Guide our footsteps with the light of Easter faith that we may follow in your ways.
Dear Parishioners,

Today tries to get your attention in a few different ways. Society would like you to be aware and mark ‘Earth Day’ in a conscious way. The church tries to get your attention by calling today “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the Gospel for the day. In focusing on the Good Shepherd today’s priority is praying specifically for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The village is taking another step in recycling styrofoam. See the blurb about it on page 5 in this bulletin if you are not already aware of how styrofoam is a particular threat to the environment. ‘Earth Day,’ on one hand, seems extremely obvious; we need to take care of where we live. On the other hand, it is apparent that many, many people are oblivious to how daily activity impacts ‘our common home.’ Pope Francis has emphasized our moral responsibility to be good stewards of God’s creation. So much of pollution is the result of carelessness, selfishness or mindlessness. There was a feature this past week on the Chicago River and how heavily it is being used these days by business and recreation. They use a specifically designed vessel to trap all the stuff floating on the surface, especially plastic and other garbage. It also removes branches and logs that can be a threat to the safety of those who use the river.

As believers our attention is drawn to praying for vocations, especially priesthood. The genius of our faith is based on sacraments. Sacraments use the ‘stuff’ of creation to communicate the grace of God that gives us life. Water, bread, wine, oil, candles, touch and the words we use to communicate are all in service of God who is love. As you know, the sacrament of matrimony is conferred by the husband and wife to each other, witnessed by the priest on behalf of the church/community and by two witnesses who support the couple in love.

There is much to priesthood, however, that grounds sacramental ministry and goes beyond sacramental ministry. As the sign of the cross symbolizes, faith is discovered in relationship, enriched by relationship and sustained by relationship. The role of the priest is to communicate the presence of God in people’s lives. Life can be hard with untold challenges and suffering. It could be easy to be tempted not to believe in a loving God at all if your life is filled with unrelenting pain, failure and unnecessary, illogical suffering and loss. It could also be tempting to believe we were the ones who accomplished the beautiful, the forgiving and the loving. All the success and pleasure of life is because we worked hard, or we are smart and talented, or we decided we wanted to accomplish our goal. The priest stands as the reminder that our lives are not our own. Like Jesus, we are called to give our lives away as a reminder of God’s everlasting love. We are bound to each other as brothers and sisters and ‘to lay down our lives for our friends.’

The theology of priesthood can be awfully intimidating for everyone. When he presides at Mass the priest is acting ‘in persona Christi,’ in the person of Christ. As Jesus offered his life as the sacrifice on the cross, the priest offers the bloodless sacrifice of the Mass so that everyone knows they are loved and forgiven, right here, right now. Priesthood fails when it is ego driven. Every vocation to the priesthood is rooted in human need, but only healthy humanity can satisfy that need.

My vocation was in many ways rooted in the need to be seen by my parents and by God the Father. Having so many siblings (11!) it is easy to feel lost in a crowd. I knew my parents ‘saw’ the priests in the parish. Their Catholic faith was central to their relationship and to their vocations as mother and father in addition to being husband and wife. My parents ‘saw’ the priests when we discussed them or the parish or the school at home. My parents ‘saw’ the priests when they were welcomed into our home and our lives. The parish and being active members of the parish was very central to our family life. It gave me a clue as to how I could get my parents to ‘see’ me by becoming a priest myself.

Thank God that insight came to me when I was in the seminary and in my early twenties. While every vocation may be rooted in human need, priesthood can never satisfy that need. In order to be a good priest you had to have your human needs met before you became a priest, as much as possible. That insight fueled my prayer life, purified my motivations (as much as motives can be purified) and helped me to begin to let go of expectations that the need to be ‘seen’ by human and divine parents could be satisfied in ministry.

Cardinal Cupich frequently tells the story of a grandmother wondering if she would be the last Catholic in her family. There are a lot of aspects and levels to both the question and the answer to that wondering, but part of the response depends on people answering the call to priesthood. There are many ways to serve, but for me priesthood has been the most enriching, satisfying and challenging way to respond to that call. I pray many choose to live the vocations of marriage, religious life, the single life and to use the sacraments to live lives of service to others. And I pray especially for vocations to the priesthood. What a life!

Until the Breaking of the Bread,

Fr. David

St. John of the Cross Parish   April 22, 2018   Fourth Sunday of Easter   Page 2
First Eucharist Prayer Tree
On Saturday, May 5 and 12 at 11am and 2pm, our parish second graders will be celebrating their First Holy Communion. As they prepare to receive this sacrament we invite you to pray for them. The names of each First Communicant have been placed on a prayer tree in our church narthex this weekend. Parishioners are invited to take a name and pray for that child as he or she prepares to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus the Risen Christ for the first time.

Choirs
As has been our tradition, any child in the parish, 2nd grade and older, as well as any adult is invited to be part of the choir for the First Communion Masses. Kids practice on April 25 or 26 from 3:45-4:30pm in church. Adults rehearse in church 45 minutes before each Mass begins.

St. Gall Parish Choir Annual Visit
Next Sunday, April 29 at the 10:45am Mass
Join us at the 10:45am Mass next Sunday as we welcome parishioners and choir members from our Sharing Parish, St. Gall. Together we will join our hands, hearts and voices in praise as we celebrate Mass together! Hymns will be sung in English and Spanish with the St. Gall Choir and our Traditional Choir.

God our Father,
we thank you for calling men and women
to serve in your Son’s Kingdom
as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons.
Send your Holy Spirit to help us
respond generously and courageously to your call.
May our community of faith support
vocations of sacrificial love in our youth.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today marks the 55th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to publically fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray for men and women that God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life and for the gift of courage to follow His call.
The Easter Vigil takes place on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter Sunday. This is the night that "shall be as bright as day" as proclaimed by the Exsultet, an ancient church hymn as we joyfully anticipate Christ's Resurrection. The Holy Saturday Liturgy begins with the Service of Light, which includes the blessing of the new fire and the Paschal candle which symbolizes Jesus, the Light of the World.

During the weeks following Easter, our newly received, Jilen, Jennifer, Gretchen, Kristi, and Andrew, gather each week with their catechists to reflect on their experiences at the Easter Vigil and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Catholic Church. In addition they reflect on how they will serve Christ and help in the Church's mission and outreach activities.

Together let us join our hearts and hands to pray for our newly received that they may grow ever stronger in their faith and be powerful witnesses of the Gospel.

Lumen Christi!
Deo Gratias!
Caring for our Earth is a requirement of our faith, as through this practice we become stewards of creation. In doing so, we are compelled to live and act in ways that protect the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants, whether human or non-human, in caring for creation we show respect and love to the Creator. Our bond to creation primordially calls us to be advocates and disciples in the current issues that environmentally threaten the integrity of our planet. The mitigation of human-induced climate change affects us all and the future of our younger generations.

“Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.” — Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, 91

May the joy of the Easter Season be a time to renew our relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. May the risen Christ fill us with the wisdom to preserve, protect and care for our common home.

Earth Day is today, April 22
On the first Earth Day in 1970, 22 million Americans celebrated clean air, land, and water.

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Care for Our Common Home
Monday Evening Online Gatherings
On Monday evenings April 30 and May 14 from 7-7:40pm pray, read passages from and reflect on Laudato Si’, and discuss what we are doing in our communities to care for our common home. Participation is free and easy using your computer or phone. For access information go to: https://zoom.us/j/376135525.

Care for Creation
Monthly Newsletter
Read more at www.archchicago.org/creation

Care for Our Common Home
Facebook Page
Check out our Care for our Common Home Facebook group page to learn more about what parishes and community partners near you are working on and add your voice to the conversation. Join at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1766634810306941/

2018 Faith & Environment Lecture
Father John Kartje on Wednesday evening May 23 at the Peggy Notebaert Museum at 6pm. $35 general admission, $25 young professional fee. Call 874-970-4816 with questions. Father John Kartje is the current Rector/President of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Father Kartje received his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Chicago, his M.Div, S.T.B., University of Saint Mary of the Lake; and his S.T.L, S.T.D. at the Catholic University of America. He was the former Associate Pastor at St. Benedict Parish and former Chaplain and Director of the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University.

Recycle Styrofoam
Styrofoam fills 30% of landfill space in the U.S. and takes 500 years to biodegrade, if ever. Through a partnership with Dart Container, the Village of Western Springs and the First Congregational Church, clean styrofoam cups, plates, egg cartons, etc. can be brought to the village Rec Center on Walker Avenue (by the Theater of Western Springs) on the first Saturday of each month from 9am-noon for recycling. (No packing peanuts accepted for recycling.)
Background on the Gospel

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John’s Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John’s Gospel follows Jesus’ healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus’ authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus’ death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus’ teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd’s job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John’s Gospel, one hears in this passage John’s particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires. • Loyola Press

Hear, O God, the prayers of your children gathered at your table. Open our hearts and spirits to hear the voice of your Son leading us to the fulfillment of your kingdom. We make these prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus the Good Shepherd. Amen.
Prayer Leads Us Forward in Hope

I found my friend on his knees praying in the hospital chapel. We had received word that a family member of our friend was extremely sick and might not make it through the next day. As I embraced my friend and his tears fell on my shoulder, he told me, “I feel I am having a crisis of faith, because I am in here begging God to save my loved one.”

My tears joined his as I said, “The fact that you are in this chapel crying out to God in this time of darkness shows me the depth of your faith. You are turning to God in your time of need, and God is meeting you in this right now."

My friend’s prayers reminded me of our need to hope in God, to feel heard by God, and to know that God can answer our prayers. “Prayer leads us forward in hope,” as Pope Francis reminds us in On Hope.

In our times of darkness, when we face our human limitations, we realize our need for God. We cry out in these moments to the source of our hope, which is God. God is with us. We are never alone. God responds to our prayers, not always with the answer we want, but with graces and gifts to get us through the journey. Prayer opens us to God, and God shines light into our darkness, enabling us to take a step forward, and then another, and then another.

The witness of my friend’s ability to hope that day is one I will never forget. I pull from his ability to cry out to God when I face my own darkness and the darkness I encounter in the world. God meets me in my prayers, increases my ability to hope, and inspires actions for me to take. Becky Eldridge Ignatian Spirituality

A Prayer for Resting in God’s Love

God of Goodness,
I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty and yet overwhelmed by your love for me.
I thank you that there is no human experience that I might walk through where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest mountain you are there, and yet, if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life, you are there. Teach me today to love you more. Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the simple trusting heart of a child.
Amen.

Author Unknown, Xavier University

Your Love

Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience, tolerance, kindness, caring and love to all!
Give me knowledge;
O giver of Knowledge, That I may be one with my Universe and Mother Earth!
O Compassionate One, grant compassion unto us;
That we may help all fellow souls in need!
Bless us with your Love O God.
Bless us with your Love.
Amen.

Author Unknown, Xavier University

Pope Francis has a simple, life-changing message for you: God’s love can grace each of us with a lasting and sustaining hope, no matter how dark or confusing our situation. On Hope is Pope Francis at his most intimate and most inspiring. “Life is often a desert, it is difficult to walk, but if we trust in God, it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Never lose hope; continue to believe, always, in spite of everything. Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable.” —Pope Francis
Camp Closet Drive For Off The Street Club’s Summer Camp
Helping At-Risk Boys and Girls Have A Safer Summer
For many years now, our parish has assisted Off The Street Club prepare for the summer camp season by donating much needed items for use at Camp Mathieu in Wheaton. Beginning this weekend through mid May we will be collecting new or gently used items for K-12th grade children for camp this summer. The most sought items are: twin bed sheets & pillowcases, towels, bathing suits, swim goggles and mosquito repellent. A full wish list is provided below to assist in your selection of something from your own family’s closet or in making a purchase.

O.T.S.C. Camp Mathieu 2018 Wish List
Twin sheet sets and extra pillowcases (new or clean, gently used)
Regular sized bath towels (instead of beach towels) new or gently used, also some hand towels and washcloths
Swim suits (new or gently used - pre-school thru young adult sizes)
Swim goggles (younger swimmers particularly appreciate these!)
Mosquito Repellent
Body Wash & Body Lotion
T-shirts and shorts (new or gently used - all sizes)
Sweatshirts/hoodies (new or gently used - all sizes)
Underwear/boxer shorts (new only - all sizes)
White athletic socks boys and girls (new only - all sizes)

Ogden Avenue Supportive Housing Donors and Contributors

Capital Campaign Donors

$250,000 +
Community Memorial Foundation
Healthy Communities Foundation

$100,000 +
Thomas & Vicki Hill
Speiser Family Foundation
Wheaton Franciscan Ministry Fund

$50,000 +
Richard & Linda Hillsman
Mark & Martha Laubacher
TNT Family Foundation
Mark Morton Memorial Fund

$25,000 +
First Congregational Church of Western Springs
St. John of the Cross Parish
Diana & Murray Johnson
David & Tina Rounds
Greg & Wendy Vichick
Jeff & Marianne Johnson
La Grange Area Lions Club

Through donations from incredibly generous parishioners, St. John of the Cross Parish was able to play an important role in the building of the new BEDS Plus facility called Ogden Avenue Supportive Housing. Located at Ogden and East Avenues in LaGrange, the new building houses 20 studio apartment units for single occupancy and areas to provide counseling, job training and referrals. The homeless in our communities come from diverse backgrounds and situations. Many have fallen on hard times due to job loss or cutbacks in public services. Others struggle with mental illness or addiction. They are our veterans, family and neighbors. This new facility will help to provide services to the homeless 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Our April food pantry donations brought to the church narthex will help St. Blase serve the needy in the Summit area. Thank you for your generous support.
Ministry

New Communion Minister Training
Training for those desiring to be communion ministers at Sunday and holy day Masses will be held in church next Sunday, April 29 from 2:30-4:30pm. Communion ministers should be high school age or older. Scheduling is based on your availability. Register to attend on our parish website home page or by calling the Parish Center office.

New Minister of Care Training
There is a need for additional parish Ministers of Care. Ministers of Care visit the homebound and hospitalized bringing Holy Communion, praying and visiting. Training for new ministers will be provided at the Carmelite Center in Darien and will be followed up by an information session at our parish. Training fees are covered by our parish.

New Minister of Care Training:
Saturday, May 5 and Saturday, May 12 from 9am-1pm.

Call the Parish Center office if you would like to register or learn more.

Programs

7 Principles Reunion
Saturday, April 28 9:30-11:30am
Join with other graduates of the 7 Principles retreat to renew, refresh and revisit your Happy Marriage experience. Discover new ways to create shared meaning, explore future workshop topics and help expand ministry to married couples. Light breakfast, coffee and snacks provided. RSVP to Steve by April 25.

Upcoming Free Program at The Well: Save the Date
Untying the Knots – Polarization in America
Saturday, June 2 from 9pm – 12:30pm
The definition of ‘catholic,’ lower case, is “all-embracing, universal, diverse.” Yet many Americans, including Catholics, have come to regard ‘The Other’…members of the ‘other’ political party or race or region or religion…as a threat rather than as a neighbor. In this interactive workshop, facilitator Mike McGillicuddy, LCSW, a social worker, will invite us to step outside our comfort zones, and explore the worldviews of others with curiosity and humility, while refraining from persuasion and judgement – illuminating the paths from polarization to healing and solidarity. Free to parishioners of co-sponsoring parishes SFX & SJC. Call the Parish Center to register.

Support Groups @ SJC

Seasons of Hope
The next session of our parish grief support group, Seasons of Hope, will begin on May 14. The group, which will meet in the Parish Center on six Monday evenings at 7pm, is open to adults mourning the loss of a loved one or struggling with the grieving process. Please call Steve Weigand for more information or to register.

Divorce & Beyond
Our parish divorce support group provides support, healing and guidance to recently divorced or those in the process of divorce. Divorce & Beyond is a faith-based, Christian support ministry that welcomes all faith traditions. The next 8 session group will begin on Thursday, May 10 at 7pm in the Parish Center. Register on our parish website.
The best legacy children can receive from parents is faith.

Saturday, April 8 was Service Day for our parish junior high students and their families. Highlights from their service projects are pictured. Watch for more next week!

Students prepared breakfast and shared it with veterans. Later the group talked and played cards.

Students made 35 mini care packages and handmade cards for Off the Street Club summer campers and packaged supplies.

Spring cleaning outdoors for a 95 year old neighbor.

Cleaning and organizing common areas at Ronald McDonald House.

Preparing a meal for Kolbe House.
St. John of the Cross Parish School Presents
Schoolhouse Rock Live!
A pop culture phenomenon comes to the musical stage in Schoolhouse Rock Live! The Emmy Award-winning 1970s Saturday morning cartoon series that taught history, grammar, math and more through clever, tuneful songs is lighting up the SJC Stage! Join us!

April 27 @ 7:00pm
April 28 @ 7:00pm
April 29 @ 2:00pm
Tickets $10
Available at the Front Door

Kairos Retreat
The Kairos Retreat for high school Juniors and Seniors is June 7-10, 2018. Registration for K29 is open NOW and will fill quickly! Download a registration form from our website.

Religious Goods Sale
Support our Summer Work Tours by shopping at our Religious Goods sale this weekend and next. We will be selling a variety of religious items including Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets, rosaries and more in the Parish Center after all Masses. Shop for beautiful Mother’s Day and First Communion gifts!

Space is still available for additional teens to join us on our 2 Summer Work Tours:

1. Teens (aged 16 and older) will travel to Bethlehem Farm in Talcott, West Virginia on July 8 through July 13. Teens attending this Work Tour will serve the local people of Talcott through simple home repairs and maintenance and will build community with one another through service, prayer and fellowship. Our SJC teens will stay in a renovated farmhouse with other teens and adults from all over the country and learn about sustainability and the Gospel cornerstones of service, prayer, simplicity, and community. Watch a video about Bethlehem Farm on the Crossroads home page.

2. Our local Work Tour for incoming high school freshmen through seniors is July 23-July 27 at Our Lady of Charity Sharing Parish in Cicero. Registration forms are on the website.

Help Us Thank Our Crossroads Leaders
Two parents are needed to assist with hospitality at our Year-End Leader’s Brunch on Sunday, May 20 from 9:30am-noon in the Parish Center. Contact Katie Hayes at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org for details!
All ladies of the parish are invited to our Women’s Club Spring Recipe Tasting Event as we cook and taste our way through Ina Garten’s first cookbook, *The Barefoot Contessa Cookbook*. Interested women can pick one recipe from the cookbook, prepare it at home and bring it to the event where everyone will be able to sample your dish and learn tips from you. There are so many recipe choices, from simple to complex...You decide what recipe you would like to prepare and share.

This event is free. BYOB. Utensils, plates, cups and napkins will be provided. To RSVP visit the parish website where you can pick one of over 90 recipes via Sign Up Genius. Seniors can stop in the Parish Center office for help if needed, or call Christine Cook with questions at 630-220-3560 or christinecookchicago@gmail.com.

**Thursday, April 26 at 7pm Parish Center**

**The Week Ahead**
- **Monday, April 23**
  - 9:15am School Mass
  - 9:30am Spiritual Journeying
  - 10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
  - 2:30pm Adoration
  - 5:00pm School Play Cast Dinner
  - 6:15pm YC Classes
  - 7:00pm Boy Scouts
- **Tuesday, April 24**
  - 9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
  - 9:30am "To Know Jesus Christ" Book Study
  - 6:00pm Washington Trip DC Trip Meeting
  - 7:30pm Christian Meditation
- **Wednesday, April 25**
  - 9:30am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
  - 1:00pm St. John of the Cross Study Group
  - 2:30pm Christian Meditation
  - 3:30pm St. John of the Cross Study Group
  - 3:45pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal
  - 6:30pm Alpha Training
  - 7:00pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School
  - 7:30pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal
- **Thursday, April 26**
  - 9:00am Women's Club Flourish
  - 3:45pm Youth Choir Rehearsal
  - 7:00pm Women's Club Cookbook Event
  - 7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal
- **Friday, April 27**
  - 9:30am 7 Principles Reunion
- **Saturday, April 28**
  - 9:30am 7 Principles Reunion
- **Sunday, April 29**
  - 10:45am Mass w/ St. Gall Choir
  - 1:30pm Baptism Prep.
  - 2:30pm Communion Minister Training

**Spring Drive Helping Women and Children**

Our Women’s Club is collecting **diapers, wipes** and new **baby clothes** for women in need. Drop off your donations at church, Parish Center or school now through **Sunday, April 29**.
Parish News

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their infants baptized last Sunday by Deacon Joe Pepitone assisted by Baptism Team Leader Rita Forster. Pictured from the left with their godparents are: Matthew and Bianca Kavanaugh with Gianna Lauren, Phillip and Sharon Mahere with Harper Grace and Philip and Amanda Nawrocki with Harper Grace.

Congratulations!

St. John of the Cross Parish and Montini Catholic High School are proud to announce that senior Robert Rafanelli recently achieved the Eagle Scout ranking. The Eagle Scout recognition is the highest achievement available in the Boy Scout Program. While volunteering over the summer at the Hanson Center in Burr Ridge, Robbie decided on his Eagle Scout project. Hanson Center provides horse rides for people with mental disabilities. Robbie’s project was to build two 2’x4’ slow-grazer horse feeders. With the help of family and friends Robbie kept his promise to his grandfather who passed away in 2014. Robbie promised his grandfather that he would make it to Eagle Scout. Robbie is a graduate of St. John of the Cross School and a parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish.

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation Family Fundraiser

Join friends of PBMR at their 7th Annual Gathering and Silent Auction on Wednesday, May 2 from 6-9pm at Floating World Gallery in Chicago. This year’s theme is Restoring Family: Celebrating our being family to one another. Tickets can be purchased for $50 per person at pbmr.org by April 23 or call Bill Bright.

CHANGING THE NEIGHBORHOOD ~ BRINGING HOPE & HEALING ~ CONNECTING WITH LOVE
Moral Outrage

Moral outrage is the antithesis of morality. Yet it’s everywhere present in our world today and is everywhere rationalized on the basis of God and truth.

We live in a world awash in moral outrage. Everywhere individuals and groups are indignant and morally outraged, sometimes violently so, by opposing individuals, groups, ideologies, moral positions, ecclesiologies, interpretations of religion, interpretations of scripture, and the like. We see this everywhere, television networks outraged at the news coverage of other networks, church groups bitterly demonizing each other, pro-life and pro-choice groups angrily shouting at each other, and politics at its highest levels paralyzed as different sides feel so morally indignant that they are unwilling to contemplate any accommodation whatever with what opposes them.

And always, on both sides, there’s the righteous appeal to morality and divine authority (however explicit or implicit) in way that, in essence, says: I have a right to demonize you and to shut my ears to anything you have to say because you’re wrong and immoral and I, in the name of God and truth, am standing up to you. Moreover, you’re immorality gives me the legitimate right to bracket the essentials of human respect and treat you as a pariah to be eliminated – in the name of God and of truth.

And this this kind of attitude doesn’t just make for the angry divisions, bitter polarizations, and the deep distrust we live with today within our society, it’s also what produces terrorists, mass shootings, and the ugliest bigotry and racism. It produced Hitler – someone who was able to capitalize so powerfully on moral outrage that he was able to sway millions of people to turn against what was best inside themselves.

But moral outrage, however much it tries to justify itself on some lofty basis, religion, morality, patriotism, historical hurt, or personal injustice, remains always the opposite of genuine morality and genuine religious practice? Why? Because genuine morality and religious practice are always characterized by the opposite of what’s seen in moral outrage. Genuine morality and genuine religious practice are always marked by empathy, understanding, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, respect, charity, and graciousness – all of which are glaringly absent in virtually every expression of moral outrage we see today.

In trying to draw us into a genuine morality and religiosity, Jesus says this: Unless your virtue goes deeper than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What was the virtue of the Scribes and Pharisees? On the surface, theirs was a very high virtue. To be a good Scribe or Pharisee meant keeping the Ten Commandments, being faithful to the prescribed religious practices of the time, and being a man or woman who was always just and fair in your dealings with others. So what’s lacking in that?

What’s missing is that all of these things (keeping the commandments, faithful religious observance, and being fair to others) can be done with a bitter, accusatory, unforgiving heart just as easily (and perhaps even more so) than with a warm, empathic, forgiving heart. Keeping the commandments, going to church, and being a just person can all be done (as is only too clear sometimes) out of moral outrage.

To paraphrase Jesus: Anyone can be gracious to those who are gracious to you. Anyone can love those who love you. And anyone can be good to those who do good to you ... but can you be gracious to those who are bitter towards you? Can you be loving towards those who hate you? And can you forgive those who kill you? That’s the litmus test for Christian morality and religious practice – and nowhere inside of anyone who passes this test will you still find the kind of moral outrage where we believe that God and truth are asking us to demonize those who hate us, do us evil, or try to kill us.

Moreover what we do in moral outrage is deny that we are ourselves morally complicit in the very things we demonize and pour our hatred out on. As we watch the world news each day and see the anger, bitter divisions, violence, injustices, intolerance, and wars that characterize our world, a deep, honest, courageous scrutiny should make us aware that we cannot fully separate ourselves from those things. We live in a world of longstanding and present injustice, of ever-widening economic inequality, of endemic racism and sexism, of countless people living as victims of plunder and rape in history, of millions of refugees with no place to go, and in a society where various people are branded and ostracized as “losers” and “sickos”. Should we be surprised that our society produces terrorists? However sincere and innocent we might personally feel, how we’re living helps create the ground the breeds mass killers, terrorists, abortionists, and playground bullies. We’re not as innocent as we think we are.

Our moral outrage is not an indicator that we are on the side of God and truth. More often than not, it suggests the opposite.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Pray for Our Sick
Kathy Carpenter
Lynn Freking
Rich Gamache
Linda Hillsman
Mary Jamrozik
Cheri Jeffrey
Kevin Jesswein
Josh Kaiser
Rita Koziel
Bill Lenzi
Eric Martinson
Eileen Nape
Ruth Richards
Beth Scanlan
Rachael Schopp
Shawn Sweeney
Don Vollmer

Call the Parish Center office to add the name of an immediate family member who is ill to the parish prayer list.

The names of our beloved dead can now also be found on our parish website along with funeral information (when the Mass is held at our parish).

Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

**Monday, April 23**  *Easter Weekday*  *St. George; St. Adalbert*
7:45am  Matthew Stefani; Mary Horvath; Arsenia Guardiola

**Tuesday, April 24**  *Easter Weekday*  *St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen*
7:45am  Mildred Fitzgerald; Dan Sullivan

**Wednesday, April 25**  *Feast of St. Mark*
7:45am  Kenneth Pawlowicz; Sr. Loyola Boyle

**Thursday, April 26**  *Easter Weekday*
7:45am  Ronald Tamer; Our Beloved Dead

**Friday, April 27**  *Easter Weekday*
7:45am  Ronald Tamer; Nora Coleman

**Saturday, April 28**  *Easter Weekday*  *St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort*
8:00am  David Mantei; Thomas McCarthy

~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~
5:00pm  Patrick McNaughton; Juanita Lopez

**Sunday, April 29**  *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
7:30am  Mary Hathaway; Michael Kenny
9:00am  Daniel O’Brien; Ada Hickey
10:45am  Betsy Reiff; Orlando Trinco
12:15pm  Art Lyons; Nancy Chebuhar
5:00pm  Adele Zurowksi; Mary Scally

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country

**Staff Sgt. Steven Foody**, son of Sandra Foody

**Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki**, son of David & Jan Grabacki

**Staff Sgt. Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue**, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler & Mary Tischler

**Lance Corporal Daniel Pett**, nephew of Kathryn Stimetz

**Capt. James Maicke**, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke

**Sgt. Robert Marburger**, son of David and Kathleen Marburger

**Staff Sgt. Larry Waszak**, grandson of Bruno and Barbara Gacek

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Mathew Stratfaci**, grandson of Sandra & Jim Stratfaci

**Lance Corporal David Stratfaci**, grandson of Sandra & Jim Stratfaci

**Seaman Emily Stratfaci**, granddaughter of Sandra & Jim Stratfaci

**Sgt. Michael Grabarek**, relative of the LeFevour and Schillaci families

**PFC Michael Frazee**, grandson of Kay and John Johnson

**Spc. Douglas Junius**, grandson of Ann Junius and son of Sue Junius

**PFC Kevin Lawinger**, grandson of Roe and Bob Lawinger

~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~
5:00pm  Patrick McNaughton; Juanita Lopez

**Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor**
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org

**Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc Pastor**
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org

**Rev. Rich Milek, Assoc Pastor**
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**Deacon John Schopp, Deacon**
john.schopp@sbcglobal.net

**Bill Bright, Director of Outreach**
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**Janet Caschetta, Director of YC**
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**Kathleen Gorman, Principal**
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us

**Katie Hayes, Dir of Crossroads**
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**Jessica Koch, Director of Music**
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**Mj Martin, Director of Operations**
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org

**Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord**
knicolson@stjohnofthecross.org

**Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc**
steve@stjohnofthecross.org

Pray for Our Beloved Dead

**Carmella Capparelli**, sister of Mary Jamrozik

**Mary Cunningham**, mother of Gary and Lynn Castro

**Mary Jean Longueil**, mother of Joanne Gehke, sister of Gerry Woods & Virginia O’Connor, grandmother of 2

**Angeline Marcione**, mother of Rosemarie, Anthony, Natalie, Donna, Gina, Ginene, grandmother of 8, great grandmother of 2

**Cathy Laskey**, wife of Thomas

**Richard Butkevic**, father of Debbie Klesken

**Michael Hermes**, brother of Fran Mahoney, uncle of Colleen Pabst

May we truly hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and faithfully lead others to abundant life.

May we follow the Good Shepherd wherever he may lead us.

St. John of the Cross Parish  April 22, 2018  Fourth Sunday of Easter  Page 15
VBS

June 25 - 28, 2018
9am to Noon

Venture to an uncharted island where kids discover the truth that JESUS carries them through life’s storms.

VBS is interactive, filled with prayer, games, skits, crafts, and snacks. All while learning about Jesus’ LOVE!!

All children entering kindergarten through 4th grade in the fall are welcome to join us!

Register on the YC website or in the YC office today. Space is limited. Registration fee $50.00

If you have questions, contact the YC office at 708-246-6760 or email at yc@sjcross.org

High School & Adult Crew Leaders needed too!
Lucca's Dining Room

Sunday & Saturday Brunch
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Brunch Menu & New Kids Menu

Happy Hour
Monday - Thursday 11:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Appetizers $2 OFF

Events On & Off Premises
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Funeral Luncheons • Baby Showers

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