Jesus Heals the Deaf Man
Dear Parishioners,

Many of you participated in my Ministerial Review last spring. For a number of reasons the results were delayed in getting to me and then once I received the report I decided to wait until folks were back from summer vacations before writing this note.

Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive and supportive. I am so blessed to enjoy the relationship we have as pastor and parishioners, which I am acutely aware does not necessarily exist in every other parish. Together, we have worked hard these past five years and that was recognized in the feedback as well. I will also discuss the results with the staff at our regular meeting and with the Parish Advisory Council when they meet next in October. While no major shortcomings or deficiencies were identified, there is always room for improvement. I can assure you I will always try my best to be the best parish priest and pastor I can be for you as individuals and as a parish.

The one concern that was clearly identified was my taking care of my health. Some of the feedback was anxiety about my cancer returning. In February my oncologist told me that I was the only lung cancer patient in his entire practice that had no evidence of disease five years after diagnosis. Give God the praise for that! But as the Cardinal recently found out after he was ‘cancer free’ for six years, yesterday’s health is no guarantor of tomorrow’s health. Living in the present is one of the gifts that comes from surviving cancer and I just give thanks that right now I have no issues with cancer. I fully expect another diagnosis at some point in time as cancer becomes more and more a chronic disease that people live with. I just pray it doesn’t come for a good long while.

Other concerns were focused on handling stress and the workload. While I physically have the energy for working long hours I know that the sands of time are running and I will need to adjust. The transition from three priests to two is just underway and so far we have been blessed by a number of visiting priests who have helped celebrate daily and weekend Masses. Thank you for all of those who expressed concern about how the loss of an associate is affecting my workload. Right now, because of the number of generous priests who have helped out tremendously, Fr. Filbert and I are doing fine. We have no immediate plans to drop any of the Masses that have been scheduled, particularly the 6:30 a.m. weekday and the 12:15 p.m. Sunday Masses, and as long as we can offer them, we will.

I do need to do a better job of taking care of my health by paying particular attention to my diet and exercise and taking sufficient time off. I know I could deal with the stress better if I got more exercise and if I am consistent in taking time off. Again, so far, I’ve been able to take my day off as I usually have.

Thanks to all those who participated (about 100 parishioners) in the evaluation process. I am humbled and energized by your feedback. June of 2013 is the completion of the first six years of my assignment here. I fully expect that I will receive a continuation at that point for the next six years, until 2019. I couldn’t be more delighted.

Peace,
Fr. David

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**The Anointing of the Sick**

On Sunday, September 30th at the 12:15 p.m. Mass we will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament of healing is offered to anyone who is suffering in any physical, mental or emotional way and provides spiritual graces during the difficult time of illness. If you or someone you know is sick or suffers from a chronic illness, we invite you to join fellow parishioners as we pray for healing and strength.

A reception will follow the Mass. Please let us know that you will attend the Mass and reception by contacting the Parish Center at 708-246-4404. For more information, call Fr. Fil at 708-246-4404 x 120.
Dear Parishioners,

Over the summer months we have completed the following planned capital improvements on our parish campus. I would like to recognize Frank DiPompeo, our Plant Manager, for his hard work and oversight on every project. Frank has done an excellent job for us.

As you may remember last year, parts of the school gym ceiling were falling and needed to be replaced for safety reasons. As this ceiling work was being done, the gym lights were also updated.

The Athletic Association along with the last two 8th grade graduating classes (Memorial Games) raised funds earmarked for the gym. In addition to these sources, a generous parishioner contributed the remaining money necessary to enable the gym improvement project to move forward.

As such, over this summer our school gym improvements included installation of a new maple wood gym floor, safety wall pads, electric motors on main court baskets, manual motors on side court backboards, and a protective tarp to be used when the gym is used for other non-sport gatherings such as Christmas Eve Mass. The new bleachers will arrive next week. Last Tuesday was the first day the new gym was open for gym classes and practices.

Our parking lot will require some maintenance in areas between the school and the parish center where truck traffic and heavy use have caused deterioration and seepage from underground springs. Sections will be cut out and replaced the third week of September. The cost of the budgeted repair work to be completed this year is roughly $40,000 and will be funded from parish savings. The entire lot will then be sealcoated and striped next summer.

Tuck pointing work was also completed this summer on the school chimney and the loose blue stone tiles behind the cross on the west side of school. In addition, some of our sidewalks around the campus were repaired where chunks had come loose and represented trip hazards. These budgeted expenses totaled $28,000 and were taken from parish savings.

As we continue to maintain our church, school and parish center buildings and grounds I will provide you with updates.

Thanks,
MJ Martin
Director of Operations

Jessica Koch, our Director of Music, and Ann Bourjaily-Maney invite the parish to SING!

Detailed below are all the opportunities to become involved in music at SJC.

Our Contemporary Ensemble sings and plays at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome to practice on Thursdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Contact Jessica if you are interested at x-136.

The Traditional Choir leads singing at the Sunday 10:45 a.m. Mass. This choir sings a variety of music including classical masterworks and traditional hymns. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. Contact Jessica.

High school teens and young adults are welcome to join the Sunday 5:00 p.m. “5 Alive Choir.” The choir sings the first and third Sundays of the month. Rehearsals begin at 4:00 p.m. on those Sundays. Come and join us when it works for you. Contact Ann with any questions 708-246-4171.

Kids of all ages are welcome to join our children’s choirs. The Cherubs in grades 1-3 practice on Wednesdays at 3:45-4:30 p.m. Practice begins this Wednesday, Sept. 12th with registration and a short meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Youth Choir is for children in grades 4-8. They practice on Thursdays at 3:45-4:30 p.m.. The first practice is this Thursday, Sept. 13 with registration and a short parent meeting at 4:20 p.m. Contact Ann with any questions 708-246-
Reflections

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

“Be opened!” Jesus commands the deaf-mute man as he heals him. This encounter, however, is more than a matter of physical healing. The focus isn’t on the miracle, but that God comes to save. The healing miracle is a sign of salvation: God’s superabundant life breaking open the closed human condition. Further, what Jesus commands with respect to the deaf-mute man, he commands with respect to us. When we encounter Jesus, he commands “Be opened!” and we too are healed: our ears are opened to hear the Good News and our tongues are loosened to proclaim it. The Gospel opens us to salvation as encountering and hearing God now. Even in the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives, God is present and saving us.

It is interesting to note in the gospels how often the sick are brought by others to Jesus for healing. This, too, is an embodiment of God’s saving power. When we reach out to others to help them in any way, we ourselves are acting like Jesus to proclaim the Good News of salvation. Rather than simply bringing others to Jesus for healing (although we must do that, too) we ourselves are to be the presence of the risen Christ who bring healing and salvation. We announce that salvation is at hand when we act with generosity and kindness, openness and courage. If we ourselves are to be the embodiment of God’s saving power, then we must open our ears to hear and recognize all the everyday opportunities for making God’s presence and reign known. This might be something so simple as turning off the TV and spending some time in the family listening to each other. Or it might be something so demanding as choosing to work fewer hours and have less money available in order to be more present to others. However we respond to others’ needs, it is helpful to remember that we do embody God’s offer of salvation through the good we do.

Closing Prayers

May we be touched by the healing hand of Jesus and come to fuller life.

May we open our ears to hear God’s word and joyfully proclaim all God has done for us.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection

· Like the deaf-mute, the “closed” parts within me needing Jesus’ healing are . . . Jesus “opens” me by . . .

· I proclaim the Good News when I . . .

Year of Sunday Mass

Question of the Week

The prophet, in today’s first reading, counsels us to “be strong. Fear not!...Here is your God...he comes with vindication.”

What are specific fears that you face in your life right now? How does your participation in Sunday Mass strengthen you in the face of these fears?

Remembering 9-11

Prayer for Fire and Police Personnel

Heavenly Father, protector of your people, bless all the men and women who have served and still serve in the fire and police departments. In this time of increasing dangers and difficulties, instill within these officers and personnel the special virtues of fortitude, patience and dedicated service.

We thank you for the contributions which these men and women have made to the communities which they serve so fearlessly and so faithfully.

Their presence and ready response assures the security and tranquility of peaceful communities and is a heroic contribution to cities in turmoil.

Protect them we pray, against dangers which ever lie in wait for those who think of their dedication before themselves. Shield them from bodily harm. Fill them with the high-mindedness they need when they are neglected or abused. Keep in their minds the wholesome example that their sense of duty, their reliability, and their ready sacrifices offer to the youth of our nation.

Bless them all. Bless their families, their associates and bless forever those who have given their lives to protect our communities. Amen.

Readings for the week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 Cor 5:1-8, Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12, Luke 6:6-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Cor 6:1-11, Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b, Luke 6:12-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1 Cor 7:25-31, Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17, Luke 6:20-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13, Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24, Luke 6:27-38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Num 21:4b-9, Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38, Phil 2:6-11, John 3:13-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1 Cor 5:1-8, Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12, Luke 6:6-11</td>
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Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
INSEARCH DISCERNMENT GROUP:
Begins October 9th

INSEARCH is a program for post-college-age men with serious
interest in diocesan priesthood. The program runs from October
through March. The design of the program is based on the
principle that a man must first attend to growth as a human
being, then as a Christian disciple, and finally a priest.
INSEARCH meetings are held in downtown Chicago. The
program includes opportunities to learn and grow in Catholic
prayer forms such as Lectio Divina, Liturgy of the Hours, and
other forms of meditation common to priests. The program also
features seminarian guest speakers sharing their vocational call
stories as well as priests sharing the stories of their spiritual
lives and current work in ministry. It has a long history of
success in helping men to discern their vocation. This "success"
is helping men know more clearly God's vocational call for
them.

ATTEND EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND
Meet at Mundelein Seminary with priests, seminarians
and other men who are considering a call to the
priesthood.

October 5-7, 2012
January 11-13, 2013
April, 12-14, 2013

- Practical steps in discerning one's vocation
- Becoming more fully a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Vocational journeys of priests and how they came to
understand God's call
- Prayer opportunities including the celebration of the
Eucharist and Night Prayer
- What life is like in a seminary, including main
components: academic, human, spiritual, and
pastoral formation, presented by a seminarian
- Additional opportunities to talk candidly with
seminarians about their lives and vocations

Meditations by
Rev. Richard Rohr

Very early in the Judeo-Christian tradition there is
a split between the Exodus tradition, which I believe
is the mainline tradition of full liberation, and the
parallel tradition that soon develops in Leviticus
and Numbers, which is called the “priestly” tradition.
If you read these two books, they have none of the
drama of Exodus, but reflect what happens when
the priests take over and try to organize and control
the inner experience and avoid the outer
implications.

About eight centuries before Christ we finally meet
the spiritual geniuses—the Jewish prophets—who
try to link the two traditions: inner God experience
and outer work for justice and truth. We continue to
have halfhearted divisions—in the form of Right or
Left, liberal or conservative, establishment or
disestablishment, contemplative or activist—down to
our time. They really do need one another, but in
most of history, as in Judaism, the priestly tradition
has clearly been in control. The prophets are always
marginalized. We always need the prophets to
balance out the priests, but they are not just pushed
off to the side, but usually killed, according to Jesus
(Matthew 23:29-31). Which is exactly what happens
to Jesus himself, with the full cooperation of the
priestly class. How can we miss this message?

Adapted from the CAC Foundation Set: Gospel Call to Compassionate Action

Prayer:
Help me be compassionate in my action.

When Christianity aligns itself with power (and the
mindset of power, which is the need to be right and
certain one is right) there’s simply very little room for
the darkness of faith; that spacious place where God
is actually able to form us.

So when we speak of paradox, I’m trying to open up
that space where you can “fall into the hands of the
living God” (Hebrews 10:31), because YOU are not
in control and only God is right. That is always the
space of powerlessness, vulnerability, and letting
go. Faith happens in that wonderful place, and
hardly ever when we have all the power and can
hold no paradoxes. Thus you see why faith will
invariably be a minority and suspect position.

Adapted from Holding the Tension: The Power of Paradox (CD, DVD, MP3)

Prayer:
Lose my life, find my life.

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
Programs for Adults

CTU Vatican II Fall Lecture Series

Please join Catholic Theological Union in a series of lectures as we celebrate and reflect on the 50th anniversary of the convening of the Second Vatican Council by Pope John XXIII in October of 1962.

The lectures will take place on **Wednesday evenings, September 12 through December 5, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on the second floor of the Academic Center located at 5326 S. Cornell, Chicago.** The lectures are open to guests for $10 per lecture. You may pay at the door. Come to one or all of the lectures. To ensure a spot, register by phone at 773-371-5432 or email at bernardincenter@ctu.edu. Complimentary parking is available in the CTU garage.

This lecture series will first set the event of Vatican II within its historical context and will offer a brief overview of what happened in the Council's four sessions from 1962 until 1965. It will then reflect on issues emerging from the four major Constitutions that the Council produced—documents on the Liturgy, Revelation, the Church, and the Church in the Modern World—and from selected additional documents, such as those on the Laity, Missionary Activity Priesthood, Religious Life, Non-Christian Religions, and Religious Freedom.

**September 12**  
**Big Perspectives on a Big Meeting: Vatican II in Context, Stephen Bevans, S.V.D.**

September 19  
Vatican II and the Church, Antonio Sison, C.P.P.S.

September 26  
Vatican II and Revelation, Donald Senior, C.P.

October 3  
Vatican II and the Liturgy, Ed Foley, Capuchin

October 10  
Vatican II and the Church in the World, Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S.

October 24  
Vatican II and the Laity, Carmen Nanko Fernandez

October 31  
Vatican II and Ordained Ministry, James Bacik

November 7  
Vatican II and Religious Life, Barbara Reid, O.P.

November 14  
Vatican II and the Church’s Mission, Stephen Bevans, S.V.D.

November 28  
Vatican II, Ecumenism and Religious Freedom, Jeff Gros

December 5  
Vatican II and Other Religious Ways, Scott Alexander

If you are unable to attend in person, the lectures will be available online beginning October 1, 2012 at Learn@CTU.

Living Vatican II in the 21st Century Symposium Sept. 18-21  
Lewis University in Romeoville—Center for Ministry & Spirituality  
presents 4 days of quality speakers. To learn more information go to www.lewisu/LivingVaticanII or call 815-836-5786.

**KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME**

How many times at Mass have you heard after the readings, “The Word of the Lord” or “The Gospel of the Lord”? Probably so many times that the message is blunted. It just glides off us. Do you realize what happened in the readings? Did you hear? God has actually spoken to us, his people. God has connected with us and communicated with us. Did you hear it?

At Mass, God speaks his word to us and not just one by one but to all of us gathered together. The Word is entrusted to our community where it must find a home, where it is studied, and where it is acted upon. Did we hear it? In our struggle with the big questions and dilemmas and hurts of life, we are all looking for answers and hope. The breakthrough does come in God’s Word. Did we hear it?

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
Because our parish co-sponsors this event at The Well, the $50 cost of attending the presentation is waived for SJC parishioners. You are only asked to cover the cost of your lunch ($10) which you may pay that day. To reserve a seat, please leave your name, phone, and email with the Parish Center receptionist. 708-246-4404.

**AT THE WELL**

**FALLING UPWARD:**
A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

A Live-Streamed Presentation by Richard Rohr, OFM

**Friday, September 21:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.
**Saturday, September 22:** 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The first half of our lives is centered on establishing our identities, building our world, and moving up.

As we transition into the second half of life, however, our worlds often fall apart and we begin to search for meaning.

We will explore how experiences of failure and suffering are integral steps on the path to spiritual growth and maturity; and the counterintuitive and inspiring concept that it is through falling down that we can truly begin to understand what it means to go “up.”

**COST:** $50

Richard Rohr, OFM, is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico province and acts as founding director of the Center for Action and Contemplation. He is an internationally known speaker, has authored more than 20 books, and contributes to numerous spiritual periodicals. His work has been acclaimed by personalities including Dr. Mehmet Oz, of the “Dr. Oz Show.”

This program is co-sponsored with two neighboring parishes: St. John of the Cross and St. Francis Xavier and is supported by a Generous Promises Grant from the Congregation of St. Joseph.

For more information or to register contact:

**THE WELL** - a Ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph
1515 West Ogden Avenue | LaGrange Park, IL 60526 | 708.482.5048
thewell@csjoseph.org | www.csjthewell.org
Sr. Josephine’s Sunday Scripture Study meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Parish Center

Little Rock Fall Scripture Study begins tomorrow September 10, 1 p.m. in the Parish Center
This nine-week study describes how Christianity spread from its beginning with the Jews and other followers in Jerusalem to the gentiles in Antioch and beyond. The associated commentary references selected scriptures, especially in Acts and Paul’s Epistles, but also in other passages of the Old and New Testaments.

The commentary is read by the Little Rock group in preparation for a discussion based on questions in a study guide. The discussion is followed by a video lecture by a bible expert about the study for that week. Meetings of the group are on Mondays from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost of materials for this study is $20. Please call Joan Roeder at 708-354-4862 to register even if you have previously participated in Little Rock. All are welcome.

Endow Women’s Study will meet on eight Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. in the Parish Center beginning on begins Wednesday, September 19th
In Honor of the Year of Faith *Lumen Gentium* - Light of the Nations Vatican II Document will be studied. No homework! We do everything together when we meet. The cost of the course is $80 (Scholarships are available). Child care will be made available if you wish. Register at: www.endowgroups.org Questions? Call Sue 708-246-7870 or email strokase@yahoo.com.

Writing with Women meets Wednesdays for six weeks from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. beginning on September 19. The group will meet at the home of Jan Kucera, 1218 Morgan Ave. in La Grange Park.
Do you enjoy journaling? Are you looking for spiritual growth? Would you like meeting and sharing with other women? Then you will enjoy this unique opportunity of coming together to unearth your pearls about aging and share your wisdom using the questions from *Aging As A Spiritual Practice* by Lewis Richmond. Cost: $40 (plus cost of book)

Jane Kucera, your facilitator and author, is a Spiritual Director who has been journaling for over 30 years. She also has extensive experience in facilitating a variety of groups. She has led classes such as: *The Artist’s Way, Vein of God, Ira Progoff’s Journaling* and numerous others. Her latest journaling was using the Bridges Spiritual Series. We are hoping for fun, new insights and reflections on this wonderful stage of life.

Space is limited. Call Jan Kucera today to reserve your place. 708-579-1785

Faithful Citizenship: An Exploration of the Catholic Church’s Social Teaching- Discernment Guide for Voters
Join us at Loretto Center on Saturday, September 22, 2012 from 10:30am-noon. The program will be led by Tom Garlitz, Director of the Office for Human Dignity Christie Billups, Prof. of Theology, Lewis University, Romeoville, and Barb Nelson, IBVM, Teacher, St. Francis High School, Wheaton. Loretto Center is located at 1600 Somerset Lane in Wheaton. Call 630-653-7918 for more information. This program is sponsored by IBVM Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Committee.

New Thinking for a New Era: How Contemplative Prayer Transforms Consciousness and the World with Richard Rohr, OFM and Laurence Freeman, OSB Friday-Sunday February 15-17 at the Chicago Marriott O’Hare, Chicago, IL
You are invited to hear and interact with these two spiritual leaders as they teach and share their wisdom in Dialogue on Contemplative Prayer and the Spiritual Urgency of Our Time. In this seminar, these two spiritual friends will be offering ways we can put our deepest aspirations for personal realization and social transformation into practice. Their combined focus on contemplation and action and their shared passion for truth illuminate the origins of our crisis and show us the path toward lasting change and a more just and loving humanity. For more information 708-246-8315 or nt4ne2013@gmail.com. To register by phone with credit card: 520-829-3197 Sharon@mediomedia.org.  *Discounted Early Registration thru November 30, 2012*
Celebrate your Wedding Anniversary with Us!

Beginning this month, couples celebrating their wedding anniversary during the 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.

Salute to Service

Military Veterans in our community to be honored at LT’s first football game on Friday, September 14th at 7p.m.

All veterans are invited to be a part of the Salute to Service event at Lyons Township South Campus which honors courage and military service to our country. The Veterans, who will be recognized by the football team when they enter the stadium and in a halftime ceremony on the field, will have special reserved seats for the game and enjoy free concessions. For more information and to attend, contact Jason Brauer at (708) 579-6389.

One in Prayer with Loved Ones in the Military

Michael Ryan Burke, grandson of Joseph & Laverne Kusper
Captain Brandi Caffy, friend of Julie and Katie Warren
A1c Matthew Callaghan, son of Judy Callaghan
Lt. Mark Callari, grandson of Jane Domagala
Captain Sean Christopherson, friend of Katie Warren
Matthew Curin, son of Donna Curin
2Lt. Ken Engberg, Army National Guard
Capt. Michael Federico, son of Rick & Jeanne
Pfc. Amy Harris, niece of Gary & Barbara Ainge
Private First Class Drew Hillebold, National Guard
Sgt. Joseph Johnson, son of Pete & Jan Van Merkestyn
Capt. Kevin Junius
2Lt Catherine Kane, niece of Michael & Terese Kane
Pfc. John T. King, cousin of Catherine Mini
Lt. Matthew Kopp, nephew of Larry & Mimi Powers
Msg. Carl Kroll, son of Mary Lou Kroll & brother of Judi Llapitan
Capt. James A. Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke
Spc. Robert Marburger, son of Kathleen and David

Major Brendan D. Masini, M.D., grandson of Marilyn & Charles Scallon
Tim McMillan
Douglas Murphy, brother of Jeanne Fornari
Rief Murphy, nephew of Bill & Molly Iovino
Sgt. Krista Nelson, USMC, niece of Mary and Len Novotny
Ross Rafferty, nephew of John Rafferty
Sgt. Daniel Roche, cousin of Jacqueline McDonnell
Cameron Saltus, cousin of Jack and Rory Gordon
Alex Scalise, nephew of Cathy Pesch
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Schultz, friend of the Chrusicel Family
Jaret Smith, grandson of Dan and Jo Rudakas
Pfc. Robert M. Sullivan, son of Michael & Helen
Spc. Alex Teckenbrock, 3rd Infantry Div. ARMY
Alex Uribarri, son of Mari Uribarri
Lt. Katie Warren, daughter of Julie Warren
Spc. James C. Woods, nephew of Mary Neel

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in you will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, and that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Technology in the Classroom
Because technology is a daily part of our lives, our fourth graders had a fabulous lesson using new iPads to become familiar with their classrooms. This group of students used their iPads for a QR code classroom tour. Each of our classrooms have iPads that they are able to use in their daily work.

A Buddy System Like No Other
Over the past week many students had the opportunity to meet their buddy from a different classroom. For example, the first graders have eighth grade buddies, and the second graders have sixth grade buddies. This program has contributed to promoting unity among our students across grade levels.

Meet the Teacher Night
The entire school community, attended the annual “Meet the Teacher Night.” Meet the Teacher Night is a terrific way for teachers to show parents classrooms that their children will call their home away from home for the next eight months.

This Week At SJC
September 10 & 11 Grandparent’s Day Pre K and K , 9:15-10:15 a.m.
September 11 Patriot Day, All School Liturgy, 9:15 a.m.
September 12 Port Sandwich Making, 8th grade, after school
September 13 Games Day – Out of Uniform
Crossroads

CALENDAR

Sept. 9 Crossroads Advisory 10 a.m.
  Soph-Jun-Sen Kickoff Event
Sept. 16 Frosh/Soph Retreat Team mtg
Sept. 17 Frosh Experience Team mtg
Sept. 23 Freshmen Experience Kick-off

Crossroads Youth Ministry
Registration CONTINUES!

Parents of high school teens are invited to log onto our
website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
to fill out permission forms & learn about training dates!

ALL SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS & SENIOR HOME GROUPS
will join together at our kick-off for a dodge ball tournament!
THIS WEEKEND: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 6 p.m. meet at Parish Center
Wear gym shoes & get ready for a fun time to play & visit with friends.

I WANT YOU, adults of our Parish!

This past week we have had a few adults join in for one-time opportunities to lead our teens. The more adults we get involved in our youth ministry, the more we can actively engage our teens & their families in becoming disciples of Christ.

Check out our Mission Statement online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads (scroll to bottom of main page to read it)

My role is to engage our parish in guiding our teens in their faith & the only way I can do this is with YOUR HELP!

Descriptions of various adult roles can be found at: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/leadership

Send questions or concerns to me! Katie Hayes, Director of Youth Ministry
708-246-4404 ext. 140 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

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will join together at our kick-off for a dodge ball tournament!
THIS WEEKEND: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 6 p.m. meet at Parish Center
Wear gym shoes & get ready for a fun time to play & visit with friends.

BEGINS Sept. 23rd 6 p.m. in
the Parish Center
Lower Level!

All freshmen are welcome to join us. Register online and come on the 23rd! We have one couple ready to serve as home group leaders when we transition into home groups later in the fall. The sooner our next couples join us the more experience and training they can receive! Please keep this need in your prayers!

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
**This Week at SJC**

**Monday, September 10**
- 10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Little Rock Bible Study
- 2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
- 2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

**Tuesday, September 11**
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. RCIA Information Meeting

**Wednesday, September 12**
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

**Thursday, September 13**
- 7:00 p.m. Washington Trip Meeting

**Friday, September 14**
- 9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club

**Saturday, September 15**
- 7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

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### Parish News

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH**

**Support the Mission of SJC**

**Online Giving is Here for Your Convenience**

You can access the SJC online donation form by using the above QR Code.

Don’t have a smart phone?
Visit: [www.stjohnofthecross.org/giving/](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/giving/)

St. John of the Cross Parish is most grateful for your continued support of our mission!

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**New Communion Minister Training**

Adults and high school teens who have a sincere love and appreciation for God’s gift of the Eucharist are welcome to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during weekday and Sunday Masses. In addition to the desire to serve, Extraordinary Ministers must be baptized Catholics who have received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation, must go through training and be free to receive the sacrament and no restrained though a marriage situation. Training Sessions are held in church. No need to register, just come!

**Sunday, September 23, 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.**
Any questions, call Jim at the Parish Center.

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**SJC Shawl Ministry**
The lovely summer weather does not diminish our need for shawls. We will gather at the Parish Center at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12.

We have patterns, yarn and assistance if needed. Please join us to knit, pick-up or drop off shawls or learn about the ministry.

Questions: Please call Sheila Gallagher at 708-246-7836.

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**Calling all Parish Moms!**

Please join us for our next meeting on Friday, September 14th in the Parish Center from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Bring your little ones, enjoy a cup of coffee, visit and meet other moms in the parish! A small snack (appropriate for most food allergies) will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you then! Questions?

**Contact Colleen Whittingham at whitting910@yahoo.com**

Also, we are currently looking for 2 adult volunteers who would be willing to assist with babysitting duties from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on the FIRST Friday of every month.

Babysitters will be responsible for watching children from birth—age 4 while their mothers meet in an adjoining room in the Parish Center.

If you would like to help out, please contact Colleen Whittingham at whitting910@yahoo.com.
Outreach

Help for the Long Term Unemployed

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 pm for our first speaker program of the season. Our presenter, James Fitzgerald, was one of the founders of the Chicago Career Transition Center at Old St. Pat’s and has published over 150 articles on career management, leadership and the job search process. Jim’s refreshingly direct and candid presentation will help inspire you to: 1) develop a positive, upbeat resume loaded with accomplishments, 2) prepare a “HERE’S WHO I AM” presentation sprinkled liberally with significant achievements, 3) target the job and circumstances that really appeal to you, 4) get your mind set in gear, stop being complacent, 5) use goals as a motivator. Jim’s insights on each of these points promise to be of tremendous value to both the long-term unemployed and those just beginning their job search. This meeting is open to everyone and there is no charge to attend. We look forward to welcoming you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center.

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Job Support Group Six-Week Workshop
BEGINNS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange for a six-week job support skills workshop beginning Tuesday evening, September 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Whether you are unemployed, under-employed, looking for a career change or a recent grad looking for your first professional position, this workshop is for you.

First Presbyterian Church of La Grange is located at 150 South Ashland Avenue. Meetings will be held in Westminster Hall. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue.

Everyone is welcome and there is no fee for attending.

For further information, please call FPCLG’s church office at 708.354.0771.

Interfaith Career Network offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Operation Support Our Troops ~ Illinois

Annual Parish-wide Collection: September 2nd through September 16th
Donation Boxes in Church and Parish Center
Questions: Contact Debbie Pusinelli
(708) 246-6760 ext 251

The mission of Operation Support Our Troops IL is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and stationed overseas. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain.

Top Ten Items Needed at This Time

1. Peanut Butter (28 oz or less, plastic jars only)
2. Jelly (32 oz or less, plastic jars only)
3. Individual cold drink mix packets (Gatorade, Propel, etc)
4. Mints-Starlight, Lifesavers or Tic Tac types
5. Individually wrapped snacks
6. Dried fruit: raisins, apricots, cranberries, cherries, blueberries, etc.
7. Shaving cream (non aerosol preferred)
8. Body wash for men (18 oz or less)
9. Dental floss/floss picks
10. Lip Balm (Chapstick, etc)
11. AA or AAA Batteries

Helping Hand Center in Countryside is working to provide apartments for 8 developmentally disabled adults who require care 24/7. The apartments which are owned by Helping Hand and are located in Lyons are being totally rehabbed for the occupants. If you can help, please contact Bill Bright our Director of Outreach. 708-246-4404 x130

Visit our website to find out how you can help with labor and for a list of the items needed to set up housekeeping.

Riley Marshall Eagle Scout Collection Project for Hynes VA Hospital (Maywood) begins September 8 and ends the 30th. Your donation would be a huge help to our vets. For a list of personal care items, clothes, books and miscellaneous items please go to the Outreach Section of the church website and/or the collection bins in the church lobby. There is also a list for the Vas Fisher House (similar to the Ronald McDonald House) for visiting relatives.

Thank you for your generosity,
Of Pharisees, Pots, Bronze Kettles, Liturgical Rubrics, Cups, And Cats

Several years ago, I was at church meeting where we were discussing liturgical rubrics. There was heated discussion over a number of issues: Should the congregation be standing or kneeling during the Eucharistic prayer? What is the most reverent way to receive communion? Should laypersons be allowed to cleanse the chalice and cups after communion?

At one point, a woman made a rather pious interjection, inviting us to ask ourselves: "What would Jesus do?" The man chairing the meeting, already drained of patience by the disagreements in the room, responded in irritation: "Jesus has nothing to do with this! We're talking about liturgical norms!" The words were barely out his mouth when, to his credit, he realized that somehow that didn't sound right. We all realized it too, and have reminded this good man many times of his faux pas; but, in honesty, his remark voiced the feeling of 95% of the room.

Allow me a second story, to illustrate the same point: I am part of a theological faculty that is helping over one hundred young men prepare for ordination and is helping several hundred lay persons deepen their spiritual lives and prepare to serve in various forms of ministry. Who could ask for a higher task? But the sacredness of the task is not always front and center. A couple of years ago, we came to an Executive meeting and the two salient items on the agenda were "cups and cats": Our school, not with complete unanimity, was phasing out all disposable cups. As well, we were debating as to whether to open up our campus as a certain sanctuary for feral cats. As he introduced the agenda, our Dean of Theology asked the question: "How did we get to this? We're a theological institute preparing people for ministry - and the big-ticket items on our agenda are "cups and cats"?

What these two stories have to teach us is that we struggle, still, with the same issues that beset the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' time. And I say this sympathetically. We're human and invariably we lose perspective, just as the Scribes and Pharisees did. Jesus regularly chided them for, as he put it, "abandoning the commandment of God and holding to human traditions" and consequently getting overly- focused on rituals to do with "the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles". We generally stand under this same indictment. We too tend to lose the center for the periphery.

What is the center? The great commandment of God, that Jesus chides the Scribes and Pharisees for losing sight of, is the invitation to love God above all else and to love your neighbor as yourself. That is the one, great, central law. But in order to live that out practically, we need many ancillary laws, about everything from liturgical rubrics to cups and cats. And these laws are good, providing that they never stand alone, autonomous, not bending to the one great commandment to love God and neighbor.

In both society and in our churches, we have made many laws: civil laws, criminal laws, church laws, canon laws, liturgical laws, and all kinds of laws and guidelines inside our families and within the venues where we work. It is naïve to believe, idealistically, that we can live without laws. St. Augustine once proposed that we could live without laws: "Love and do as you wish!" But, love, as he defined it in this context, meant the highest level of altruistic love. In other words, if you are already a saint you don't need laws. Sadly, our world, our churches, and we ourselves, don't measure up to that criterion. We still need laws.

But our laws, all of them, and at every level, are not meant to stand alone, to have their own autonomy. They must bend towards and give acquiescence to a center, and that center is the one great law that relativizes all others: Love God above all else and love your neighbor as yourself.

There is a principle central in all moral theology that in part encapsulates this, the principle of Epikeia (from the Greek, epieikes, meaning reasonable). Laws are meant to be reasonable and are meant to be obeyed in a way that doesn't violate rationality and common sense. Epikeia is what St. Paul had in mind when he taught that the letter of the law kills while the spirit of the law brings life. In essence, what Epikeia asks of us is that, as we apply a given law in any circumstance of our lives, we ask ourselves the question: "If the law-maker were here, given the intent of this law, what would he or she want me to do in this situation?" That would bend the law to its center, to its sacred intent, to its spirit, and ensure that all our disagreements about pots, bronze kettles, liturgical rubrics, cups, and cats would remain loyal to the question: "What would Jesus do?"

Fr. Ron Rolheiser
www.ronrolheiser.com
Lord Hear Our Prayer

Pray for our Sick

God of love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
stand by us in our time of need.  
Watch over _______ who is sick,  
Look after him/her in every danger, and  
grant him/her your healing and peace.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus.  Amen.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto These, O Lord

Aldona Buinauskas, mother of Peter and grandmother of Andrew, Mallone, Alanah & Peter

Dorothy DiSalvo, mother of Carol Gilbert

Sr. Mary Flaherty, sister of Dennis Flaherty

William King, father of Barbara Knowles and grandfather of Julie, Sam & Laura

Betty Knott, sister of Herb Nilles

Raymond Roffi, former parishioner

Baptisms

Katherine Lynne, daughter of Matthew and Alison Kellam

Michael Dylan Morrissey, son of James and Rosemary Morrissey

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 10
6:30 Jack Goldrick
7:45 Bill Broderick; Bill Krawisz

Tuesday, September 11
6:30 Our Beloved Dead
7:45 Tom Stevens; Virginia James

Wednesday, September 12, Most Holy
6:30 Thomas J. McGuire
7:45 Marie O’Brien; Rev. William J. Bennett

Thursday, September 13, St. John Chrysostom
7:45 Michael Heinzl; Special Intention

Friday, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
7:45 Galloway and Hague Families; Joseph Kmet

Saturday, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows
8:00 Eleanor Lahart; Connie Faraone Hudnutt
5:00 Den Besten Family; Michael Heinzl
Recovery of Mark Heinzl

Sunday, September 16, Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 SJC & St. Mark’s Parishioners
9:00 Joseph Scelsi; Frances Gary
10:45 Frances Leary; Jean Premo
12:15 Shirley Bobber; Katie Courtemanche
5:00 Marty Furlong; Eugene Garvy

Italics—Living

Wedding Banns

Andrew Meyer and Kimberly Caplis

For News & Resources Visit:  
Archdiocese of Chicago website:  
www.archchicago.org

USCCB: US Catholic Council of Bishops website:  
www.usccb.org

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

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DO YOU WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC AND JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE COMMUNION AND BE CONFIRMED?

INFORMATION SESSION THIS TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 7 P.M. IN CHURCH

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.

RCIA Classes will begin on September 25th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center.