Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Feast of Christ the King, the culmination of the liturgical year. Since last Christmas we have been pointed to this feast. All year our journey was intended to bring us to this point, to this realization. This great feast sums up our purpose as believers and our challenge as a church: to be gathered at the end of our lives, at the end of time, and to be called to the source of all that is true for all eternity.

It is almost too much to understand, too much to appreciate. Every time we kneel in prayer, certainly every Sunday, each time we receive the Eucharist or sacramental forgiveness, we are challenged to have a greater awareness of our dignity in Christ, our purpose in God. It is hard to raise our heads six inches above the demands of every day work and responsibilities and see the bigger picture further down the road. The Feast of Christ the King gives us precisely that opportunity.

With Thanksgiving coming so early this year the calendar has a different feel to it. Frequently the weekend after Thanksgiving is the first Sunday of Advent. This year it feels like we get a ‘bonus week’ to prepare for the beginning of Advent which is next weekend, December 1st and 2nd. We will pay for it at the other end, when the 4th Sunday of Advent is December 23rd, Monday is Christmas Eve and Tuesday is Christmas Day. And then the same rhythm occurs the next weekend, followed by New Year’s Eve on Monday and New Year’s Day on Tuesday.

Maybe it’s aging but it feels to me like the Christmas season kind of snuck up on me. I’m not ready for it. I am not focused on it, yet the stores are starting ‘Black Friday’ on Thursday, Thanksgiving evening. The Christmas season won’t come any slower just because it doesn’t ‘feel like it’. The same reality is one of the biggest challenges to the spiritual life: feelings are not necessarily truth tellers. Just because it might feel like God is distant or absent at times doesn’t make it so. We put too much emphasis, at times, on feelings. Even to the extent that we might miss the truth right in front of our face: if God feels distant, maybe it is we who have moved.

One way to discipline our inner life and thus to put feelings in their place in the hierarchy of discerning reality is to be open to new information. One very easy way to get new ideas is to read a book. Many of you have heard of Matthew Kelly. One of his insights is that less than 1% of Catholics have read a book on their faith in the past year. Through the generosity of a few anonymous donors, the parish will give away copies of Kelly’s book the weekend of December 8th and 9th. The book is titled ‘Rediscover Catholicism’. The idea is that if we give you the book before Christmas you might have a chance to read it by the middle of January. Then, whether you are finished reading or not, you might be interested in gathering with others to talk about what the book meant to you. The details of the sessions that will follow the reading of the book will be explained further as time gets closer. The purpose of my mentioning it now is so you are prepared to receive the book when it is offered to you. After all, I wouldn’t want you to not ‘feel like’ reading the book when it is offered to you.

Peace,  
Fr. David
The great old stand-by entrance hymn begins, “We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing.” We do gather for Mass, and what an assortment we are — all sizes, ages, shapes, and colors. Although there is no fuss in our gathering for Mass, something extraordinary is at work. Coming together out of our individual lives to worship God speaks to us insistently of our special prayer, our worship, as something that can only be offered with other people. Without discounting our personal prayer as necessary and important, at Mass we must pray as the Body of Christ, joined to him and with one another. And here in this gathering for Mass, we glimpse something of our gathered future.

As grain, once scattered on the hillsides, Was in this broken bread made one, So from all lands Thy Church be gathered Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

**Baptism Preparation Meeting Thursday, December 6**

The Baptism preparation meeting this month will be held Thursday evening, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center. Godparents as well as new babies are most welcome to attend with parents. Please call the Parish Center if you are coming or if you have any questions.

**Celebrate your Wedding Anniversary with Us!**

During December, 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.

**Are you interested in the priesthood?**

*In today’s Gospel Jesus reminds us that, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” What is God’s desire for you? For information about priesthood, contact Fr. Brian Welter at bwelter@archchicago.org or 312-534-8298 or go to [www.ChicagoPriest.com](http://www.ChicagoPriest.com). For information about religious life contact Sr. Elyse Ramirez, OP at 312-534-5240 or at eramirez@archchicago.org, and for the Permanent Diaconate program contact Deacon Bob Puhala at bpuhala@usml.edu or 847-837-4562.*

**Prayer for Marriages**

We thank you, O God, for the Love You have implanted in our hearts. May it always inspire us to be kind in our words considerate of feeling, and concerned for each other’s needs and wishes. Help us to be understanding and forgiving of human weaknesses and failings. Increase our faith and trust in You and may Your Prudence guide our life and love. Bless our Marriage O God, with Peace and Happiness, and make our love fruitful for Your glory and our Joy both here and in eternity. Amen.
Living the Gospel

The crux of the discussion between Jesus and Pilate is the kingship of Jesus and the question of truth; but ultimately it is a discussion about who Jesus is. Jesus speaks the truth to Pilate and by so doing seals his own condemnation. Unexpectedly, he is most truly king not by saving himself, but by allowing himself to be “handed over” to die. Jesus makes quite clear that his kingdom is not of this world. Pilate’s question, “I am not a Jew, am I?” only reveals a tension between earthly kingdoms: Rome vs. Israel. Jesus’ response, however, unearths a broader tension: this world vs. Jesus’ kingdom. The broader tension embroils all peoples in the challenge to accept Jesus’ kingship not as power over but as power to. Consequently, the truth of Jesus’ kingdom does not lie in anything of this world, but in hearts turned to God, ears attuned to Jesus’ voice, actions bespeaking faithful following of Jesus. We navigate the tension between the way of the world and the way of Jesus’ kingdom by putting flesh on the truth: laying down one’s life for others. Jesus speaks the truth and by so doing seals his own condemnation, but his deed witnesses to the truth of who he truly is: our King.

Only through the cross is Jesus brought to glory; only through the cross are we brought to glory. We all like the positive images invoked by this solemnity. In our own moments of truth we admit to our very human propensity for power and wealth. Much about society and our own daily lives carries us in this direction. We would like to avoid the reality of the challenge offered by the call to embrace the cross. One last time, on this last Sunday of the liturgical year, we say: the road to glory is through the cross.

Closing Prayers:

May we listen faithfully to the voice of Christ and act on the truth he reveals.

May we more closely align our way of living with the life and ministry of Christ, even to embracing the cross.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

· Jesus’ challenge to live the truth is easiest when . . . It is most difficult when . . .

· I have become a better follower of Christ the King during this past liturgical year in that . . .

Meditation by Richard Rohr

Experiencing the Holy

We have put our emphasis on trying to love God, which is probably a good way to start—although we do not have a clue how to do that. What I consistently find in the mystics is an overwhelming experience of how God has loved them. God is the initiator, God is the doer, God is the one who seduces them. All we can do is respond in kind, and exactly as Meister Eckhart said, “The love by which we love God is the very same love with which God has first loved us.”

The mystics’ overwhelming experience is of a full body blow of the Divine loving them, the Divine radically accepting them. The rest of their life they are trying to verbalize that, and invariably finding ways to give that love back through forms of service, compassion and non-stop worship. This is not to earn God’s love; it’s always and only to return God’s love! “Love is repaid by love alone,” as my father, Francis said.

Adapted from Following the Mystics through the Narrow Gate

Prayer:

My deepest me is God!

Year of Sunday Mass:

Question of the Week

In the Book of Revelation, John tells us that Jesus Christ is “the Alpha and the Omega,...the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty.”

What stands in the way of God truly being the “Alpha and the Omega” - the ‘be all’ - of your life? How can you participation at Mass help you to recognize God’s presence in every aspect of your life?

Readings for the Week

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<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>1st Sunday of Advent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ps 24:1-2c, 3-4ab, 5-6</td>
<td>Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13</td>
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<td>Ps 138:1-2a, 2bc-3, 4-5</td>
<td>Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11</td>
<td>Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab</td>
<td>Ps 25:4-5</td>
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**Adult Formation Programs**

**“There’s a New World Coming!”**
A Day of Advent Reflection
with Dianne Bergant
Saturday, December 1
9am-Noon at
The Well

Advent is a time of anticipation, but anticipation of what? The Sunday readings assure us that there is a ‘new world’ coming. How might we prepare for it?

Join us for a morning of personal reflection and inner exploration as we prepare our spirits for the season.

Because this program is co-sponsored by SJC and St. Francis Xavier Parish, the $30 cost is waived for our parishioners. Call the Parish Center to reserve a seat.

_Dianne Bergant, CSA, is Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She is a prolific writer and editor currently working in the areas of biblical interpretation and theology, particularly issues of peace, ecology, and feminism._

1515 W Ogden Ave LaGrange Park
www.csjthewell.org

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**As Christmas draws near you are invited to a quiet Morning of Meditation**
Christ Jesus, Be Born in Us

*Presentation by Karen Pedigo, PhD and Tim Pedigo, PhD*
*Periods of Meditation*
*Lectio Divina*

All are invited:
Those who meditate,
Those who want to learn to meditate, and
Those who want to know more about meditation.

Saturday, December 15, Parish Center
Hospitality 8:30 a.m.
Program 9-11:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the Christian Meditation group (wccm.org)
Freewill offering accepted
Reservations are requested but not required
Contact: Mary – 708-246-5108, or mary105105@gmail.com

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**Pray the Labyrinth during Advent**

Walk the Labyrinth and find a deeper place as you journey within.
Friday, December 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Mary Chapel.

**What is a Labyrinth?**

The labyrinth is an archetype, a divine imprint, found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world. By walking a replica of the Chartres labyrinth, laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France around 1220, we are rediscovering a long-forgotten mystical tradition. The labyrinth has only one path so there are no tricks to it and no dead ends. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where we are in our lives. It touches our sorrows and releases our joys. Pray and meditate as you walk it with an open mind and an open heart. To learn more go to our parish website under the Prayer tab.
Adult Formation Programs

SJC has a gift for you! After all Masses on Saturday and Sunday, December 8 & 9 a copy of Matthew Kelly’s bestselling book, Rediscover Catholicism will be gifted to each parish family!

By reading Rediscover Catholicism, explore how you can fulfill God’s call to become the best-version-of-yourself; learn how the Seven Pillars of Catholicism - Confession, Daily Prayer, the Mass, the Bible, Fasting, Spiritual Reading, and the Rosary can and should dramatically impact your life; come to know your essential purpose in life and be inspired to share the truth and wisdom of Catholicism with others.

Take part in a 5 part book study and faith sharing series... What does it mean to truly be Catholic? How can we actively participate in the mission of the Church? How can we renew and energize our faith lives? How can we engage our children and our fellow Catholics in their faith?

Beginning the week of January 7th, the book seminar will run every other week for ten weeks in the Parish Center. Parishioners can choose from three different times: Tuesdays at 1pm and 7pm and Fridays at 7pm. Each participant will receive a study guide which includes summaries for each chapter and small faith group sharing questions for reflection.

Confirmation candidates, high school teens and adults are welcome. There is no cost to participate. A wonderful opportunity for parents and their high school student to attend together! Or reach out to a neighbor and invite them to attend with you.

Enjoy holiday cheer and hospitality after all Masses on Saturday & Sunday, December 15-16 in the Parish Center and have an opportunity to sign up for the book study. Or you may register on our parish website home page.

See Matthew Kelly live at our church on Saturday, February 2, 2013 from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For tickets go to our parish website or parish center. This will be a sell-out event so buy your tickets today!
Sign up for Share Christmas continues in the church narthex. Your help will make all the difference for families in need this Christmas.

Our gifts are delivered to the following grateful recipients in the Chicago area: Blessed Sacrament Church, Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Santa Maria Addolorata, St. Thaddeus, St. Mark, as well as families in our own parish community.

What can I buy?
- An unwrapped gift for a child (infant to 18 years old)
- A food gift card from Jewel, Dominick’s, or Wal-Mart for a Christmas meal
- Gift cards for families from Sears, Wal-Mart, Kohl’s, Target or JC Penny
- Food and gifts cards for a Christmas meal and presents for a family

Please note, providing gift cards for our recipient families allows them to select the sizes and colors that more closely meet their needs. Similarly, providing food cards lets them choose food based on their ethnicity, family preferences and health/allergy concerns. Whether you choose to provide a store bought individual gift, or a gift or food card, know that your generosity will make all the difference in Christmas for our grateful recipients.

Donations can also be made on our parish website at www.stjohnofthecross.org. Click on the Giving Tab and direct your donation to Share Christmas. Your gifts will be used to purchase food and gift certificates.

**Drop off Days are Tuesday and Wednesday, December 4th and 5th from 9am-7pm** in the Parish Center. The gifts will then be delivered to the parishes on Saturday, December 8th. If you have a van or small truck or if you are free to help load and deliver, please call us. Questions can be directed to Lolly Maloney at 630-261-5675 or lolly_maloney@comcast.net or the Parish Center.
Crossroads

CALENDAR EVENTS:
Dec. 2 Home Groups Meet
Dec. 9 Soph & 4th grader service 3-4:30 p.m. in PC
Home Groups meet
Jan. 4-6 Frosh-Soph Retreat

PARENTS OF TEENAGERS:
Remember to check out our PARENTS TAB on our website for ways you can continue our home group conversations with your son/daughter!

The influence you have in helping your teens grow in faith is tremendous. This generation is NOT the same as the past in terms of turning away from parents....research shows they follow the faith life of their parents! Your efforts for your own faith carry over to your child.

Some ways to share your faith with your teenager:

- Participate in justice & service opportunities together
- Sign up for the Feb. 2 Matthew Kelly seminar with your son/daughter. Give it as a Christmas gift—setting time aside together is critical & Matthew will help you form bonds you’ll never forget...registration online!
- Attend church together & discuss what you experienced & how you heard and felt God’s love
- Pray together
- Discuss current topics through the lens of our faith—WWJD?
- Attend our Advent Night of Reconciliation together—even if its been awhile—admitting your own uncertainties will model facing fear to your teen

Any parents interested in continuing parent support ministry please contact Katie Hayes, 708-246-4404, khayes@stjohnofthecross.org.

LAST CALL FOR OUR FROSH-SOPH IDENTITY RETREAT!
Enjoy a fun weekend trying new adventures (ropes course, ping-pong vs. Fr. Filbert, climbing wall, tub hill)!

- Meet new people & spend time with old friends (invite your friends to join you)
- Start the year off focusing on the important things (Jan. 4-6 is the retreat!)

If you want to see what it is like you can see a video on our Crossroads FB group page. If you’re not a member ask Katie McAuliffe to be added so you can get all our updates!

Registration at: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats

The team of leaders is putting final touches on the reflection pieces & games. They can’t wait to share a fun weekend with you!
The November 4th YC 9:00 a.m. Mass celebration was fantastic! Thank you to all the families that joined us! And thank you in a special way to all the students from grades 2 and 8 that created art and environment, welcomed us, greeted us, processed in, read the petitions and brought forward the gifts. What a joyful experience!

Plan on joining us for our next YC Mass on December 9th at 9:00 a.m.

It was another exciting Blue Ribbon Week at SJC. Mrs. Gorman, Mrs. Wehner, and Father Dowdle returned from Washington D.C. where they attended the 2012 National Blue Ribbon School Award assembly. On Monday, parishioner and Congressman Dan Lipinski addressed the student body on the award.

The 1st Graders spent time in the library working on a reader’s theatre play that focused around preparing the Thanksgiving feast. And, our second graders took some time to prepare sandwiches for the Port Ministries this week.

Before our students dismissed for the Thanksgiving holiday, they gathered together and celebrated with an all school mass to show thanks for all around them.

This week at SJC
11/27 Parent Association Meeting, 9 a.m. Parish Center

11/30 Grades 1 and 2 Bingo Night 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Parish Center

**YC Schedule**

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<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-11:30 a.m.</th>
<th>Sunday, Dec 2, 9, 16</th>
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<td>6:15-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Monday, Dec 3, 10, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFC</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Groups and Special Needs</td>
<td>Sunday, Dec 2, 16</td>
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**Youth Catechesis Office**

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

Sunday during class ~ Monday 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Livestock for Life

Help our brothers and sisters at our Sharing Parish, Holy Cross, in Jinja, Uganda. Your donation supplies a hen, goat or pig (and training) to a specially selected family. The animal provides income for the family and the church.

You may use our new on-line giving option with your credit card or drop off a check to the Parish Center. We will mail you a Gift Card. Each gift is $40.

![Image of people with livestock]

Jane Kalebi, Kalungami Centre widow, got 4 pigs, produced 6 piglets (1 died). Now has a total of 9 pigs.

![Image of people with livestock]

Caroline Kapera, Bugembe Centre disabled, got 3 goats, produced 3 kids and now has 6 goats.

Thank you from Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your November “Sharing” check of $700 to OLPH Parish. We offer special thanks to God for YOU as Thanksgiving Day approaches.

OLPH is planning a Thanksgiving Day dinner for anyone who has no family to celebrate with. At this point we have no idea how many people might join us, but we are looking forward to hosting a large “family.” Please keep us in your prayer—along with all who will gather.

We continue to pray for you. May God bless you always,

Gratefully, Sr. Margie Sr. Joyce & People of OLPH Parish

From Sr. Margie’s visit in October...

Dear Parishioners,

It was good to be able to spend some time with you last weekend.

Each time I visit, I am impressed and inspired by the life and energy, the faith and generosity that shine forth in your community. Thank you for the words of support, assurances and prayers and the on-going ways you share of yourselves with us here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

May God bless you always.

Sr. Margie

Please join us for an informational program:

Clinical Trials for Alzheimer’s Disease

Concetta Forchetti, M.D., PhD
Alexian Brothers Neurosciences Institute
Tuesday, December 4, 1:30-3 p.m.
Aging Care Connections
111 W. Harris Ave., La Grange, IL

Alexian Brothers Neurosciences has an active and established program for clinical research. Dr. Forchetti is the founder of the Memory Disorders Clinic and is a high respected researcher with more than 3 yrs experience and will discuss a wide range of clinical trials that point the way to new treatments.

Program is open to all. Space is limited. Registration is required. To register, call 708-354-1323

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
ICN Networking Meeting

Interfaith Career Network invites you to a supportive evening of networking on December 6, 7:00-9:00 pm at First Baptist Church in La Grange. Join us for some helpful ideas on how to keep up your search during the holidays; ways to use the holidays as a job search tool and the wisdom of touching base with new business contacts early on as we head into 2013. At the end of this discussion, take time to expand your networking with 1-2 roundtable sessions. Share leads, information and tips. Network and strategize your job search through shared conversation and connections with other job seekers. Bring copies of your resume or a network handbill. Come for networking, stay for light refreshments. The more the merrier! Everyone is welcome and there is no fee to attend. First Baptist Church is located at 20 North Ashland Avenue (across from the La Grange Post Office). Please use the Bell Avenue entrance.

For further information, please visit our website at:
www.interfaithcareernetwork.org

Sponsored by the SJC Women’s Club in partnership with Village True Value Hardware. Questions? Please contact Katie Pruitt at iboilers@gmail.com or 708-822-9427.

LUMINARIA KIT FUNDRAISER

Each Luminaria Kit includes 5 white bags, 5 long-burning candles (10+ hours) and enough sand to assemble your luminaries. Free home delivery for seniors!

Order Deadline: Sunday, December 9th
Pick-up Dates: Sunday, December 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Or 23rd from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

Order online at www.stjohnofthecross.org
To order, complete the form below and return with payment to the SJC Parish Center by 12/9. Make checks payable to SJC Women’s Club.

Last Name: ____________________________ First Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Pick-up Date: please circle one December 16 or December 23
____ Luminary Kit(s) x $10 = Total Due ______________
Each kit contains 5 bags, 5 candles and enough sand to assemble the luminaries
☐ Seniors check here for FREE Delivery!
Address For Delivery:______________________________________________

Sponsored by the SJC Women’s Club in partnership with Village True Value Hardware.

Outreach

Your baking help is needed! Cookies are needed for the Nurses Association to distribute at the LaGrange Christmas Walk and also for the Helping Hand Craft Fair Fundraiser & the Helping Hand client party.

Bake for LaGrange Community Nurses Association
The Community Nurse Health Association provides primary healthcare and supportive services to more than low income families in the western suburbs.

Bake for Helping Hand
Helping Hand Center is a not-for-profit community-based agency in Countryside that serves approximately 500 children and adults with mild to severe developmental disabilities.

Deliver cookies to the Parish Center vestibule between November 28th and November 30th on the tables labeled Cookie Donations. Thank You!!
This Week at SJC

Monday, November 26
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
7:00 p.m. Promise Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 27
8:30 a.m. Parent Association
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
7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, November 28
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Advent by Candlelight
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, November 29
7:00 p.m. Men’s Club Meeting

Friday, November 30
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club
5:00 p.m. Parent Association

Saturday, December 1
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
11:00 a.m. Frist Reconciliation

Sunday, December 2
9:00 a.m. YC Home Groups
10:00 a.m. Crossroads Advisory Meeting

NAZARETH ACADEMY HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

Nazareth Academy invites middle school students and their families to Experience Nazareth at the final Open House of the fall on December 6, 2012.

Attending an Open House provides you with an opportunity to learn all about the Scholarship, Service, Spirit and Unity of Nazareth Academy. Your experience begins with a general presentation where you will hear from the administration, some students and view a video to learn more about the school. You will then take a guided tour, led by student ambassadors, throughout the building.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Questions about Open House can be directed to Mrs. Kristen Stojetz at (708) 387-8505 or kstojetz@nazarethacademy.com

Christmas Sounds

Illuminate the holidays with a burst of joy that is bound to raise your spirits! Let the Tower Chorale ring in your holiday season with pure joy, under the enjoyable direction of Patrick Godon. Hear sacred and secular Christmas songs accompanied by a brass quartet and Dennis Zimmer on both organ and piano. Delight in our special guests, St. John of the Cross Children’s Choirs, directed by Jessica Koch and Ann Bourjaily-Maney. The concerts are Friday, November 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 1, at 8:00 p.m. at St. John of the Cross, 5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs. Members of the church who are singing in the concert are: Kathy and Marty Daley, Betsy Spiering and May Fox. Parishioners of St. John of the Cross will receive a discount on the tickets. You may purchase discounted tickets at the Parish Center during the week or after Masses this weekend at the Parish Center. Doors open 30 minutes before each concert. Discounted Tickets: $12 Adults/Seniors/Students; Children 10 & under free.

For more information visit: www.towerchorale.org.

Join the Contemporary Ensemble for Christmas!

Lend your voice to the Contemporary Ensemble during the season of Advent and Christmas and help make our Christmas 9:00 a.m. Mass extra special!

The commitment is minimal – only 4 Thursday evening rehearsals starting this Thursday, November 30, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Church. No further commitment is required. Singing on the Saturdays during Advent is optional. For details, contact Jessica Koch: jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org or (708) 246-4404.
SJC Clubs

The SJC Men’s Club invites all men of the parish to an exhilarating morning with

Fr. Richard Simon
Catholic Apologist and Scripture Scholar, well-known as “Reverend Know-It-All” and co-host of Relevant Radio’s program,

Go Ask Your Father
Saturday, December 1st, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Light morning refreshments will be served.

Moms of Young Children
All are welcome!

Fridays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
in the Parish Center

Friday, November 30
We are excited to welcome Megan Albee, a local Zumba instructor and President of the Western Springs Neighbors and Newcomers Club to participate in this month's Physical Friday. Megan will be teaching a 30 minute, child-friendly Zumba class for Moms and their young children!

Friday, December 7
Relieve some of the holiday stress with a morning dedicated to organizing your to-do's! Please bring your shopping lists, menu plans, recipes, or Christmas cards to address. Moms will spend a quiet hour preparing for the Christmas season. Childcare will be provided.

Friday, December 14
We will celebrate Moms’ Club Christmas in the Thomas Ford Library Community Room. Join us with your little ones for a celebration to wrap up 2012!

Please contact Colleen Whittingham at whitting910@yahoo.com if you have any questions.
Please contact Ellen Twomey at ellenkoz@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the email list.

advent by candlelight
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH • 7 – 10 P.M. • $10 PER PERSON

this year we invite you to simplify the holidays and make meaningful what’s most important

Speaker Nancy Polacek will offer inspiration to help you make the most of your advent season!

Seating available for individuals and groups
Contact Connie Madden to rsvp at 708.417.2012 or crm0517@sbcglobal.net

Please contact Marian Hughes (mhughes@ameritech.net), Sue Bidstrup(jsbidstrup@ameritech.net) or Jakkie Tisa (jakkietisa@gmail.com) for more information.
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, andgrant him/her your healing and peace.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Angie Babicz
Melissa Beacom
Tracy Bucciarelli
Garth Christie
Connie Crane
Ashley Davis
Mary Sue
Donohue
Kimberly Edwards
Karen Hult
Ruth Ilg
Tom Jass
Emily Johans
Lois Corrine
Johnson
Helen King
Rita Koziol
Ray Kula
Cathy Laskey
Greg LaValle
Yvonne Lowry
Moon Meehan
Joan Nicholson
Tommy Niemeyer
Jean Onesto
Greg Palaschak
Fabian Saldana
Kathie Saldana
Rita Shellochne
Bob Sturenfeldt
Marie Miller

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Michael W. Collins, father of Michael, Brian and Daniel
John Dolezal, husband of Linda
Carole Delaney, sister of Gloria Kleinke

Wedding Banns
Jason Lane & Sonia Sujka

Catholic Charities Stands Ready to AddressImmediate Community Needs Left byHurricane Sandy in the US
To support our efforts and help restore desperately needed hope, please call 1-800-919-9338 or visitour website at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org to see how you can help.

Donations for the Caribbean can be sent to:
Attn: Emergency Hurricane SandyCatholic Relief Services3525 S. Lake ParkChicago, IL  60653

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

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 26
6:30 Joe Racki
7:45 June Shannon

Tuesday, November 27
6:30 Our Beloved Dead
7:45 Rosamond Buckingham; Estrellita M. Barin

Wednesday, November 28
6:30 Santo Scavuzzo, Sr.
7:45 Maureen Murtaugh; Mary O’Callaghan

Thursday, November 29
7:45 Marie Capellani;
Patrick Grogan & Kevin Gunnin

Friday, November 30, St. Andrew
7:45 Thomas Siragusa; Andrew Applegate

Saturday, December 1
8:00 Therese Jurkacek; Kathryn Christensen
5:00 Joanne Costigan; Plourde Family

Sunday, December 2, First Sunday of Advent
7:30 Steve O’Malley; Margaret Hinsdale Pometta
9:00 Dr. A. J. Crowley; Jeffrey Zurblis
10:45 Paul Stimetz; Patricia Wehner
12:15 SJC & St. Thaddeus Parishioners
5:00 Anne Mullaney; Eugene Garvy

Italics—Living

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

Fr. David P. Dowdle  Pastor  ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila  Associate Pastor  fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp  Deacon  john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
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Katie Hayes  Crossroads High School  khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch  Music  jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin  Operations  mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Calling all Saintly Seniors!
Christmas is right around the corner... Come join us for a wonderful luncheon and lively entertainment to get yourself in the Christmas spirit. This is a great opportunity to connect with other seniors in our parish. Hope to see you there!

Join us for our Saintly Senior Club Annual Christmas Luncheon Friday, December 14th 11:30 a.m. SJC Parish Center

Please RSVP to the Parish Center by Monday, December 10

Name: ________________________________
Phone: ______________________________
Number of Reservations: _________
Amount Enclosed: _________
Cost: Members $15 Nonmembers $20
Questions? Call Trudy Schmitt at 246-4696
Celebrate the season with renewed spiritual growth and inspiration

St. John of the Cross is happy to offer Sacred Space for Advent and the Christmas Season 2012-2013. The books will be available after all Masses next weekend, December 1 and 2 while supplies last. A $1 free will offering is suggested.

Using the simple six-step method first developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, the book is perfect for people on the go who want to grab a few moments to read, reflect, and pray in the midst of their busy days. With weekly themes, daily readings and prayers, and suggestions for a retreat day, Sacred Space for Advent 2012 - 2013 offers a simple way to prepare for Christmas in the midst of the year's most hectic season.