

**Saint Joseph's, Saint Anne's & Holy Family And Saint Patrick's**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Of December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent, Year A**  
 Served By The Discalced Carmelites  
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**Sunday Mass Readings for the 14<sup>th</sup> Of December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent, Year A**

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Isaiah 35:1-6A, 10
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	James 5:7-10
Alleluia	Isaiah 61:1
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11

**1st Reading - Isaiah 35:1-6A, 10**

1 The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
 2 They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.  
 3 Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak,  
 4 say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.  
 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
 6 then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.  
 10 Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10**

R. (cf. Is 35:4) Lord, come and save us.  
 or:  
 R. Alleluia.

6 The LORD God keeps faith forever,  
 7 secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free.

R. Lord, come and save us.  
 or:  
 R. Alleluia.

8 The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just;  
 9A the LORD protects strangers.

R. Lord, come and save us.  
 or:  
 R. Alleluia.

9BC The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
 10 The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations.

R. Lord, come and save us.  
 or:  
 R. Alleluia.

**2nd Reading - James 5:7-10**

7 Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.  
 8 You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.  
 9 Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.  
 10 Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Alleluia - Isaiah 61:1 (Cited in Luke 4:18)**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
 R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11**

2 When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus  
 3 with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

4 Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:  
 5 the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.  
 6 And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."  
 7 As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?  
 8 Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.  
 9 Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.  
 10 This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.  
 11 Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**Saint Of The Day**

St John of the Cross was also known as Juan de Yepes y Álvarez. He was a Catholic priest, mystic, and a Carmelite friar. He was born on June 24 1542 in Fontiveros, Spain and died on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1591 in Ubeda, Spain.

We celebrate his feast day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December every year in the Catholic Church.

Place of Work	Spain
Date of Death	December 14 1591 (aged 49)
Place of Death	Ubeda, Jaen, Spain
Feast Day	14 <sup>th</sup> December
Beatification	By Pope Clement X on January 25 1675
Canonization	By Pope Benedict XIII On The 27 <sup>th</sup> Of December 1726
Patron Saint of	Contemplative life Contemplatives Mystical theology Mystics Spanish poets

**St John of the Cross Life History**

Saint John of the Cross was born into poverty, with his father being cast away for marrying a poor orphan. His early life was marked by tragedy, as his father died when he was three, and his brother died two years later due to malnutrition. Raised in poverty, John experienced early hardships, and his mother, who found work weaving, struggled to support the family. Sent to a boarding school for poor and orphaned children, John received a religious education from a young age, eventually deciding to follow a religious path. He served as an acolyte at an Augustinian monastery and, as he grew older, worked in a hospital while attending a Jesuit school. Despite facing challenges in learning a trade, John became a servant to the poor in a hospital in Medina while continuing his sacred studies. At the age of 21, he offered himself as a lay-brother to the Carmelite friars, joining the Carmelite Order and taking the name "John of St. Matthias." After making vows, he studied theology and philosophy at the university in Salamanca, becoming proficient in the Bible and translating the Song of Songs into Spanish. Although contemplating a move to the Carthusian Order, he was persuaded by St Teresa of Ávila to stay and assist in the reform of the Carmelite Order. Attracted by the strict routine followed by Teresa, he became the first Prior of the Barefooted Carmelites. Facing opposition from elder friars for his reform efforts, John was condemned and cast into prison, enduring nine months of suffering before escaping. He then joined St Teresa in Avila as her confessor and spiritual guide. During this time, he had a vision of Christ, creating a drawing titled "Christ from Above." Amid a rift within the Carmelite order, John worked with Teresa to restore the original, strict routine of the order. However, political and ecclesiastical conflicts led to violence and disputes between the Discalced Carmelites and the ordinary Carmelites. Ordered to leave the monastery in Avila, John chose to stay based on the approval of the Papal Nuncio. In 1577, he was forcibly taken to Toledo, tried for disobedience, and imprisoned in harsh conditions. Despite the adversity, he wrote poems and became known as an influential poet. After nine months, John managed to escape and joined Teresa's nuns in Toledo. He continued to establish new houses and support the Discalced Carmelites in Andalusia. The split between the Discalced Carmelites and the rest of the order was formally authorized in 1580, ending the rift. During the last years of his life, John travelled and established new houses across Spain. He fell ill in 1591 with a skin condition that led to an

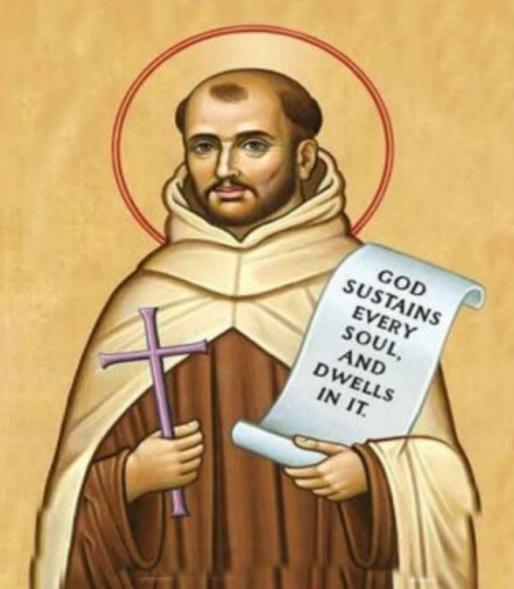
St John of the Cross Biography

Catholicreadings.org



**St John of the Cross**

**Feast Day**  
**December 14**



St John of the Cross - Feast Day - The 14<sup>th</sup> Of December 2025

Date of Birth	24 <sup>th</sup> June 1542
Place of Birth	Fontiveros, Spain
Profession	Catholic priest, mystic, and a Carmelite friar

[Return To Saint Joseph's Home Page Click Here](#)

infection, and he died on December 14, 1591. His burial sparked a dispute, resulting in the removal of his limbs, which were distributed across several places. Saint John of the Cross was beatified by Pope Clement X in 1675 and canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726.

He is the patron of contemplatives, mystics, and Spanish poets, with his feast day celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> Of December. Despite facing persecution and disgrace, his inner peace and devout longing for heaven deepened over time.

**Today's Feast Day Quote:**

"Live in the world," said St. John, "as if God and your soul only were in it; so shall your heart be never made captive by any earthly thing." Saint John of the Cross Feast Day

**St John of the Cross is the Patron Saint of**

1. Contemplative life;
2. Contemplatives;
3. Mystical theology;
4. Mystics;
5. Spanish poets

Catholic Sunday Mass Readings Homily for Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> Of December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

Today's Homily Theme: Blessed is the One Who Takes No Offense at Jesus - Luke 7:18-23

**Mass Times For the weekend**

<b>Saturday Night Mass Times</b>	
Saint Josephs	5:30pm
<b>Sunday Mass Times</b>	
Saint Joseph's	9:30am
Saint Anne's & Holy Family	11:00 am
Saint Patrick's Ryhope	9:30 am

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