Living the Gospel

Sometimes what we claim to know does not square up with reality. The Jews in the gospel think they know Jesus’ origins (“the son of Joseph”) and, therefore, what he is and is not capable of doing. The real issue here is that for them Jesus cannot be “from heaven.” They are murmuring against Jesus’ actions that equate him with being God, and claiming his divinity is a stumbling block for them, a blasphemy. How patient Jesus is! He commands them to “stop murmuring”—to stop limiting what they know. Only by opening themselves to be “taught by God” can they come to see who Jesus really is (“the living bread ... from heaven”). Only with this deeper knowledge can they receive the greatest gift he offers—himself, the “living bread” who brings us to “live forever.”

It’s no easy task to be faithful disciples, to live the gospel message. It’s an even more difficult task for us to teach as Jesus did. If we are to be true to what we are to live and teach, we need a bread that revives us and keeps us from despair. Jesus’ words of life bring us such hope and strength. Our challenge is not to get discouraged, but to hand ourselves over to the nourishment of word and sacrament that God offers, a nourishment that carries us surely on our life’s journey toward eternal life. This gospel assures us that we have all we need to come to eternal life. The one stipulation given is that we have belief. This doesn’t mean simply an intellectual assent to the reality and truth of Jesus’ word and bread; it means that we must declare in deed that we listen to Jesus and accept the strength he offers. In us word, belief, bread, and life all converge when we listen and do.

Closing Prayers

May we grow in our knowledge of who Jesus is and follow more perfectly the way of life to which he leads us.
May we, strengthened by the bread of Christ’s word and Eucharist, persevere on our journey to eternal life.
Our Father . . .

For Reflection

· What I sometimes murmur about with respect to Jesus is . . . What takes me beyond the murmuring is . . .
· Jesus teaches me that . . . This makes a difference in the way I live when . . .
Meditation
Rev. Richard Rohr

Isn’t it strange that a religion that began with a call to change or letting go has become a religion that has been so impervious and resistant to change? Many people think that what it means to be a Christian is to be in love with the 13th century or, if you are Protestant, the 16th century, thinking that “this is when Christians were really Christians!” There is no evidence that this is really true but it allows us to create “religion as nostalgia” instead of religion as transformation.

What healthy religion is saying is that the real life is both now and later. You have to taste the Real now, you have to experience God now—and if now, then also then—both now and later. Now becomes the pledge and guarantee of forever. The full now is always an eternal now. We are just practicing for heaven.

Prayer:
May I learn to let go.

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ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

RCIA: COME AND SEE

CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 25, 2011
AN INFORMATION SESSION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 7:00 P.M. IN CHURCH TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RCIA PROGRAM.

If you are an adult who has thought about becoming Catholic or who was baptized Catholic but never completed the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, then the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is the program for you! For more information about this adult formation program, join us on Tuesday evening, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in church to have all your questions answered. The evening will last about an hour and will offer an overview of the RCIA program and more information about joining this year’s RCIA.

Contact Fr. Filbert, 708-246-4404 or email fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org for more information.

www.stjohnofthecross  Go to our parish website to learn more!
This Week at SJC

Monday, August 13
10:30 p.m. 11th Step Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, August 14
7:00 p.m. Rosary

Wednesday, August 15
8:00 a.m. Teacher’s Meeting
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, August 16
8:00 a.m. Teacher’s Meeting
6:00 p.m. YC/Crossroads Speaker

Friday, August 17
8:00 a.m. Teacher’s Meeting
6:00 p.m. YC/Crossroads Speaker

Saturday, August 18
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:00 a.m. Crossroads Fall Training

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Masses are scheduled this Wednesday, August 15th at 6:30 and 7:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven. By keeping our eyes fixed on where she has gone, we pray that we may one day be worthy to share her glory.

Mary’s Assumption can seem far away from us, but this solemnity celebrates Mary as the “beginning” of the Church and the “image” of what the Church will be in its perfection. For us, she is the sign of hope and comfort, because where she has gone, we hope to follow.

Children’s Choir Start up Dates!!

Did you know that St. John of the Cross has two choirs available to all children in the parish?

**Cherub Choir** serves children in grades 1-3 and practices on **Wednesdays** from 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. in the church. The start date is **Sept. 12th** with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20.

**Youth Choir** serves students in grades 4-8, and practices on **Thursdays** from 3:45 – 4:30 in the church. The start date is **Sept. 13th** with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20.

Mark your calendars as you schedule your kids for fall activities!

Questions?
Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

SJC Employment Opportunities

**Contemporary Ensemble**
St. John of the Cross Parish is seeking an Accompanist to play for the Contemporary Ensemble at the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass and weekly Thursday evening rehearsals, mid-September through May. For more details, visit the website: [www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org). Interested candidates may send a resume and cover letter to Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries: jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org.

For News & Resources Visit:

Archdiocese of Chicago website: [www.archchicago.org](http://www.archchicago.org)


Celebrate your Wedding Anniversary with Us! Beginning in September.....
Each month couples celebrating their wedding anniversary that month are invited to share a photo of themselves, a copy of their wedding invitation or marriage ceremony program with our parish. These will be posted together in the main kiosk in the church narthex. Mementos can be dropped off at the parish center or given to one of the priests after Mass. All items will be returned at the end of the month. Married and engaged couples will be remembered in prayer regularly at Mass.

[www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org) Go to our parish website to learn more!
Almighty God,
You gave a humble Virgin
the privilege of being mother of your Son,
and crowned her with the glory of heaven.
May the prayers of the Virgin Mary
bring us to the salvation of Christ
and raise us up to eternal life.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ
your Son who lives and reigns with you

Know the Mass, One Word at a Time

Prepare

The gifts at Mass are prepared. Often, a family will walk up the church aisle with the gifts of bread and wine to be used in the Eucharist and offer them to the priest who, in turn, prepares them on the altar. In fact, other gifts are prepared well before the Mass begins.

At home, we prepare a check and put it into a church envelope. It is an offering, and we prepare it. By some dint of discipline, with a little prayer or a silent moment, we might even prepare our own hearts and souls for the Mass we will celebrate together. United with Jesus, we are part of the offering of the Mass. And we do need our own preparation.

The Mass has its rituals of preparation, and we have our own personal rituals of preparation for the Mass. But the Mass itself is a great preparation of God’s people to meet the Lord face to face. Our worship shares in the mission of John the Baptist which is described as making “ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17).

Archdiocese of Chicago + Strategic Pastoral Plan

Year of Sunday Mass / Year of Faith
A special welcome to all the newest Kairosians who encountered Self, others & God during their retreat weekend!

Now the efforts of our FOURTH TEAM are especially important to assist the retreatants in applying what they learned during the retreat to their every day lives. Prayers & excitement for all!

All ADULTS WHO SERVE OUR YOUTH ARE INVITED TO JOIN

FRIDAY AUGUST 17th
for our Adult Leader Kick-off event:
Sharing your Spirituality with Youth
Featuring National Speaker Rich Curran
Parish Center, choose your session: 9 a.m. or 6 p.m.

It’s sure to be a great opportunity to meet others who serve our youth, connect with your faith and the mission of our ministry! There is no charge for this inspirational presentation—simply a chance to enhance your ministry to our youth! Babysitting is available, please let us know the number of children when you confirm your session.
Looking forward to seeing you as we start off the year!
~Katie Hayes
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or 708-24604404

WANTED: YOU, adults!
If you’ve ever considered joining our ministry NOW IS THE TIME TO CONNECT & receive training!
Join our adult session (details above) on Aug. 17th to be encouraged and ask questions of current adults involved in our ministry. No commitment necessary—come and see how your talents can serve in our ministry!
Descriptions of various adult roles can be found at: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/leadership
Send questions or concerns to Katie Hayes, 708-246-4404 ext. 140 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Crossroads Youth Ministry
Registration is NOW OPEN!
Parents of high school teens can log onto our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
Click on the Registration box to fill out our registration form.
Included in the registration is information about liturgical training dates, joining the teen choir and Crossroads Advisory!
Our fall parent meeting will also be a part of registration! ENJOY!
### Protecting God’s Children Workshop

**WHO**
All Parents, Coaches, Room Parents, any Volunteer in the parish who has regular contact with children

**WHAT**
Workshop includes 2 (two) thirty-minute videos and discussion

**WHEN**
- Wednesday, August 22, 2012 7:00-10:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 19, 2012 7:00-10:00 pm
- Thursday, September 20, 2012 9:00 am-Noon

Participants need to be present for one entire workshop to receive approval; *no one will be admitted once workshop begins.*

Choose a date that works for you.

**WHERE**
St. John of the Cross Parish Center

**HOW**
You will need to register for this training by going on-line to the internet site for Virtus Training at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Click on the “registration” on the left side, choose “begin the registration process” and then choose “Chicago IL.”

**WHY**
We are all affected by the abuse of children by representatives of the Church and society. In response, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provided guidelines for the safety of our children in their Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

These recommendations have been translated into an action plan by Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago. Every employee and volunteer who has regular contact with children is required to attend a training session of Protecting God’s Children. These workshops will inform and inspire participants to be part of the solution and to help keep our youth safe from harm.

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### Youth Catechesis

**Help!**
We need someone... not just anyone!

**We need YOU!**

Your baptismal call is to **SHARE YOUR FAITH!**

This year, grow in grace and love through sharing your faith with the children of St. John of the Cross Parish.

- All Adults - Help!!
- High School Teens - Help!!

All are Welcome, you don’t need to have children in our program to share your faith!

Just a LOVE for Christ!

The ministry of catechesis is a beautiful opportunity for you to get involved and change the life of a child.

**Call the YC Office to discover the graces that Our Lord is calling you to.**

**AUGUST Office Hours**
- Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Tues thru Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Youth Catechesis Office**
- yc@stjohnofthecross.org
- 708-246-6760
- stjohnofthecross.org/yc

If you have any questions, contact MJ Martin at 708-246-4404, ext 123 or mmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
JOIN US
AT THE 32nd ANNUAL
MISERICORDIA FAMILY FEST
Sunday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Misericordia’s Campus at
Ridge & Devon in Chicago
“A Community of Believers”
Live Entertainment Free Parking
Children’s Games Auctions & Raffles,
Kiddie Rides, Food & Drinks

All proceeds support Misericordia’s programs for 600 children & adults with developmental disabilities.
For info & tickets, call 773-273-2768.

And the Need Intensifies for our Sharing Parish
We served 258 households and 841 individuals this past month of July 2012. The demand for food continues to increase. Our St. Mark Parish Food Pantry continues to provide food for all those who knock at our doors.

Once again we have been able to feed our needy neighbors and parishioners thanks to the support of our Sharing Parishes.

Best regards,
Ernesto Fierro

Attention Seniors Who Have Been Affected by the Cut of Illinois Cares Rx Program
Assistance is Available at AGING CARE CONNECTIONS
As of July 1, 2012 the Illinois Cares Rx program is no longer available due to funding cuts in the state budget. Illinois Cares RX was providing prescription drug assistance to more than 160,000 older adults and people with disabilities in the state of Illinois who met the program’s income and eligibility criteria. Individuals who were on ICRx received a letter from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services notifying them that the program would no longer be available.

What this means for you? What options are available to you?
If you have fallen into this category of individuals who lost their prescription assistance due to the elimination of the Illinois Cares Rx Programs please contact Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323 for an appointment to go over your options.

What you will need to bring to appointment
List of medications including dosage and frequency
Medicare Red, White and Blue card
Proof of Income and Assets

Helping Hand Center Looking for Volunteers
#1 Helping Hand Center is looking for a graphic designer who loves to design in Adobe Creative Suite, particularly in Illustrator. We are a large nonprofit in Countryside and we need a talented designer to work on a large project helping us enhance our image. If you have the time and energy to work on a great project for 1-2 months, approximately 15-20 hours a week please contact Julie Bosso at Julie.bosso@hhcenter.org or call 708-352-3580 x225. This opportunity will provide you with great experience in Adobe Creative Suite and excellent work to showcase in your portfolio. You will work in an excellent work environment with an experienced and professional graphic designer you can learn from.

#2 Helping Hand Center is seeking an individual to provide administrative support for our Case Management Team at our Countryside facility. This job includes filing, copying, and compiling data. If you are interested and available on Tuesdays and Fridays (weekly) from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. please contact Carolyn Kline at Carolyn.kline@hhcenter.org or call 708-352-3580, ext. 280.
Parish Men’s Bowling League

All men of the parish are invited to join the SJC Men’s Bowling League. The league bowls on Tuesday evenings from 6:45-9:00 p.m. at Willowbrook Lanes (Plainfield & 83) beginning September 11th.

Come for a fun evening out to socialize with other men in our parish. No experience needed.

For more information call Ken Boor at 708-246-1469 or kenboor@sbcglobal.net.

Ladies Bridge Group: Would you like to spend a fun, relaxing afternoon playing cards with fellow parishioners and friends? We are looking for people to sign up now. Our bridge group starts in September and ends in May with a luncheon. We meet the third Wednesday every month at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center.

If you would like to join us, please call Lynn Workman at 708-784-9257.

JOIN US! All parish mothers of young children are invited to join our Mom’s Club. All year long there are lots of activities for you and your little ones. To get on the email list contact Colleen at whitting910@yahoo.com.

Calling all Women of the Parish: The Women’s Club is looking for a parishioner to serve as our representative on the local board of Church Women United.

Founded in 1941, Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women’s movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six supporting denominations and participating Christian women.

This is a great opportunity to represent our parish and grow in faith as you build community and share in fellowship with other women. Meetings are monthly and held in local churches.

Buddy’s Place Fall Session Begins Sept. 11th

Buddy’s Place is registering families now. The Fall 2012 8 Week Sessions begin with our Family Orientation Night on September 11th and will continue for 8 consecutive evenings on October 30th from 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Families may attend an 8 week session more than once, however, priority will be given to families who have not attended an 8 week session.

If you would like to attend our 8 week session, please call me at 708-995-3750 or email at buddiesplace@pillarscommunity.org and register.

Please always feel free to call me if you have any questions. Join our mailing list!

Kelly Huggins, LCSW
708-995-3751
khuggins@pillarscommunity.org
In Paradox There Is Virtue

There are a number of old axioms that suggest that virtue and truth lie in the middle, between the two extremes. This was called the "golden mean" and expressed in phrases such as "In medio stat virtus" and "Aurea mediocritas".

But its meaning can easily be misunderstood and suggest that virtue and truth are found in the lowest common denominator, in mediocrity. Indeed that's the literal translation of aurea mediocritas, golden mediocrity.

What these axioms actually point to however is not some mediocrity that tries to avoid the raw edges of the two extremes by staking out some emaciated center. Rather they tell us that virtue and truth lie in paradox, in carrying the truth of both sides and living inside the tension of that ambiguity. Virtue and truth are not found by choosing "either/or" or in opting for some insipid middle that hasn't the salt to offend either side. Virtue and truth lie in living out "both/and", namely, in carrying and balancing out the truth that is contained in both extremes.

And nowhere is this truer than in religious discernment, that is, in the question of how we recognize God's voice in our lives. Does God speak in whispers or in thunder? Does God speak in pain or in blessing? Does God call us out of this world or more deeply into it? Does God call us through what is comfortable and familiar or does God call us into foreign lands? Does God disturb or soothe us? Is God recognized in miracles or in helplessness? Does God speak through the rich or through the poor, through the educated or the uneducated? Does God's voice frighten us or rid us of fear? Is God's voice heard more through piety or iconoclasm? Does God ask us to renounce the pleasures of this world or does God ask us to enjoy them?

God's voice is in all of these things. It is heard in paradox:

· The voice of God is recognized both in whispers and soft tones, even as it is recognized in thunder and storm. God spoke to Elijah in a soft breeze, but to Pharaoh through the plagues.

· The voice of God is recognized wherever one sees life, joy, health, color, and humor, even as it is recognized wherever one sees dying, suffering, poverty, and a beaten-down spirit. God is equally present on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

· The voice of God is recognized in what calls us to what's higher, to what sets us apart, to what invites us to holiness, even as it calls us to humility, invites us to submerge our individuality into humanity, and rejects everything that denigrates our humanity. The voice of God calls us out of what's purely human even as it invites us to humbly take our place within humanity.

· The voice of God is recognized in what appears in our lives as "foreign", as other, as "stranger", even as it is recognized in the voice that is most deeply familiar and which beckons us home. God's voice takes us beyond any language we know even as we recognize in it most deeply our mother tongue.

· The voice of God is the one that most challenges us, even as it the only voice that ultimately soothes and comforts us. God's voice does disturb the comforted and comfort the disturbed, but it also comforts the comforted and disturbs the disturbed.

· The voice of God enters our lives as the greatest of all powers, even as it forever lies in vulnerability, like a helpless baby in the straw. God's voice creates the cosmos and keeps it in existence, even as it lies in our world powerless as an infant.

· The voice of God is heard in privileged way in the poor, even as it beckons us through the voice of the artist and the intellectual. God is in the poor, even as the artist and intellectual help reveal the transcendental properties of God.

· The voice of God invites us to live beyond all fear, even as it inspires holy fear. When God appears in human history, invariably the first words are: "Do not be afraid!" God's presence is meant to eradicate all fear, even as it invites us to live in "holy fear", in a reverence and chastity that help create a world within which no one needs to fear anything.

· The voice of is recognized inside the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as it invites us never to deny the complexities of our world and our own lives.

· The voice of God is always heard wherever there is genuine enjoyment and gratitude, even as it asks us to deny ourselves, die to ourselves, and relativize all the things of this world.

Of course to accept this is also to accept living with ambiguity, complexity, unknowing, and a whole lot of patience. God's voice will then no longer be as clear as our fundamentalist instinct would like, but it will be free both to soothe and challenge us as never before.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.
Readings for the Week

Monday:
Ez 1:2 - 5, 24 - 28c; Mt 17:22 - 27

Tuesday:
Ez 2:8 — 3:4; Mt 18:1 - 5, 10, 12 - 14

Wednesday:
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1 - 6a, 10ab; Ps 45; 1 Cor 15:20 - 27; Lk 1:39 - 5

Thursday:
Ez 12:1 - 12; Mt 18:21 — 19:1

Friday:
Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 [59-63]; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday:
Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32; Mt 19:13-15

Sunday:
Prv 9:1-6; Ps 34; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 13, Ss. Pontian, & Hippolytus
6:30 Gordon Stiefel; Eugene Garvy
7:45 Barbara Cervenka; John S. Piszczor

Tuesday, August 14, St. Maximilian Kolbe
6:30 Joe Tiberi
7:45 Vincent Domagal; John O’Hanesian

Wednesday, August 15, The Assumption
6:30 a.m. Dorothy McLaughlin
7:45 Bridget Shanley; John O’Hanesian
6:30 p.m. Marie Strzykalski

Thursday, August 16, St. Stephen of Hungary
7:45 Louis & Margaret McGuire;
Muriel Albertson; Victor Conforti

Friday, August 17
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Norbert Mann

Saturday, August 18
8:00 Margaret Prost; M/M Robert Perkins
5:00 Dave Veyers; Michael Zacher

Sunday, August 19, Twentieth Sunday Ordinary
7:30 Richard Steinhauser; Janet Caschetta
9:00 SJC & Mary Queen of Heaven Parishioners
10:45 Katie Courtemanche; Jerome Woelffer
5:00 Jim Munch; Bruno Shukis

Italics—Living

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Olga Szpara,
mother of Chris Hochstetler

Baptisms
Michael James, son of
Michael and Brenda (Kelly) Lazansky

Wedding Banns
Bill Feeley and Mary Alice Pittler

Trying to get in touch with us? More info is on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org
Crossroads Work Tour to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Sharing Parish in Williamsburg, KY

Starting top left & rotating clockwise: Hiking in Cumberland Falls State Park, seeing the Moonbow late Thursday night, building wheelchair ramps for 3 different homes, working at the Friendship Center, building community & teamwork braiding hair, Celebrated Mass Sunday with Fr. Anthony, enjoyed the weekday Mass with Deacon Jim, making friends with group from Iowa, our group with Sr. Margie & Sr. Joyce giving a THUMBS up to service, community, prayer & simplicity!