Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
The process of determining where a priest will serve as a pastor in the Archdiocese of Chicago is prayerfully and carefully facilitated by the Cardinal, the Vicar Bishops of each Vicariate, the Deans, a priest who coordinates priest placement activities full-time and the Priests’ Placement Board which consists of eight Archdiocesan priests. Members of the Priests’ Placement Board meet weekly from September through June to assess the needs of parishes in light of placing pastors and associate pastors at parishes. Careful attention is given to determine how the Holy Spirit is calling particular priests to serve the needs of specific parishes in the Archdiocese. The process is focused on assessing each prospective pastor’s talents and skills and matching them with the needs of specific parishes. The input of the staff, lay leadership and parishioners of each parish is extremely valuable to the process.

The process is outlined in brief below:
A Parish Consultation has been scheduled at St. John of the Cross Parish for Monday, January 29. Two members of the Priests Placement Board, the Bishop, and the Dean will have three separate meetings with the following groups in your parish to gather input about the qualities needed in your new pastor:

- 4pm – meeting with the Parish Staff, Permanent Deacons, and School Principal. Teachers are invited to attend the Town Hall meeting only.

- 6pm – meeting with parish leadership (members of Parish Council and Finance Committee)

- 7pm – meeting with all interested parishioners in a Town Hall format to discuss the strengths and challenges of the parish and the qualities needed in our next pastor. Input from parishioners is very important in the process. (The present pastor and current staff members will not to attend this session so as to allow people to express their opinions openly.)

A Parish Profile is compiled from information received at these parish meetings along with information regarding the parish’s mission statement, ministries, finances and other facts about the parish. Prospective pastors who are interested in the parish get a copy of this parish profile to help them in their discernment.

Priests who are pursuing a pastorate complete a profile outlining their specific talents and skills and how the Holy Spirit is calling them to serve at their next assignment. Members of the Priests Placement Board will interview specific prospective pastors to determine their eligibility for being pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish.

After sessions of formal prayer and several weeks of discernment the Priest Placement Board will make a recommendation to Bishop Manz and Cardinal Cupich on which priest they recommend to become the next pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish. In a consultative manner, Cardinal Cupich will make the final decision about who he will appoint as the next pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish. This will happen in the Spring.

If you have any further questions regarding the priest placement process please contact the Priests’ Placement Office at 312-534-5270. Please pray for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit in the process of selecting a new pastor for your parish. Please know that your input is profoundly needed and will be taken very seriously!
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The call of Jesus echoes across the generations and is ever the same: *Come, follow me.* These words of Jesus have been chosen as the theme for the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal. We are living in a graced time of renewal here in the Archdiocese of Chicago. In a fresh way, we are reclaiming the call to follow Jesus as his disciples. He calls us both individually and as a community, in which we are responsible for one another.

Our Annual Catholic Appeal brings us together to live out our responsibility in that community of discipleship. By each of us joining in the Appeal together, we sustain Catholic schools and parishes in need, support programs of religious education, ministerial formation, and many initiatives for the protection of life and the promotion of peace and justice. Through the Annual Appeal, we also support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services which care for people across the globe who struggle and suffer because of natural disasters and the ravages of war. We are all connected to one another in Jesus as his disciples, and we can express that connection through our support of the Appeal.

Join me and other disciples across the Archdiocese in making a generous offering to the Annual Appeal. Once again, I pledge that we will be good stewards of your gifts. And remember that once your parish reaches its goal, 100 percent of the over-goal contributions will be returned to your parish.

Pray for the people who will benefit from your generosity. And, of course, please pray for me, as I am always praying for you. May God bless and keep you and all your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

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We are the Catholic Church of Cook and Lake Counties in Illinois. Graced by the Gospel and spirit of Jesus Christ, we nourish faith through Catholic schools and religious education programs. We also support the many critical agencies and ministries of the Church. Through your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, you assist in passing on the treasures of faith to a new generation of Jesus’ disciples.

“*I feel I should pass my blessings on. As I share my gifts through the Annual Catholic Appeal, I remember all belongs to God, not me.*”

“*The Annual Catholic Appeal is one of our personal responses to God’s love, to love Him in return.*”
## HOW YOUR GIFT IS USED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
<td>Local Communities</td>
<td>Support for parishes and schools serving financially challenged communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,100,000</td>
<td>Parish Vitality and Mission</td>
<td>Programs to support parish vitality-evangelization initiatives, liturgy enhancements</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>Catechetical Faith Formation</td>
<td>Support for youth, young adult, campus and adult religious education ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>Lay Formation</td>
<td>Continuing education for lay volunteers and staff serving parish communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$545,000</td>
<td>Catholic Relief Services</td>
<td>Assisting the poor and vulnerable overseas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$495,000</td>
<td>Human Dignity and Solidarity</td>
<td>Activities promoting respect for life at all stages, immigration, Kolbe House prison ministry and Peace and Justice initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>Priest Education</td>
<td>Continuing education for seminarians and priests ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$160,000</td>
<td>Family Ministries</td>
<td>Programs for marriage preparation, marriage support, and family ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Community Ministries</td>
<td>Support for Chicago Fire and Police department chaplaincies and other community ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,800,000</td>
<td>Parish Incentives Rebates</td>
<td>Funds raised in excess of individual parish goals are returned to the parish for use with their local ministries</td>
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<td>$15,000000</td>
<td>MINISTRIES TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Cost of Appeal</td>
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$16,500,000
Annual Catholic Appeal 2018 Goal
As you may remember, each parish was asked to raise 130% of their normal operating income for TTWCI, giving 40% (or $1.2 million SJC’s total) to the archdiocese to help strengthen parishes in need and the ministries of our local Church with the remainder 60% to be used by each parish for its needs.

After Listening Sessions with parishioners and parish leadership and exploratory work to understand the costs of possible projects at our parish, we decided not to conduct a TTWCI pledge drive as there were no compelling needs that would necessitate asking parishioners for $1.8 million in additional support. Instead, in order to retire our 40% or $1.2 million TTWCI debt to the archdiocese, we would manage our money differently. To do this, Father David asked all parishioners to give moderate increases to the Sunday Offertory Collection and the Annual Catholic Appeal (as the amount given over goal returns to the parish) as well as to support our annual SJC Fest fundraiser. Maintaining strength in these three areas would allow us to sustain our parish operations and retire the TTWCI debt.

In 2015 the archdiocese informed the parish that 5 annual payments of $240,240 would begin in 2018. As noted in the chart below, thus far our total savings for TTWCI is $876,932 almost three fourths of the amount we owe to the archdiocese.

Go to our parish website to see the full annual report.

### Total TTWCI Savings To Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate</td>
<td>$178,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 15-16 Operating Surplus</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate</td>
<td>$244,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate</td>
<td>$253,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Savings for TTWCI Debt Retirement</td>
<td>$876,932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total TTWCI Amount Owed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount Owed</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings for TTWCI</td>
<td>$876,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Owed</td>
<td>$323,068</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2017 the parish pledged $253,434 over our goal. It is received back from the archdiocese and reported in FY 18. The accumulated overage from previous years has been set aside so that the parish can retire its $1.2M portion of the archdiocesan To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign. The annual payments of $240,240.00 to the archdiocese for the next five years begin in May 2018. Thank you for honoring your pledges and for your very generous support.

Your continued support of Sunday Offertory, the Annual Catholic Appeal and the SJC Fest enable us to meet parish expenses and retire our TTWCI Campaign Debt.
Background on the Gospel

Today’s Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus’ ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week’s Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus’ teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus’ authority and contrasting it with the scribes’. Early in Mark’s Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus’ preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark’s Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus’ identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus’ ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus’ time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus’ cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus’ power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark’s Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus’ fame spread throughout all of Galilee. Loyola Press

Living the Gospel

Having called his first four disciples, Jesus goes to the village of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee, where he begins to teach in the synagogue. He is confronted by evil, a man with an unclean spirit. There is a foreshadowing here as we know that in the end, Jesus will lose his life in a confrontation with evil. What the reader knew from the beginning of Mark’s gospel, namely, that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God (1:1), the man with the unclean spirit shouts out, “I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” No human being, only the spirits, call Jesus this during his earthly ministry. The only human being to call him “the Son of God” will be the centurion, and only after he has witnessed Jesus die on the cross (15:39). Jesus’ mission necessarily involves a confrontation with evil, suffering, and death, only after which his true identity as “Son of God” can be proclaimed by a human being.

As we have it in this story, Jesus commands the evil spirit to come out of the man, and it obeys, though not without dramatic theatrics. The assembled people were understandably amazed. And, not surprisingly, Jesus’ reputation spread. It is significant too that the disciples were with Jesus during this encounter. We see that no sooner had the disciples been called by Jesus to be his followers than did they encounter evil. The disciples are in relationship with Jesus, and as such they witness the opposition he faces. Later they will encounter similar opposition. Even though the gospel does not tell the story, we, like those in Mark’s community, know that many of Jesus’ disciples lost their lives too in confrontations with evil. ©Living Liturgy

Personal Reflection Mark 1:21-28

a. What does Mark mean when he says that Jesus “taught with authority, and not like the Scribes?”

b. Have you ever asked Jesus to expel the demons that possess you?

c. How does Jesus new teaching about the Kingdom of God focus your relationship with others?
Instead of complaining that the rose bush is full of thorns, be happy the thorn bush has roses.
—German Proverb

**Thank You Lord**
for struggles and sufficient grace to meet them;
for remembering me, when I forget You;
for moments of laughter and the knowledge of sorrow;
for the body and mind in strength and weakness;
for Your plan and my ignorance of it;
for frustrations and the peace that comes through prayer;
for inspiring, loving, forgiving and nurturing;
for pushing, reminding, challenging and denying;
for Your grace
for Your sacrifice
for Your promise of eternity.
-Sarah Klucker, St. Louis University

“Jesus does not ask for great achievements:
only surrender and gratitude.”
—St. Therese of Lisieux

Joy is prayer -- Joy is strength -- Joy is love -- Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. She gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen. Mother Teresa

Joy, prayer and gratitude are three ways that help us live authentically.
Pope Francis @Pontifex Jan 8

Gratitude is not optional in the faith journey. It is central.

Gratitude is not simply remembering to say “Thank you.” There is a difference between the child who is taught to say “Thank you,” and the child who is truly grateful. The words are not necessary when we see the joy and appreciation of child engaged with something that has been a gift. All children really need to do to show gratitude is to include us in their expressions of enthusiasm.

Gratitude is an acknowledgement of the continual gifting of God. And my expression of gratitude probably doesn’t begin with saying “Thank you.” Rather it begins in the savoring of what I have, in the celebration of the life that is. As I begin to savor and to celebrate, I start to look around for those whom I should include in my thanksgiving. I cannot help but turn my attention to God.

It is only in the last few years that I have become more acutely aware of the centrality of gratitude. I think in some ways it can be used as a hallmark for some degree of spiritual maturity. It’s the move away from the self-centered adolescent, “Thanks so much!” followed swiftly by, “But what I’d really like is...” to the more mature, “I have done nothing to deserve these riches.”

There is a difference between the person who is unsatisfied because he desires a greater sense of connection with God and the person who knows that there is far more to the spiritual journey than she currently experiences but is content to let God lead the way. The latter is a position of gratitude, an acknowledgement that God has led one thus far and will lead one on in God’s good time. Both may experience the desire for more, but the former can only see what he lacks, while the latter focuses on what she has.

In a society which is focused on the next goal, the next success, the next whatever, gratitude is countercultural. In truth, gratitude is the first step on the pathway to true freedom in God. Ignatian Spirituality
CONGRATULATIONS
CONFIRMATION
CLASS OF 2018

Frances Margaret Clinite
Aidan Francis Collins
Annie Lucy Cronin
Connor Thomas Crowe
Anthony Anthony Curran
Shane Sebastian Curtin
Lucille Regina Cygal
Samantha Anne D'Aprile
Aubrey Cecilia Decker
Sophia Elizabeth Diaz
Chloe Catherine DiMonte
Jack Sebastian DiTrani
Julia Rita DiTrani
Maria Therese Dold
Joseph Michael Dombkowski
Maeve Teresa Dowd
Brendan Christopher Doyle
Matthew Sebastian Drafz
Eden Brigid Drescher
Maximilian Maximilian Duffy
Rachel Mary Dumas
Brigid Teresa Dunne
Logan Albert Eikum
Caroline Therese Engel
Brynn Lucy Eulgen
Dawsey Bernadette Fahey
Andrew Juan Diego Fedyk
Matthew Anthony Garcia
Matthew Patrick Garrity
Sophia Cecilia Gentile
Grace Catherine Geraghty
Kevin Francis Gerken
Charles Joseph Gloor
Charles David Greifenkamp
John George Griffin
Elizabeth Margaret Griswold
Patrick Oswald Hanson
Ava Rose Hays
Braden Thomas Heckman
Eileen Jude Heidkamp
Olivia Therese Heneghan
Shaughnessy Rose Heneghan
Kathryn Teresa Henige
Robert Anthony Henkel
Skylar Vitas Hennessy
Macy Ann Hepokoski
Ryan Patrick Herchenroether
Kathryn Abigail Hess
Noah Alexander Hoch
Owen Jude Hollinger
Ellie Anne Hosey
John Francis Hounihan
Margaret Catherine Hughes
Kathryn Mary Hurt
William Thomas Jancewicz
Noah Michael Janicki
Amanda Clare Johans
Emily Sebastian Joseph
Emily Sophia Jugovich
Emalee Joan Kamholz
Adam Peter Kane
Cristina Genevieve Kelly
Kathryn Cecilia Kelly
Carson George Kessler
Samuel Ignatius Kidder
Colin Matthew Koch
Caitlyn Elizabeth Korallus
Madison Cecilia Kraus
Zachary John Paul Labuda
Aidan Thomas Lee
Isabella Sebastian Lee
Logan Matthew Lastina
Sofia Cecilia Lewis
Mia Teresa Marano
Holly Anastasia Marcus
Keely Maria Marolt
Gabriella Elizabeth Martin
James Patrick Martin
Colleen Teresa McCarthy
Jack Blaise McGarry
Kathleen Lucy McGarry
Mikayla Maura McGovern
Mark John McHugh
Emmett Andrew McKerr
Cullen Francis McNamara
Owen Thomas McManaman
James Joseph McNamara
Aidan Francis Mear
Olivia Martha Medley
Lynnsey Maria Meece
Colin Luke Meehan
Dominic Gregory Mendez
Lilly Therese Metz
Andrew Isaac Metzger

St. John of the Cross Parish
January 28, 2018
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Page 8
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. 
And kindle in them the fire of your love. 
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. 
And you will renew the face of the earth. 
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 
Amen.
Souper Bowl Food Collection

Every year on Super Bowl Weekend our YC students take time to celebrate “Souper Bowl Sunday” by collecting food for people in need. In sharp contrast to football parties filled with abundant food and friends, students learn that many people right in our area worry about staying warm, finding shelter and feeding their family a warm meal.

Students are asked to bring non-perishable food to their class on Super Bowl Sunday/Monday, February 4-5. Parishioners can help too by bringing food donations to the YC office or the Parish Center before February 1. All food donated will be delivered to the food pantries at our neighboring parishes, St. Cletus and St. Francis Xavier.

The following items are suggested. Please remember to check code dates as the food pantries cannot accept expired food.

Cereal (hot or cold), boxed pasta, dry pinto beans (2-3 lbs bags only), soup, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta sauce (no glass jars please), peanut butter and jelly, canned chili, chicken, tuna, ham, box meals (Potato Buds, Beefaroni, Betty Crocker complete meals)

Don’t waste time hiding your heart. Fill your life with the Holy Spirit! Pope Francis @Pontifex Jan 21
This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We are excited to spend the week embracing our school and its traditions. Our students will bring canned goods to help local food banks, celebrate our families with a special gift, perform puppet shows focusing on choosing kind, make cards for our priests, and participate in a career day and a spirit day. We would like to extend a very special thank you, to you, our parishioners, for your continuing support of Catholic Education. We are blessed to be part of such an active parish community.

This Week at SJC
Sunday, January 28  School Open House 1:30-2:30pm
Monday, January 29  All School Liturgy 9:15am
On January 14 a group of Crossroads teens attended the Archdiocesan Youth Rally and Mass for Life then joined with people from all over the city for the Chicago March for Life. Our teens wanted to share their beliefs in the human dignity of every person. Brandt and Sarah spoke at Masses inviting teens to join us. They were putting their faith into action and evangelizing as they did! It was a gift to accompany them and see so many people who care and were willing to brave single digit temperatures to learn, grow and spread God’s love. The speakers were outstanding, and the energy uplifting!

Katie Hayes, Director of Crossroads

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PBMR Community Garden
We are looking for a team of adults to coordinate the spring Seedling Program for our Sharing Parish, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. The team will be responsible for collaborating with Sr. Carolyn of PBMR and Bill Bright to order the seeds, distributing the seeds and planting materials to parishioners, collecting the 6 week old seedlings and delivering them to PBMR by Memorial Day weekend.

Pictured below is parishioner, Michael Korenchan, who built garden frost protectors for PBMR as part of his Eagle Scout project. The protectors will help keep our seedlings from freezing in the often unpredictable spring Chicago weather.

Last year PBMR harvested 3500 pounds of produce in their garden, providing the families and individuals involved in PBMR and the surrounding community the opportunity to work in the garden and then enjoy the fresh vegetables which are scarce in their neighborhood stores.

If you are interested in being part of the Seedling Program team please email Bill Bright at bbright@stjohnofthecross.org.

Valentine’s Day Cookies
Volunteers are needed to bake Valentine’s Day cookies for area homebound seniors through Interfaith Community Partners. Call 708-354-9328 to participate.

Library Home Delivery
Bring library materials to the homebound every 2 weeks through Interfaith Community Partners. Call 708-354-9328 for details.

Host Family
Long-time parishioner and 10:45 Mass Head Usher, Harry Lepinske, is helping an adult female professional associate of the Central Asian Productivity Research Center find lodging near the WS train station during the month of April. CAPRC which is chaired by Harry is an academic think tank that focuses on academic and economic development in regions along the ancient Silk Road. From Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Meerim Kazizova Ydyrysovna will be in Chicago to attend management training seminars and needs a host family from April 20-30, 2018. For more information on how you can help call Harry at 708-246-5556.

Kairos 28
Juniors and Seniors are invited to the Kairos Retreat, March 15-18.

Summer Work Tours and Conferences
Information and registration is on the Crossroads website.

Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship
Each year through fundraising efforts, the Women’s Club is able to offer scholarships to 8th grade students in YC and our parish school and current high school students of our parish to help defray Catholic high school tuition costs. Applications are due February 8 and can be found on home page of the Parish website.
We live in a world of deep divisions. Everywhere we see polarization, people bitterly divided from each other by ideology, politics, economic theory, moral beliefs, and theology. We tend to use over-simplistic categories within which to understand these divisions: the left and the right opposing each other, liberals and conservatives at odds, pro-life vying with pro-choice.

Virtually every social and moral issue is a war-zone: the status of women, climate change, gender roles, sexuality, marriage and family as institutions, the role of government, how the LGBTQ community is to be understood, among other issues. And our churches aren’t exempt; too often we cannot agree on anything. Civility has disappeared from public discourse even within our churches where there is now as much division and hostility within each denomination as there is between them. More and more, we cannot discuss openly any sensitive matter, even within our own families. Instead we discuss politics, religion, and values only within our own ideological circles; and there, rather than challenging each other, we mostly end up feeding each other in our biases and indignations thus becoming even more intolerant, bitter, and judgmental.

Scripture calls this enmity, hatred, and indeed that’s its proper name. We are becoming hate-filled people who both fuel and justify our hatred on religious and moral grounds. We need only to watch the news on any night to see this. How’s this to be overcome?

At the more macro level in politics and religion, it’s hard to see how these bitter divides will ever be bridged, especially when so much of our public discourse is feeding and widening the division. What’s needed is nothing short of religious conversion, a religious change of heart, and that’s contingent on the individual. The collective heart will change only when individual hearts first do. We help save the sanity of the world by first safeguarding our own sanity, but that’s no easy task.

It’s not as simple as everyone simply agreeing to think nicer thoughts. Nor, it seems, will we find much common ground in our public dialogues. The dialogue that’s needed isn’t easily come by; certainly we haven’t come by it yet. Many groups are trying for it, but without much success. Generally what happens is that the even most-well intended dialogue quickly degenerates into an attempt to by each side to score its own ideological points rather than in genuinely trying to understand each other. Where does that leave us?

The real answer, I believe, lies in an understanding of how the cross and death of Jesus brings about reconciliation. The author of the Letter to the Ephesians tells us that Jesus broke down the barrier of hostility that existed between communities by creating one person where formerly there had been two – and he did it this “by reconciling both [sides] in one body through his cross, which put that enmity to death.” (Ephesians 2, 16)

How does the cross of Christ put enmity to death? Not through some kind of magic. Jesus didn’t break down the divisions between us by mystically paying off some debt for our sins through his suffering, as if God needed to be appeased by blood to forgive us and open the gates of heaven. That image is simply the metaphor behind our icons and language about being washed clean of sin and saved by the blood of Christ. What happened in the cross and death of Jesus is something that asks for our imitation not simply our admiration. What happened in the cross and death of Jesus is an example for us to imitate. What are we to imitate?

What Jesus did in his passion and death was to transform bitterness and division rather than to retransmit them and give them back in kind. In the love which he showed in his passion and death Jesus did this: He took in hatred, held it inside himself, transformed it, and gave back love. He took in bitterness, held it, transformed it, and gave back graciousness. He took in curses, held them, transformed them, and gave back blessing. He took in paranoia, held it, transformed it, and gave back big-heartedness. He took in murder, held it, transformed it, and gave back forgiveness. And he took in enmity, bitter division, held it, transformed it, and through that revealed to us the deep secret for forming community, namely, we need to take away the hatred that divides us by absorbing and holding it within ourselves and thereby transforming it. Like a water purifier which holds within itself the toxins and the poisons and gives back only pure water, we must hold within ourselves the toxins that poison community and give back only graciousness and openness to everyone. That’s the only key to overcome division.

We live in bitterly divisive times, paralyzed in terms of meeting amicably on virtually every sensitive issue of politics, economics, morality, and religion. That stalemate will remain until one by one, we each transform rather than enflame and retransmit the hatred that divides us.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Bible Study: David the King
Wednesday Mornings from 9:30-11:30am
February 7 to March 21 in the Parish Center
All are welcome to join the Wednesday morning Bible Study of Bishop Robert Barron’s series on King David. Based on a careful reading of 1 & 2 Samuel, Bishop Barron will help us to understand this key figure in salvation history as we look back toward Adam’s kingship and forward toward the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Discover your mission to effect Christ’s Kingship in our world today. To reserve your study guide ($25) contact Joan Willems at jmwillems2014@yahoo.com by January 31.

A New Study of Laudato si’
Join bi-weekly gatherings online via Zoom to pray, read passages from and reflect on Laudato si’ and discuss what we are doing in our communities to care for our common home. Laudato si’, meaning “Praise be to you,” is the second encyclical of Pope Francis “On Care for Our Common Home” published in June, 2015. The encyclical is available on the Vatican website. This online forum is available every other Monday. The next gathering is February 6th from 7-7:40pm. Participation is free and easy—you can access the session through PC, Mac, iOS, Android, or phone call. To download an online calendar of scheduled gatherings along with access information go to: https://zoom.us/meeting/376135525/ics
csToken=f74bb9021b604366b9a6cbfd53f47d4f43bd609293db7e1e78f1ca09ef681ca. A direct link to our Zoom meeting space is here: https://zoom.us/i/376135525
This study and discussion is offered by the Office of Human Dignity & Solidarity at the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Job Search Assistance
Week 2 of Career Transition Boot Camp focuses on identifying your skills and accomplishments to prepare a compelling resume and elevator speech. All are welcome to come to First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange on Tuesday, January 30 from 7-9pm. www.interfaithcareer-network.org for more info.

Sister Anastasia/Support-A-Student Fund
2nd Collection This Weekend
The Sr. Anastasia Fund, named in memory of our first school principal, is dedicated to educating our parish children in the faith. Begun when the convent building was sold to the IBVM community, it functions like an endowment fund in distributing funds to both the school and the YC Program as reported in the Annual Report. The Parish Finance Committee administers the annual distribution. As always, your generosity to support the mission of our parish is most appreciated.

Grief Support for Children & Teens
Tommy’s Kids and Teens for Teens winter session starts February 15—March 22 on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm. Tommy’s Kids and Camp Erin Winter Carnival is on February 11 from 1-3pm in Oak Brook. Call Laura Cottrell to register 630.856.6985 for either program.
Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

**Monday, January 29**  
Weekday  
7:45am Margaret Albertson; Loretta Wold

**Tuesday, January 30**  
Weekday  
7:45am Kazimierz Skoczylas; Our Beloved Dead

**Wednesday, January 31**  
St. John Bosco  
7:45am Mary Kay McGorey; Ada Hickey

**Thursday, February 1**  
Weekday  
7:45am Christina Carinato; Ted Bruce

**Friday, February 2**  
Presentation of the Lord  
7:45am Bob Thomas; David Hynes

**Saturday, February 3**  
St. Blaise; St. Ansgar  
8:00am Marge Pipal; Ted Bruce  
~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~  
5:00pm Shirley Kazragis; Sophie Ciszek; Nora McDonnell

**Sunday, February 4**  
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
7:30am Jack Lenahan; Helen Kastenholz  
9:00am Bill Hansen; Roberta Ohlquist  
10:45am John Kravcik; Christina Carinato  
12:15pm Estrella Pardilla; Janet Weis  
5:00pm Don Heidkamp; Ted Bruce; Bubbles Sabath

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**Pray for Our Sick**  
- Fawwaz Al-Zyoud  
- Charlene Behrends  
- Kathleen Carpenter  
- Crystal Deters  
- Lynn Freking  
- Thomas Halm  
- Kay Holden  
- Karen Hult  
- Virginia Jakubczak  
- Cathy Laskey  
- Susan Fec Lederer  
- Erin Lively  
- Carol Martin  
- Palma Martorano  
- Deacon Tom McGorey  
- Marty McGuire  
- Rev. Jerry Mulcahy  
- Olivia Murphy  
- Kathy Pecis  
- Deacon Pablo Perez  
- Geno Pesce  
- Terry Pepin  
- Frank Pipal  
- Marie Principe  
- Joe Pustejovsky  
- Rachael Schopp  
- Julie Schurba  
- Charles Smith  
- Claudine Snow  
- Shawn Sweeney  
- Don Vollmer  
- Sharon Wildman

**Pray for Our Beloved Dead**  
- Dicy Burton, wife of Joey, mother of Eleanor, Trey and Georgie  
- Gail Swaback, mother of Karen Swaback, Sandy Campo, Eric and David, grandmother of 5  
- Walter Kamholz, father of Kevin, grandfather of 2

The 2019 Mass book will be open for your Mass intentions on February 1 at 9am in the Parish Center. Stop in and enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie with our staff.

Togethe we pray that as we participate in the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal to help others, we give thanks to our God for the gifts and blessings we have received.

**Marriage Banns**  
- Eileen Casey & Thomas Doig

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**Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country**  
- Staff Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Sandra Foody  
- Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki  
- Sr A Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler & Mary Tischler  
- Lance Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stitemetz  
- Capt. James Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke  
- Sgt. Robert Marburger, son of David and Kathleen Marburger  
- Staff Sgt. Larry Waszak, son of Bruno and Barbara Gacek  
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Mathew Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci  
- Lance Corporal David Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci  
- Seaman Emily Strafaci, granddaughter of Sandra & Jim Strafaci  
- Sgt. Michael Grabarek, relative of the LeFevour and Schilaci families  
- PFC Michael Frazee, grandson of Kay and John Johnson  
- PFC Kevin Lawinger, grandson of Roe and Bob Lawinger

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Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor  
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Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord  
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Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc  
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All SJC Parishioners are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting
Tomorrow evening, Monday, January 29
at 7:00pm in church

Officials of the Archdiocese will be at our parish to seek input from parishioners on the qualities needed in our next pastor. Please come to this meeting and provide information which will be used to select the next pastor of our parish.