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
Dear Parishioners,

What were you doing twenty years ago, in 1992? That summer I was able to travel to China with a number of family and friends from Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Glenview. I had started my seventh year as the associate pastor of OLPH before the Priest Placement Board called in August and asked if I would be the pastor of St. Gall parish at 55th and Kedzie. (They may as well have sent me to the Southside of Milwaukee for all I knew of the Southside of Chicago. After I told my father I had been named pastor he called back and asked if they had sent me to a Catholic parish. He couldn’t find St. Gall in his Butler’s Lives of the Saints. Anyone who had a mortgage at Talman Bank knew where St. Gall was; right across the street.)

Do you remember what St. John of the Cross Parish was doing twenty years ago at the end of September, 1992? Cardinal Bernardin had come to the parish to celebrate Mass and to dedicate two new classrooms in the school, the ‘Garden Room’ in the rectory basement and the Parish Center. Our maintenance man, Andy Mola, remembered the dedication was at the end of September. I looked at the back issues of the bulletin and saw that the parish had also just welcomed Fr. Bill Martin to the parish as an associate. (The back issues of the bulletin are interesting. Can you guess who the very first advertiser was in the bulletin? How about the second? Find the answers at the end of this column. Fr. Joe’s ‘pastor’s column’ was about three sentences long and it showed up about every six months. The list of the school faculty contains some very familiar names 20 years later.)

I cannot imagine what SJC was like before the Parish Center was built. Half of the rectory was built as living space but the other half was used for everything else. The secretaries worked in two of the rooms there. One of those rooms is now a prayer space with the Blessed Sacrament and the larger room has been used for storage, an exercise room and is now a large group meeting space for occasional staff meetings. The pastor had an office and there was one additional office the two associates must have shared. One of those offices is now used by Catholic Charities for counseling and the other is being used by Marianne Firlit for Spiritual Direction. The rectory basement, now used for babysitting on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Masses, was the major meeting room of the parish. The live-in housekeeper had a two room suite at that end of the building that is now used by overnight guests. My parents use those rooms when they come to visit.

The Parish Center has been a tremendous blessing for these past twenty years. It is very heavily used by all sorts of parish groups to pray, socialize, meet, study, plan and learn. The Seniors’ have their luncheons there and hospitality is provided for numerous gatherings. We host the archdiocese several times a year for different kinds of meetings they sponsor. The children of the YC program and the day school use it all the time. Chairs and tables are put up and down, walls are moved back and forth and people move in and out of the building constantly. Laura Dragich does an incredible job in scheduling the spaces and keeping the peace when different groups want the space at the same time. Andy Mola does an incredible job keeping everything well maintained.

Twenty years isn’t long in some ways, but it has brought the air conditioning units close to the end of their usefulness. The carpet is stained and pretty shot by all the use it gets and needs to be replaced (again) in the near future. Our roofer keeps telling us we have 5 to 7 years left in the roof’s life as long as we maintain it as we do on a yearly basis. (He has been telling Frank the same thing for the past several years.) All in all, it is in great shape. It’s a tribute to Fr. Joe’s leadership and parishioners’ generosity in building it. What would we do without it?

Oh, the advertisers? The first was Hallowell and James Funeral Home. The second? Famous Liquors, now Prestige, at 55th and Willow Springs. And they both still take out ads in support of the bulletin all these years later.

Peace,
Fr. David
KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

BOW

We bow when we want to honor someone. Sometimes, we bow in submission before forces beyond our control. And we may even bow before an audience to receive their applause and recognition. Our lowered head or our bended bodies make a bow for many reasons. And when we bow our heads or bodies at Mass, we do so — not surprisingly — for different reasons as well.

In the Creed, we bow at the words “... and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” We humbly and gratefully bow to the Eternal Word who humbled himself to come among us as one like us in all things but sin. We bow before receiving Holy Communion, a gesture of deep reverence before the mystery of the Body and Blood of the Lord. At the end of Mass before a solemn blessing, we bow our heads when we hear, “Bow down for the blessing.” In that moment, we submit ourselves to all the good and gracious gifts God wants to give us. Reverence, submission, and gratitude — all this in a simple gesture.

In loving God,
we give you thanks
during this autumn season.
We accept with joy the gifts of this year’s harvest.
We praise you for sunshine, for rain, for cold winds, for all that these days hold.
As Earth begins its season of waiting, we too wait upon your ever-faithful care of us.
We pray for ourselves and for all people in our world in need.
Amen

Feast of All Souls Memorial Liturgy

Please join us on Friday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the Feast of All Souls. Our liturgy will commemorate parishioners and loved ones who have died during the past year. As the names of all deceased are read aloud, families will be invited to light a votive candle as we prayerfully remember them. After Mass, our bereavement ministers and priests will gather in the community room of church to share hospitality.
More details to follow in our bulletin next week.

The Year of Faith has begun! (Oct 2012 – Nov 2013)

This year commemorates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Tune into our weekly, interactive discussions to discover little-known highlights from the Council as well as helpful ideas to deepen your awareness and renewal in faith.

Go to www.relevantradio.com, keyword “Faith” for more information.
Chicago 950AM, Chicago West 930AM, NW Indiana 1270AM
“The door of faith is always open…rediscover the joy of believing!” Pope Benedict XVI
Reflections on the Gospel

Living the Gospel

In this gospel a man runs up to Jesus; it doesn’t say he sauntered, or walked, or simply approached. He ran. This gives us an image of eagerness, urgency, importance. And, indeed, his question reveals that what was on the man’s mind is of utmost importance: “what must I do to inherit eternal life”? Yes, the man in the gospel “ran up” to Jesus, eager to know how “to inherit eternal life.” But how quickly his demeanor changed when Jesus, looking on him with love for having kept the commandments, challenged him to one thing further: he must give up everything and follow Jesus “to enter the kingdom of God.” How quickly his eagerness turned to sadness. He “had many possessions.” Unfortunately and apparently those possessions possessed him.

Following Jesus demands that we choose not to be possessed by things, but by Jesus himself. To be possessed by Jesus we must even give up our greatest possession of all: our very selves. Then Jesus looks upon us with great love. Dispossessing ourselves of “things”—distractions, worries, self-centeredness, busyness, topsy-turvy priorities—helps us have our hearts set rightly: on eternal life. The phrase “eternal life” appears at the beginning of the gospel in the man’s question and at the end of the gospel in Jesus’ promise of hundredfold reward for his disciples. In between the two comes the invitation to renounce anything that keeps us from surrendering to God’s action to bring about the kingdom. Our cooperation with God to bring about God’s reign is the same as seeking eternal life. The fullness of the kingdom is eternal life. The fullness of the kingdom is eternal life. Sometimes the dispossession we need to consider most seriously has nothing to do with material possessions. At times we need to dispossess ourselves of our opinions in order to listen carefully to what another is saying. Perhaps we need to dispossess ourselves of prejudice or obstinacy or gossip or rigidity or arrogance or … And so the question, to what are we clinging? To what are we running? Eternal life?

Closing Prayers

May we value following Jesus faithfully more than any earthly possessions.
May we use our possessions for the good of others. Our Father . . .

For Reflection

• I eagerly approach Jesus about . . .
• Following Jesus faithfully means I must give up… Jesus gives me . . .

Meditation by Richard Rohr

The two adjectives most applied to God by Franciscan mysticism were goodness and humility. Hardly any of us would think to call God humble, but Francis did. He fell in love with the humility of God because if God emptied himself and hid himself inside the material world as in Jesus, and waits so patiently for us to grow up, then God is very humble indeed.

Francis fell in love more with Jesus’ humanity than with his divinity. It was his humanity that he wanted to draw close to and imitate. Only in a humble state, and among the humble, could Francis easily and naturally see God. He even loved humble creatures like worms, and crickets, and little lambs because they more truthfully revealed the Mystery of Jesus.

Some art historians say that Western Christian art changed after Francis. Giotto, the early Renaissance painter and architect, for example, moved from the depiction of exclusively sacred scenes and religious icons, to the painting of natural life: animals, nature, and human encounters. It is never the same afterwards, because this world and God’s world are now revealing themselves as one.

Prayer:

I will seek the goodness and humility of God.

Year of Sunday Mass: Question of the Week

Today’s Gospel reading from Mark 10 outlines the demanding (seemingly impossible), requirements of Christian discipleship, “It is easier for a camel to pass through they eye of a needle th an for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Think of a time when, confronted with an injustice (i.e. racism, sexism) the Eucharist provided you with grace to act with courage and justice. What difference did the Eucharist make in this situation for you?

Readings for the Week

<table>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>29th Sunday in OT</th>
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©Living Liturgy 2012

Fill us with your love O Lord and we will sing for Joy!
Eucharistic Adoration:  
The Power of Prayer

Someone once said to St. Teresa of Avila, “If only I had lived at the time of Jesus . . . If only I had seen Jesus . . . If only I had talked with Jesus.” Teresa responded, “But do we not have in the Eucharist the living, true and real Jesus present before us. Why look for more?”

On Holy Thursday, after Jesus had transformed bread and wine into his Body and Blood and given the Apostles their First Communion, he proceeded to invite them to prayerful union with him. As they looked at him and the chalice in front of him, they heard him say, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5). They had received the Sacrament, but they had to live in faith-filled union with Christ so they could serve others. Prayer would help them do this. The branches need the vine. Devotional, meditative prayer is one way to do this.

Eucharistic adoration increases our interior union with Christ, assists in gaining more benefits from Mass and deepens our desire to serve others. Placing yourself before the tabernacle is a commitment to be a sturdier branch on the vine, a healthier member of Christ’s Body, a heart open to the unseen power of prayer.

Michael McDevitt writes, “The power of prayer is not about your power, but the power you have allowed inside. Christ himself is the unseen power. You are infused with a power far beyond anything you can imagine.”

During Adoration the Eucharist is placed on the altar in a monstrance with a Luna (glass enclosure) that holds the Blessed Sacrament and allows it to be visible. What do you do during Adoration? Genuflect on one knee as you enter the chapel. You may spend time in silent meditation or prayer. You can silently just spend time talking to God as a friend asking for forgiveness, or for what you need. Pour out your heart to God. You can read scripture, pray the Psalms, pray the Rosary, or say the Liturgy of the Hours. Some recite the simple Jesus prayer: “Lord Jesus have mercy on me a sinner.” This prayer is repeated as you quiet your mind. The amount of time you spend is up to you. Come and just be.

Eucharistic Adoration is offered every Monday from 2:30-9:00 p.m. in the Mary Chapel.

Sources: USCCB: Norbertine Fr. Alfred McBride
Outreach Opportunities

Join in the celebration of another saint’s feast day in October – St. Jude Thaddeus

Sunday, October 28 is the feast day of St. Jude Thaddeus. Jude Thaddeus was one of Jesus’ twelve original apostles and is known by two names, Jude and/or Thaddeus. The name “Thaddeus” means sweetness and gentleness of character. He is not the traitor Judas Iscariot, and he faithfully followed Jesus until his crucifixion, and then later set out to evangelize.

Our sharing parish, St. Thaddeus, has invited us to celebrate the feast day of their namesake at their 9 a.m. liturgy, on Sunday October 28. We will be:

- Bringing Halloween candy, collected by our school children, to the children of St. Thaddeus. Safety concerns in the Thaddeus community prevent children from trick-or-treating, door-to-door. They look forward to eating these treats at their parish Halloween party every year!
- Bringing canned goods, collected by our confirmation candidates, to the St. Thaddeus food pantry.
- Bringing a food item to share at the post-liturgy fellowship.
- Leaving the Parish Center at 8:00 a.m. and should return by 12:30 p.m.

Plan to attend this lively, spirit-filled Mass, in the African American tradition, by calling the Parish Center, 709-246-4404 to put your name on the list. The list will help us organize the number of cars needed to get all to Mass on time.

"Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. We must always remember this. The actual words matter less."

Pope John XXIII

Interfaith Career Network Programs

Job Search

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Tuesday, October 16. With 80% of the jobs found in the “hidden job market,” networking is the heart of any job search. Jim Peterson will coach you on the fundamentals of this critical search strategy. 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.

Using Twitter in Your Job Search

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, October 18, 7-9 p.m. Learn more about using this powerful social media tool in your job search. With TweetMyJobs listing over one-and-a-half-million job tweets in the past 30 days, there’s no question that Twitter is rapidly becoming a must-use resource for job seekers. Our presenter this evening is Falise Platt. She has worked with a wide variety of companies providing them with strategic direction in establishing their online voice. Falise will explain why you should sign up, how to sign up and why you’ll want to incorporate Twitter as part of your search. Developing an effective and efficient Twitter strategy is such a smart idea. 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.

Volunteers Needed

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about us, meet many of our current volunteers and learn of our volunteer needs. We look forward to meeting you! St. Cletus School Building, 700 West 55th Street in La Grange. Room 200. Please use the flagpole entrance.

Put Your Faith Into Action!

Interfaith Community Partners

Become an active volunteer. Provide transportation and support for independent living. Attend the next training session on November 4, from 12:15—3:15 p.m. Location—Congregation of St. Josepoh, 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in La Grange Park.

Contact the ICP Office at 708-579-8929 or email interfaith@att.net to sign up or learn more.

Counseling Available at SJC

If you or a family member is having difficulty dealing with this complex and stressful world in which we live, The Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities can help you.

For further information or to schedule an appointment please call (312) 655-7725.
Outreach Opportunities

Sharing Connections Furniture Bank

Dear Friends,

As you may know, Sharing Connections Furniture Bank (SCFB) 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. SCFB brings together community members by enabling families and businesses to share their gently used furniture and household items with families needing assistance. This is a unique opportunity for the community to directly make an impact by passing on something they no longer need to make a difference in the life of a family.

SCFB began 26 years ago when founder Leeanne McGrath wanted to make a difference. She began by helping one mother with one crib, and each year the number of clients and community support continues to grow. In 2011 SCFB provided $1,199,145.00 in donated goods including beds, cribs, tables, chairs, couches, household items, kitchen items, personal care items, cleaning supplies, etc. making a difference for 3433 children and 2319 adults.

It is because of the support of faith communities like yours that we are able to carry on our mission and vision. Our vision is, “Tonight, everyone eats at a table and sleeps in a bed.” Our mission is, “Respectfully provide furniture and hope to neighbors in need.” We are hoping that you will be able to partner with us by calling on your congregation to ask for their support in any of the following ways:

- Collect gently used household items including dishes, cups, glasses, pots, towels, and bedding.
- Collect new cleaning supplies including general household cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, window cleaner, detergent, sponges, etc.
- Collect new personal care products including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving products, toilet paper etc.
- Collect baby products including diapers and wipes.

Individuals can help by donating gently used furniture including beds, mattresses, dressers, couches, chairs, (for a full list of acceptable items and pick up area please visit our website at www.sharingconnections.org).

Items can be dropped off at our warehouse at 5111 Chase Ave., Downers Grove, Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To arrange for a pick up of furniture items please visit our website at www.sharingconnections.org or call 630-971-0565 ext. 228.

Together we can continue to make a difference for so many in our community. We hope that you will be able to help.

Local Seniors Aging Well and Eating Well!

Eat For Your Health Expo coming
October 16th to La Grange, Illinois

The Western Springs/Indian Head Park Aging Well Community Action Team will be holding its second annual “Eat For Your Health Expo” on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 from 10a.m.-1 pm. This free event is open to all area seniors and will be held at the Grand Avenue Community Center, 4211 Grand, Western Springs. The Expo will include exhibits, food samples and expert speakers providing information on healthy eating options for older adults.

Exhibitors confirmed include Aging Care Connections, Trader Joe’s, Whole Foods, Bethlehem Woods, West Suburban Senior Services, Kate’s Comfort Foods, Seattle Sutton, Wellness House, The Grove of La Grange Park, Meadowbrook Manor, Weight Watchers, Lexington Square, Plymouth Place and Savory Spice. Joe Miks, dietetic technician, will speak on “Spicing up your Life” and “What are Fatty Acids” while Ellin Learned of AgeOptions will be discussing “How to Read Food Labels”. For more information on the Eat For Your Health Expo, please contact Mic Cagney at 708-246-3299.

Dominick’s will also be offering Flu Shots at the event.
Remember the fun we had welcoming the children of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos to our Parish last year? And the joy we had in supporting the great work of NPH through Friends of the Orphans? Please consider attending the

**FRIENDS OF THE ORPHANS GALA**  
Saturday, October 20, 2012  
6:00 p.m. Cocktails & Silent Auction  
7:30 p.m. Dinner & Auction  
10:00 p.m. Music & Dancing  

**THE CHICAGO HILTON**  
720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 60605

Join us for a magnificent evening as we celebrate and honor Fr. Rick Frechette for his dedication towards fighting injustice and creating social change for the impoverished, and especially for his support for the children and people of Haiti. Fr. Rick founded the NPH operations in Haiti over 25 years ago. A medical doctor as well as a priest, Fr. Rick also founded and heads St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti.

The evening will include special musical and dance performances by the Pequeños from NPH Nicaragua.

Tickets for the evening are $175.

RSVP at [www.friendsoftheorphans.org/2012mwgala](http://www.friendsoftheorphans.org/2012mwgala) or contact Melissa Hoyt at 312-386-7471.

Black tie optional.

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**Kolbe House is in Great Need of Postage Stamps.**

At Christmas, the chaplains give inmates two Christmas cards with stamped envelopes which they can send to family members. Incarceration often places stress on family relationships and opportunities for communication can help bring healing.

Books of stamps can be dropped off at the parish center. If you’re unable to shop, you can drop off a check made out to Kolbe House and we will do the shopping for you. Thanks for your ongoing generosity.

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**Thank you from Kolbe House**

Dear Parishioners,

I write to thank you for being so generous in sending the $1,200 Sharing check which benefits our Kolbe House ministry. With your support, we can continue to move ahead and serve the needs of the incarcerated, their families, ex-offenders and the families who are hurt by the crimes of others.

Lately the word *relationship* keeps coming up. I hear this when we speak with the families of men and women who are in prison/jail and attend the once a month Santuario Mass. They speak of the relationship that is growing among them. They do not feel so alone. The word *tight* was used during a recent meeting of ex-offenders who have come to know one another through their monthly meeting. *Tight* means that they have a trust relationship with each other. From the very first meeting that we as a Kolbe House had with the St. John’s team I felt that something new was being started. No one had said to us, *What can we do for you?* A caring, supportive relationship was started at that moment.

Always know that I am grateful for this relationship that comes by way of the people that provide the food that is delivered to us, the updating of our jail visiting lists, the Women’s Club that supports the women who are recently released from prison with clothes, the meetings that we have that plan for the future. Let us always root our connection in our prayer for one another.

Your brother in the Lord,

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez

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**Do you enjoy sewing?**

We have a simple project for you!

**VC is in need of YOU!** To help create Advent calendars for our 1st grade students. You will receive all the felt materials and instruction (to sew straight lines) and create the pockets for the felt advent calendars. We ask each person to sew only ten to twelve...many hands, light work!

Please contact the VC office to volunteer 708-246-6760!

Visit [www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org)
CALENDAR EVENTS:
Oct. 14 FE & Home Groups Meet
Nov. 4 FE & Home Groups Meet
Nov. 10 Flyer Day 9am
Nov. 16 Boxes Night 6-7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17 Harvest Saturday

I WANT YOU, adults of our Parish!
KEY NEEDS NOW:
Home Group Leaders for Freshmen (1 couple)
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

Our Day of the Spirit Team is meeting today to put final preparations together for the retreat for our Confirmation Candidates. Please keep these teens in your prayers as they prepare witness talks, practice leading music & small groups & prepare to share their faith with the 8th graders!

WILL CONTINUE this Sunday Oct. 14
6-7:30 p.m. Parish Center Lower Level!
Register online (see above) and/or just show up tonight!

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

HARVEST SATURDAY IS COMING SOON!
Parents please contact home group leaders to volunteer to drive!

We had a great evening last week and have another coming opportunity to serve soon:
Friday Oct. 26th (LTHS off school)
meet at 11 a.m. return by 3 p.m.
Sign up at volunteer.fmsc.org #242990
Adults & teens encouraged to join us
Any Questions call Lis Williams 708-588-8292

Juniors and seniors we want you for Kairos 12,
a four day Catholic based retreat from Thursday November 8-11.
SPACES ARE FILLING UP 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.
Catechesis focuses on our relationship with Jesus Christ and learning about His life helps us to deepen our relationship with Him. Children at YC also learn about the Church and all the different things found in church. Pictured below are some of our YC students and their catechists at work.

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 a.m. Masses. Our next special Mass is Sunday, November 4th at 9 a.m. Mark it on your calendar today and plan to join us in worship.

### YC Schedule

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<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
<td>Monday, Oct 22, 29, Nov 5</td>
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<tr>
<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 28, Nov 4</td>
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**SAVE THE DATE**

**ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOME!**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

at St. John of the Cross in the Parish Center

* $25.00 per family

DANCING * DESSERTS * PICTURES

**THE INAUGURAL BALL**

**Father-Daughter Dance**

Have your daughter’s first dance be with her daddy! Watch the YC Newsletter and Bulletin for more details.

*Make a reservation at Mecnat prior to the dance and enjoy a discount on your dinner.

Hosted by: SJC Youth Catechesis Council

YCC Members: Ellen Meyer, Cindy Blum, Katie Lorman, Nancy Montana, Megan Brennan, Sharon Gardner, Michelle Fink, Carolyn Ferguson, Michelle Snorewicz, Mary Hays, Lisa Geneser, Karen Lipinski and John Amico
One in Prayer with Loved Ones in the Military

Michael Ryan Burke, grandson of Joseph & Laverne Kusper
Captain Brandy 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
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Schultz, friend of the Chruscicel Family
Jarett Smith, grandson of Dan and Jo Rudakas
Pfc. Robert M. Sullivan, son of Michael & Helen
Spc. Alex Teckenbrock, 3rd Infantry Div. ARMY
Alex Urbarri, son of Mari Urbarri
Spc. James C. Woods, nephew of Mary Neel

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its peoples from enemies from within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen.

~~Franciscan Mission Associates; prayer card

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
In her most recent book, a series of essays entitled, When I was a Child I Read Books, Marilynne Robinson includes an essay called Wondrous Love. She begins the essay autobiographically, confessing her deep, long-standing, faith as a Christian and her ever deepening wonder and awe at the mystery of God. She goes on to express some of her fears apposite to what is happening today in many of the churches and inside many of us; namely, new forms of tribalism and fear are reducing our wondrous God to a "tribal deity" and our own "local Baal".

The God of all nations, all families, and all peoples, she asserts, is too frequently being invoked by of us as a God, more exclusively, of my own nation, my own family, my own church, and my own people. She cites various examples of this, including her own sadness at how sincere Christians cannot accept each other's authenticity: "I must assume that those who disagree with my understanding of Christianity are Christians all the same, that we are members of one household. I confess that from time to time I find this difficult. This difficulty is owed in part to the fact that I have reason to believe they would not extend this courtesy to me." This, she rightly asserts, is unworthy of God, of Christianity, and of what's best in us. We know better, though we usually don't act on that and are thus indicted by what Freud called "the narcissism of minor differences."

And this takes it root in fear, fear of many things. Not least among those fears is our fear of the secularized world and how we feel this has put us on a slippery slope in terms of our Christian heritage and our moral values. To quote Robinson here: "These people see the onrush of secularism intent on driving religion to the margins, maybe over the edge, and for the sake of Christianity they want to enlist society itself in its defense. They want politicians to make statements of faith, and when merchants hang their seasonal signs and banners they want them to say something more specific than 'Happy Holidays'.

Robinson, however, is distrustful of enlisting political power to defend Christianity. Why? Because "this country [the United States] in its early period was largely populated by religious people escaping religious persecution at the hands of state churches, whether French Huguenots, Scots Presbyterians, English Congregationalists, or English Catholics." She adds: "Since my own religious heroes tended to die gruesomely under these regimes. I have no nostalgia for the world before secularism, nor would many of these 'Christian nation' exponents, if they looked a little into the history of their own traditions."

Inside our fear of secularism, she suggests, lies a great irony: We are afraid of secularism because we have, in fact, internalized the great prejudice against Christianity, namely, the belief that faith and Christianity cannot withstand the scrutiny of an intellectually sophisticated culture. And that fear lies at the root of an anti-intellectualism that is very prominent inside many religious and church circles today. How much of our fear today about Christianity being on a slippery slope can be traced back to this prejudice? Why are we so afraid of our world and of secularized intellectuals?

This fear, she asserts, spawns an antagonism that is unworthy of Christianity. Fear and antagonism are very fashionable within religious circles today, almost to be worn as a badge of faith and loyalty. And is this a sign of health? No. Neither fear nor antagonism, she submits, are "becoming in Christians or in the least degree likely to inspire thinking or action of the kind that deserves to be called Christian." Moreover, "if belief in Christ is necessary to attaining of everlasting life, then it behooves anyone who calls himself or herself a Christian, any institution that calls itself a church, to bring credit to the faith, at very least not to embarrass or disgrace it. Making God a tribal deity, our local Baal, is embarrassing and disgraceful."

Fear and antagonism do nothing, she adds, to draw respect to Christianity and our churches and to the extent that we let them be associated with Christianity, we risk defacing Christianity in the world's eyes. But saying that in today's climate is to be judged as unpatriotic. We are not supposed to care what the world thinks. But it is the world we are trying to convert. And so we need to be careful not to present Christianity as undignified, xenophobic, and unworthy of our wondrous, all-embracing God.

Why all this fear, if we believe that Christianity is the deepest of all truth and believe that Christ will be with us to the end of time? Her last sentences capsulize a challenge we urgently need today. "Christianity is too great a narrative to be reduced to serving any parochial interest or to be underwritten by any lesser tale. Reverence should forbid in particular its being subordinated to tribalism, resentment, or fear."

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
This Week at SJC

Monday, October 15
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
3:30 p.m. Brownie Troop
7:00 p.m. Evening of Reflection for Lectors

Tuesday, October 16
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Tuesdays with Mary
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Ladies Bridge
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, October 18
9:00 a.m. Women’s Club Meeting
2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick-up
7:00 p.m. Career Networking Meeting
7:00 p.m. Seasons of Hope Grief Support

Friday, October 19
9:00 a.m. Moms Club

Saturday, October 20
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Parish News

St. John of the Cross Parish School
BOOKFAIR—Fall 2012

Tuesday, October 23 (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
Wednesday, October 24 (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Located in the Parish Center

Donations of gently used books accepted during the sale for “Andrea’s Angels.”

(Proceeds support the Parent Association)

“There is always time to shop for a good book.”

Become Involved in Liturgy

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

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.

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

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 19 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. 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 a.m. 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.

Read about Faithful Citizenship.
Go to the Archdiocese of Chicago Website:
http://www.archchicago.departments/peace_and_justiceFaithfulCitizenship/
Under Resources click on Forging Consciences
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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
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Mary Cleo Kelly Devito, mother of James, Karen, Kathy and Judy
Steve Ryan, husband of Mary Kay and father of Michael, Kathryn and Colleen

Wedding Banns
Daniel Corcoran and Elizabeth Stelter

Fill us with your love,
O Lord, and we will sing for joy!
Psaln 90

Mass Intentions
Monday, October 15, St. Teresa of Jesus
6:30 Kaski—Szela Families
7:45 William Egan; John Gallagher
Tuesday, October 16, St. Hedwig
6:30 Florence Devine
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Brian Donovan
Wednesday, October 17, St. Ignatius
6:30 Genevieve Ziembra
7:45 Arlene Bishop; Klein & O’Sullivan Families
Thursday, October 18, St. Luke
7:45 Gora & Maier Families; Raymond Roffi
Friday, October 19, St. John Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues
7:45 Roy Cook; Gloria O’Shall
Saturday, October 20
8:00 Franklin Smith; Raymond Roffi
5:00 Muriel Albertson; Edward Frintner
Sunday, October 21, 29th Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 SJC & Thaddeus Parishioners
9:00 Mary Cleo Kelly DeVito; Patricia Swaine; Victor & Pauline Kotleba
10:45 Chester Zientek; Terry Aversa
12:15 Rita & John Tiberi; Wally & Patricia Cebula
5:00 James A. Piszczor; Eugene Garvy

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

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  jcaschetta@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

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!

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St. John of the Cross Parish is most grateful for your continued support of our mission!
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS WOMEN’S CLUB ANNUAL

COAT DRIVE

To benefit The Society of St. Vincent De Paul

October 6th thru November 2nd
Drop boxes available in the Church
Parish Center and School
November 3rd & 4th

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 10:30
October 24th, November 7th, January 9th and 25th,
February 6th and 20th, April 3rd and 17th.
Join us anytime throughout the year!
For more information email Sue Bidelstrup
st.jobidstrup@ameritech.net

flourish