Prayer for Families

Dear Lord, keep our family in your divine protection. Increase our compassion for one another; give us hearts full of mercy and forgiveness. Let us speak from a place of love when we share our concerns with our parents, brothers, and sisters. Never let a day pass by that we fail to say “I love you.” Increase our gratitude for our gifts and talents and never let jealousy or a diminished self-esteem cause us to negatively compare ourselves with family members. Help our family be your presence to those struggling with loneliness, hunger, grief, and the cold. Help our family be your holy presence in our world. Amen.

Kathleen Sullivan
Living the Gospel

Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus. In reality, this describes our own Christian living. We look for Jesus when we, like him, seek to be in God's presence; when we, like him, choose to be obedient; when we, like him, grow in wisdom. Along the way we discover that Jesus enlarges where we look for him, how we find him, and what new understanding comes to us through our encounters with him. This is the pattern of faithful Christian living that brings us to fullness of life. Looking for Jesus is probably not a conscious element of our daily living, at least not in the sense that Mary and Joseph looked for him as told in the gospel. Yet, every time we seek to be in God's presence, choose to be obedient to what God wants of us, go out of our way to love one another, we are seeking Jesus. And we will always find him.

Every good family strives for continued growth in fidelity to God and each other. Each time we let go of one attitude, habit, annoying behavior (that is, each time we choose to love one another) we grow into a newer and deeper relationship with those around us. A holy family is one in which relationships place God at the center. Good parents spend their children's growing-up years emptying themselves of their own desires for the sake of the well-being of their children, endlessly and willingly sacrificing for them. Then, when the children are adults, parents must be willing to "cut the apron strings" and let go so the children can be about their own business. Like Mary and Joseph, good parents always nurture and take care of their children but, then, they willingly give back what they have received. Such is what holy family living is really all about: seeking, obeying, loving.

Closing Prayer:
May we diligently search for Jesus and discern his desire for us.
May we seek and find Jesus in one another.
Our Father . . .

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>The Epiphany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 John 1:21</td>
<td>Num 6:22-27</td>
<td>1 John 2:22</td>
<td>1 John 2:29-34</td>
<td>1 John 3:7-10</td>
<td>1 John 3:11-21</td>
<td>Isa 60:1-6</td>
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<td>Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13</td>
<td>Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4</td>
<td>Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6</td>
<td>Ps 100:16-2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Ps 100:16-21</td>
<td>Ps 72:1-2, 7-8,10-11, 12-13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Meditation by Richard Rohr

COME EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US!

In more ways than one, we are waiting in darkness. Isaiah prophesied Jesus' birth, saying, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2).

Yet, the darkness will never totally go away. I've worked long enough in ministry to know that moral evil isn't going to disappear, but the Gospel offers something much more subtle and helpful: "the light shines on the inside of the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it" (John 1:5). Such is the Christian form of yin-yang, our own belief in paradox and mystery.

We must all hope and work to eliminate darkness, especially in many of the great social issues of our time. We wish world hunger could be eliminated. We wish we could stop wasting the earth's resources on armaments. We wish we could stop killing people from womb to tomb.

But at a certain point, we have to surrender to the fact that the darkness is part of reality, and my logical mind does not know why. But the only real question becomes how to trust the light, receive the light, and spread the light. That is not a capitulation to evil any more than the cross was a capitulation to evil. It is real transformation into the unique program of the Crucified and Risen Christ. This is the one pattern that redeems reality instead of punishing evil or thinking we can eliminate it entirely. Our main job is to face it in ourselves.

Adapted from Preparing for Christmas with Richard Rohr, p. 22

Prayer:

Come Emmanuel, God with us!

For Reflection:

· My family (birth family, friendship family, work family) helps me look for Jesus by . . . I help them look for Jesus by . . .
· Like Mary and Joseph, I have come to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is when . . .

Living Liturgy 2012
Believe

Each Sunday at Mass, we make our profession of faith that begins, “I believe in one God. . . .” We re-affirm what we believe. The Creed holds all the great mysteries of our faith: Creation, the Holy Trinity, the Incarnation, the Redemption, the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and finally “the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” To all this, we say, “Amen. I believe.”

What is this Creed about? Why every Sunday? To whom are we speaking? There is repetition. We need that to cling more surely to what we believe. We do talk both to God and to ourselves, so that we can stand more firmly in faith. And there is something else at work in this profession of faith. To believe means both to accept the revealed mysteries and to attach ourselves in ever more confident trust to God who has revealed the mysteries to us. Finally, we seal our profession with a resounding great Amen—at the end of the Creed, but also at other special moments of faith, as at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer and before the Body of Christ presented to us. “Amen. I do believe.”

Program Offered at the Well

Mothers, Midwives and Metaphors: Women in Scripture are models for modern times and relevant for us today. Come and meet the ordinary and the extraordinary: leaders, lovers, warriors and prophets. Sister Marianne Race, CSJ, who leads women’s pilgrimages to the Holy Land, facilitates this program on Saturday, January 12th, from 9 – 12 noon. The cost is $25.

The program is held at The Well, located at 1515 W. Ogden Ave., LaGrange Park. To learn more about The Well’s programs and to register, please call 708-482-5048 or visit the website at www.csjthewell.org.

Parish News

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

This Week at SJC

Wednesday, January 2
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, January 3
6:00 p.m. Rediscover Catholicism Book Seminar
7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting

Saturday, January 5
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, January 6
11:45 a.m. Crossroads Retreat Return

Little Rock Scripture Study
Begins January 7, 1 p.m.
Parish Center

Paul’s Epistles to the Galatians and Romans

This is a fourteen-week study of Paul’s letters to these early Christian communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts. Paul responds to the challenges they faced by instructing and guiding them in the Faith. The associated commentary references selected scriptures in the Old and New Testaments.

Each week a section of Paul’s letter with associated commentary is read by the Little Rock group in preparation for a discussion based on questions in a study guide. The discussion is followed by a video lecture by a bible expert about the study for that week. Meetings of the group are on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. The cost of the materials for this study is $20. Please call Joan Roeder at 708-354-4862 to register even if you have previously participated in Little Rock. All are welcome.
CALENDAR EVENTS:
Jan. 4-6 Frosh-Soph Retreat
Jan. 13 Home Group Meetings
Jan. 16 HG Leaders Mtgs 9 a.m. or 7 p.m.
Jan. 27 Home Group Meetings

Happy New Year!

AS YOU MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS consider giving your time to lead our SECOND SEMESTER EVENTS: (events will be cancelled by dates in parenthesis if no leaders volunteer)
Prayer Experiences for Juniors & Seniors on March 3 (Jan. 14) Need 2 adults & 1-2 teens
Fish Fry…on March 1 (Jan. 14)
Need 2 adults & 1 teen
Easter Basket Project March 10 (Jan. 28)
Need 2 teens
Spring Mass April 28 5pm (March 10)
Need 1 adult & 2 teens
Leader’s End of the Year Dinner on May 19
Need 2 adults

This logo above was designed for our Frosh-Soph retreat by a sophomore teen. Why are so many teens attending the retreat this year (25)? Why are so many awesome teens leading this retreat (7)?

BECAUSE IT IS TEEN LED with awesome adult mentor support! The more we allow our teens to take ownership of their faith development and share their faith, the more teenagers we can impact!

By empowering teens to learn about, own and share their own faith we affect how they live their lives, make decisions and care for others.

Crossroads does this regularly and wants to share with even more teens. If you are an adult wanting to find something special in the new year, consider joining one of our youth ministry leadership teams (see to the left). Consider giving your time to mentor a teen. Consider taking a lead in empowering our teens!

Contact Katie Hayes for details! 708-246-4404 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

What could it be?

*Here are some hints:*

It opens your eyes, it helps you listen, it touches your heart, it will stay with you for a long time, it seems hard to unwrap—but once the exploring begins you won’t know what you did without it!

This is an amazing gift for you, but you have to choose to open it. Are you willing? Do you dare?

It’s the gift of mentoring. You will benefit more than you will give and you can share your faith & support teenagers. Contact Katie to learn how!
It was a week full of Christmas pageants and prayer services at SJC. On Tuesday and Wednesday our three and four year old classes held their annual Christmas prayer service. The children sang beautiful hymns for their parents, and Father Filbert came and told the story of Jesus’ birth to the children. Each year it is a wonderful service as parents, siblings, and special guests. Join our pre school children.

On Thursday, our first through fourth graders gathered in the gym and presented another wonderful Christmas program highlighting, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” Christmas around the world, and Jesus’ birth. Over five hundred children, parents, and special friends gathered as we celebrated this wonderful holiday.

And on Friday our Parent Association, gave a special thank you to our faculty and staff as they hosted the annual Angel Breakfast.

**Thank you for a wonderful 2012 may your family be blessed in 2013!**

FROM THE

YOUTH CATECHESIS OFFICE

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**YC Schedule**

- **NO CLASSES** January 6/7
- **Classes K-6**
  - 10:15-11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 13 & 27
  - 6:15-7:30 p.m. Monday, January 14 & 28
- **Family Faith**
  - Noon-1:30 p.m. Sunday, February 3
- **Home Groups and Special Needs**
  - Sunday, January 13 & 27

Contact the YC office at 708-246-6760 or yc@sjcross.org

NEW!! We have a drop box at the YC office door for your convenience!

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12-30-2012 www.stjohnofthecross.org page 6
The Christmas story is surely one of the greatest stories ever told. It chronicles a birth from which the world records time as before or after. Moreover, it is written in a way that has inflamed the romantic imagination for 2000 years. This hasn't always been for the good. Beyond spawning every kind of legend imaginable, the story of Christmas has, in the Christian imagination, too often taken on a centrality not accorded to it in the Gospels themselves. This is not surprising, given its richness.

Inside its great narrative there are multiple mini-narratives, each of which comes laden with its own archetypal symbols. One of these mini-narratives, rich in archetypal imagery, is the story King Herod and the wise men.

We see this in the Gospel of Matthew when he tells us how various people reacted to the announcement of Jesus' birth. Matthew sets up a powerful archetypal contrast, blessing and curse, between the reaction of the wise men, who bring their gifts and place them at the feet of the new king, and King Herod, who tries to kill him.

We are all familiar with this story since it has been much celebrated in song, icon, and legend. Jesus is born inside of a religious tradition, Judaism, and his birth is announced to that faith-community in a manner that befits religion, namely, by the angels, by supernatural revelation. But those outside of that faith-tradition need another way to get to know of his birth, and so his birth is announced to them through nature, astrology, through the stars. The wise men see a special star appear in the sky and begin to follow it, not knowing exactly to where or to what it will lead.

While following the star, they meet King Herod who, upon learning that a new king has supposedly been born, has his own evil interest in matter. He asks the wise men to find the child and bring him back information so that he, too, can go and worship the newborn. We know the rest of story: The wise men follow the star, find the new king, and, upon seeing him, place their gifts at his feet. What happens to them afterwards? We have all kinds of apocryphal stories about their journey back home, but these, while interesting, are not helpful. We do not know what happened to them afterwards and that is exactly the point. Their slipping away into anonymity is a crucial part of their gift. The idea is that they now disappear because they can now disappear. They have placed their gifts at the feet of the young king and can now leave everything safely in his hands. His star has eclipsed theirs. Far from fighting for their former place, they now happily cede it to him. Like old Simeon, they can happily exit the stage singing: Now, Lord, you can dismiss your servants! We can die! We're in safe hands!

And Herod, how much to the contrary! The news that a new king has been born threatens him at his core since he is himself a king. The glory and light that will now shine upon the new king will no longer shine on him. So what is his reaction? Far from laying his resources at the feet of the new king, he sets out to kill him. Moreover, to ensure that his murderers find him, he kills all the male babies in the entire area. An entire book on anthropology might be written about this last line. Fish are not the only species that eats its young! But the real point is the contrast between the wise men and Herod: The former see new life as promise and they bless it; the latter sees new life as threat and he curses it.

This is a rich story with a powerful challenge: What is my own reaction to new life, especially to life that threatens me, that will take away some of my own popularity, sunshine, and adulation? Can I, like the wise men, lay my gifts at the feet of the young and move towards anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even though those hands are not my hands? Or, like Herod, will I feel that life as a threat and I try somehow to kill it, lest its star somehow diminish my own?

To bless another person is to give away some of one's own life so that the other might be more resourced for his or her journey, Good parents do that for their children. Good teachers do that for their students, good mentors do that for their protégés, good pastors do that for their parishioners, good politicians do that for their countries, and good elders do that for the young. They give away some of their own lives to resource the other. The wise men did that for Jesus.

How do we react when a young star's rising begins to eclipse our own light?

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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).
**Senior Madrigals Sing at SJC**
On Sunday, January 13, the LT Senior Madrigals will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Preludes will start at 4:50 p.m. and inspiring music will continue throughout the liturgy. Come hear some of our finest teens in the area and our parish sing!

**Moms’ Club**
Moms of Young Children
All are welcome!
FRIDAYS, 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center
Moms and kids gather for friendship, fun, support, learning, and fellowship. Please join us for any or all of our upcoming events!

There will be NO MEETING held Friday, January 4.

Friday, January 11 - Time for Moms! Babysitting will be provided, giving moms the chance to participate in a thoughtful discussion. Topic suggestions are always welcome!

Friday, January 18 - Winter Wonderland! Join us for a celebration of snow. We will decorate snowmen, read winter stories, and have a sled relay race.

Friday, January 25 - Time to get physical! We will meet at the Western Springs Recreation Center at 1500 Walker Street to enjoy open gym time with our little ones. Balls, mats, etc., will be set up and available for use. Open Gym is $2 per child and runs 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The Moms’ Club would like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year! Look for information about January's meetings in the Christmas bulletin.

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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**Mass is Moving to Parish Center!**
On Saturday, February 2, 2013 we will gather in the Parish Center for the 8:00 a.m. Mass because of the Matthew Kelly Live Passion & Purpose event in our church. There will be no confessions following the 8:00 a.m. Mass that day.

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**Thank you Volunteers!**
We would like to thank the following volunteers for their kind spirit in helping with hospitality Sunday, December 23rd. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Frank Colona
Owen Waunn
Mrs. Rosaria Becker
Michael Becker
Luke Kosic
Alexander Rivera
Aaron Lack
Yoonje Cho
Mrs. Linda Caplice
Anne Caplice
George Caplice
Maggie Caplice
Kylee Casey
Griffin Casey
Megan Brennan
Megan Schopp
Emilio Tamez
Jack Fornaro
Emily Snorewicz
Erin Sharkey
Sophie Griffin
Lauren Ferguson
Bowen Pearson
Mrs. Celeste Pearson
Stella Michalowski
Ryan Grunsten
Louis Banda
Aidan McCauley
Mrs. Karin McCauley
Andrew Pierpaoli
Andrew Barnicle
Mrs. Julia Barnicle

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**2013 New Thinking for a New Era:**

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**Parish Center Holiday Office Hours**

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>No 6:30 Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am-6:30pm</td>
<td>8am-Noon</td>
<td>No 6:30 Mass1</td>
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Greetings of peace and love from Holy Cross Parish and hope all is well with you.

I just write to wish you a HAPPY FEAST DAY as we celebrate the Feast of St. John of the Cross. Here at Holy Cross Parish, we gathered this morning to celebrate with you in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass and during which we gave thanks to the Lord for the gift of our friendship, for your generosity and the way the Lord has enabled you to continue supporting us. I asked all the faithful present to pray for our brothers and sisters of St. John of the Cross for God’s blessings and for their material and spiritual needs.

Thank you for sustaining that relationship that exists between the two parishes and we continue to pray for one another and for its steady growth.

HAPPY FEAST DAY TO YOU ALL.

God bless,
Fr. Serapio Wamara, CSC
PASTOR—HOLY CROSS PARISH

Volunteers Needed

Start the New Year Right -- Feeling good by doing good! School and Tutors on Wheels, the free mobile adult English literacy program of the Congregation of St. Joseph urgently needs volunteer tutors for its newest site in Darien, Ill. at Lace Elementary School at 75th St. and Cass Ave. Volunteers are needed just one hour per week to help teach adults living in the suburbs learn to speak, read and write English. Enjoy the health benefits of volunteering and feel good inside and out! Attend a free training on Saturday, January 12 from 1-4:00 p.m. at Indian Prairie Public Library, 401 Plainfield Rd., in Darien, Ill. No second language skills are needed! For more information, call (708) 482-5085.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Chicago’s “Parish of the Airwaves”

Sunday Mass at Mercy Home Moving to WGN

The Sunday Mass at Mercy Home, which is filmed in front of a live congregation, is moving to WGN television, Channel 9 on January 6 from 9:30—10 a.m. This popular televised Mass which has 60,000 faithful viewers tuning in every Sunday morning to share in the Eucharist is a source of spiritual nourishment for those who are unable to leave their homes to attend Mass because of age or ailment.

In addition to the weekly broadcast Mass celebrated by Fr. Donahue and other Chicago Archdiocesan priests, Sunday Mass at Mercy Home features Easter and Christmas Masses celebrated by Francis Cardinal George.

The Mass will have its last airing on its current broadcast station, WCIU Channel 26, on December 30. Viewers should consult local TV listings for cable channel.
How to Make a Stock Donation to  
St. John of the Cross Parish

3 Simple Steps

1. When processing your securities donations via ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

Provide your bank or broker the following transfer instructions:

William Blair & Company – DTC # 771
Account Number – 156-16135-1-2
Catholic Bishop of Chicago Account  
For the Benefit of: St. John of the Cross Parish,
Western Springs, IL

Additional information your bank or broker may need:
Archdiocese of Chicago Tax ID No. – 36-2170826
William Blair & Company – 222 W. Adams St. – 
Chicago, IL 60606
William Blair Representative, Candy Plencner, 
Phone: 312-364-8169 Fax: 312-577-0658 or e-mail: 
cplencner@williamblair.com

2. STOCK DONATION - LETTER OF INTENTION For the Archdiocese of Chicago Parishes, Schools, and Agencies

Donor, Please complete this form for ALL STOCK/MUTUAL FUND Donations. For further assistance, please call the 
Archdiocese of Chicago Stock transfer representative, Greg Salm, 312/534-5399.

I (we) plan to transfer the securities electronically:

Donation Date: ______________________
From: (Please Print)

Please accept our donation of ________ Shares of _________________________________
(# of shares)                          (Name of Security)

to be credited to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago for the benefit of:

Parish, School or Agency:  St. John of the Cross Parish, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL 60558
(If you are donating various stocks/securities and/or to various locations simply print VARIOUS above and attach
a separate page with a list detailing the various gifts and locations that are to receive the gift/s)

3. Send this form To: (send via one method listed below)

Regular U.S. Mail - Archdiocese of Chicago, Parish Operations – Stock Donations 835 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611 or 
Send to Greg Salm, 312-534-5399 Fax Number: 312/534-5272 gdsalm@archchicago.org or 
Send to St. John of the Cross: Marguerite Chruscziel, phone # 708-246-4404, fax # 708-246-4566 or 
mchruscziel@stjohnofthecross.org
# One in Prayer with Loved Ones in the Military

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Family Member of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ryan Burke</td>
<td>grandson</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; Laverne Kusper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Brandy Caffy</td>
<td>friend</td>
<td>Julie and Katie Warren</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1c Matthew Callaghan</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Judy Callaghan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. Mark Callari</td>
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<td>Jane Domagala</td>
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<td>Katie Warren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Curin</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Donna Curin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2Lt. Ken Engberg</td>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
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<tr>
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<td>son</td>
<td>Rick &amp; Jeanne</td>
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<tr>
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<td>niece</td>
<td>Gary &amp; Barbara Ainge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private First Class Drew Hillebold</td>
<td>National Guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt. Joseph Johnson</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Pete &amp; Jan Van Merkestyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt. Kevin Junius</td>
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<tr>
<td>2Lt Catherine Kane</td>
<td>niece</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Terese Kane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pfc. John T. King</td>
<td>cousin</td>
<td>Catherine Mini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Matthew Kopp</td>
<td>nephew</td>
<td>Larry &amp; Mimi Powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msg. Carl Kroll</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Mary Lou Kroll &amp; brother of Judi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. James A. Maicke</td>
<td>grandson</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Mike Maicke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spc. Robert Marburger</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Kathleen and David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Brendan D. Masini</td>
<td>M.D., grandson</td>
<td>Marilyn &amp; Charles Scallon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim McMillan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Murphy</td>
<td>brother</td>
<td>Jeanne Fornari</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rief Murphy</td>
<td>nephew</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Molly Iovino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt. Krista Nelson</td>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>Mary and Len Novotny</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ross Rafferty</td>
<td>nephew</td>
<td>John Rafferty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt. Daniel Roche</td>
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<td>Jacqueline McDonnell</td>
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<td>Cameron Saltus</td>
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<td>Jack and Rory Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Cpl. Nicholas Schultz</td>
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<td>of the Chrusciel Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jarett Smith</td>
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<td>Dan and Jo Rudakas</td>
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<td>Pfc. Robert M. Sullivan</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Helen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spc. Alex Teckenbrock</td>
<td>3rd Infantry Div. ARMY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Uribarri</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Mari Uribarri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spc. James C. Woods</td>
<td>nephew</td>
<td>Mary Neel</td>
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</tbody>
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--- Franciscan Mission Associates, prayer card

--- Franciscan Mission Associates, prayer card

--- Franciscan Mission Associates, prayer card

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

Jack Michael, son of Matthew and Kathryn (Santo) Anderson

Charlotte Evelyn, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Dolezal) Chenelle

Elizabeth Kelly, daughter of Alberto and Mollie (Murphy) Angel

Morgan Matthew, son of John and Colleen (Morgan) Svelnis

Siena Lynn, daughter of Matthew and Sarah (Meyers) Banks

Anna Margaret and Emily Marie, daughters of John and Elizabeth (Botti), Hughes

Faith Natalia, daughter of Tomas and Susan (Rios) Class

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

John 12:46

Baptism Preparation Meeting
Thursday, January 3

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

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.

Angie Babicz
Melissa Beacom
Tracy Buccarelli
Garth Christie
Connie Crane
Ashley Davis
Mary Sue
Donohue
Kimberly Edwards
Karen Hult
Ruth Ilg
Matt Jacobson
Tom Jass
Emily Johanns
Lois Corrine Johnson
Helen King
Rita Koziol
Ray Kula
Cathy Laskey
Greg LaValle
Lee Lepinske
Yvonne Lowry
Chick Meehan
Moon Meehan
Marie Miller
Joan Nicholson
Tommy Niemeyer
Nancy Olin
Jean Onesto
Greg Palaschak
Terry Peterson
Barbara Redling
Arlene Rehak
Fabian Saldana
Kathie Saldana
Rita Shelhouse
Bob Sturenfeldt
Sally Verde
Christian Zacher

Eternal Rest Grant unto Him, O Lord
Dr. Ramon Sanchez, husband of Jane

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
Bill Bright, Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta, Youth Catechesis
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Jim Clauer, Worship
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Kathleen Gorman, Principal
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes, Crossroads
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch, Music
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin, Operations
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 31
No 6:30 a.m. Mass
7:45 Maurice McGrath
5:00 Paul Adducci; Louis Trapp

Tuesday, January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
10:00 Fillippina Niccolosi; Alfonso Valasquez;
Arana & Louis Armando Varela Armos

Wednesday, January 2, St. Basil the Great
6:30 Don McRobb; Maurice (Bud) McGrath
7:45 C.T. Ted Hoselton; Jack McDonnell

Thursday, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus
7:45 Christopher Delia; Bernice Wisniewski

Friday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
7:45 Purgatorial; Eugene P. Flannery

Saturday, January 5, St. John Neuman, Bishop
8:00 Frank A. Piszczo; Elizabeth Nemger
5:00 Ervin & Sophie Rozyszpal; David Bock

Sunday, January 6, The Epiphany of the Lord
7:30 SJC & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parishioners
9:00 Robert C. Wulf; John Barron
10:45 Christine & Charles Gasunas
12:15 Chester Perkowski Jeannine Navigato
5:00 Jerry Pribyl; Mary Carnevale

Italics—Living

As 2012 comes to a close, 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.
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See renowned speaker and author, Matthew Kelly, live at our church on Saturday, February 2nd from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Matthew Kelly’s Passion & Purpose event is the inspiring yet practical experience of dynamic teaching and application of the genius of Catholicism to every aspect of your life, including prayer, work, dating, marriage, personal finances, health, parenting and more. Gain insight to live more fully the life God has created for you.

Consider giving a gift of faith formation for Christmas by registering your teen, sibling, spouse or parent for this awesome, motivating day. Join them for a “date” and enjoy together!

Tickets for this event are $39 per person and are available in the Parish Center and on our website. Ticket price includes all event materials and take-away items. We expect this to be a sell-out event so purchase your tickets early. Seating is limited.

Matthew Kelly Speaking Event: Passion & Purpose Live February 2 Registration

Name: ____________________________
Phone: __________________________
Email: ____________________________

_____ Tickets @ $39 each

_____ Total Paid  [ ] Cash  [ ] Check

To pay by credit card go to www.stjohnofthecross.org

SJC Rediscover Catholicism Book Study & Faith Sharing Series

The 5 session series will run every other week beginning of January 7th through March 8th.

- There are 3 different day/times to choose from for each session.
- A study guide will be provided at the first session and will be available online for previewing the material.
- If you miss a session you may attend the next session without a problem.
- If you were unable to read the pages for discussion that week, we encourage you to attend the session and participate anyway.
- All sessions are in the parish center.
- There is no cost for the study guide or to attend any session.

Name: ____________________________
Phone: __________________________
Email: ____________________________

Check the day/time that is best for you to attend:

[ ] Tuesdays 1-3:00 p.m.
[ ] Tuesdays 7-9:00 p.m.
[ ] Fridays 7-9:00 p.m.

Sign up on-line or in the Parish Center today!