we strive to serve the needs of God's people and to gain a richer understanding of the Gospel message of love. We invite you to become a part of our "Parish Life." Your talents are welcome!

Rev. Msgr. Robert D. Wenzinger, Pastor

Please register at www.stanthonyfresno.org.

Thanks for joining us!

TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND IN THE GREEN HYMNAL #862

Mass Intentions

- 10 SUNDAY – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 8:00 a.m. † Estrellita Sarabosing by her daughter, Estrellita
 9:30 a.m. † Erma Silipini by Danny & Dolores Leon
 11:00 a.m. † Adrian Alvarado
 1:00 p.m. † Alfonsina Catalan por Noemi Gomez
 6:00 p.m. Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)
- 11 MONDAY**
 NO MASS
- 12 TUESDAY – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**
 5:30 a.m. Mañanitas Mass
 6:45 a.m. Intentions of Emma Pedregal by Rizza Pedregal
 8:00 a.m. † Debbie Ann Rodarte by Mark Rodarte
 7:00 p.m. Intenciones de Anne Reyes y familiares por parte de amigos
- 13 WEDNESDAY**
 6:45 a.m. † Chuck Stephens by Howard & Dottie DeMera
 8:00 a.m. † Gus Short by David & Elsa Ross
- 14 THURSDAY**
 6:45 a.m. † Chuck Stephens by John & Michelle O'Rourke
 8:00 a.m. † Armand & Agnes Bussone by the Bussone Family
- 15 FRIDAY**
 6:45 a.m. † Bennie & Lucy Leal by Debbie Fagundes
 8:15 a.m. † Tom Facio by Ramona Facio
- 16 SATURDAY**
 4:00 p.m. † Margaret Rodriguez by Bernie Araiza
 5:30 p.m. † Adrian Alvarado por Ron & Kathi O'Rourke
- 17 SUNDAY – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 8:00 a.m. Intentions of Felix & Libertie Tacata
 by the Forestiere Family
 9:30 a.m. † Jeff Reynolds by his Wife & Children
 11:00 a.m. † Dr. Maximo Parayno, Jr. By Tessie & Family
 1:00 p.m. † Juan Caballero por Arturo Caballero
 6:00 p.m. Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)



SILVER ANGELS

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, DECEMBER 13, 2023
 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 St. Agnes Mission Church Social Hall,
 111 W. Birch Steet, Pinedale.



Come enjoy a Holiday Turkey & Ham dinner from Pardini's along with some Fun & Games. We invite our fellow parishioners, age 50 and above, to join us. Cost is only \$16.00 per person this year, thanks to the generous gift from Ursula Sullivan which provides a \$10.00 discount. Silver Angels will be collecting NEW, unwrapped toys for Catholic Charities at this luncheon.


WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall (includes dinner)
 Stay tuned for details on the ICF December event.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Greeter/Usher Ministry Meeting – 6:30 p.m. in the Main Church
 Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner, and our need for Greeters/Ushers at Mass has never been greater. We invite and encourage all existing Ushers and those who would like to help in this important ministry to join us. On Christ's birthday we need warm, friendly faces to greet His guests as they enter His church.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:30 a.m. in Room 21
 Women's Bible Study Reunion and welcome to new members. Our focus will be on the Advent season and we will preview our Winter 2024 Study.


THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00 p.m. – Main Church
 Please join us for our Annual Advent Penance Service. We will have multiple priests from the Diocese hearing Confessions in English and Spanish. *Únase a nosotros para nuestro Servicio Anual de Penitencia de Adviento. Tendremos varios sacerdotes de la Diócesis escuchando confesiones en inglés y español.*



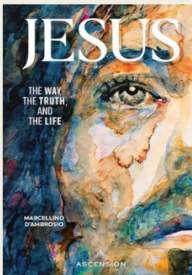
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

General Meeting, 6:15 p.m. in the Social Hall (Rosary, Dinner, Meeting)



PARISH BIBLE STUDY STARTS JANUARY 24

6:30 p.m. in Room 22
 Sami/Dina Shwiyhat and Eliseo/Nivia Cuellar will begin a 10-week series, *Jesus, The Way, The Truth, and The Life* on Wednesday, January 24th, running every other Wednesday night. Watch the bulletin for dates as we navigate Lent, Easter, and beyond. You can order a copy of the book from Ascension Press at <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/jesus-way-truth-and-life>.



For more information on parish groups, call the Ministry Office at 439-0124, ext. 106.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday (Vigil Mass)
 4:00 p.m. – English
 5:30 p.m. – Español

Sunday
 8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. – English
 1:00 p.m. – Español
 6:00 p.m. – English

Livestream Mass Schedule
 9:30 a.m. – English Mass
 1:00 p.m. – Misa Español

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday-Thursday (OLG Chapel)
 6:45 a.m. – Daily Mass
 8:00 a.m. – Chapel open until 11:00 a.m.

Friday (OLG Chapel)
 6:45 a.m. – Daily Mass
 8:15 a.m. – Followed by Adoration

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday
 9:00–11:00 a.m. – Guadalupe Chapel

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday
 6:00 p.m. – Chapel Confessionals

Saturday
 10:00 a.m. – Chapel Confessionals



ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA
 "Tu palabra es una lámpara a mis pies; es una luz en mi sendero". SALMO 119
 Jueves, en salón #22 de la escuela 7:00pm
 Reflexionaremos las Lecturas y Evangelio Dominicales
 INFORMES: HERMANA EDITH (559)439-0124 Ext. 122

JUEVES – ESTUDIO DE LA BIBLIA

7:00 p.m. en el salón #22
 Acompáñenos para reflexionar en las lecturas de la biblia y el Evangelio Dominical. "Tu Palabra es una lampara a mis pies, es una luz en mi sendero." Salmo 119

Grupo de Oración

JUEVES – GRUPO DE ORACIÓN ENCUENTRO CON DIOS.
 Te invitamos al grupo de oración todos los jueves desde las 6:30 p.m. empezando con El Rosario, en la Iglesia de Santa Inés "Ven y llénate del Señor." 111 W Birch Street, Fresno, CA 93650

Year of Parish Revival

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

We invite you to pray the Revival prayer in silence after Mass in your pew.

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And, through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners. Amen

*¡Oh, mi Dios, yo creo en Ti! ¡Te adoro! ¡Confío en Ti y tu amor! ¡Te pido perdón por los que no creen, no te adoran, no confían en Ti y no te aman!
¡Oh, Santísima Trinidad, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo, os adoro profundamente! Os ofrezco el preciosísimo Cuerpo, la preciosísima Sangre, El Alma y Divinidad de Cristo Jesús, presente en todos los tabernáculos del mundo, en reparación de todos los ultrajes, sacrilegios y la indiferencia con que es ofendido, y por los méritos infinitos del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y del Inmaculado Corazón de María, os ruego por la conversión de los pecadores. Amén*

STEWARDSHIP – MANAGING GOD’S GIFTS TO US

Sharing the Gifts We Have Been Given!

November 19, 2023	\$22,088.00
Last year’s Plate Income	\$17,152.00
Difference	\$4,936.00
Year-to-Date Plate Collection • <i>Colectas Del Año Hasta La Fecha</i>	
July 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023	\$395,994.97
July 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022	\$337,623.00
Difference	\$58,371.97

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY GRACIAS POR SU CONTINUA GENEROSIDAD



GIVE ONLINE – Easy, Safe, and Convenient: When you give to God, you discover that God gives to you. You can also drop your envelope in the mail slot located in the door on the south side of the Parish Office.



Second Collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This is our opportunity to say thank you for those who have served us faithfully over the years.

La Segunda Colecta de este fin de semana es para el Fondo de Jubilación de Religiosos. Esta es nuestra oportunidad para agradecer a quienes nos han servido fielmente a lo largo de los años.



ST. AGNES MISSION CHURCH

111 W. Birch Street, Pinedale, CA 93650
(559) 439-2100

Sunday 9:00 a.m. English – Mass Intention: Intentions of Lisa Nino

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Español – Misa de Intención de Pedro Antonio Torres

For the following Sacraments, please contact St. Anthony of Padua:
Anointing of the Sick • Baptisms • Confession • Funerals • Weddings

ST. AGNES MISSION CHURCH STAFF (559) 439-2100

Parish Administrator Annette Amparano
amparano@stagnes.comcastbiz.net

Director of Religious Education..... Phyllis Carmona
For pastoral support, call St. Anthony of Padua Parish Office at 559-439-0124.

“Christ has made my soul beautiful with jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him Whom the Angels serve.” – St. Agnes

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

November 12, 2023	\$1,427.86
2024 YTD Total	\$26,812.84

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY! GRACIAS POR SU CONTINUA GENEROSIDAD

Tuesday, December 12th – Mañanitas

6:00 a.m. Mass for Virgen de Guadalupe
6:00 p.m. Spanish

Saturday, December 23rd

6:00 p.m. Posada in the Social Hall

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Mass – Bilingual

Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Mass – Bilingual

No New Year's Day Mass.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12

5:30 a.m. Mass (Mañanitas at 5:00 a.m.)
7:00 p.m. Mass

Parish Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 14

7:00 p.m. Main Church - English / Español

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17

Simbang Gabi

Saturday, December 16	6:30 p.m.	Tuesday, December 19	6:30 p.m.	Thursday, December 21	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 17	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday, December 20	6:30 p.m.	Friday, December 22	6:30 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

8:00; 9:30; 11:00 a.m. – English 1:00 p.m. - Español

Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Mass – English
6:30 p.m. Mass – English
9:00 p.m. Mass – English
Midnight Mass – English

Christmas Day Mass

Sunday, December 25

8:00 a.m. Mass – English
10:00 a.m. Mass – English
1:00 p.m. Mass – Español

Regular Mass Schedule – Saturday, December 30 & Sunday, December 31

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Mass



Parish Ministry Guide –

Christ said, "I have come to serve, not to be served."

The prayers during the Mass invite us to offer our prayers and gifts to the Lord. Liturgical Ministry calls the faithful to be part of the Mass. We all feel unworthy to serve, just as Christ's disciples, who were fishermen before Christ called them.

Is Christ calling you?

ALTAR SERVER

We invite parents of youth (4th grade and up, who have received their First Holy Communion) to prayerfully consider the unique opportunity for your child to grow closer to Our Lord and His Church as an Altar Server. You can register online at stanthonyfresno.org/ministries/, then click on Altar Servers or call the Parish Office at 439-0124 for more details.



SERVIDOR DE ALTAR

Invitamos a los padres de los jóvenes (de 4º grado en adelante, que hayan recibido su Primera Comunión) a considerar en oración la oportunidad única de que su hijo crezca más cerca de Nuestro Señor y de Su Iglesia como Monaguillo. Usted puede registrarse en línea en stanthonyfresno.org/ministries/, luego haga clic en Altar Servers o llame a la oficina de la parroquia en 439-0124 para más detalles.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Considered the unique honor to offer the "Body of Christ" to the faith community. Ministers are commissioned by our pastor to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Candidates should be 18 years of age and be in full communion with the church (all sacraments).



MINISTROS DE LA EUCARISTÍA

Se considera el honor único de ofrecer el "Cuerpo de Cristo" a la comunidad de fe. Los ministros son comisionados por nuestro párroco para asistir en la distribución de la Sagrada Comunión en la Misa. Los candidatos deben tener 18 años de edad y estar en plena comunión con la iglesia (todos los sacramentos).

LECTORS

Do you remember the joy of reading to your children before bed? If so, chances are you're a Lector candidate. Persons, 5th grade and older, who have made their First Holy Communion with good reading skills can serve as a Lector at Mass.



LECTORES

¿Recuerda la alegría de leer a sus hijos antes de dormir? Si es así, lo más probable es que usted sea un candidato a Lector. Las personas, de 5º grado en adelante, que han hecho su Primera Comunión con buenas habilidades de lectura pueden servir como Lector en la Misa.

Interested Lector and Eucharistic Minister candidates should contact Martha in the Parish Office at 439-0124, ext. 114 or by email. *Los candidatos Ministerio Eucarístico y lectores interesados deben contactar a Martha en la oficina parroquial al 439-0124, ext. 114 o por correo electrónico.*

USHER & GREETER MINISTRY

Are you the type to get to church early? Why not join the Usher Ministry and greet your fellow parishioners as they enter the church? Ushers assist with the collection and act as Eucharistic Guards during Communion. Join the team and serve when you can. Call the Parish Office at 439-0124, ext. 106 for more details or complete the Volunteer Registration at www.stanthonyfresno.org/ministries.



MINISTERIO DE UJIERES Y SALUDADORES

¿Eres de los que llegan temprano a la iglesia? ¿Por qué no te unes al Ministerio de Ujieres y saludas a tus feligreses cuando entran en la iglesia? Los ujieres ayudan con la colecta y actúan como guardias eucarísticos durante la comunión. Únase al equipo y sirva cuando pueda. Llame a la oficina parroquial al 439-0124, ext. 106 para obtener más detalles o complete el registro de voluntarios en www.stanthonyfresno.org/ministries.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Are you a Eucharistic Minister who is being called to serve the members of our parish who are unable to come to Mass on Sunday due to illness or other limitation? We are looking for Eucharistic Ministers who are willing to take Holy Communion after Mass to the members of the parish who are Homebound. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Ministry at 439-0124, ext. 106.



MINISTERIO DE LOS CONFINADOS EN CASA

¿Es usted un Ministro Eucarístico que está siendo llamado a servir a los miembros de nuestra parroquia que no pueden asistir a Misa el domingo debido a una enfermedad u otra limitación? Estamos buscando un Ministro Eucarístico que esté dispuesto a llevar la Sagrada Comunión después de la Misa a los miembros de la parroquia que están en sus hogares. Si está interesado, comuníquese con la Oficina del Ministerio al 439-0124, ext. 106.

We Need You...

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Faith Formation & Sacrament

Preparation for Grades K through 6th

FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION & SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Classes are in session, Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Additionally, Second Year students and parent(s) attend one

Thursday per month at 6:30 p.m.

Registrations available on our website: stanthonyfresno.org

For more information or to volunteer in children's ministry, contact Mary Briseno at (559) 439-0124 ext. 113 or by email:

mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org

GIFT EDUCACION RELIGIOSA

Formación de Fe y Preparación Sacramental para niños del Kinder – 6to grados

PRIMERA RECONCILIACION, PRIMERA COMUNION, Y SACRAMENTOS DE INICIACION

Las Clases son los domingos a 3:00 p.m. Adicional, en el Segundo Año escolar los estudiantes y sus padres asisten a un jueves por mes a las 6:30 p.m.

Inscripciones disponibles en nuestra página web: stanthonyfresno.org

Para mas información o para ser voluntario en el ministerio de niños, comuníquese con Mary Briseno al (559) 439-0124 ext. 113 o por email: mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org

EDGE

2023-2024 for Grades 6th through 8th

Director, Sharon Christison, ext. 117, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org



Catholic Youth Ministry Sessions are Tuesday Evenings in Room 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Register at www.stanthonyfresno.org. Click on Faith Formation tab and scroll down to click one of the EDGE options.

EDGE is a Catholic youth group that is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. As young adolescents, they are trying to figure out who they are and what they believe. Youth can prepare for sacraments of Baptism and First Communion while attending Edge.

LIFETEEN High School Youth Ministry

2023-2024 for Grades 9 through 12



Director, Sharon Christison, ext. 117, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org

LifeTeen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church. LifeTeen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. We create a dynamic space where the youth can develop friendships with their peers, learn more about their faith, and encounter Jesus in the Sacraments.

First Year Confirmation:

Confirmation is a two-year program for High School students who are sophomores and older. Confirmation candidates usually meet Sunday evenings with our Life Teen Youth Group. Meetings would consist of attending the Life Teen 6:00 p.m. Mass and then the Life Night until 8:30 p.m.

Second Year Confirmation:

Confirmation 2 is open to juniors and seniors who have completed their first year of preparation. Second-year sessions are on Sunday evenings. LifeTeen Life Nights began in September for all high school teens. Invite a friend and grow together.

RCIA: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS
Tuesdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m. St. Anthony Conference Room (aka Donut Room)

Director, Martha Danks-Ferguson

439-0124, ext. 114; mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org

See our website to register: www.stanthonyfresno.org

Click on *Faith Formation* or scroll down to the RCIA icon.

We welcome adults seeking any of the Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist

New folks are welcome to join us any time during the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha by phone or email.



CONFIRMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Para Jóvenes Bilingües en High School



¡INSCRIPCIONES!

Las inscripciones para la confirmación en español ya están abiertas. Visite nuestra pagina de web a stanthonyfresno.org o escanee el QR Code al lado para registrarse.

LAS CLASES COMENZARON EN EL MES DE AGOSTO, 2023.

Para más información comuníquese con el Diacono Edgar al 439-0124, ext. 111 o ebriseno@stanthonyfresno.org.



SACRAMENTOS PARA ADULTOS

Adultos mayores de 18 años interesados en los Sacramentos de Primera Comunión, Confirmación o Bautismo hablar con Hermana Edith, ext. 122 o sisteredith@stanthonyfresno.org.

LECTIONARY STUDY – (Rowdies’ – Women’s Bible Study) with Martha – Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will delve into the readings for the upcoming weekend and prepare our hearts to receive the Good News anew.

PREPARE THE WAY

Reflection on Mark 1:1-8

The scholar, Huston Smith, observes that at every time in human history, and in every place, people have found themselves faced with three inescapable questions: How to win food and shelter, which is the problem that the physical world poses; How to get along with one another, which is the social problem; and, How to relate themselves to the total scheme of things, which is the religious problem. (see *Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief*).

Whether we look far or near, we will see hunger and homelessness, division and acrimony, confusion and clashing religious views. To place these questions in the context of our Catholic sensibility, Christ is still present in the needs of the least among us, Christ's body is still divided, and Christ still hangs on the cross. Such is our present landscape, the wilderness in which we live together.

"Preparing the way of the Lord" in this wilderness involves not only our own personal repentance and conversion, but also, as Isaiah suggests, some major road construction: creating a highway through the desert, filling in valleys and leveling mountains, smoothing rugged land and rough country. In other words, mindfully and intentionally "bringing comfort to God's people" through our efforts at caring for the most vulnerable, bringing understanding and reconciliation to relationships broken and in discord, and heroically evangelizing to prepare the world for the Prince of Peace.

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
2 Pt 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8

Monday, December 11, 2023

Weekday

Is 35:1-10
Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Judith 13:18bcde, 19
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20
Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab
Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15, 2023

Weekday

Is 48:17-19
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Weekday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Access Daily Readings from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) online at <https://bible.usccb.org>

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

Feast Day: December 14

Patron Saint of: Mystics

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.

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John's message – like the Gospel – is loud and clear: Don't – if you really want to live!

Read the full article: "Saint John of the Cross" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross/>. (Accessed November 28, 2023).

ESCRITURA SEMANAL

Domingo, 10 de diciembre de 2023

Segundo domingo de Adviento

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Sal 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-142

Pe 3:8-14

Mc 1:1-8

Lunes, 11 de diciembre de 2023

Día de la semana

Is 35:1-10

Sal 85:9ab y 10, 11-12, 13-14

Lc 5:17-26

Martes, 12 de diciembre de 2023

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Zac 2:14-17 o Ap 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Judit 13:18bcde, 19

Lc 1:26-38 o Lc 1:39-47

Miércoles, 13 de diciembre de 2023

Santa Lucía, virgen y mártir

Is 40:25-31

Sal 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10

Mt 11:28-30

Jueves, 14 de diciembre de 2023

San Juan de la Cruz, Sacerdote y

Doctor de la Iglesia

Is 41:13-20

Sal 145:1 y 9, 10-11, 12-13ab

Mt 11:11-15

Viernes, 15 de diciembre de 2023

Día de la semana

Is 48:17-19

Sal 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

Mt 11:16-19

Sábado, 16 de diciembre de 2023

Día de la semana

Eclo 48:1-4, 9-11

Sal 80:2ac y 3b, 15-16, 18-19

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

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Edición Revisada (NABRE) en línea en
<https://bible.usccb.org>

PREPARA EL CAMINO

Reflexión sobre Marcos 1:1-8

El erudito Huston Smith observa que, en todas las épocas de la historia de la humanidad y en todos los lugares, las personas se han enfrentado a tres cuestiones ineludibles: Cómo conseguir comida y cobijo, que es el problema que plantea el mundo físico; Cómo llevarse bien con los demás, que es el problema social; y, Cómo relacionarse con el esquema total de las cosas, que es el problema religioso. (véase Por qué importa la religión: El destino del espíritu humano en una era de incredulidad).

Miremos lejos o cerca, veremos hambre y falta de vivienda, división y acritud, confusión y puntos de vista religiosos enfrentados. Para situar estas cuestiones en el contexto de nuestra sensibilidad católica, Cristo sigue presente en las necesidades de los más pequeños de entre nosotros, el cuerpo de Cristo sigue dividido y Cristo sigue colgado de la cruz. Tal es nuestro paisaje actual, el desierto en el que vivimos juntos.

"Preparar el camino del Señor" en este desierto implica no sólo nuestro arrepentimiento y conversión personales, sino también, como sugiere Isaías, la construcción de una gran carretera: crear una autopista a través del desierto, rellenar los valles y nivelar las montañas, allanar las tierras escarpadas y accidentadas. En otras palabras, "llevar consuelo al pueblo de Dios" de forma consciente e intencionada mediante nuestros esfuerzos por atender a los más vulnerables, llevar comprensión y reconciliación a las relaciones rotas y en discordia, y evangelizar heroicamente para preparar al mundo para el Príncipe de la Paz.

~ Fr. Jay

SAN JUAN DE LA CRUZ

Día de la fiesta: 14 de diciembre

Patrón de: Místicos

Juan es santo porque su vida fue un esfuerzo heroico por hacer honor a su nombre: "de la Cruz". La locura de la cruz llegó con el tiempo a su plena realización. "El que quiera venir en pos de mí, niéguese a sí mismo, tome su cruz y sígame" (Marcos 8:34b) es la historia de la vida de Juan. El misterio pascual -de la muerte a la vida- marca a Juan como reformador, poeta místico y sacerdote teólogo. Ordenado sacerdote carmelita en 1567, a la edad de 25 años, Juan conoció a Teresa de Ávila y, como ella, se consagró a la Regla primitiva de los carmelitas. Como compañero de Teresa y por derecho propio, Juan se comprometió en la obra de la reforma, y llegó a experimentar el precio de la reforma: creciente oposición, incompreensión, persecución, encarcelamiento. Llegó a conocer la cruz a fondo -a experimentar la muerte de Jesús- mientras permanecía mes tras mes sentado en su oscura, húmeda y estrecha celda sólo con su Dios. Pero, ¡qué paradoja! En esta agonía del encarcelamiento, Juan cobró vida, pronunciando poesía. En la oscuridad del calabozo, el espíritu de Juan salió a la Luz. Hay muchos místicos, muchos poetas; Juan es único como místico-poeta, expresando en su prisión-cruz el éxtasis de la unión mística con Dios en el Cántico Espiritual.

Pero como la agonía conduce al éxtasis, así Juan tuvo su Ascensión al Monte Carmelo, como la llamó en su obra maestra en prosa. Como hombre-cristiano-carmelita, experimentó en sí mismo esta ascensión purificadora; como director espiritual, la percibió en otros; como psicólogo-teólogo, la describió y analizó en sus escritos en prosa. Sus obras en prosa destacan por subrayar el coste del discipulado, el camino de unión con Dios: disciplina rigurosa, abandono, purificación. De forma única y contundente, Juan subraya la paradoja evangélica: la cruz conduce a la resurrección, la agonía al éxtasis, la oscuridad a la luz, el abandono a la posesión, la negación de uno mismo a la unión con Dios. Si quieres salvar tu vida, debes perderla. Juan es verdaderamente "de la Cruz". Murió a los 49 años - una vida corta, pero plena.

En su vida y en sus escritos, Juan de la Cruz tiene una palabra crucial para nosotros hoy. Tendemos a ser ricos, blandos, cómodos. Rehuimos incluso palabras como abnegación, mortificación, purificación, ascetismo, disciplina. Huimos de la cruz. El mensaje de Juan -como el Evangelio- es alto y claro: ¡No lo hagas, si de verdad quieres vivir!

Lea el artículo completo en inglés: "Saint John of the Cross" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross/>. (Consultado el 28 de noviembre de 2023)





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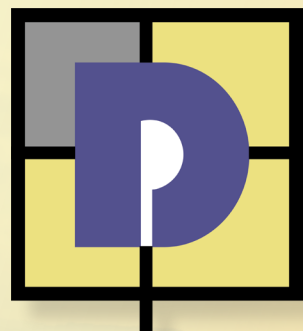
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