

Monday, December 14, 2020  
Monday of the Third Week of Advent  
Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

This great reformer of the Carmelite Order suffered persecution from his own religious brothers! There is no guarantee of our remaining faithful to Jesus Christ if we do not continue heeding yesterday's words from St. Paul: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. . . Refrain from every kind of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22). Jesus wants us to accept Him freely, without coercing us, because salvation is a gift freely accepted and appreciated. Let us not be like the chief priests and elders in today's Gospel, questioning Jesus on whose authority He teaches the people. Only the simple and the humble receive Jesus and listen to Him. Listening to Jesus brings us faith in the One who sent the Savior.  
Saint John of the Cross, pray for us!

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*



**A person makes progress only by imitating Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life... I should not consider any spirituality worthwhile that would walk in sweetness and ease and run from the imitation of Christ.**

**St. John of the Cross**

*Ascent of Mount Carmel,  
Book 2, Chapter 7*