Fr. Dowdle

With so many issues happening in our church and our world, I hope many people find this prayer helpful. It helps me.

Fr. David

FAITH IN FOCUS

Help Wanted
A prayer for frustrated Catholics
By James Martin

Dear God, sometimes I get so frustrated with your Church. I know that I am not alone. So many people who love your Church feel frustrated with the body of Christ on earth. Priests and deacons, and brothers and sisters, can feel frustrated, too. And I’ll bet that even bishops and popes feel frustrated. We grow worried and concerned and bothered and angry and sometimes scandalized because your divine institution, our home, is filled with human beings who are sinful. Just like me.

But I get frustrated most of all when I feel that there are things that need to be changed and I don’t have the power to change them. So I need your help, God.

Help me to remember that Jesus promised he would be with us until the end of time and that your church is always guided by the Holy Spirit, even if it’s hard for me to see. Sometimes change happens suddenly, and the Spirit astonishes us, but often in the Church it happens slowly. In your time, not mine. Help me know that the seeds that I plant with love in the ground of your church will one day bloom. So give me patience.

Help me to understand that there was never a time when there were not arguments or disputes within your Church. Arguments go all the way back to Peter and Paul debating one another. Why would today’s Church be any different than it was for people who knew Jesus on earth? Give me wisdom.

Help me to trust in the Resurrection. The risen Christ reminds us that there is always the hope of something new. Death is never the last word for us. Neither is despair. And help me remember that when the risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he bore the wounds of his crucifixion. Like Christ, the Church is always wounded but always a carrier of grace. Give me hope.

Help me to believe that your Spirit can do anything: raise up saints when we need them most, soften hearts when they seem hardened, open minds when they seem closed, inspire confidence when all seems lost, help us do what had seemed impossible until it was done. This is the same Spirit that converted Paul, inspired Augustine, called Francis of Assisi, emboldened Catherine of Siena, consoled Ignatius of Loyola, comforted Thérèse of Lisieux, enlivened John XXIII, accompanied Teresa of Calcutta, strengthened Dorothy Day and encouraged John Paul II. It is the same Spirit that is with us today, and your Spirit has lost none of its power. Give me faith.

Help me to remember all of your saints. Most of them had it a lot worse than I do. They were frustrated in your Church at times, struggled with it and were occasionally persecuted by it. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake by church authorities. Ignatius Loyola was thrown into jail by the Inquisition. Mary MacKillop was excommunicated. If they can trust in your church in the midst of those difficulties, so can I. Give me courage.

Help me to be peaceful when people tell me that I don’t belong in the Church, that I’m a heretic for trying to make things better or that I’m not a good Catholic. I know that I was baptized. You called me by name to be in your Church, God. As long as I draw breath, help me remember how the holy waters of baptism welcomed me into your holy family of sinners and saints. Let the voice that called me into our church be what I hear when other voices tell me that I’m not welcome in the Church. Give me peace.

Most of all, help me to place all of my hope in your Son. My faith is in Jesus Christ. Give me only his love and his grace. That’s enough for me. Help me God, and help your Church. Amen

Do you want to be Catholic and join our faith community?
Do you want to receive communion and be confirmed?

RCIA class sessions will begin this Tuesday evening September 25th
Classes meet on Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. through the school year.
Call Fr. Fil 708-246-4404 ext. 120 or Email: fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

You can’t get into church for Mass without opening the door. And that’s only the beginning. During the Mass, the priest who preaches is supposed to open the Word for us. But what does that mean? The Word of God contained in the Bible and proclaimed in the Mass needs to be opened. It’s not a common word from everyday life. It may have a strange ring to it. And so it needs some explanation.

More importantly, the Word of God holds life and hope for us. It contains God’s unfailing promise. That needs to be unlocked and opened up through the preacher’s words.

The opened Word of God impels us to the praise and thanksgiving of God in the Eucharist that follows. And at the end of Mass, the opened Word of God enables us to open up the church door to bring life and hope out to the world.

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 or to register: http://wccm-usa.org/upcoming-events/

To register by phone with credit card: 520-829-3197 Sharon@mediomedia.org. Discounted Early Registration thru November 30, 2012

Preparing for Mass

Imagine coming to Mass each Sunday aware of the readings and how they apply to your daily life! Join us for Focus on the Scriptures, a Bible study which uses the free website from the Center for Liturgy at St. Louis University for reflection on the spirituality of the scriptures read at Sunday's Mass. We meet each Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center.

Just as physical exercise strengthens our bodies, spiritual exercise strengthens our faith. Personal prayer ideally flows from Sunday Mass and back toward it in a weekly cycle of prayer. Also, we can greatly enhance our experience of Mass if we are spiritually prepared each week. This comes when we read Sunday's readings ahead of time, and make this part of our personal prayer.

On the internet, this very useful website can help you and your family or friends prepare each week for Sunday Mass: On this site, you will find links to Sunday’s readings, prayers, spiritual reflections, and interesting explanations all based on those readings. There is also a section that helps you pray with the music of the Mass.

The material is designed for ordinary Catholics of all levels of understanding – the people in the pews. Please consider spending a few minutes each week with this website as part of your personal prayer and/or join our weekly discussion on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. The site is completely free of charge, sponsored by the Center for Liturgy at Saint Louis University. www.liturgy.slu.edu Call Mary McGovern with any questions at 708-246-1835.
Become Involved in Liturgy

We invite you to become involved in a liturgical ministry! Call Jim Clauer if you have any questions—x137.

New Communion Minister Training

**Sunday, September 23, 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.**

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!

New Lector Training

**Sunday, September 30, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**

Lectors proclaim the Word of God during Mass. This ministry is open to all adults and high school youth who are registered members of the parish, have a sincere love for the Word Of God contained in scripture, have been fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacrament of confirmation, who preferably possess good reading skills and a clear speaking voice. Training is provided several times a year.

Ushers Needed at All Masses

Ushers, Ministers of Hospitality, are men or women of high school age or above willing to give their time during liturgies to help others attending mass. This includes welcoming and guiding people to their seats before mass, at communion time, taking up the collection and aiding the handicapped or anyone taken ill. Parishioners interested in joining this ministry are welcome and needed, particularly at the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

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

Anointing Mass: Sept 30

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.

Year of Mass—Question of the Week

*One of the most profound requirements of our Christian lives is given to us in the Gospel of today’s Mass: “If anyone wishes to be first, he/she shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*

What might this requirement mean for you, right now in your own life? Be specific.

Grief Support at SJC

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Prayer Group

6 Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. October 11 through November 15th Parish Center Facilitators: Andrea Gagliani and Kathleen Broderick

Our Lord assured us that those who mourn are blessed, and they shall be comforted. **Seasons of Hope** offers the bereaved an opportunity to share in God’s love. Sessions will explore mourning through scripture, prayer, reflection and faith sharing. If you’re in need of consolation after losing a loved one, join us. **Come and be comforted. All are welcome.**

For more information pick up a **Seasons of Hope** pamphlet at the exits or the kiosk in church. Call Andrea at 708-246-1520 to register or you have any questions.
Programs for Adults

Endow Women’s Study will meet on eight Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.
in the Parish Center through November 7th
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.

**Love the learning. Build the friendships. Live the faith.**

There is still time to join us!

flourish…Join us for a women’s faith sharing group where we will discover and celebrate God’s unique dream for each of us!

Wednesday mornings from 9-10:30 a.m. - October 24th, November 7th, January 9th and 23rd, February 6th and 20th, April 3rd and 17th. Join us anytime throughout the year! For more information email Sue Bidstrup at jsbidstrup@ameritech.net.

CTU Vatican II Fall Lecture Series
Please join Catholic Theological Union in a series of lectures on the Second Vatican Council. The lectures take place on Wednesday evenings through Dec. 5th 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 $15 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 jhoffman@ctu.edu. Complimentary parking is available in the CTU garage. For more information go to www.ctu.edu.

“The Drama of Life” Presented by John Haught, Ph.D. at The Well
October 12th  7-9 p.m.

Many scientists and philosophers today are convinced that the Darwinian understanding of evolution has made the idea of God completely superfluous, and hence unbelievable. The very features of life that previously led religious believers to attribute a sacramental meaning to the created world—descent, diversity, design, death, suffering, sex, intelligence, morality, and religion—now seem to be fully explainable in Darwinian terms. Can we expect scientifically educated people to believe that these features of life may still have religious meaning in a post-Darwinian world? This lecture offers a theological way toward understanding Darwin’s religiously unsettling ideas.

Because our parish co-sponsors this event at The Well, the $25 cost of attending the presentation is waived for SJC parishioners. To reserve a seat, please leave your name, phone, and email with the Parish Center receptionist. 708-246-4404.

*The Well is located at 1515 W Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. Go to csjthewell.org for more information about this program.*
Living the Gospel Message

How the disciples continue to misunderstand the deepest truth about what the “Son of Man” is to undergo! While Jesus is speaking of his impending suffering, death, and rising, the disciples are quibbling over “who [is] the greatest” among them. They are brought to silence twice by Jesus because they still cannot accept the true meaning of who Jesus is and his mission. By embracing a child Jesus reveals, again and concretely, who he is: the One least among us who has come to serve. In a familiar, everyday gesture Jesus teaches us what discipleship actually is. He takes a child—someone innocent, without legal status, totally dependent upon his or her parents or guardians, the negligible person of society—and tells the disciples to be servant of all, even of this least one.

An incredible irony lies at the basis of Jesus’ teaching: only the one who becomes least by serving the least of all can be first. Only by dying to self and serving the least among us can we rise to new and great life. Dying to self doesn’t simply mean we write a check for the United Way or bring non-perishable food gifts to Mass to present along with the bread and wine (as good as those gestures may be). It means surrendering our very selves for others—all others, not just those of our own picking and choosing. Every society has cultural, economic, and social classes of people whom it considers “the least.” These are the very people whom the gospel calls us to serve. As we let go of anything that gets in the way of reaching out to others, we find our own wants and needs change. Gradually our priorities shift from things and possessions and getting more to the relationships that are most important and satisfying for us. Gradually we learn that the ultimate good in life is the grateful smile, the relieved suffering, the lifting up of the supposed least among us. Gradually we learn that dying to self brings new life.

Closing Prayers

May we live as Christ, the servant of all bringing life to all.

May we come to greater understanding of who Jesus is and the demands of following him faithfully.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection

· I struggle with Jesus’ teaching about suffering, death, and rising to new life when I . . .

· I best respond to Jesus’ call to follow him in serving others when I . . .

©Living Liturgy 2012

Readings for the Week

25th Sunday OT
Wis 2:12, 17-20
Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6, 8
Jas 3:16-43
Mark 9:30-37

Monday
Prov 3:27-34
Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5
Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday
Prov 21:1-6, 10-13
Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44
Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday
Prov 30:5-9
Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163
Luke 9:1-6

Thursday
Ecc 1:2-11
Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12:13, 14 and 17bc
Luke 9:7-9

Friday
Eccl 3:11
Ps 144:1b and 2ab, 3-4

Saturday
Dan 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rev 12:7-12ab
Ps 138:1-2ah, 2cd-c-3, 4-5
John 1:47-51

26th Sunday OT
Num 11:25-29
Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14
Jas 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
Crossroads

CALENDAR
Sept. 23 Freshmen Experience Kick-off
Sept. 30 DOS mtg, noon
FE & Home Groups meet
Oct. 8 FMSC service
Oct. 14 FE & Home Groups Meet

Crossroads Youth Ministry
Registration CONTINUES!
Parents of high school teens log onto our website at
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
to fill out permission forms & learn about training dates!

Volunteer Opportunities
For Adults

I WANT YOU,
Adults of our Parish!

KEY NEEDS NOW:
Home Group Leaders for Freshmen
(1-2 couples & 1 female adult)
Boys Basketball Gym Monitor (s)
Retreat Adult Chaperones

Check out ways to get involved
on our website at
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
Under the Leaders Tab!

Contact me to get involved!
Katie Hayes,
Director of Youth Ministry
708-246-4404 ext. 140 or
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Calling All High School Freshmen!

Freshmen Experience Begins Today
Sunday, September 23rd,
6 p.m. in the Parish Center
Lower Level!
All freshmen are welcome to join us.
Register online (see above) and/or just
show up tonight!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
for any high school teens & parents
interested in packing food
for those who are hungry!

MONDAY October 8 (Columbus Day)
Meet at SJC 7 p.m., Carpool to Aurora, IL
to serve from 7:45-9:30 p.m., return home
by 10 p.m. (LTHS has no school on the 9th)

REGISTER by going to volunteer.fmsc.org
ENTER CODE # 242995 & JOIN a group

If you have any questions call Lis Williams,
our Parent Service Coordinator at 708-588-8292

WATCH OUT FOR SOME AWESOME RETREAT INFORMATION COMING YOUR WAY SOON via our
Crossroads facebook page….teens can request to join our private group through their home group advisory rep.
Please verify that you have a green check mark next to notifications while on this page
so you will be sure to receive our updates!

Our Kairos 12 retreat, Fourth Team, Day of the Spirit Retreat & Identity Frosh/Soph Retreat Teams are busy preparing
for some wonderful experiences of time with friends & faith!!!
St. John of the Cross Parish School invites all parents, teachers and caregivers in our community to a very special parenting event…

Helping our children navigate the pressures of peers, school and a blindingly fast-paced culture

Susan FitzGerald, award-winning journalist, teacher, mother of three and co-author of *Letting Go with Love and Confidence: Raising Responsible, Resilient, Self-Sufficient Teens in the 21st Century*, will lead an enlightening, encouraging and thoughtful conversation to give parents positive and practical advice based on her award-winning book.

Don’t miss it!
October 3, 2012 at 7 p.m.
St. John of the Cross Parish Center
5005 Wolf Road
Western Springs

Featured on NPR and in The New York Times

Catholic High School Night: October 2nd

St. John of the Cross Parish School will be hosting a Catholic High School Fair for all parish junior high students on Tuesday, October 2nd from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in Hynes Hall in the SJC Parish School. Representatives from 17 Catholic High Schools (Benet, Brother Rice, Fenwick, Immaculate Conception, La Lumiere, Marist, Montini, Mother McAuley, Mount Carmel, Mt. Assisi, Nazareth, Queen of Peace, St. Ignatius, St. Joseph, St. Laurence, St. Rita and Trinity) will be available that evening and are anxious to meet 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students and parents. Also, flyers explaining the Rev. Joseph McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship Fund will be available. Questions regarding the SJC High School Fair may be directed to Mrs. Kathleen Gorman, Principal, at (708)246-4454.
Youth Catechesis

**YC NEWS**

Last week began the YC Year. We welcomed families to Open Houses and Home group meetings. Fr. Dave and Fr. Fil shared their Eucharistic experiences with our parents. Parents shared activities with their children in the classrooms...It was wonderful!

Many thanks to all our parents who attended.

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**2nd Grade Parents**

Reminder!

**Thursday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m.**

required Parent meeting in the Church for all parents of 2nd grade children from YC and SJCS.

**Please note the corrected time of the meeting is 6:30 pm**

Remember all 7th graders come to the PC:

**Kick-Off~TODAY, 3~6:30 p.m.**

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**Year of Sunday Mass**

July 2012 – June 2013

During the Year of Sunday Mass, YC students and their families will celebrate Mass together. Mark your calendar to join us at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass on:

- September 30th ~ November 4th
- December 9th ~ February 24th
- April 28th

Our children will be active participants throughout the Mass.

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**YC Schedule**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
<th>Sunday, Sept 23 &amp; 30</th>
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<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
<td>Monday, Sept 24 &amp; Oct 1</td>
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**FFC**

Tuesday, October 2 ~ 6:00 pm Orientation & supplies

**Home Groups and Special Needs**

Sunday, Sept 23, Oct 14

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**Youth Catechesis Office**

yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc

Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m.

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org

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**Outreach**

**Outreach to Adults with Mental Illness**

Faith and Fellowship, the archdiocese’s Outreach to Adults with Mental Illness, will host Mrs. Janice Benton, the executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities, at a prayer service and reception on Wednesday, September 26, at 7:00 pm. The event will be hosted at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church (34 N. Washington Blvd., Oak Park) and will include a free-will offering to benefit Faith and Fellowship. The church is accessible, and there is ample parking. We’re hoping for a great turnout to show Jan what a warm, hospitable, inclusive Archdiocese we are!!!

For details, call Connie Rakitan, 708/383-9276.

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**Interfaith Career Network Programs**

**Job Support Workshop**

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us...Jim Peterson will discuss accountability in your search and Dennis Hamilton will provide a special presentation on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments which are the keys to preparing a compelling resume and “elevator speech.” Join us in Westminster Hall, 7-9 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of La Grange, 150 South Ashland Avenue. Please enter the church on Catherine Avenue. Everyone is welcome and there is no fee to attend this workshop. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com.

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**Illinois Citizens for Life—**

40 Years Defending Life at All Ages

Annual Forget-Me-Not Dinner

Friday, October 5

The Carlisle, Butterfield Rd., Lombard

Speaker Dan Proft

For information, call 630-852-5448 or web: www.icl-life.com

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**Riley Marshall Eagle Scout Collection Project**

for Hines VA Hospital (Maywood) ends September 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.
Last Day to Drop off Items for Support our Troops Collection

Donation Boxes in Parish Center and in Church Items include:
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

Sharing Parish Dinner
All are welcome to St. Mark’s International Dinner
Saturday, October 6, 6-10 p.m.
Parish Hall
Good Food, Music and Entertainment
A wonderful time to gather as one diverse family!
$12 Adults, $6 Children
1048 N. Campbell Ave., Chicago
Visit: www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

Fun, Meaningful, and Rewarding, Too!
Our newest Sharing Parish, Our Lady of Charity, in Cicero, has an offer you should really consider. Each weekday they provide an after school program for approximately 50 children. Katie Olson, the principal, would be so pleased to offer some tutoring and/or supervised recreation for these lovely children. It could be one day a week or each day, if you are able. The after school program begins at 3:00 and concludes at 6:00 p.m. If you could offer even an hour or more once or twice a week it would be a treat for the children, and you as well. The school is near Pershing and Laramie so it is only about ten miles. Some parishioners have expressed interest and perhaps car-pooling could be set up. Please call Bill Bright at 708-246-4404 if you are interested!

Our Neighbors—St. James Lutheran Church Invite Us to Celebrate Their 34th Oktoberfest
Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Luncheon Served 11 a.m.—2 p.m.
Brats, dogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad & much more!
Charity Gift Drawings
Huge Bake Sale Many Crafters
5129 Wolf Road, Western Springs
Just south of our school

This Week at SJC
Monday, September 24
9:30 a.m. Senior Club Committee Meeting
10:30 a.m. 11th Step Christian Meditation
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
Tuesday, September 25
9:00 a.m. Parent Association Meeting
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting
3:45 p.m. New Altar Server Training
7:00 p.m. Court of Honor Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. RCIA
Wednesday, September 26
9:00 a.m. Crossroads Vicariate Meeting
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
1:00 p.m. Endow Meeting
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation
Thursday, September 27
7:00 p.m. Promise
Friday, September 28
8:00 a.m. Teacher In-Service
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club Meeting
3:45 p.m. New Altar Server Training
6:00 p.m. Mother Son Camp Out
Saturday, September 29
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:45 a.m. Ministers of Care Meeting
Sunday, September 30
12:15 p.m. Anointing of the Sick Mass
2:30 p.m. Lector Training
6:00 p.m. Crossroads Freshman Experience
Truth alone is not enough. It must be balanced off with the other transcendental properties of God: oneness, goodness, and beauty.

That might sound abstract, but what it means concretely is that sometimes we can have all the right answers and still be wrong. How? If we are acting in truth how can we be wrong?

The first pitfall is this: We may be acting out of truth and, in fact, doing all the right things, but our energy can be wrong. T.S. Eliot once famously said: "The last temptation is the greatest treason: To do the right deed for the wrong reason." We can see what is at stake here by looking at the older brother of the prodigal son. On the surface his devotion to his father lacks nothing. He rightly attests that his life is blameless and a paradigm of filial devotion. He has kept all the commandments, has never left his father's house, and has done all the required work. The irony is that he fails to notice that he is not in fact inside his father's house, but is standing outside of it and is being gently invited in by his father. What is keeping him outside since after all he is doing everything correctly? Bitterness and anger. His actions are correct, but his heart is wrong. Bitterness and anger are not the right energy to fuel truth. We can be scrupulously faithful and still find ourselves standing outside of God's house and outside the circle of community and celebration because of a bitter heart. Gratitude is the energy that ultimately needs to fuel the truth.

Like the older brother of the prodigal son, we can be doing everything right and still, somehow, be wrong. And where this is particularly important in terms of a challenge is in our efforts, both as individuals and as churches, to offer the truth, the right answers, to those around us, be that our own children who no longer go to church or society as a whole. If, inside of our speaking the truth, there are elements of elitism, arrogance, anger, lack of respect, lack of understanding, or worse still, embittered moralizing, our truth will not be heard, not because our truth is wrong but because our energy is.

That is why Jesus warns us to "speak our truth in parables". Truth is not a sledgehammer; it is an invitation that we must respectfully offer others.

And there is still a second potential pitfall: We can have the right answers and the right energy, but have the wrong understanding of those answers. We see this, for example, in Mark's Gospel when Jesus asks the disciples the question: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers, and answers correctly, by saying: "You are the Christ, the Messiah." But he is immediately shut down by Jesus ("Don't tell that to anyone!") and is subsequently rebuked with the words: "Get behind me, Satan!" Why? Wasn't he correct?

Peter's answer was correct, Jesus was the Christ, but his understanding of what that meant was mostly wrong. For Peter, the concept of a Messiah connoted earthly power and especially earthly privilege, whereas for Jesus it meant suffering and dying. Peter had the right answer, but the wrong understanding of that answer. Some scholars speculate that this is the real reason behind the so-called "messianic secret" in the Gospels, where Jesus repeatedly asks his disciples to not reveal his identity. His reluctance to have his disciples broadcast publicly who he is was based upon his fear that they could not, before the resurrection and Pentecost, properly understand his identity and would invariably preach a false message.

We can have the right answers and still be wrong because we have the wrong energy to go along with the answers or because we have a wrong understanding of the answers. It is good to take that to heart, especially when we step out prophetically either religiously or morally or socially. We may well have the water of life, the truth that sets people free, and the right cause, but nobody except our own kind will accept to receive it from us if our energy is wrong or our understanding of that truth is wrong. It is easy to rationalize that it is because we are prophetic, the faithful remnant, the last warriors of truth still standing, that we are not being heard and why we are hated. But, more often than not, we are not being listened to because we are misguided, elitist, non-empathic, or flat-out unloving, not because we are warriors for truth or justice.

And so we need to be humble and heed Jesus' warning to guard the "messianic secret" and "speak our truth in parables". In brief, we need to be solicitous always lest a false energy behind our truth or a misunderstanding of that truth have us so fall out of discipleship that Jesus has to reprimand us with the words: "Get behind me, Satan!"

Rev. Ron Rolheiser

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.
SJCSaintly Senior Club
proudly presents its fall
Oktoberfest Luncheon
Friday, October 14th at 11:30 a.m.
in the Parish Center
Cost: Members $15, Nonmembers $20
R.S.V.P.’s due on Monday October 8th to the Parish Center
Enjoy a delicious, authentic German luncheon. Wine, beer, and soft drinks included. A lively entertaining program follows lunch! This is a great opportunity to connect with other seniors in our parish. Hope to see you there! Any questions, call Trudy Schmitt at 708-246-4404.
Name:________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________
# Reservations at $15____ $20 _____
Total Enclosed: $_____

Mom’s Club
Join us Every Friday Morning
Please join us for our next meeting on Friday, September 28th 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.

SJC Men’s Club Presents
Bears Monday Night Football
Monday, October 1st
Food and Beverages
Parish Center 6:30 p.m.
All men of the Parish are encouraged to attend.
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St John of the Cross Boy Scout Troop 117 Christmas Wreath Order Form 2012

Customer Name: _______________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: _________________________________________________________________
Phone Number: _______________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Boy Scout Troop 117

ALL ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 29th 2012
Orders will be delivered to your doorstep on November 17th 2012

Please drop off or mail in this order form with PAYMENT at the
St John of the Cross Parish Center 5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs IL 60558
All proceeds benefit St John of the Cross Boy Scout Troop 117.
Contact Mike Krol for all questions at:
troop117christmaswreaths2012@yahoo.com or 708-415-4040
Baptisms

In September, 2012, we welcomed the following children into the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism.

- **Katherine Lynne**, daughter of Matthew and Alison (Franklin) Kellam
- **Michael Dylan**, son of James and Rosemary (Sifert) Morrissey
- **Raymond William**, son of Raymond and Sarah (Bramstedt) Szarzynski
- **Quinn Edward**, son of Matthew & Kellene (Cada) O’Connell
- **Eleanor Barbara**, daughter of Nicholas and Lisa (Stensen) Braithwaite
- **Emmett Glenn**, son of Bryant and Laura (Vallero) Drechsel
- **Sarah Therese**, daughter of David and Kathryn (Peters) Bushnell
- **Alexander Matthew**, son of Robert and Mary Pat (McGarel) Schmidt
- **Edwin James**, son of James and Madel (Cruz) Lohmeier
- **Jocelynn Elyssa and Johanna Elysse**, daughters of Juan and Esperanza Rivera Valenzuela

May we remember your light today when we see the radiant sun, a burning candle, or a shining lamp. Jesus, our light, we praise and thank you. Shine on us forever.

John 12:46
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Jean Finn, mother of Jerri Malecek, Tom, Mick & Jim
grandmother of James, Mike, Tommy, Katelyn, Danny,
Kevin, Billy, Colleen, Molly, Bobby, Nicole, Caroline,
Kelly and Brooke.
Frank Rock, father of Rick
James E. Mangan, III, son of Marianne
Catherine Schnitzer, daughter of
Thomas & Janet McDonagh

Wedding Banns
Andrew Mulcahy and Erica Johnson

Mass Intentions
Monday, September 24
6:30 Arlene Bishop; Gora & Maier Families
7:45 Ann Grecco; Daniel O’Brien
Tuesday, September 25
6:30 Our Beloved Dead
7:45 Tom Darovic; Tina Morales
Wednesday, September 26, Ss. Cosmas & Damian
6:30 Florence Devine
7:45 Gail Paulette Fetterolf; Jack McDonnell
Thursday, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul
7:45 William Albertson; Gordon Stieffel
Friday, September 28, St. Wenceslaus
7:45 Margaret Prost; Rose Marks
Saturday, September 29, Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
8:00 Therese Jurkacek; Mr. Leroy
5:00 Donald Parker; Richard Sprague
Sunday, September 30, 26th Sunday Ordinary
7:30 Nicky Sawka; Rev. Joseph Shary
9:00 Alexius Crowley
10:45 Gen & Bob Grogan; Mildred and Joseph Baltikas
12:15 Patricia Mulvaney; Chester Cebula
5:00 SJC and Holy Cross (Uganda) Parishioners

Italics—Living
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.

Mary Bartucci  Adriane Kane  Joan Nicholson
Tracy Bucciarelli  Jacob Kenny  Tommy Niemeyer
Garth Christie  Helen King  Nancy Olin
Ashley Davis  Rita Kozioł  Greg Palaschak
Mary Sue  Ray Kula  Andrew Park
Donohue  Cathy Laskey  Matthew Pecis
Kimberly Edwards  Greg LaValle  Raymond Principe
David Harrington  Yvonne Lowry  Rosemary Rissler
Karen Hult  Meredith Mangold  Kathie Saldana
Ruth Ilg  Thomas Martin  Rita Shelhouse
Tom Jass  Olga Matusik  Bob Sturenfeldt
Emily Johanns  Moon Meehan  Norma Sumpay
Lois Corrine Johnson  Mack Nelson  Elmina Ngwila

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, compliant, full of mercy..... Have you ever felt called to priesthood? Consider attending the next Exploring Priesthood Weekend. This retreat is held on October 5-7 at Mundelein Seminary (www.usml.edu) to learn about, reflect and discuss the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago.
For more information contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or at bwelter@archchicago.org or go to www.ChicagoPriest.com.

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

Fr. David Dowdle  Pastor  ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. Fil Ngwila  Associate Pastor  fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp  Deacon  john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright  Outreach  bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta  Director of Youth Catechesis  jcascetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer  Worship  jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman  School Principal  gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes  Crossroads High School  khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch  Music  jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin  Operations  mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
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Today and Tomorrow.
Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, s’mores and beverages for the boys. Great treats for the moms too!

The St. John of the Cross Women’s Club invites you to

THE MOTHER & SON CAMPOUT 2012!

Friday, September 28th – 7:00-10:00 PM

Bring your tent and gear for a night of fun!
We will supply the food, drink and games!
$10.00 per person ★ RSVP by Sept. 23rd

Don’t Miss:
The Candy Hunt
Inflatable Fun
And a Movie on The Big Screen!

PLEASE TEAR OFF BOTTOM PORTION TO RSVP

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________
PHONE: ________________________________
E-MAIL: ________________________________

NUMBER ATTENDING: ADULTS ______ CHILDREN ________
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _____________ (COST $10.00 PER PERSON)

Please make your check payable to: St. John of the Cross Women’s Club
(Checks or cash can be dropped off at the Parish Center)

Questions? Contact: Elizabeth Turcich (elizabeth@turcichfamily.com)
or Denise Schullo (deec7@hotmail.com)