

Saint Joseph Lay Carmelite Community #2415, Rochester, Minnesota
Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary
December 2024 Newsletter

Dear Lay Carmelites,

St. John of the Cross, whose feast we celebrate in the middle of our cold and dark Advent season, is often looked to for what he can teach us about suffering. However, despite his tremendous suffering, he wrote profoundly of the joy brought to us by Christ. It's a paradox we find in the lives of many great Carmelite Saints.

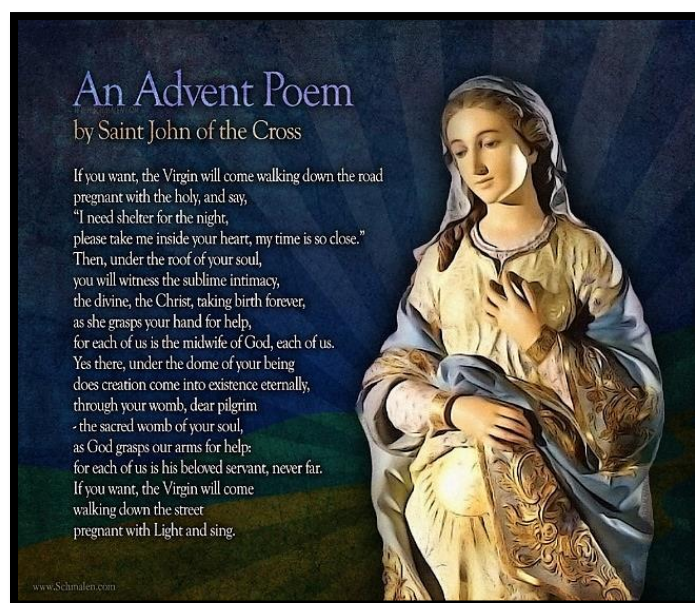
Imprisoned during Advent in 1577, St. John began to write a beautiful poem about the depths of God's love and the human journey towards union with Him. He recounts salvation history, and the mutual, selfless love of the Trinity. In the darkness of his own life, he sought the face of God and found that God was in fact seeking him, too. This poem, entitled *Romances*, is a dialogue between God the Father and God the Son, in which the Father reveals His plan to give a bride to the Son, a bride who will rejoice in His grace and fullness.

Here's an excerpt, from a translation by Fr. Kieran Kavanaugh: OCD:

*Now you see, Son, that your bride
was made in your image,
and so far as she is like you
she will suit you well;
yet she is different, in her flesh,
which your simple being does not have.*

***In perfect love
this law holds:
that the lover become
like the one he loves;
for the greater their likeness
the greater their delight.
Surely your bride's delight
would greatly increase
were she to see you like her,
in her own flesh.***

(The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross, p. 66.)¹

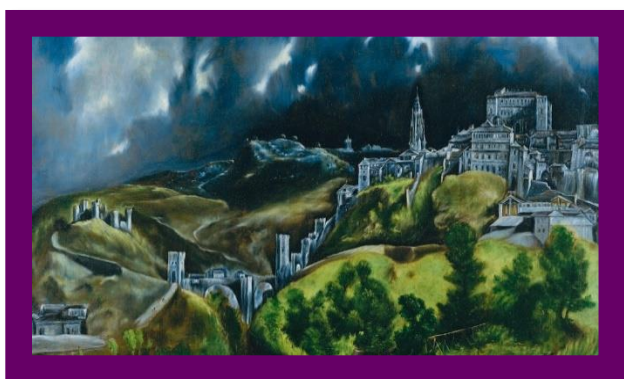


December Carmelite Saints and Blesseds:

Bl. Bartholomew Fanti, Priest (5th); St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church (14th).

December Birthday Remembrances in Holy Mass at the Annunciation Hermitage:

Dorothy Loftus-Nall (1st); Mary McDonald (9th); Lise Paulik (11th); Tia Meyer (14th); Deb McCauley (28th) Dcn. Randy Horlocker (30th)



¹ [“That the lover become like the one he loves” - Advent with St. John of the Cross | Salt + Light Media](#)

Dec. 7th Memorial of St Ambrose
 Co-Cathedral of St John the Evangelist.
 In-person/ Zoom. O'Day Room (lower level).
 9:15 am to 12:15

Side 1 Terese, Side 2 Rev. Randy

Christian Prayer:

Inv. 1434.
 Hymn #176.
 Psalms/Ant: 770-773; Reading and Cant. 1435; Pr. 1331

Volume I:

Inv. 1458.
 Hymn 1464. "Rise up, O men of God!"
 Psalms/Ant: 787-789; Reading and Cant. 1465; Pr. 1220.

Act of Consecration to Our Lady of Mount Carmel/Salve Regina/Act of Consecration to St Joseph.

Lectio Divina: St. Lk 3:1-6 : Marie

Carmel's Call: pp. 17-20 (preface through #16)

Announcements.

On-going Formation-St John of the Cross's *Romances*.

Announcements:

- St. Joseph Liturgy of the Hours 2025 Guides: see Michael Kacir. Thank you, Michael! Pay \$3 (Reg) or \$6 (Lg) to SJLCC.
- Wonderful visit with in-actives Mary McDonald and Suzanne Norris with Lynne Gaffey-→
- SJLCC Adorers Chapel Co-Cathedral 4-5 pm every Friday.
- New On-going Formation book: Terese is ordering our books. (bulk orders cost less): [St. Thérèse of Lisieux: Her Last Conversations – ICS Publications](#)
- Annual Carmelite donation of new winter clothes (sets); sizes newborn-2T to Birthright for Christmas. Bring to the December meeting and volunteer to drop these off at Birthright office: [Birthright of Rochester](#)



Formation Notes:

Advent special ongoing Formation is a meditation prayer in chorus of St John of the Cross's poem *Romances* (on Salvation History, the Incarnation and Birth of Our Savior) along with expressing this poem in drawing.

January ongoing Formation will be *Complete Works of Elizabeth of the Trinity*; pp 155-161, Days 12-15.

Phase I: Lise, Clark, Jasmine, Deb, Anne, Laurie: Chapter 2, 'Introduction to Carmelite History', pp. 11-16 with Dave.

Phase II (year 1) Ruth: Ch. 10 in [Climbing the Mountain](#), 'God Speaks'; pp. 227-252, with Suzie.

Phase II (year 2) Tia: Ch. 19b. in [Climbing the Mountain](#), 'Holy Men and Women in Carmel' Part 2b.; pp. 548-568 with Terese.

St James Coffee, every 3rd Sunday 12- 2 pm, is reserved for Formation.

<u>Table 1</u>	<u>Table 2</u>	<u>Table 3</u>	<u>Table 4</u>	<u>Table 5</u>
Dorothy (lead)	Marilyn (lead)	Bob Kertis (lead)	Michael (lead)	Paul (lead)
Sharon/ Slava	Paula	Dianne	Bob Robak	Suzie
Dave	Niniek	Lise	Marie/Suzanne /Lynne	Jasmine
Terese	Deb	Mary	Clark	Saundra
Anne	Tia	Dcn. Randy	Laurie	Ruth

Our Carmelite Charism: Prayer, Community and Service

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