

October 2017
Church of St. Joseph of Arimathea
 stjoseph.ws ♦ Phone: 905-626-6616

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/18 8-12PM Matins & Liturgy	2/19	3/20	4/21 Apodosis of The Cross	5/22	6/23	7/24 6PM Vespers
8/25 8-12PM Matins & Liturgy	9/26	10/27	11/28	12/29	13/30 7PM Vespers	14/1 Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos 6PM Vespers
15/2 8-12PM Matins & Liturgy	16/3	17/4	18/5 7PM Canon to St. Joseph	19/6	20/7	21/8 6PM Vespers
22/9 8-12PM Matins & Liturgy	23/10	24/11	25/12	26/13	27/14	28/15 6PM Vespers
29/16 8-12PM Matins & Liturgy	30/17	31/18 6:30PM Vespers & Event for children	Nov 1/19 St. John of Kronstadt	2/20	3/21	Nov 4/22 6PM Vespers

Date format above is Civil /Liturgical.

- We will not bless cakes or grains on feast days of the Master or Theotokos. •

On Self-love

Nothing renders the soul even of zealous strugglers weaker, more negligent, and senseless than self-love, that nourisher of passions. St. Gregory of Sinai

There is no venom more poisonous than that of the asp or cobra, and there is no evil greater than that of self-love. The winged children of self-love are self-praise, self-satisfaction, gluttony, unchastity, self-esteem, jealousy and the crown of all these, pride. Pride can drag down not men alone, but even angels from heaven, and surround them with darkness instead of light. St. Hesychios the Priest

One must train oneself in self-reproach, that is, always accuse oneself and not others in one's mind, reproach oneself and not others, and with a severe distrust of oneself accuse oneself of the failings which are covered up by our self-love, accuse our self of our inclinations to sin. He who has self-reproach has peace, writes Abba Dorotheos, and will never be disturbed. If to such a one there should occur an illness, a wrong, a vexation, or some similar misfortune, he ascribes everything to his own sins and thanks God. If such a one is punished or reprimanded by the superior, he accepts all this as good and accepts every severe word against himself without murmuring or talking back, as the judgment of God. Abbot Nazarius of Valaam

Self-love, love of pleasure and love of praise banish remembrance of God from the soul. St. Theodoros

The first duty of a Christian, of a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, is to deny oneself. To deny oneself means to give up one's bad habits, to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad desires and thoughts; to quench and suppress bad thoughts; to avoid occasions of sin; not to do or desire anything from self-love but to do everything out of love for God. To deny oneself means, according to the Apostle Paul, to be dead to sin and the world, but alive to God. St. Innocent of Alaska

Sometimes younger people, or those of equal station, or older ones, teach you by means of hints which you cannot endure, and you are vexed with your teachers. We must endure and listen with love to everything useful coming from anyone, whoever he may be. Our self-love conceals our faults from us, but they are more visible to others. This is why they remark them to us. Remember, that "we are members one of another," and are thus obliged to mutually correct each other. If you do not bear being instructed by others, and are vexed with those who teach you, it means that you are proud, and this shows that the fault of which others hint that you should correct yourself is really in you. St. John of Kronstadt

Since self-love is the origin and mother of evil, when this is eradicated all the things which derive from it are eradicated as well. For when self-love is absent, not the slightest trace or form of evil can exist in any way at all. St. Maximos the Confessor

Self-love precedes all passions, and the scorn of ease precedes all the virtues. St. Isaac the Syrian

The greatest obstacle that obstructs God's grace is self-love. When God finds one's heart emptied of all desires, He fills it with His grace... An Athonite Gerontikon

We should zealously cultivate watchfulness, my brethren; and when - our minds purified in Jesus Christ - we are exalted by the vision it confers, we should review our sins and our former life, so that shattered and humbled at the thought of them we may never lose the help of Jesus Christ our God in the invisible battle. If because of pride, self-esteem or self-love we are deprived of Jesus' help, we shall lose that purity of heart through which God is known to man. For, as the Beatitude states, purity of heart is the ground for the vision of God (cf. Matt. 5:8). St. Hesychios the Priest

Self-love is not natural to man. It is the result of ancestral sin, which is contrary to man's true nature. Starets Macarius of Optina

An irritable spiritual state stems, firstly, from self-love which wants nothing to be done apart from our desire and view of things and, secondly, from unbelief, since we feel that the fulfilling of the Divine commandments will not bring us any benefit in this particular situation. St. Ambrose of Optina

Before any fall into sin the demons bring upon a man the following passions: dark forgetfulness; fierce anger, that is, inhuman and beast-like malice; and ignorance, like darkness which has no trace of light. These three passions precede every sin. ... From these proceed insensitivity of soul, that is, the mind, which is the eye of the soul, remains dark and is then captivated by all the passions. The first to be born is a weakness of faith; weakness of faith gives birth to self-love, the beginning and end, the root and origin of every evil. St. Paisius Velichkovsky