



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN September 20, 2020

5457 Trafalgar Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6N 1C1

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www.sjaparish.ca

Activities @ SJA during pandemic

It is important to stay spiritually healthy during the pandemic. Here are our activities at SJA during the pandemic:

- Mass with a limited number of people (must sign up with parish office by phone 604-266-8800 or by email stjohnapostle@shaw.ca before attending).
- Confessions will be heard 20 minutes before weekend Masses and 15 minutes before weekday Masses in the church basement with a special confessional screen to ensure proper social distancing.
- Parish church and grotto are opened for prayer daily from 7 am to 7 pm.
- Confession, Holy Communion, and other spiritual needs by appointment (one person or one household at a time). Please contact Father Anthony at fatheranthonyho@gmail.com or 604-729-7638 (call or text)
- Watch Live Streaming Holy Mass & Divine Mercy Chaplet at home on Saturday at 4:00 pm (in Cantonese) and at 5:30 pm (in English). Youtube Channel: <https://bit.ly/SJAParishVancouver>
- Please read our weekly online bulletin at <https://sjaparish.ca/bulletins>
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- Please read our weekly online bulletin at <https://sjaparish.ca/bulletins>
- Online or in-person Catechism classes for adults (RCIA) in English on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8 pm, in Cantonese on Saturday from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, and in Mandarin on Thursday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Online or in-person Catechism classes for children (PREP) on Tuesday from 4:15 pm to 5 pm Please contact Father Anthony (fatheranthonyho@gmail.com) to register.
- Father Anthony's prayer groups are meeting online in English on Monday from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, and in Cantonese on Sunday from 7 pm to 8:30 pm (Night Prayer, Rosary, Bible Study, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy). Please contact Father Anthony (fatheranthonyho@gmail.com) to register.
- Parishioners are encouraged to access online Catholic resources while staying at home at Formed.Org. Access Code for SJA Parishioners is: **TWNH4F**
- Resources from Father Anthony are being uploaded weekly to websites. These include [articles for the BC Catholic](#), [Chinese radio talks](#), and [Sunday homilies & Bible studies](#).
- Please kindly consider supporting the parish financially online during the pandemic at <https://rcav.org/sunday-offering/>

Isidore served God in contemplation and action

St. Isidore was most probably born in Seville in about 565. His two brothers, Leander (Archbishop of Seville), Fulgentius (Bishop of Ecija), and his sister Florentina, are saints. Isidore attended the monastic school where his older brother Leander was a monk. Leander supervised his education.

John Gilmary Shea wrote, "As a boy [Isidore] despaired at his ill success in study, and ran away from school. Resting in his flight at a roadside spring, he observed a stone, which was hollowed out by the dripping water. This decided him to return, and by hard application he succeeded where he had failed. He went back to his master, and with the help of God became, even as a youth, one of the most learned men of the time."

Isidore himself later became a monk. When Leander died (about 600), Isidore succeeded him as Archbishop of Seville. In 633 Isidore presided over the Council of Toledo, which established liturgical uniformity (the Mozarabic Rite) throughout Spain, and ordered that a seminary be established in every diocese.

Isidore is sometimes called "schoolmaster of the Middle Age" because of his Etymologies, a total of twenty books that formed a general encyclopedia and was a summary of all religious and secular learning up to his time. Isidore died in Seville on April 4, 636. In 1722 Pope Innocent XIII declared him a doctor of the Church.

During the General Audience on June 18, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI emphasized the writings of St. Isidore on active and contemplative life.

Isidore wrote about the inner conflict between the desire for solitude and the demand of pastoral life experienced by pastors of souls such as St. Gregory the Great, St. Augustine and Isidore himself: "The man responsible for a Church must on the one hand allow himself to be crucified to the world with the mortification of his flesh, and on the other, accept the decision of the ecclesiastical order—when it comes from God's will—to devote himself humbly to government, even if he does not wish to.... Men of God do not in fact desire to dedicate themselves to things of the world and groan when by some mysterious design of God they are charged with certain responsibilities.... They do their utmost to avoid them but accept what they would like to shun and do what they would have preferred to avoid. Indeed, they enter into the secrecy of the heart and seek there to understand what God's mysterious will is asking of them. And when they realize that they must submit to God's plans, they bend their hearts to the yoke of the divine decision"

Isidore wrote on the relations between active and contemplative life: "Those who seek to attain repose in contemplation must first train in the stadium of active life; and then, free from the dross of sin, they will be able to display that pure heart which alone makes the vision of God possible"

Isidore pointed out Christ's example of harmonizing active and contemplative life: "The Saviour Jesus offers us the example of active life when during the day he devoted himself to working signs and miracles in the town, but he showed the contemplative life when he withdrew to the mountain and spent the night in prayer... Therefore let the servant of God, imitating Christ, dedicate himself to contemplation without denying himself active life. Behaving otherwise would not be right. Indeed, just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbour with action."