You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

— Acts 2:28

Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build Up the Kingdom of God.

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2014
Dear Parishioners,

I bring you tidings of great joy! We have been assigned a new associate pastor! Fr. Bill Vollmer was ordained in 1997 and is coming to us from St. Joan of Arc Parish in Skokie/Evanston. I'll let him introduce himself more once he gets moved in. His first Mass here will be the weekend of May 17-18. He met with the staff last Tuesday, and he is excited about coming here. I couldn’t be more thrilled for his appointment. I trust you will be excited for him being here as well once you get a chance to meet him. Give God the praise!

Thank you for your patience during these past four months. The uncertainty of the future staffing of the parish has been a preoccupation for many. If it weren’t for the ministry of many retired archdiocesan priests and religious order priests the previous months would have been much more difficult for me. Thank you for your feedback for the priests you have really liked and for the occasional visitor that some may not have liked so much. All the feedback is valuable.

I cannot adequately express my sincere appreciation for all the spiritual support I have been keenly aware of coming from you. As it has been since the very first day I arrived here after my lung cancer treatment in 2007, I have never felt as spiritually bonded as I do here. Your personal concern for me has also been very touching. Thank you for the prayers and awareness on your part of what it means to have only one resident priest. I think the parish ‘got it’ very quickly. I feel badly if some people did not ask for something for fear that I was too busy for them. At the same time, I am equally grateful for the openness of parish families to have a visiting priest for a funeral of a loved one when I was not here. That flexibility allowed me to keep my regularly scheduled day off during these past months. You’re tremendous!

The month of May, traditionally dedicated to our Blessed Mother, can be a busy month. We have a total of four First Communion celebrations, two this week and two next week. Then there is Mother’s Day, May Crowning, Memorial Games, graduation festivities and more. Often people are busy with baby or wedding showers, multiple graduations in the same family and a host of other events. I would be remiss, however, if I did not mention a significant anniversary celebration this weekend. May 2nd is Fr. Joe’s 59th anniversary of his priesthood ordination. He is passionate about his vocation and dedicated to serving you. I am so grateful that he is able to celebrate Sunday Mass with us every week.

May 9th is my 35th anniversary. May 3rd is Fr. Bill’s 17th. Deacon John Schopp’s 6th anniversary is May 25. Senior Deacon Tom McGorey’s 34th anniversary was last December 6th and Senior Deacon Joe Pepitone’s 32nd anniversary was April 18th.

Much bigger than SJC is the issue of ordaining women deacons which is a part of our rich Catholic tradition. In the meantime we could use 10 (or more!) men as deacons. If you feel called to the diaconate, please call me so we can discern together.

It’s a busy season. The newly baptized and newly received into full communion are reflecting on their experience of Holy Week, particularly the Easter Vigil. They were very touched by your prayerful support. They are the sign of new life in our midst and we are grateful.

Peace,
Fr. David

May ~ The Month of Mary ~ Mary in Scripture
There is surprisingly little about Mary in the New Testament. She plays an active role in only two stories in Mark, one story in Matthew, five stories in Luke, and two stories in John. She does not play a major role in Jesus' public ministry, and none of the Gospels mention her in connection with the Resurrection. And yet, if we compare the first and last Gospels, Mark and John, written about 30 years apart, it is clear that Mary came to be revered in the early Church because of her position as mother of the Savior and her commitment to him. Her place, though, was not above but within the Church, and that is how we see her in the Acts of the Apostles: the apostles “devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers” (Acts of the Apostles 1:14). Loyola Press
Catholic Charities Annual Mother’s Day Appeal Next Weekend

Every 30 seconds someone turns to Catholic Charities for help. When you give to the second collection you ensure that one less mother has to worry about feeding her children tonight. That one less person will make a bench their bed tonight. That one less veteran will go without a job. 92 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to help someone in need.

Catholic Charities fulfills the Church’s role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence and Stewardship.

Catholic Charities is rooted in Catholic Social Teachings: human life is sacred; that all humans have inherent dignity, rights and responsibilities; that social structures like marriage and the family must be supported; that the needs of the poor and vulnerable must be met; and that we must be responsible stewards of God’s creation.

Far from limiting our focus, our Catholic identity and values enable us to truly be “universal,” which is what “catholic” really means. The tenets of Catholic Social Teaching call us to serve everyone, regardless of their belief or background, and to employ anyone, not just Catholics, who commits to our mission. Christ reached out to people of all faiths, and Catholic Charities does the same, with the goal of transforming lives for the better.

Thank you for your generosity.

Communication from Cardinal George

April 4, 2014

Dear Fr. Dowdle,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you, your parish staff and the entire St. John of the Cross community on your generous response to the 2014 Annual Catholic Appeal. Your efforts have resulted in pledges exceeding your parish goal of $139,235.64 for this year’s Appeal.

The theme of the 2014 Annual Catholic Appeal is taken from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians—You are the temple of God. We are God’s temple when we serve others directly and stand for justice, reconciliation, truth, and respect for all life. The people of St. John of the Cross have demonstrated their recognition that the Annual Catholic Appeal is a way to give to others and transform the world and so be God’s presence. Their dedication is an inspiration to me and all the many beneficiaries of the generosity.

Please share my gratitude with your parish community and know that all the people of St. John of the Cross are remembered in my prayers each day as I count on all of your prayers for me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

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How to Receive a Gluten-Free Host at Mass & Parish News

St. John of the Cross Parish offers gluten-free hosts to address the needs of those affected by Celiac disease or other conditions. If you wish to receive a gluten-free host, before Mass begins …

- Enter the sacristy using the hall door by the men’s room.
- Tell the high school sacristan that you would like to receive a gluten-free host. The sacristan will be wearing a name tag and should be working near the sink area. If he or she is not there, wait by sink for the sacristan to return.
- It is important that you tell only the sacristan and not the priest or an usher as that causes confusion for how many gluten-free hosts may be needed.

The unconsecrated hosts will be brought up during the gifts procession and consecrated during Mass. When it is time to receive communion, go to the presiding priest and say “gluten-free” clearly and audibly for the priest to hear. Please do this every time, even when you think the priest knows who you are. If you have a child who will be receiving gluten-free please make sure that they also speak clearly as well.

New Evangelization Program Continues...

All are invited to the 7th follow-up session to the Very Rev. Robert E. Barron’s New Evangelization series held during Lent. Please join us to explore our parish mission for the New Evangelization.
Thursday May 15 from 7 pm to 9pm in the Parish Center

Liturgy of the Word

Volunteers are needed for Children’s Liturgy of the Word. Preparation materials and training are provided. Please help us to continue to offer this ministry. The commitment is only once a month but the reward is great! Please call Megan O’Brien at 708-784-0732.

Motherless Daughters Workshop

A grief support workshop for adult women who have lost their mother at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood on Saturday, May 10th 9-Noon. Please register to Nancy Kiel at 708-216-1646 by May 5th.

Parish Babysitting

Our parish offers free babysitting in the Garden Room of the rectory during the 9am and 10:45am Sunday Masses. Just ring the bell at the front doors of the rectory. (The front doors are glass and face north.) On Mother’s Day, May 11th, there will be babysitting during the 9am Mass only.

New Parishioner Welcome Weekend

Join us at Mass the weekend of May 17-18 as we welcome new parishioners. There will be coffee and donuts after the 9am and 10:45am Masses!

Bring Christ to the sick and elderly at their homes and in hospitals

Training for new Ministers of Care will be held on four evenings in May at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien. The dates are May 6, 8, 13, and 15 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. If you are interested in becoming a Minister please email or call MJ Martin to attend this training. Pre-registration is necessary. SJC will cover the cost of your training. 708-246-4404 x123 or mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org

- Session I Introduction to the theology of Pastoral Ministry to the sick; Pastoral and Practical Aspects of Ministry of Care
- Session II Pastoral Listening Skills
- Session III Theology of Aging, Death & Dying
- Session IV Theological, Pastoral and Practical Aspects of Prayer and Eucharistic Ministry

Spiritual Journaling

Beginning on Monday May 5th, the Spiritual Journaling group will be reading the new book by Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy. We will read a little each week, after which those who wish will write for 10-15 minutes and then we will share our thoughts. We meet in the parish center on Mondays from 2-3:30 pm. All are welcome. The Book is available on Amazon.com.

St. John of the Cross Class of ’74 40th Reunion on Saturday June 21, 2014 from 7-10 p.m. Five Seasons Sports Club, Burr Ridge
Please contact Charlene Breen Needles at: charbreen@aol.com

Spring PAC Meeting

The Parish Advisory Council Spring Meeting is Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30pm. Watch the bulletin for a summary letter updating you of our work.
Upcoming Men’s Club Outing
The parish Men’s Club invites all men to a golf outing on Friday, June 6th at Flagg Creek. More details to follow.

Annual Garage Sale
The parish Women’s Club is getting ready for their 41st annual Garage Sale on Saturday, June 21st 9am-2pm and Monday, June 23rd 9am-1pm. Drop off begins June 14th. Come to our All Volunteer Meeting on May 19th at 7pm in the parish center. Call Mary Beth White for more information 708-246-6339.

Women Golfers: It’s Tee Time
The St. John of the Cross Parish Women’s Nine-Hole Golf Group is ready to tee up! We will play golf on Monday mornings at the Village Greens of Woodridge, 1575 W. 75th Street, Woodridge, from May 5 through September 29. Tee times start at 7:00 a.m.; senior rates are available. It’s an informal group, and new participants are welcome. For more information, call Mary McDonald, 630-654-4323, or Pat Wees, 630-789-1688.

Order Your Cookbook Today
All Proceeds Benefit the Early Childhood Playground
Our early childhood teachers designed a beautiful spiral bound cookbook with a favorite recipe submitted by each of our 3 and 4 year old preschool families. Not only are the children’s favorite recipes in the book, but also a picture of each student opposite their recipe.

Return this form and payment to order your cookbooks. Each cookbook costs $20. Orders will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Please make checks payable to: St. John of the Cross Parish School with Playground in the memo line. Or order online on the school website!

Name  
Quantity  
Amount Enclosed $  

Crossroads Updates
Our Live Stations of the Cross was a gift for all who enjoyed on Good Friday! Discernment meetings with teens & adult board members have been great. Stay tuned for our summer Softball & Retreat day updates! Forms available soon.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ~Jeremiah 29:11

Peace,
Katie Hayes
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Catholic Goods Sale today, 5/4. Last chance to buy for loved ones!!! Support our work tour teens and purchase awesome gifts for First Communion or Mother’s Day!

Calendar of Events
May 3/4 Catholic Goods Sale in the Parish Center
May 4 Update Mtg & Leader End of the year Brunch 10am Last Home Groups
May 18 End of the Year Dodgeball
June 5 Work Tour & Conference formation meeting
June 6 Summer Kick-off Retreat Day
June 9-13 OLC work tour week

Dodgeball Tourney
May 18th!
Get ready for FUN!
• SJC Parish School, 5005 Wolf Road
• 6-7:30 on Sunday May 18th
• All Crossroads Home Groups invited!
• Pizza and refreshments will be served

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Living the Gospel

On our own we cannot grasp the mystery of the resurrection, of Easter Life. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were “conversing and debating”; they could recount the facts of “all the things that had occurred” in Jerusalem on the previous days, but could not believe the mystery. Yet they greatly desired to move from disappointment and unbelief to hearts burning with life and belief—they invited Jesus to stay the night with them. Jesus had piqued their desire to delve deeper into the mystery; they wanted to hear more. Their engagement through Jesus with the living word of Scripture and their recognition of the risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread gave these two disciples the courage to turn another page in their lives. They came to believe beyond the facts to the reality that Jesus is alive.

Our own participation in Word and Sacrament must give rise to the same desire in us: to seek Life by journeying deeper into the mystery. Word and Sacrament must make of our lives a “page-turner” event, must move us to delve deeper into the mystery of the risen Life that Jesus continually offers us. The two disciples did not want to believe the facts of the Jerusalem events that first Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. That is, until they knew all the facts. Coming to recognize Jesus, coming to believe that he had risen, unveiled more facts for them. These disciples and all of us who choose to follow Jesus spend our whole lives journeying with Jesus, learning more “facts” about this risen Life he so generously offers us. Our participation in Word and Sacrament is our walk with Jesus through life during which he continues to teach us that he is risen and present. ©Living Liturgy 2014.

Each encounter with Jesus fills us with joy, with that deep joy which only God can give.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Apr 21

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Richard Rohr Daily Meditation

Mary as a Corporate Personality

We see that Mary is the archetype, the personification of the one who represents and sums up the entire mystery of how salvation is received, and this has many dimensions. Like Jesus, I believe she is a Corporate Personality, a stand-in and exemplar for all of us. This is why the older churches so honored her and were fascinated by her. She is us!

- The “immaculate conception” refers to her identity before she had done anything right or anything wrong (perhaps implied in Romans 8:30).
- Her free election at the Annunciation with no mention of merit (Luke 1:38), as it is for us.
- Her virgin motherhood is shrouded in mystery even for her (Luke 2:19, 51), as it is for us.
- She has a quiet, ordinary life (no statements for thirty years), as most of ours are.
- She shows heroic “standing” in dignity and solidarity with the pain and despair at the end (John 19:25).
- She demonstrates receptivity to the shared life of the Holy Spirit along with everybody else at Pentecost (Acts 1:14).

All of these dimensions point to the full meaning of how God is born into the world! It is never about us, and always about God. We, like Mary, are merely “handmaids,” instruments, and it took such a woman as this to make the whole pattern glaringly clear.

Jesus Christ is the word of life.
Jesus Christ is the bread of life.
Come let us adore, alleluia.

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Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me, my family, my friends, my co-workers. Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is, “Accept the person I am. Listen to me.”
Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me—the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguished.
Teach me to listen, O God my Mother, to myself. Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside— in the deepest part of me.
Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice — in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.
Teach me, Lord, to listen. Amen.

By John Velti, S.J., a Canadian spiritual director and expert guide for those presenting the Spiritual Exercises. Loyola Press
In his message last Wednesday at St. Peter’s Square Pope Francis spoke on “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”
Following are excerpts from his message. For the full text go to http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140423_udienza-generale.html

...The Resurrection of Jesus is a true and deep joy founded on the certainty that the Risen Christ shall never die again; rather, he is alive and at work in the Church and in the world. This certainty has abided in the hearts of believers since that first Easter morning, when the women went to Jesus’ tomb and the angels asked them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Lk 24:5). These words are like a milestone in history; but are also like a “stumbling block” if we do not open ourselves to the Good News...How many times along our daily journey do we need to hear it said: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”. How often do we search for life among inert things, among things that cannot give life, among things that are here today and gone tomorrow, among the things that pass away ...

We need this when we shut ourselves in any form of selfishness or self-complacency; when we allow ourselves to be seduced by worldly powers and by the things of this world, forgetting God and neighbor; when we place our hope in worldly vanities, in money, in success. Then the Word of God says to us: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”. Why are you searching there? That thing cannot give you life! Yes, perhaps it will cheer you up for a moment, for a day, for a week, for a month ... and then? ...

It is not easy to be open to Jesus. Nor is it a given that we shall accept the life of the Risen One and his presence among us. The Gospel shows us different reactions: that of the Apostle Thomas, that of Mary Magdalene and that of the two disciples of Emmaus: it does us good to compare ourselves with them. Thomas places a condition on belief, he asks to touch the evidence, the wounds; Mary Magdalene weeps, she sees him but she does not recognize him, she only realizes that it is Jesus when he calls her by name; the disciples of Emmaus, who are depressed and feeling defeated, attain an encounter with Jesus by allowing that mysterious wayfarer to accompany them. Each one on a different path! They were seeking the living among the dead and it was the Lord himself who redirected their course. And what do I do? What route do I take to encounter the living Christ? He will always be close to us to correct our course if we have strayed.

“Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Lk 24:5). This question enables us to overcome the temptation to look back to what was yesterday, and it spurs us on to the future. Jesus is not in the sepulchre, he is Risen! He is the Living One, the One who always renews his body, which is the Church, and enables it to walk by drawing it towards Him. “Yesterday” is the tomb of Jesus and the tomb of the Church, the tomb of truth and justice; “today” is the perennial Resurrection to which the Holy Spirit impels us, bestowing on us full freedom.

Today this question is also addressed to us. You, why do seek the living among the dead, you who withdraw into yourself after a failure, and you who no longer have the strength to pray? Why do you seek the living among the dead, you who feel alone, abandoned by friends and perhaps also by God? Why do you seek the living among the dead, you who have lost hope and you who feel imprisoned by your sins? Why do you seek the living among the dead, you who aspire to beauty, to spiritual perfection, to justice and to peace?

This admonition: “Why do you seek the living among the dead” helps us leave behind our empty sadness and opens us to the horizons of joy and hope. That hope which rolls back the stones from tombs and encourages one to proclaim the Good News, capable of generating new life for others. Let us repeat the Angels’ phrase in order to keep it in our hearts and in our memory...Behold, brothers and sisters, He is alive, He is with us!
Strong Catholic Parents

Teach your child how to pray The Hail Mary. The parent leads with the first half of the prayer, and the child joins in at the second half. Practice it every night before bedtime. After your child knows their part, let them lead.

Parent: Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among women. And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.


Parent to Parent

Ideas to Nurture a Lifetime of Faith: Preparing for First Eucharist

I have been thinking about my son’s big day, his First Eucharist. I’ve been asking myself: How can I make the day of his First Communion special? How can I extend his sense of sacramental awe and wonder beyond that first special moment, his First Holy Communion?

The pressure to make this day “perfect” can be enormous, especially as parents begin to compare stories and plans. I decided to concentrate less on the clothes, photos, party, gifts, guest list, etc., and more on helping my child “meet” Jesus, so that he would better understand the gift and grace he was about to receive.

Here are three ideas I tried.

- My son and I whipped up several batches of pizzelles, Italian wafer cookies. As we cooked, we talked about the love that we put into making meals with our family. I then explained that at Mass, we bring to the table of the Lord all the love and joy that we have experienced in sharing meals with our family at home. In return, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as food for our journey through life.

- I cleared a space in our dining room hutch to gather symbols of our Catholic faith. My son and I “stole” items from every room and had fun creating a display. Baptismal candles, a nativity scene, and crosses were given a collective place of honor. As we arranged, we talked about each item and why it is important to our family and faith.

- I talked with my son about being open to discovering, learning, and growing in life and in our faith. To illustrate this idea, we chose one new recreational activity to learn to do together (edit movies on our home computer) and one new faith activity to experience together (attending a Taizé prayer service).

I now feel less pressure to make this day “perfect”. I am confident it will be because of our time spent together meeting Jesus along the way.

Joellyn Cicciarelli, Director of New Product Development, Loyola Press

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...a little child shall lead them

Preschool Session on Creation

Parent or Grandparent & Child Preschool Session on Saturday, May 17 from 10-11:30 a.m. Parish Center. To help us plan, please register by calling the YC office at 708-246-6760 by May 14th. Walk-ins also welcome.
Parish Advisory Council Candidate: Patricia Surdyk

I currently live in Westmont and have been a member of our parish for 25 years. I am active in our parish music ministry and volunteer through our outreach Sharing Parish program helping Our Lady of Charity School as a member of the Catholic Schools of Cicero Board of Directors. I have also taught in our parish Youth Catechesis program.

Educationally, I hold a doctoral degree in education from Loyola University Chicago and master degrees in training and development and religious studies. My work experience includes teaching grade school and high school and was a director of religious education in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I have also managed operations for the Chicago offices of McKinsey & Company, and for the past 25+ years, I have worked in medical education, currently serving as Executive Director for the Institutional Review Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), supporting over 700+ teaching hospitals across the country.

I firmly believe in our parish mission and understand the challenge of balancing life in order to find time to pray, serve, and share, especially having been the sole caregiver for her parents for many years. I hope to share my energy and enthusiasm for our parish with this special commitment to serve on the Advisory Council as an at-large representative.

Parish Advisory Council Candidate: Ed Giles

My wife Mimi (Moore) and I have been parishioners since we moved to Western Springs eight years ago. Our two sons, Liam and John, attend St. John of the Cross School where they are finishing 6th and 2nd grade respectively. [Mimi attended and graduated from St. John of the Cross School shortly after its founding.]

Both Mimi and I have served as Crossroads Leaders and leaders for the parish Cub Scout Pack 117. I am an active member of the Lector Ministry, and look forward to the opportunity to participate as a member of the Parish Advisory Council.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hillsdale College, and I am a Vice President for Security Technology Operations & Architecture at The Northern Trust.

In support of the mission of St John of the Cross Parish, “to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News,” I will strive to “communicate effectively... and faithfully steward the...
School Advisory Board Candidate: Jim Morrissey

I would like to join the St. John of the Cross Parish School Advisory Board to help the School maintain the excellent education that the School provides to its students, seek ways to enhance the curriculum, and promote the principles of Catholic education. I grew up in Oak Brook and attended Fenwick High School and Boston College. After college, I attended DePaul University’s Law School and Business School and obtained a law degree and MBA. After graduating from DePaul, I began my legal career at Vedder Price P.C. in Chicago. I am currently a member of the Financial Institutions Group at Vedder Price and work with financial institutions on a range of corporate issues.

My wife, Rose, and I have lived in Western Springs, and have been parishioners at St. John of the Cross, for the past 10 years. We have five children: Charlie (11); Caroline (9); Genevieve (8); Ronan (5); and Michael (1). In addition, Rose and I are members of the Parish’s Baptism team. Four of our five children are currently enrolled at the School. Rose and I know that our children are benefitting from the education and Catholic teaching provided by the School and I would like to help ensure that the School continues to offer the benefits of Catholic education to other families. I look forward to the opportunity of contributing to the School as a member of the Advisory Board.

School Advisory Board Candidate: Lorraine O’Malley

I live in Western Springs with my husband Tom, and our three children, Maggie 5th Grade, Grace 3rd Grade, and Jack-Kindergarten who attend St. John of the Cross Parish School. We have lived in the community for almost nine years.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, as well as a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master’s Degree in School Administration and Leadership. I have 18 years experience in Education, and I currently work for Chicago Public Schools.

I am committed to being active in my children’s education at St. John of the Cross. My interest in the school advisory board is to work collaboratively with the staff and community members of St. John of the Cross to advance to the next level of excellence for our children.

School Advisory Board Candidate: David Zich

I would greatly value the opportunity to further contribute to the quality education provided here at St. John of the Cross Parish School.

I have been a member of the parish since 2004, and our two children have attended St. John of the Cross since preschool. My wife, Julie, has been a parishioner all her life, and she and all her sisters were educated at St. John of the Cross Parish School.

My educational background is an undergraduate degree from the College of Engineering from University of Illinois with a minor in Biomedical Engineering. I have my medical doctorate from University of Iowa and did both residency and chief residency at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where I was trained in both Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine. After 12 years as a core faculty member at Northwestern Memorial Hospital teaching both Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine, I am now in full time private practice in downtown Chicago. I retain my Assistant Professorship at Northwestern and continue to lecture and teach in the medical school. As a fellow educator, I greatly admire the efforts of the parish school’s faculty and staff and would love to be able to help in any way I can.
Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Becky Harrigan
My husband Jim and I have been parishioners at St. John of the Cross for 8 years. Our Children Luke (7), currently attends YC and Maggie(6) and Claire (3) look forward to attending in the future. The Catholic faith is very important to us as both my husband and I attended Catholic Grammar School and High School. I have been a nurse for the last twelve years and currently work at Lurie Children’s Hospital Outpatient Center in Westchester. I am impressed with the Youth Catechesis program and look forward to becoming more involved with the organization by serving on the YC Council.

Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Julie Montesano
I am originally from Clarendon Hills and was a member of Notre Dame Parish and went to Notre Dame Grammar School. I attended Montini Catholic High School and then went on to attend the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign. For 14 years I worked in Broadcast Television Sales selling advertising for the various tv networks. In 1999, I met my husband, Vincent Montesano, and in 2001 we were married at Notre Dame and moved to Boston. While in Boston, we had two sons, Vincent (11) and Daniel (8). I was very active volunteering for the many non-profit organizations in our community of South Boston.

After 12 years, we moved back to the Midwest and settled in Western Springs in 2012. We are really happy with the decision. I am grateful to be a part of such a robust and active parish and our children love going to school one block away from home at Laidlaw!

I’m looking forward to being more involved in the YC program in the years to come and I appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community.

Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Karen Olenec
I have been a parishioner of St. John of the Cross since 2004, with my husband Shawn and our children, Hannah (13), Henry (12), Hayden (12) and Hallie (7). I have taught YC for the past 7 years. I attended St. Cletus, Nazareth Academy and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am a special education teacher, currently substitute teaching in all the surrounding districts. This year, we have one child making her First Communion and another who made her Confirmation. Although I have been involved in the YC program for years, I am looking forward to broadening the experience to another level. I look forward to working towards building a greater sense of community among all parishioners.

Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Patrick Ormsby
My family and I have been members of St. John of the Cross Parish and residents of Western Springs since 2007. I have three daughters: Ella, 9; Evelyn, 7; Lyla Rose 4. They have been enrolled in the YC program for the past three years. My wife, Susan, has been an active volunteer in the Youth Catechesis Program.

My family and I have been thrilled with the YC program and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute on a greater level.
Congratulations on Your

Arianna Dombkowski
Jenna Dowd
Davoren Doyle
Evan Drafz
Daniel Duff
Cassandra Eikum
Allison Engel
Gracie Enselman
Ian Enselman
Ryan Evans
Cuylor Facchini
Drew Fowler
Tessa Frech
Daxton Garon
John Giles
Sebastian Gonzalez
William Greifenkamp
Ashlyn Grelewicz
Lauren Gruca
Neve Guardiola
Ryan Gugliuzza
Kate Hadraba
Ethan Hanns
Charlotte Hemmesch
Lola Hennessy
Jillian Herchenroether
Olivia Hill
Aidan Hincks
Aubrey Hosey
Jenna Jalove
Marin Jancewicz
Lilly Jercich
Kelly Joseph
Emmanuel Juarez
Alannah Justinich
Benjamin Kalata
Nathan Keese
Clare Kelly
Luke Kenary
Natalie Kenary
Colin Kennedy
Aidan Kerbis
Keira Kessler
William Kidder
John Kipp
Leo Kotor
Declan Kracker
Kevin Larmon
Beckett Lee
Kara Leonard
Renee LeTourneau
Joshua Lewis
Angela Lim
Clare Lohnes
Kelly Makovic
Anton Marano
John Martin
Matthew Mathey
Ian Matschké
Sydney Matysik
Mateo May
Sara Mazur
Hannah McCarthy
Maeve McGinn
Charles McKerr
Mary McManaman

May Our Lord Bless You…

Matthew Adler
William Albright
Charles Austin
Olivia Austin
Abbey Bakle
Kiley Bakle
Jack Bingham
Julia Bolan
John Braithwaite
Rylan Branch
Ana Callam
Jack Campbell
Mya Campbell
Izabella Caprio
Tyler Carmody
Ida Castro
Brady Chambers
Aidan Cheff
Katelyn Chinthagada
Lea Conniff
Mia Cozzi
Emily D'Aprile
Andrew de Keratry
Jack Dillon
Thomas Dobry

May the Lord bless you!
First Holy Communion

Vincent Meccia
Lilliana Medley
James Meece
Johnathan Meece
Jack Micaletti
Sabrina Miller
James Mologousis
Franco Mikel Monroy
Daniel Montesano
Samuel Morgan
Genevieve Morrissey
Joseph Morrissey
Luke Murante
Dillon Murphy
Matthew Narh
Michael Narh
Molly Nash
John Neary
Philip Nederhouser
John Nelson
Declan Norris
Charles Novak
Elin O'Brien
Luke O'Gorman
Hallie Olenec
Margaret Olk
Connor O'Malley
Sean Padgett
John Parente
Allison Parks
Jessica Parks
Joseph Patt
William Payant
Maximus Penachio
Erick Perea
Nicole Perea
Charles Phelan
Margaret Phelan
Paula Piotrowski
Kevin Powers
Calliegh Prock
Whitaker Proctor
Jane Pruitt
Alexander Ptasinski
Jack Rankin
Finnegan Reilly
Jenna Rentz
Audrey Reynolds
Arturo Rodriguez
Stella Roffers
Aiden Ryan
Jenna Ryan
Abraham Salazar
Nathaniel Sarros
Valerie Sarros
Isabella Schoditsch
Nathan Schoditsch
Cristian Serna
Joseph Severson
Luella Sheehan
George Shepley
Thomas Shishman
Kayla Sinars
Peter Smith
Jack Srejma
Patrick St. Arnaud
Steven Strandberg
Ava Strickler
Owen Suda
Katherine Sullivan
Caroline Sullivan
Daniel Svelnis
Thomas Taylor
Karilyn Teglia
Emily Timotic
McKenzie Tomasik
Regan Torsberg
Michael Towne
Christina Tresslar
Emily Tucker
William Turcich
Maximo Vergara
Charlie Vlk
Michael Wall
Charles Ward
Claire Warren
Anna Watson
Brendan Whelton
Andrew Winterfield
Nicholas Wojtulewicz
Betty Wood
Michael Wyckoff
Maya Zander
Sophia Zich
Olivia Zieba
Outreach News

Our Friend Fr. John McGivern Seeks our Help ~ Annual St. Edmund Parish Fundraiser

My dear friends at St. John of the Cross Parish,

Happy Easter! I am writing, as in past years, to seek your help. I’ve been at St. Edmund Parish for ten years, although it doesn’t seem that long since I was your associate pastor—a time I loved and continue to cherish.

St. Edmund’s is not wealthy. Our hope is simple: to make ends meet. As the end of our fiscal year draws near, we’re struggling to eliminate a deficit of $200,000.

Our fundraiser takes place on May 17, and I am seeking your help. Event proceeds will pay our bills, with the hope that we can break even at the end of June. Though not a glamorous use of funds, it is crucial for us.

I am grateful to Fr. Dowdle for his continued kindness in allowing me to write to you. Although you help many charitable causes already, would you consider offering some help to St. Edmund’s too? If so, you can:

- purchase a raffle ticket for $50 (you could win $5,000, $3,000 or $2,000!).
- make an outright donation to the event.
- attend the event. I would love to see you! This year the event will take place in your backyard, at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, 6200 Joliet Road, in Countryside, IL.

There are several ways to make a contribution:

- E-mail me at jwmcgivern@stedmund.org
- Mail your gift to my attention at St. Edmund Parish: 188 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302
- Log on to www.stedmund.org and follow the fundraiser link on the left side of the home page.

Whether you are able to help or not, I’d be grateful for your prayers for the success of the event.

In closing, I do wish for you to know that I continue to keep all the good people of St. John of the Cross Parish in my prayers. I continue to feel grateful and blessed for having been with you.

In Christ,
Fr. John McGivern,
Pastor, St. Edmund Parish

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Walk for CareNet on June 14

The Walk for CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage will take place on Saturday, June 14 at 9 am. Participate at one of four locations: Hinsdale, Naperville, Wheaton or Wood Dale, or join the Walk online from now until June 14. Free walk t-shirts to all participants and the chance to win some great prizes. Help CareNet be the hand of Christ reaching out to someone in need of hope and a brighter future.* For more information or to register online visit www.CarenetDupage.com.

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Help us fill the “Camp Closet” for our friends at Off the Street Club for their summer camp in Wheaton. We are collecting items for K-12th grade children. Please bring items to our boxes in school, the parish center or church between May 5-19.

Off the Street Club Camp Closet Wish List 2014

(in order of need):
- Twin bed sheet sets and standard pillowcases (new or gently used)
- Regular-sized bath towels (new or gently used)
- Older kids’ clothing items (size 12 and larger for boys and girls):
  - T-shirts
  - Shorts (pants not needed for camp)
  - Swimsuits
  - Swim goggles
  - White athletic socks (new only -- various sizes needed for boys and girls)
- Standard pillows (new only)
- Mosquito repellent
- Toiletries (any size) including:
  - Toothpaste / toothbrushes
  - Shampoo/conditioner
  - Body lotion
  - Liquid soap
  - Wide tooth combs / hair brushes

Please consider sponsoring a child at camp this summer. The fee for one child is $500 but donations in any amount are welcome and tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to Off the Street Club. Thank you!

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A simple lifestyle is good for us, helping us to better share with those in need.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Apr 24
This Week at SJC

Monday, May 5
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation Group
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 6
9:00 a.m. Respect Life Project Rachael Training
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. YC Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 7
8:30 a.m. Fr. Bonin Music Thru the Ages
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. Archdiocese CRHP Spiritual Training
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, May 8
9:30 a.m. Flourish Plus
7:00 p.m. Career Networking Planning Meeting

Friday, May 9
9:30 a.m. Mom’s Club

Saturday, May 10
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
6:00 p.m. Beloved

Sunday, May 11
4:00 p.m. YC Beds

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 5
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Loretta & Frank Burke

Tuesday, May 6
7:45 Dr. Edward Montgomery; Joseph O’Donnell

Wednesday, May 7
7:45 Sobek & Virgilio Families; Martin Barrett

Thursday, May 8
7:45 William Jacobs; Charles Sugrue

Friday, May 9
7:45 Gerard Hildenbrand; Charles Sugrue

Saturday, May 10, St. Damien
8:00 Gloria Oechsel; Gerard Hildenbrand
5:00 Steven Welsh; Mike Cardamone

Sunday, May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter
7:30 Rita O’Carroll; Barbara Mann
9:00 Eileen Hans; Kristen Elkins
10:45 Ramon Sanchez; Robert Cosgrove
12:15 Patricia Cebula; Jean Finn
5:00 Rosemary V. Martinotti; Kay Roupas

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

Mitch Allen       John Munch
Miroslav Chybik   Alexander Obi
John Cozza        Harry Stone
Margaret Daley    Mary Catherine Warren
Karen Hult        Donna Webster
Joe Jezmoinka     Sharon Wildman
Allison Kazragis  Edward Wojcik
Shirley Kazragis  

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Joseph Paul Koucky, husband of Margaret father of Daniel and Ellen
Joseph Kusper, husband of Laverne, father of Joseph, Donald, James and Donna Burke

286. Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. She is the handmaid of the Father who sings his praises. She is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain. As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for peoples suffering the birth pangs of justice. She is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us throughout life, opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love. As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles and she constantly surrounds us with God’s love. ~ Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel

Trying to get in touch with us? More info is on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org

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Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell      Pastor Emeritus  john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
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Bill Bright                   Outreach        jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta               Youth Catechesis jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer                    Worship         ldragich@stjohnofthecross.org
Laura Dragich                 Reservations    lgorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Kathleen Gorman               School Principal khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Hayes                   Crossroads     mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch                  Music          erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin                     Operations      erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones       Welcome        erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Magnificat
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Mary Mother of Jesus Statue
Our parish is home to a special prayer garden called the Garden of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Dedicated in 2007 on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), the focal point of the garden is a beautiful statue of a young Mary at the Annunciation. Mary has one hand over her heart and the other over her womb, physically symbolizing where she accepted the will of God.

Last summer, working with DaPrato Rigali and a team of parishioners, our parish commissioned sculptor, Noel Winn, to create a replica of our Mother of Jesus statue. Handmade by Noel in his studio in Wisconsin, each cold cast statue is individually made from Carrara marble and other materials. The statue stands 18 inches tall. It is recommended that it be placed indoors to preserve its coloring and natural beauty.

A limited number of statues will be available for sale for $150. To order, drop off an envelope with your contact information at the parish center with a check to SJC or order on our parish website. Each statue will come in a box with a prayer card. Stop in to see Mary in the church narthex or the parish center office. She’s beautiful. Place your order now for Mother’s Day.