ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2012
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

FAITH OPENS OUR EYES
TO HUMAN LIFE
IN ALL ITS GRANDEUR
AND BEAUTY

RESPECT LIFE

5005 S. WOLF ROAD WESTERN SPRINGS 60558
708-246-4404
WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG
Dear Parishioners,

October is a busy month. We celebrate both ‘little’ Therese (of Lisieux) on the first and ‘big’ Teresa (of Avila) on the fifteenth. There is the feast of the Guardian Angels on the second and Ignatius of Antioch on the seventeenth. Then there is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on the fourth, which brought a great menagerie of pets to be blessed. I’m guessing dogs of all kinds, some cats, perhaps a few gerbils and maybe some snakes (not together), an iguana, a rabbit or two and more were the beneficiaries of the beloved St. Francis’ affection and blessing.

Perhaps it is most appropriate that Deacon John Schopp led the prayer and pet blessing. St. Francis himself was a deacon and as such is the patron saint of the diaconate community. Later Sunday afternoon our three deacons and their wives will gather with the diaconate community for an annual banquet that celebrates our rich and diverse ordained community of deacons and their wives throughout the archdiocese. As we move forward as a parish, the ministry of the deacon will become increasingly important. (Both Deacon Tom McGorey and Deacon Joe Pepitone have reached the status of ‘Senior Deacon’ and after many years of service have a bit of a reduced schedule.) Currently there is one parishioner who is discerning a vocation to the diaconate. We could use about ten more. I would be glad to speak with a parishioner (yes, it still has to be a man) who feels called to the ministry of the ordained deacon, which is a three-fold ministry of Altar, Word and Charity/Justice. Please contact me and we can sit down and talk it through.

Another traditional feast in October is the Feast of the Holy Rosary which is October 7th. (The school children do a living rosary close to the date of the feast.) Obviously this year it is preempted by the Sunday liturgy, which is also designated as Respect Life Sunday, as all of October is designated as Respect Life month. We are trying to organize a public praying of the rosary on Saturday, October 13th on our parish grounds at noon. It is the 95th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima and an opportunity to pray for a spiritual solution to the many challenges we face as a nation. During October especially, we need to pray for the respect of life from conception to natural death. Please join us if you are able.

Peace,
Fr. David

PS You may have noticed the parking lot patching and restriping and the installation of new lighting in the Special Needs parking lot. These two projects cost about $65,000.00. Both projects were important to be completed before the onset of winter. There will be more financial information the first weekend in November when we publish the annual report.

Read about Faithful Citizenship.
Go to the Archdiocese of Chicago Website: http://www.archchicago.departments/peace_and_justiceFaithfulCitizenship/
Under Resources click on Forming Consciences

INSEARCH DISCERNMENT GROUP:
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.

For more information, contact Fr. Brian Welter, Vocation Director 835 N. Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611 312-534-8298 bwelter@archchicago.org
October 7th is Respect Life Sunday

In 2013 our country will observe a shameful anniversary, marking forty years of a “culture of death” that began when the U.S. Supreme Court, in Roe v. Wade, struck down all state laws restricting abortion. Since the advent of “legalized” abortion, over 53 million children have lost their lives, and their parents and family members have been forever, unalterably changed. In addition to opening the door to abortion on request for all nine months of pregnancy, the Supreme Court’s decision eroded respect for human life and led to a growing acceptance of death as the “solution” to personal and societal problems. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are now promoted as answers to declining health and disability. Human embryonic stem cell research, in which week-old embryos are sacrificed, is championed as a means to cure disease. To solve the problem of low fertility, many doctors create human embryos in their clinics, knowing full well that few embryos will survive to birth and the majority will be discarded or die. And the death penalty is still vigorously defended as the answer to violent crime. A long time ago, God the Father allowed the Israelites to wander in a wasteland for forty painful years. This exile was not only a punishment for having rejected him, it was also a test of their faithfulness before they would be allowed to enter the land he had promised them. At the end of their time in the desert, the Israelites were given one final challenge: “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, / by loving the LORD, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him” (Dt 30:19-20).

Even after reaching Canaan, the Israelites had to endure many battles before they could freely occupy the land. All this was to strengthen their faith in God and affirm their total reliance on him. So, too, have these last forty years tested our faithfulness. But they have also strengthened the resolve of many Christians, especially teens and young adults, to be more determined than ever to help bring about a “culture of life.” How do we strengthen our faith and resolve today, as our country marks forty years in the wasteland of the culture of death?...

To read more go to the home page of our parish website.

Some battered victims stay because there is no place for them to go.

If survivors believe the church and spiritual community support them, they are more likely to act on their own behalf. Survivors often cite the constant emotional, spiritual, and pragmatic assistance from their community of faith as a major reason they were able to move on to a safe and violent-free life.

Read about the mission and resources of the Archdiocesan Domestic Abuse Outreach program by logging onto www.archdiocesechicago.org Go to the ARCHDIOCESAN RESOURCES box at the lower right of the homepage and select Domestic Violence Committee.

How can you mobilize your community to support survivors and to prevent domestic violence?

To learn more about creating a Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry at your parish, contact J Marie: jmarie.saV4@gmail.com

If you are a victim or survivor of domestic abuse seeking help:
National Hotline: 1-800-799 SAFE (7233); 1-800-7873224 (TDD)

Father Michael J. McGivney Center of Hope and Healing Opens Its Doors

On August 14th, The Well of Mercy a Father Michael J. McGivney Center of Hope and Healing opened its doors to single pregnant women who choose life. Within three weeks after the Center opened, five mothers, three of which gave birth now have a home. We are a much needed extension of the Pregnancy Assistance Centers by providing transitional housing.

The Chicago center is the first of six Fr. Michael J. McGivney Centers of Hope and Healing to be established. Our goal is to open a center in each of the six dioceses in the state of Illinois. The Center is named after the founder of the Knights of Columbus, the Venerable Father Michael F. McGivney.

On Sunday, September 23 we opened our doors at 6339 N. Fairfield Ave. in Chicago. We have much to do to clean and renovate the facility and you may decide that you want to help us. Your time and talents are essential in the support of this mission. For more information visit us at www.mcgivneycenter.com or call us at 773-889-6470. The Holy Spirit may tap you on the shoulder and you may decide you want to help get involved and share in the joy of this new Catholic initiative.

All are welcome to the Well of Mercy
Join the 25th National Life Chain!
Today, October 7 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing in honor of 56 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

*Stand with thousands of pro-lifers throughout the USA! You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer! *Bring your whole family! Rain or shine!

*Signs provided at each location proclaim “Abortion Kills Children,” “Adoption the Loving Option,” “Jesus Forgives & Heals,” “Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation,” “Abortion Hurts Women,” “El Aborto Mata Ninos,” “Life—the first Inalienable Right,” “Pray to End Abortion” and “Pregnant? Need Help? 1-800-395-HELP.”

Signs can be picked up in Western Springs, Wolf & Ogden and Grand & Ogden.

Outreach

Interfaith Career Network

Go to our website for more information on these topics:

Free Resume Review, Saturday, October 13, St. Cletus Parish, La Grange 9-11 a.m.
Using Twitter in Your Job Search, Thursday, October 18, St. John of the Cross Parish 7-9 p.m.
ICN Job Support Workshop, Tuesday, October 9, First Presbyterian Church of La Grange 7-9 p.m.

(ICN) offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Sharing Connections Needs Supplies to Help Families

Sharing Connections Furniture Bank (SCFB), a non-profit organization in Downers Grove provides furniture and household items to low income individuals and families, helping them transform bare rooms into a home. Families and individuals come to SCFB after facing devastating challenges including domestic violence, fires, floods, health issues, job loss, poverty and other difficult situations.

Due to a significant increase in clients we are asking for your help to provide some of our most critical needs for clients. These needs include gently used household items including dishes, cups, glasses, pots, towels, and bedding. New cleaning supplies including general household cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, window cleaner, etc. New personal care products including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving products, etc. We also depend on the generosity of the community to donate gently used furniture including beds, mattresses, dressers, sofas, etc. For a full list and detailed information of items accepted and our pick up area please visit our website at www.sharingconnections.org.

Donated items can be dropped off at our warehouse at 5111 Chase Ave., Downers Grove, Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Thank you so much for caring about others.

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
Formation Opportunities for Adults

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

It’s not too late.
RCIA 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: fnqwila@stjohnofthecross.org

Do you want to get on with life but haven’t been able to because of the grief you are experiencing?

Seasons of Hope: Bereavement Prayer Group
Six Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m.
October 11 — November 15th in the 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.

The Lord increases our faith, so that our lives may be at the free service of God and of neighbor.
Luke 17: 5-10

Someone You Should Know!

St. John of the Cross Parish welcomes Mary Runger from St. Margaret Mary Parish of Naperville. Working with a team of volunteer parishioners from SJC, Mary will lead a Rediscover Catholicism Book Seminar (by Matthew Kelly) at our parish in January.

Mary holds a Master of Arts in Family Ministry and Faith Development (MAFM) from Dominican University and has been active in many volunteer activities and ministries at both the parish and diocesan level as well as at Benet Academy that demonstrate her leadership and management skills and strong love for sharing her faith.

Mary will be visiting the Parish Advisory Council at its fall meeting on October 9th and each Consultative Body, Ministry Advisory Group and various parish organizations during October and November to introduce herself and her Book Seminar. Then in December, all parishioners will get to meet Mary when she will share the details of the Book Seminar at all weekend Masses.

If you would like to be part of her planning team, email MJ at mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org.
SJC WOMEN’S CLUB SPIRITUALITY INVITES YOU TO:

AN EVENING OF REFLECTION
Discovering God’s Presence and Purpose in Daily Life
Guest Speaker, Claire Noonan
Director, Siena Center - Dominican University

Wednesday, October 10th
7 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Center
RSVP to Sue Bidstrup at 246-6822
or jsbidstrup@ameritech.net

Join us for a women’s faith sharing
group where we will discover and
celebrate God’s unique dream for
each of us! Beginning October 24th.

Wednesday mornings from 9 to 10:50
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 or Liz Williams at
liz@bethwill@boglobal.net

flourish
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.
Reflections on the Gospel

Living the Gospel

Jesus is rightly indignant with the disciples for the same reason he confronts the Pharisees for their hardness of heart. Jesus contrasts the hardness of heart which led to the Mosaic Law permitting divorce with the openness of heart he modeled when he embraced and blessed the children. In the midst of real struggles and difficulties marking human relationships, we are to maintain the openness of heart—like Jesus and innocent children—that was God’s intention “from the beginning of creation.” In such openness of heart the kingdom of God is among us.

The paschal mystery tension of dying and rising is played out many ways. This Sunday’s gospel suggests a number of them: God’s ways vs. human ways; peace vs. “testing”; fidelity vs. fickleness; communion vs. separation; those without power (children) vs. those in power (Pharisees); come vs. rebuke; accept vs. does not enter. Which do we choose? Our choices depend upon the depth and quality of our relationships with God and others, upon our openness of hearts. Relationships grow when we take the time to reflect and keep things in perspective. Relationships grow when we put the good of another ahead of our own petty desires. In a society where most of us are all too busy and frequently too tired, it is very difficult to keep things in perspective. We tend to be short with each other and the children. Perhaps we need to follow Jesus’ example in the gospel and take the time to embrace and bless each other. We often think of blessing more in terms of the formal blessing the priest may give us at the end of Mass or on other occasions. However, there is a long tradition of people blessing each other, especially parents blessing children. One way to live the Gospel of Christ is to take the time to bless those we love. In this very blessing is the kingdom of God furthered. In embrace and blessing is openness of hearts made visible.

Closing Prayers

May our manner of living be shaped by Jesus’ openness of heart.
May we grow in our willingness to embrace and bless one another.
Our Father... 

For Reflection

- When and with whom I tend to have a “hardness of heart” is... What opens my heart is...
- What brings about struggles and difficulties in my relationship with others is...

Meditation

Rev. Richard Rohr

The German Jesuit, Karl Rahner, said something like this (although his German is hard to translate): “The infinite mystery that you are to yourself and the infinite mystery that God is in God’s self proceed forward together as one.” In simple English, as you uncover God’s loving truth, you uncover your own, and as you uncover your own truth, you fall deeper into God’s mercy and love. I’ve certainly seen this in my own little journey. When I come to a breakthrough in my own shadow work, my own sinfulness, my own self-knowledge, or in wonder at my own soul, it invariably feeds and invites the other side, and I want to go deeper with God.

In the same way, when my heart opens up in a new recognition of the nature of God, it always invites me into deeper and daring honesty, deeper self-surrender, deeper shadow work with my own illusions and my own pretensions. The two will always feed one another, and that’s why people who go deeper with God invariably have a very honest evaluation of themselves. They are never proud people. They can’t be, because the closer you get to the Light, the more you see your own darkness. And the closer you get to your own ordinariness (which sometimes includes darkness), the more you know you need the Light.

Prayer:

"Who are you, God, and who am I?"

Year of Sunday Mass: Question of the Week

The creation narrative this Sunday highlights the fact that human beings are incomplete without the other. “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will create a suitable partner for him.” (Gen2:18)

How does the Eucharist, which unites us with each other through the mystical body of Christ, help me strengthen my relationships with others, particularly through my committed relationships (family, marriage, parish)?
We wait for Mass to begin. But do we wait during Mass itself? If we hear Saint Paul correctly, the entire Mass is a waiting time. The Mass waits for and expects the second coming of Jesus. The Mass proclaims that in the death and resurrection of Jesus our redemption has begun to take hold of us, but we expect and await its completion when the Lord will come again in glory. Paul told the Corinthians: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

We live in an in-between time, a waiting time before the Lord will come to bring all things together under his headship. In the meanwhile, especially at Mass, we wait and pray in our struggles with evil. After the Lord’s Prayer we ask, “Deliver us, Lord, from ever evil . . . as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

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.

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.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Formation Opportunities for Adults

Christian Meditation is an inner journey of silence, stillness and simplicity and is the missing contemplative dimension of much of Christian life today. To enter the simplicity of it demands faith, discipline and courage. If we are faithful and patient, meditation will bring us into deeper and deeper realms of silence. The fruit of this prayer is in our daily lives and relationships.

Times for Christian Meditation at the Parish Center are:
Mondays: 10:30 a.m. ~ 11th Step Christian Meditation
Wednesdays: 2:00-2:45 p.m. & 7:30-8:15 p.m.
Saturdays: 7:00-7:45 a.m.
All are welcome. No experience necessary.

Preparing for Sunday Mass
Reflect and pray on the Sunday readings before you get to Mass. There are two different groups who meet weekly and welcome you to join them.

Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. our Focus on Sunday Scripture group meets to reflect and pray on the coming Sunday’s readings. The material used is from the St. Louis University Center for Liturgy. Feel free to join this group any week you can or prepare at home by going to www.liturgy.slu.edu. Direct any questions to Mary McGovern at 708-246-1835.

For many years our Sr. Josephine has led a Sunday scripture study group on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the parish center. Even if you have never attended one of Sister’s sessions, the group welcomes you to join them. Sister’s faith and holiness is contagious!!
**Formation Opportunities for Adults**

St. Isaac Jogues Church - Adult Faith Formation
Hosted by the Men’s Group

*United for Freedom: The HHS Mandate and Religious Liberty*
With Peter Breen, Executive Director of the Thomas More Society

**Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.**
St. Isaac Jogues Church Parish Center
4th & Clay Streets, Hinsdale, IL 60521

Do you know the whole story on the HHS Mandate?
On January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception. The exemption provided for “religious employers” was so narrow that it failed to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations—including Catholic hospitals, universities, and charities—that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and his disciples would have qualified for the exemption, because it excludes those who mainly serve people of another faith. Much has been said in the news about the mandate and about the response of the U.S. Bishops. Join us as Mr. Breen explains the mandate, the proposed accommodation, and the rights of all Americans - including Catholics.

**Nurturing Your Child’s Spirituality:**
“Expanding our Images of God” provides a creative way to help children grow in their faith. Bridget Sperduto and Barbara Foreman help participants gain insight, share wisdom and leave with practical ideas and activities to share at home. The program will be held on Thursday, October 25th, from 9:15 – 10:45 a.m. The cost is $10 with free babysitting provided. Advance registration is required.

**Visual Journaling:**
*Hearing the Voice of your Heart* opens the door to inner wisdom through the language of imagery grounded in body sensations. Access the truth of your thoughts, feelings and emotions in a way that words alone cannot do. Becky Potter, who has practiced visual journaling for many years, shares this practice on Monday, October 29th, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Absolutely no art ability or experience is needed. The cost is $25.

These programs are held at The Well, located at 1515 W. Ogden Ave., LaGrange Park. To learn more about The Well’s programs and to register, please call 708-482-5048 or visit the website at [www.csjthewell.org](http://www.csjthewell.org).

**YC NEWS**

At our First YC 9:00 a.m. Mass we truly celebrated the Sunday Mass! Our 3rd and 4th grade students created a beautiful environment in church and were wonderful participants in the Mass through the opening procession, reading the petitions and as gift bearers. Thank you to all our amazing YC children and their families who actively participated in the Mass. It was such a blessing to see so many smiling YC children in attendance.

During this school year which is designated as the “Year of Sunday Mass,” our YC students and their families and catechists will attend and participate in five 9:00 a.m. Masses. Our next special Mass is Sunday, November 4th at 9:00 a.m. Mark it on your calendar today and plan to join us in worship.

**YC Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
<th>Sunday, Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4</th>
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<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
<td>Monday, Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5</td>
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<td>FFC</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30</td>
<td>Sunday, November 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Groups and Special Needs</td>
<td>Sunday, Oct 14, 28</td>
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Save the date for our Father-Daughter Dance, “The Inaugural Ball” on Friday, November 2nd from 7-9 pm in the Parish Center. Enjoy dancing, desserts and pictures. More details to come soon.

**Youth Catechesis Office**
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnnofthecross.org/yc
Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
St. John of the Cross Parish School

"Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge"

Early Childhood and Kindergarten

Open House

October 17th 9-11:00 a.m.

October 18th 1:30 -3:00 p.m.

708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL

708.246.4454

Faith and Service

• School Liturgies and Classroom Prayer Services
• Sacramental Preparation
• Grade Level and School Service Experiences

Academic Programs

• Three and Four Year Old PreSchool
• Full and Half Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-8
• Archdiocesan curriculum and complete Spanish, computer, art, music, and physical education programs

School Facilities

• Computer Lab and Mobile Laptop Computer Carts
• Learning Resource Center with Computer Stations
• Two Gymnasiums
• Lunchroom
• Music and Art Rooms
• Science Lab
• Outdoor Environmental Learning Space

Also offering extended day program for before and after school care, comprehensive extra curricular programs, and no cut athletics for grades 5-8
Crossroads

CALENDAR

Oct. 7 Group serving at Inspiration Cafe
Oct. 8 FMSC service night
Oct. 14 FE & Home Groups Meet

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 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

Crossroads Youth Ministry Registration CONTINUES!
Parents of high school teens log onto our website at
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

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

The group will meet TOMORROW, MONDAY,
October 8 at 7 p.m. at the Parish Center.

If last minute you want to join the group, call
Lis Williams, our Parent Service Coordinator,
to see if there are spaces, at 708-588-8292.

REGISTRATIONS ARE ONLINE!

Juniors and seniors we want you for Kairos 12, a four day Catholic based retreat from Thursday, November 8-11.

SPACES ARE FILLING
SO REGISTER SOON!

More details & registration is online at
www.stcletusparish.com/youth and
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats

Scholarships are available! Please contact Kristen Maxwell at 708-215-5419 with any questions.

MANY THANKS TO OUR FOURTH TEAM!
They had a fabulous reunion last weekend allowing teens to re-connect to their friends & their faith. Despite a variety show rehearsal & projects galore, our teens came out to grow and share the love of God that they feel.

We continue to pray for them as our FOURTH TEAM courageously takes the unmarked path in their generous & faithful efforts.

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
John Shea once wrote a haunting poem about John the Baptist. The poem begins with the Baptist in prison, hearing the dancing above his head and knowing that this is soon to culminate in his being beheaded. Strangely, he's not too upset. Herod is about to give Herodias' daughter half his Kingdom and John feels that he might as well die in the bargain, given that he's only half a man. Why does he feel only half a man? Because, as the poem puts it, he's only a half-prophet who can only do a half-job. Thus thinks the Baptist:

I can denounce a king, but I cannot enthrone one.

I can strip an idol of its power, but I cannot reveal the true God.

I can wash the soul in sand, but I cannot dress it in white.

I can devour the word of the Lord like wild honey, but I cannot lace his sandal.

I can condemn sin, but I cannot bear it away.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

John the Baptist is aware of both his strength and his impotency. He can point out what's wrong and what should be done, but after that, he's helpless, with nothing to offer in terms of the strength needed to correct the wrong.

In essence, that's what we bring to any situation when we criticize something. We are able, often with brilliance and clarity, to show what's wrong. That contribution, like John the Baptist's, is not to be undervalued. The gospels tell us that, next to Jesus, there isn't anyone more important than John the Baptist. But, like John, criticism too is only a half-job, a half-prophesy: It can denounce a king, by showing what's wrong, and it can wash the soul in sand, by blasting off layers of accumulated rust and dirt, but ultimately it can't empower us to correct anything. Something else is needed. What?

Anyone who has ever tried to overcome an addiction can answer that question. A clear head, a clear vision of what's to be done, and a solid resolution to leave a bad habit behind is only a half-job, a first step, an important one, but only an initial one. The tough part is still ahead: Where to find and how to sustain the strength needed to actually change our behaviour and give up a bad habit? Anyone who has ever given up an addiction will tell you that, in the end, they didn't do it by willpower, or at least certainly not by willpower alone. Grace and community were needed and they were what ultimately provided what willpower alone could not.

At one point in the gospels, Jesus tells his disciples that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. The disciples are stunned and Peter responds by saying: If that is the case than it is impossible! Jesus appreciates that response and adds: It is impossible for humans, but not for God. Anybody who is in recovery from an addiction knows exactly what Jesus means by that. They've experienced it: They know that is impossible for them to give up the object of their addiction - and yet they are giving it up, not by their own willpower, but by some higher power, grace.

The gospels speak of this as a baptism and they speaks of two kinds of baptisms: the baptism of John and the baptism of Jesus, adding that John's baptism is only a preparation for Jesus' baptism. What's John's baptism? It's a baptism of repentance, a realization of what we are doing wrong and a clear resolution to correct our bad behaviour. What's Jesus' baptism? It's an entry into grace and community in such a way that it empowers us internally to do what is impossible for us to do by our willpower alone.

But how does this work? Is grace a kind of magic? No. It's not magic. All psychic, emotional, and spiritual energy is, by definition, beyond a simple phenomenological understanding. Simply put, that means that we can't lay out its inner plumbing. There's a mystery to all energy. But what we can lay out empirically is its effect: spiritual energy works. Grace works. This has been proven inside the experience of thousands of people (many of them atheists) who have been able to find an energy inside them that clearly does not come from them and yet empowers them beyond their willpower alone. Ask any addict in recovery about this.

Sadly, many of us, who are solid believers, still haven't grasped the lesson. We're still trying to live out our lives by John's baptism alone, that is, by own willpower. That makes us wonderful critics but leaves us mostly powerless to actually change our own lives. What we are looking for, and desperately need, is a deeper immersion into the baptism of Jesus, that is, into community and grace.

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Parish News

This Week at SJC

Monday, October 8
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, October 9
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 433 Meeting
3:45 p.m. New Altar Server Training
6:30 p.m. Parish Advisory Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. SJC Teacher Recognition Trust

Wednesday, October 10
9:00 a.m. Crossroads AACYM Presenter
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Evening of Reflection
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, October 11
7:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Parent Activity Sign-up
7:00 p.m. Seasons of Hope Grief Support
7:00 p.m. Family Festival Meeting
7:00 p.m. Promise

Friday, October 12
12:00 p.m. Senior Luncheon

Saturday, October 13
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, October 14
4:00 p.m. BEDS

Coming Soon
St. John of the Cross
BOOKFAIR—Fall 2012
More details next week!

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS
Our weekly bulletin communicates the news and events at SJC Parish and Archdiocesan news. We also include information on select community events.
Deadline: Submit articles by 10:00 a.m. on Monday prior to the publication date. Holiday issues have earlier deadlines.
Submit questions or articles to srozsypal@stjohnofthecross.org.

Celebrate your Wedding Anniversary with Us!
During October, couples celebrating their wedding anniversary 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.

To order your Christmas Wreaths from Boy Scout Troop 117 visit our website.

SJC Shawl Ministry
If you knit or crochet, please join us in the SJC Shawl Ministry. There is always a need for shawls. We have distributed over 400 shawls and yours would be most welcome.

We gather at 1 p.m. Wednesday, October 10th in the Parish Center. Please call Sheila Gallagher at 7080246-7836 with questions or requests.

Moms of Young Children - All are welcome!
FRIDAYS 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center

October is a very exciting month for the Moms' Club and we would like for you to help us celebrate!

Friday, October 5 two of our own SJC parishioners, moms, and pediatricians presented to our group and fielded questions while childcare was provided for the little ones.

Friday, October 12 there will be NO MEETING as the Parish Center is unavailable.

Friday, October 19 we will celebrate all things PUMPKIN! We will read books, create a craft, and celebrate Fall!

Friday, October 26 is our Costume Parade at Bethlehem Woods. We will meet at 10:00 to show off our costumes and Trick-or-Treat with the seniors.

Please contact Colleen Whittingham at whitting910@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Visit www.stjohnofthecross 14
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Gene Harris, father of Scott and Craig
grandfather of Amanda, Mellissa and Matthew

Ben Spinato, father of Jack and Ben and
grandfather of Katie Hayes

Pray for our Sick

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

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.

Mary Bartucci
Tracy Bucciarelli
Garth Christie
Connie Crane
Ashley Davis
Mary Sue
Donohue
Kimberly Edwards
David Harrington
Karen Hult
Ruth Ig
Tom Jass
Emily Johanss
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Andrew Park
Matthew Pecis
Raymond Principe
Rosemary Rissler
Kathie Saldana
Rita Shelhouse
Bob Sturenfeldt
Norma Sumpay

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 8
6:30 Our Beloved Dead; Dorothy Hartmann
7:45 Robert Feldmeier
Deceased Members of the Kwit Family

Tuesday, October 9, Ss. Denis & John Leonard
6:30 William King
7:45 Jo Renzi; Peter Glen

Wednesday, October 10
6:30 Howard King
7:45 Ann Kapral, Jack McDonnell

Thursday, October 11
7:45 Coretta Spalo; James Purtell

Friday, October 12
7:45 Dennis Callaghan; Skip Whalen

Saturday, October 13
8:00 Thomas Siragusa; Lee Kirchoff
5:00 Dunn & Figliulo Families; Mark Koscielski

Sunday, October 14, 28th Sunday Ordinary
7:30 SJC & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parishioners
9:00 Leonard DiPompeo
10:45 Deceased Members of Monocchio Family
12:15 M/M Frank Buresh; Jack Byans
5:00 George J. Zurowski; Eugene Garvy

Italics—Living

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Gene Harris, father of Scott and Craig
grandfather of Amanda, Mellissa and Matthew
Ben Spinato, father of Jack and Ben and
grandfather of Katie Hayes

Wedding Banns
Daniel Corcoran & Elizabeth Stelter

For News & Resources Visit:
Archdiocese of Chicago website:
www.archchicago.org
USCCB: US Catholic Council of Bishops website:
www.usccb.org

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

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

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Fr. Fil Ngwila Associate Pastor fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp Deacon john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
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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
SJC Saintly Senior Club proudly presents its fall Oktoberfest Luncheon

Friday, October 12th at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center

Cost: Members $15, Non members $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 708-246-4696.

Name: _______________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________

Phone: __________________

# Reservations at $15_____ $20 _____

Total Enclosed: $_____