ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 2, 2012

COME LORD JESUS

5005 S. WOLF ROAD WESTERN SPRINGS 60558
708–246–4404
WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG
Awaiting God’s Reign

The large Christmas tree in Macy's department store in downtown Chicago (formerly Marshall Field's) was lighted in a festive public ceremony on November 2, two days after Halloween and almost eight weeks before Christmas. The event made me think of an observation about Americans that Henri Nouwen made after he’d lived and taught in the United States for decades. We are not very good at waiting, Nouwen noted. In fact, most people consider waiting to be a huge waste of time. The culture says don’t just sit there—do something!

Patience is not one of our stronger characteristics. A flight delay at the airport, an unanticipated traffic jam on the freeway or a doctor’s appointment that leaves us too long in the waiting room can become an emotional and physical crisis, bringing with it stress, a racing heart and elevated blood pressure.

Our culture celebrates action, results and instant gratification. Relentless and highly sophisticated advertising convinces us that we deserve to have whatever we want now. As a result, Nouwen observed, waiting is an awful desert between where we are and where we want to be.

Yet waiting is a major biblical theme. “I wait for the Lord all day long,” the psalmist wrote. Then there’s the promise of Isaiah 40: “Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

The interesting thing about biblical waiting is that it almost always happens in situations that are bleak. People wait while they are in captivity, prisoners in a foreign land. Defeated, expelled from their homes and their beloved city, their beautiful temple in ruins, they are described by the prophet as “sitting in deep darkness.” We sing about those people and about ourselves in gorgeous Advent hymns: “O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile.”

Near the end of his life Jesus began to prepare his disciples for something that was still to come. He told his followers to wait hopefully and actively anticipate the future. “Watch. Stand up. Stay awake. Be alert.” Christians trust that something is coming that is not yet fully here: redemption, fulfillment, wholeness, peace and the world as God intends it. The reign of God will be characterized by peace among nations and justice for all people—particularly for oppressed people. In this world, old and young will be secure and safe, little ones will not be shot in random street violence, people will not suffer for lack of access to adequate health care, and weapons will be melted down and recast into farm implements.

That’s why we do some serious waiting during Advent. Yes, Advent waiting is patient and unhurried, to be sure. But it is also living into the promised future. Advent waiting is gently but steadily working for the reign of God here and now. It is waiting for the birth of a child, and working for the future that child promised and embodied and taught and lived.

By John M. Buchanan
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your parish will soon present the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity to honor and thank retired Catholic sisters, brothers and religious-order priests for their generous service to our Church and our world.

Whether we realize it or not, we are all beneficiaries of the tremendous contributions made by women and men religious to the Church and to the world. Through their lives of prayer, good works and complete sacrifice of self, they served the schools that not only taught many of us to read and write but to know and love the Lord. They began the hospitals where many of us were born and where we were treated when we were ill and the nursing homes where our elderly family members were cared for with dignity and respect. They fostered the social programs that fed the hungry and were often a voice for those who could not speak for themselves. I remain grateful for all these and the many other ways in which they have been of service to the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

I realize there are numerous worthy causes in need of assistance and that many individuals and families continue to struggle financially. I ask you simply to offer what you can for the care of women and men who have made such enormous contributions to our Church.

Thank you for your support of this appeal. During the upcoming Advent season, you and those you love will be in my prayers in a special way; please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

The Retirement Fund for Religious Second Collection will be next weekend, December 8-9. You may also donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious on our parish website giving page.

Archdiocese of Chicago

November, 2012

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Know the Mass, One Word at a Time

eat

We don’t usually connect praying with eating. But that is exactly what we do, as we pray at Mass and eat the bread of life in Holy Communion. Prayer in all its different forms moves us towards God. Eating the bread of life in Holy Communion moves the Lord towards us, actually, bringing his presence within us.

This praying and eating at Mass seems, at first, simply to be very personal. It is an intimate action that touches us in the core of our being. Indeed, it is. At the same time, notice something else. At Mass, we pray and eat together. So, when we eat the bread of life, we are in deep communion with our saving Lord. And in him, we are also in deep communion with each other.

Archdiocese of Chicago + Strategic Pastoral Plan
YEAR OF SUNDAY MASS / YEAR OF FAITH

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)
The Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) have arrived. If you would like to purchase them, please come to the Parish Center. Each envelope (three per envelope) is $1.50.

First Sunday of Advent: Lord Jesus, You call us to be ready to meet you on the last day.

In today’s Gospel we hear that “people will die of fright” as they anticipate the last day. This may not be what we want to hear as we prepare for Christmas, but a “last day” for each of us will be when we are called to leave this world for the next. How should we live and prepare for that final day? How should we live and prepare for the birth of the Christ child? Let us enter into Advent with hearts open to God’s message.
Saturday & Sunday, December 1-2 Sacred Space for Advent books will be available at all church exits after Masses this weekend.

Friday, December 7 Pray the Labyrinth in our Mary Chapel from 2:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. Holyday Masses are at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 9 Our Youth Catechesis Program invites all students and their families to the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Saturday & Sunday, December 8-9 After all Masses a copy of Matthew Kelly’s Rediscover Catholicism will be gifted to each parish family.

Saturday, December 15 Our Morning of Meditation begins at 8:30 a.m. with hospitality. At 9:00 a.m. Drs. Karen and Tim Pedigo will speak on Christ Jesus, Be Born in Us in the Parish Center.

Saturday & Sunday, December 15-16 Enjoy holiday cheer and hospitality after all Masses in the Parish Center and have an opportunity to sign up to take part in a 5 session Rediscover Catholicism book seminar and faith sharing series beginning the week of January 7th.

Tuesday, December 18 is our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. Scripture and song invites reflection and individual confession and absolution. 12 priests will be available. This hour long service is appropriate for families and adults.

Saturday, December 22 Private confessions will follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Additional priests will be available.

Energize your faith life! Plan on attending Matthew Kelly’s “Passion & Purpose” live event on Saturday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in our church. For tickets go to our website.
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Vigil - Monday, December 24
4:00 p.m. Church
   Children’s Choir  Carol Prelude 3:30 p.m.

4:15 p.m. First Floor School Multi-Purpose Room
   Cantor, Flute    Carol Prelude 4:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Second Floor School Gym
   Cantor, Trumpet  Carol Prelude 4:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Church
   Cantor, Flute & Cello  Carol Prelude 5:45 p.m.

10:30 p.m. Church
   Traditional Choir, Brass Quartet  Carol Prelude 9:45 p.m.

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25
7:30 a.m. Church
   Cantor, Flute & Cello

9:00 a.m. Church
   Contemporary Ensemble, Guitar, Drums, Instruments

10:45 a.m. Church
   Traditional Choir, Trumpet, Flute, Cello

12:30 p.m. Church
   (*This Mass begins 15 minutes later than the usual start at 12:15 p.m.)
   5 Alive! Teen Choir, Guitar, Drums, Flute, Trumpet

** There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Monday, December 31, 2012—5:00 p.m.
   Anticipatory Mass
Tuesday, January 1, 2013—10:00 a.m.
   Holy Day of Obligation
Reflections on the Gospel

Living the Gospel

Waiting can be a process that strikes us as quite relative. If we are waiting for a dentist appointment to undergo a root canal, the wait can pass all too quickly. If we are waiting for a desperately needed check to come in the mail, the wait can seem interminable. These are concrete situations where we can “measure” our waiting. They are experiences we actually might have in our daily living. The gospel, however, admonishes us to be vigilant for a future event—the Second Coming of “the Son of Man”—of which none of us has any experience. Jesus is surely talking about his coming when the world as we know it will end. But this gospel is not really about the end of the world; it is about the completion of the kingdom. The gospel calls us to be vigilant not about a future event but about a present way of living shaped by the Jesus before whom we stand.

In order for the kingdom to come fully, we must address more forcefully those things which impede the kingdom (genocide, domination of one nation over another, poverty, violence and abuse of all kinds). And we begin this process of addressing the world’s ills by addressing what is immediately at hand in our own lives. The way we ought to live now is shaped by this particular time of the liturgical year, Advent, with its motif of joyful anticipation. During Advent we Christians wait for more than a day (Christmas); we await a Person—Jesus Christ who now reigns in glory. This Jesus is among us now, inviting us to live as he did—with care for others, with unselfish response to others’ needs, with the kind of self-giving that draws people into a venue of joy and peace. When we live the Gospel well, the future is now. Our waiting is pregnant with life.

Closing Prayers:
May we be vigilant at all times and assist others to stand confidently before Christ.
May we see in the signs of the times the call to live the Gospel more fully.
Our Father . . .

For Reflection:
· Advent calls me to grow in Gospel living by . . .
· I experience sharing already in Christ’s “great glory” in that . . .

Meditation by Richard Rohr

Being Present

Hugh of St. Victor (1078-1141) and Richard of St. Victor (1123-1173) wrote that humanity was given three sets of eyes, each building on the previous one. The first eye was the eye of the flesh (thought or sight), the second was the eye of reason (meditation or reflection), and the third eye was the eye of true understanding (contemplation).

I cannot emphasize strongly enough that the separation and loss of these three necessary eyes is at the basis of much of the short-sightedness and religious crises of the Western world. Lacking such wisdom, it is very difficult for churches, governments, and leaders to move beyond ego, the desire for control, and public posturing. Everything divides into oppositions such as liberal vs. conservative, with vested interests pulling against one another. Truth is no longer possible at this level of conversation. Even theology becomes more a quest for power than a search for God and Mystery.

Prayer:
When I am present, I can know the Real Presence.

Year of Sunday Mass:

Question of the Week

The Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is urgently “NOW!”—What one thing have I put off doing which would help make me whole with others and the Son of Man?

O come O come Emmanuel...to a world awaiting

Readings for the Week

Monday
Isa 2:1-5
Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9
Matt 8:5-11

Tuesday
Isa 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8,12-13, 17

Wednesday
Isa 28:16-18
Ps 80:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Matt 15:29-31

Thursday
Isa 26:1-6
Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Matt 27:21, 24-27

Friday
Isa 29:17-24
Ps 27:1:4, 13-14
Matt 9:27-31

Saturday
Gen 3:9-15, 20
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 126:38

1st Sunday of Advent
Bar 5:1-9
Ps 126:1-2, 2-3,4-5, 6
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

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Some years ago, a friend of mine was facing the birth of her first child. While happy that she was soon to be a mother, she openly confessed her fears about the actual birth-process, the pain, the dangers, the unknown. But she consoled herself with this thought: Hundreds of millions of women have done this and have somehow managed it. Surely, if so many women have done, and are doing, this - I too can manage it somehow.

I sometimes take those words and apply them to the prospect of dying. Death is the most daunting, unsettling, and heavy topic there is, for all of us, our occasional false bravado notwithstanding. When we say that we are not afraid of dying, mostly we're whistling in dark and, even there, the tune comes out easier when our own death remains still an abstract thing, something in the indefinite and infinite future. My thoughts here, no doubt, fit that description, whistling in the dark. But why not? Surely even whistling in the dark is better than denial.

So I like my friend's methodology for steeling her courage in the face of having to face pain and the unknown: Hundreds of millions of women have managed this, so I should be able to manage it too! And in the case of dying, the numbers are even more consoling, billions and billions of people have managed it, and everyone, including myself, is going to have to manage it. A hundred years from now, every one of us reading these words will have had to manage his or her own death. Surely, if so many women have done, and somehow managed it, the great unknown, the greatest of all unknowns. It seems it can be managed. And nobody has come back from the other world with horror stories about dying (given that all our horror movies about ghosts and haunted houses are pure fiction, through and through).

Most people, I suspect, have the same experience that I do when I think about the dead, particularly about persons I have known who died. The initial grief and sadness of their loss eventually wears off and is replaced by an inchoate sense that it's alright, that they are alright, and that death has in some strange way washed things clean. In the end, we have a pretty good feeling about our dead loved ones and about the dead in general, even if their departure from this earth was far from ideal, as for instance if they died angry, or through immaturity, or because they committed a crime, or by suicide. Somehow it eventually all washes clean and what remains is the inchoate sense, a solid intuition, that wherever they are they are now in better and safer hands than our own.

When I was a young seminarian we once had to translate Cicero's treatise on aging and dying from Latin into English. I was eighteen years old at the time, but was very taken by Cicero's thoughts on why we shouldn't fear death. He was stoic, but, in the end, his lack of fear of dying was a little like my friend's approach to giving birth: Given how universal it is, we should be able to manage it!

I've long since lost my undergraduate notes on Cicero, so I looked the treatise up on the Internet recently. Here's a kernel from that treatise: "Death should be held of no account! For clearly the impact of death is negligible if it utterly annihilates the soul, or even desirable, if it conducts the soul to some place where it is to live forever. What, then, shall I fear, if after death I am destined to be either not unhappy or happy?"

Our faith tells us that, given the benevolence of the God we believe in, only the second option, happiness, awaits us. And we already intuit that.

Rev. Ron Rolhieser

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.
SJC Clubs

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

**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.

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**SJC Men’s Club**
Men’s Club thanks Dr. James Boblick and Dr. Michael Milani for their medical presentation last week. We appreciate your time and information.

* * * * *
Save the Date
TRIVIA NIGHT
**Saturday January 26th**

**Advent Daily Prayer**

God of eternal mercy and love,
I lift my heart in prayer to you throughout these Advent days.

Grant me patience as I prepare the way for the Christ’s coming.

Inspire me with hope to await eagerly the return of Christ in glory.

Fill me with joy to cry out with the whole Church Maranatha!
Come, Lord Jesus!

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**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.

*Enjoy a festive luncheon of roast beef, baked ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, butter beets, coleslaw, kolacky, and beverage.
“We 2” will entertain!
Be sure to come!
Crossroads

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

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

ABSOLUTE LAST CALL
FOR OUR FROSH-SOPH IDENTITY RETREAT!

• Enjoy a fun weekend trying new adventures, ropes course, ping-ping 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. 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

We just had another young adult sign on to lead so we can take more teens with us! Hope you will register NOW—we will close registration this week!

Any questions call or email khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or 708-246-4404.

Many thanks for the prayers holding Katie & Tom Pruitt (and Molly & Jane), Terry & Mary Stadler, Chris Marquett & me during our time at the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry!

Look forward to more information here & online!

Our teens have a heart for others…. As we go to print with this bulletin our Crossroads teens are planning an opportunity to raise funds to send to victims of Superstorm Sandy. Details will be sent out soon! Please check our parish website for information to support those in need.

TO PARENTS OF TEENAGERS:
Here are some ADVENT SPECIFIC ways to engage your teens in faith activities:

Some teens like to make sense of the stories they hear at church….share the story of when you waited for your son/daughter’s arrival…did you have any travel that was significant? How did you prepare for their arrival? Help your teen better understand how we all WAIT & PREPARE for Christmas through real-life stories of people they love and care for (yes, you!).

Some teens like to be physical…give them movement to their prayer on Fri. Dec. 7th by walking the labyrinth! Details online & in the bulletin.

Some teens struggle to understand the significance of God’s forgiveness….talk them through it & give them the opportunity to experience it at our Night of Reconciliation on Dec. 18th. If you need a resource or two check out links on our PARENT TAB of our website.
Parish School

It was a great week to be a second grader!

Second graders had an exciting week. Not only did they spend time preparing for Reconciliation that was celebrated yesterday, but they worked in art class making special ornaments for their parents. In language arts they learned about symbolism. And, in math, they spent time using shapes and studying symmetry. Friday evening, the kids headed to the Parish Center for a Bingo night!

Youth Catechesis

Thank you to all the 7th and 8th graders who baked for the Mt. Sinai children...

During the Year of Sunday Mass YC will celebrate five masses at the 9:00 Sunday Mass. Children will be active participants in the Mass - Join us December 9th at 9:00 am Mass! Watch throughout the year as YC celebrates the Year of Sunday Mass!

YC Schedule

Classes K-6 10:15-11:30am Sunday, Dec 2, 9, 16  6:15-7:30pm Monday, Dec 3, 10, 17
FFC  Noon to 1:30 Sunday, Dec 2
Home Groups and Special Needs  Sunday, Dec 2, 16

SJC This Week

December 3, 2012
Advent Prayer Service
Gym 2:00 p.m.

December 5, 2012
Band and Choir Concert
Gym 7:00 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 8 Standard Market in Westmont will donate 10% of your purchases at the Market and Grill to SJC if you mention “St. John of the Cross Parish School” at checkout! 8am-9pm

Dear St. John the Cross School Trick-or-Treat "Treat Bakers:"

You ALL are absolutely AMAZING!! Thank you 100 times over! This year's Halloween party for the kids that come to the Under the Rainbow clinic here at Mount Sinai Hospital helped so many young people stay away from the violence of their neighborhoods while they trick-or-treated in the safety of our hospital halls instead. After returning from their trick-or-treating around the hospital, they came back into the packed auditorium to play Halloween games and activities. THEN they saw your decorated treats and baked goods!

Many of them let out shrieks of delight. Perfectly well-behaved and under control up to this point, some of them struggled to get in line (and stay in line) and wait patiently to choose their treats and baked goodies. They were so happy with the different choices they had this year) They left the party, almost an hour later, still talking about how special your Halloween treats were and how they had never seen anything like it. You truly made their Halloween celebration this year something to remember.

It was very clear to us how many children from St. John the Cross must have participated in providing us the Halloween treats this year. First of all THANK YOU, DEBBIE for making this possible. Also, please pass our huge thank you to the St. John the Cross school children, every child that helped make that celebration so huge for us!! And thanks to the teachers and other adults that helped organize and deliver the huge treat-a-thon to us!

Sincerely,
Dr. Rich Macur Brousil and the entire staff of the Under the Rainbow program at Mount Sinai Hospital

November 7, 2012

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Kolbe House’s Annual Advent Email Retreat
Begins Monday, December 3

If you decide to join the email retreat, you will receive an email every Monday during Advent that contains a short reflection written by a Kolbe House jail chaplain or volunteer, recommended scripture passages to reflect on, suggested actions to do during the week, and a short prayer to say daily.

*Prepare the way of the Lord* is a theme that runs through Advent. This theme is a reality check on our lives because we are to prepare as the popular phase goes “to meet our Maker” at the end of our lives and at the Lord’s final return at the end of the world. Amidst all the glitter of the season this is a sobering thought. Everything has a beginning and everything comes to an end. Prepare the way of the Lord marks the Christ child’s birth that puts him on the road to Calvary and his resurrection. Advent prepares us to walk this path with him.

This email retreat offers you a means to prepare the way of the Lord this Advent. When you open the email, you will be taken to a new place for a few minutes. This place is where you can reflect about the meaning of Christmas with new eyes—with the eyes of those who visit Jesus in jail.

If you are interested in participating in our Advent email retreat, simply visit the Kolbe House web site at www.kolbehouseministry.org. Your email address will not be shared with anyone else. You will not be asked for any donations in the emails that we will send you.

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**ICN Networking Meeting**

Interfaith Career Network invites you to a supportive evening of networking on December 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m. 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.
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 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 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.
This Week at SJC

Monday, December 3
10:30 a.m. Christian Meditation Group
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
6:30 p.m. Rediscover Catholicism

Tuesday, December 4
9:00 a.m. Share Christmas Drop Off
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Interviews
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 5
9:00 a.m. Share Christmas Drop Off
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
6:45 p.m. Tiger Scouts
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, December 6
9:00 a.m. Share Christmas Sorting
7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting

Friday, December 7
8:00 a.m. Share Christmas Packing
2:00 p.m. Praying the Labyrinth

Saturday, December 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Holyday Masses are at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m. Share Christmas Delivery
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, December 9
2:00 p.m. Crossroads Christmas Service Projects
4:00 p.m. Cooking for BEDS

LUMINARIA KIT FUNDRAISER

Light the way for family & friends this Christmas... Begin a holiday tradition your children will love!

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

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

_____ Luminaria 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. Questions? Please contact Katie Pruitt at iboilers@gmail.com or 708-822-9427.
Baptisms

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

Amelia Grace, daughter of Veronica (Valle) & Eric Gilbert

Jacob Harrison, son of Jennifer (Malek) & Jerry Dover

Reese Cecelia, daughter of Pamela (Wortham) & Andrew Haemker

Owen Thomas and Chase Louis, sons of Melissa (Mistretta) & Travis Neddermeyer

Reese Caylor, daughter of Danielle (Gentile) & David Mitria

Jackson Robbert, Griffen Timothy, John Thomas, Kailey Anne, children of Rachele & John Nestor

Jaxson William, son of Jessica (Bialk) & Matthew Pfennig

Abigail Hope, daughter of Julie Ryan & Steven Miskowicz

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

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.
Lord Hear Our Prayer

Pray for our Sick

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Angie Babicz</th>
<th>Emily Johans</th>
<th>Joan Nicholson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Beacom</td>
<td>Lois Corrine</td>
<td>Tommy Niemeyer</td>
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<td>Tracy Bucciarelli</td>
<td>John Johnson</td>
<td>Nancy Olin</td>
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<td>Garth Christie</td>
<td>Helen King</td>
<td>Jean Onesto</td>
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<td>Connie Crane</td>
<td>Rita Kozio</td>
<td>Greg Palaschak</td>
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<td>Ashley Davis</td>
<td>Ray Kula</td>
<td>Terry Peterson</td>
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<td>Mary Sue</td>
<td>Cathy Laskey</td>
<td>Barbara Redling</td>
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<td>Donohue</td>
<td>Greg LaValle</td>
<td>Fabian Saldana</td>
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<td>Kimberly Edwards</td>
<td>Yvonne Lowry</td>
<td>Kathie Saldana</td>
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<td>Karen Hult</td>
<td>Chick Meehan</td>
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<td>Ruth Ilg</td>
<td>Moon Meehan</td>
<td>Bob Sturenfeldt</td>
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<td>Tom Jass</td>
<td>Marie Miller</td>
<td>Christine Zacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Elizaia Hernandez, wife of Miguel
Raymond Lifka, cousin of Ron Swade
Luis Armando Varela, father of Mario and Ruben
Rosemary Pembroke, mother of Martin
Daniel Anthony Donovan, husband of Sandra
William Mikes, brother of Robert

As we review our Annual Report at this time of year, we continue to acknowledge the many ways in which we have grown in faith and fellowship together throughout the whole year. We have socialized, prayed, witnessed and celebrated our faith in every season with every age.

We are continually humbled and thankful for all you do to support our parish with your time, talent, and treasure. We strive to be welcoming, living out our mission as a parish community loving God and one another. Each of us is called to discover, to grow, to be all God has asked us to be. Our parish is a blessing in our lives, providing for our families – every day – encouraging us to live our Catholic faith.

Our Parish Finance Council continues to promote online giving. Many of you already pay your bills or purchase things online. Making your donations electronically will work to your benefit as well as our parish’s. Go to our Giving page on our website www.stjohnofthecross.org to donate electronically.

Together let us join hands to make our parish be all that it can be.

Mass Intentions
Monday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier
6:30 Don McRobb; Robert McGuire
7:45 Richard Kennedy; Daniel Murphy

Tuesday, December 4, St. John Damascene
6:30 Sam Marotta; Alfonso Velasquez-Arana
7:45 Our Beloved Dead: Louis Kwit

Wednesday, December 5
6:30 Claire & John Martin
7:45 Filomena Swietek; Mary Schaffer

Thursday, December 6, St. Nicholas
7:45 Ted & Leona Rompala; Frances Rydzewski

Friday, December 7, St. Ambrose
7:45 George & Muriel Mackel; Kevin Quinlan

Saturday, December 8, Immaculate Conception
8:00 Dr. John J. Watson; Dr. John G. Watson
9:30 Gail Fetterolf; Maura Clarke
5:00 Mary Wojcik; William Plourde

Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday of Advent
7:30 Bruno Shukis: John & Elizabeth Treacy
9:00 SJC & St. Mark Parishioners
10:45 James Martorelli; James Keating
12:15 Jim Toner; Janice Reichl
5:00 Eugene Garvy; Mary Corcoran

Italics—Living

Trying to get in touch with us?
More info is on our website:

www.stjohnofthecross.org

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PHONE —
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
A Gift for You: Re-Energize Your Faith Life!
Book Study and Faith Sharing Seminar at SJC

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 study-faith sharing seminar will run every other week for ten weeks in the Parish Center. Parishioners can choose from three different times: Tuesdays at 1pm and 7 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m. 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. This is 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.

A Gift to You! There is no cost for the book or to participate in the book study!

Plus see Matthew Kelly live at our church on Saturday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For tickets go to our parish website or stop in the Parish Center. This will be a sell-out event so buy your tickets today! Seating is limited.