



DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS CLASSES TAUGHT BY FR STEPHEN WASON, OCD

September 15

**An introduction to
his place and times**

We will examine the Church's response to the Protestant Reformation, the Golden Age of Spain, and the personal formation and vocation of St. John of the Cross. **Who and what are the Discalced Carmelites of Our Lady of Mount Carmel?**

September 29

Poet of the Dark Night

We will examine the poetry of St. John of the Cross as the fount of his mystical theology and teaching on the interior life of prayer and contemplation. **What is contemplation?**

October 13

The Ascent of Mount Carmel

We will examine the central message in the teaching of St. John of the Cross: the spiritual life lived in faith, hope, and love and the three stages of the interior life. **What is the role and purpose of the theological virtues?**

October 20 (originally Oct. 27)

The Spiritual Cantic

We will examine the soul's ardent longing for God culminating in spiritual marriage.

What is spiritual marriage?

November 10

The Living Flame of Love

We will examine the role of the Holy Spirit in the transformation of the soul and the attainment of perfect union with God. **What does union with God mean?**

November 24

Doctor of the Church

We will examine the influence of the teaching of St. John of the Cross in the lives of Christians from his time till ours. Pope St. John Paul II called St. John of the Cross "Master in the Faith and witness to the living God", emphasizing his enduring presence in the Church's memory. **Why is St. John of the Cross important today?**

Held in the Parish Meeting Room from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.