Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and
strengthened for service to the Body of Christ
Confirmation Saturday, January 26, 2013

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5005 S. WOLF ROAD WESTERN SPRINGS 60558
708-246-4404
WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG
Pastor’s Reflection

Dear Parishioners,

I’m sure you have noticed when we have a deacon at Mass that he goes to the priest and asks for a blessing before proclaiming the Gospel. When I was involved in training deacons and teaching this part of a deacon’s role at liturgy, I tried to teach them about seeing as a Catholic. I started with a question.

In order for a deacon to learn how to see as a Catholic, he first had to answer the question from whom was the deacon requesting the blessing? When I asked the men that question they looked at me like I was an idiot who must have been kidding them by asking such an obvious question. I would wait them out and eventually one of them would mumble, “From the priest.” To which I would reply, “No, the deacon asks the blessing from the bishop.”

Then I would try to explain that the only reason why we have pastors is because the bishop cannot do everything. The bishop is the main priest of the diocese. He is the pastor of the diocese. He is the primary teacher in the diocese. It is the bishop’s responsibility to see that the Gospel is proclaimed in the diocese, and that the faith is taught in the diocese. But he needs help, thus the rationale for the office of pastor. We need parishes because of size and distance. We are too many to gather as one group in one place and we live too far away from the bishop’s church, the cathedral. So we need smaller communities, parishes, that are in union with the bishop but have their own pastor.

So when you see the pastor, you should ‘see’ the bishop. The pastor is appointed by the bishop to a community as his partner in the ministry of the local church. In an archdiocese the size of Chicago, it gets a little more complicated. We are so large and have so many local communities that not even one bishop could possibly be an effective teacher of the Gospel, thus the need for auxiliary bishops. In Chicago, we have six auxiliary bishops, one in each of six vicariates. So really you could say that when you see the pastor you ‘see’ the auxiliary bishop for the vicariate you live in. And when you see the auxiliary bishop, you ‘see’ the bishop of the (arch)diocese.

All of that is by way of welcoming Auxiliary Bishop John Manz to our parish this weekend. SJC is in Vicariate IV, and Bishop Manz is our bishop. On Saturday he conferred the sacrament of Confirmation to 204 of our eighth grade parishioners. When Bp. Manz confers the sacrament he usually speaks individually to each of the young people as they approach him. It helps make the moment more memorable.

He will also be with us today at the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass to thank the parishioners for their support of our school. Today is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week which is celebrated across the archdiocese and the country. Receiving the Blue Ribbon 2012 is a wonderful opportunity to stand back and appreciate what it takes to run our school. Obviously smart students need terrific teachers in order to excel. Good students and teachers need expert administrators that ensure a safe and dynamic educational environment. And all of that costs money. Parents pay a lot in tuition, and the parish as a whole must support the education effort in partnership with parents and students. With last year’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class in 1962, it is very important to be aware of how generous and loyal SJC parish has been in supporting the school.

When you see the associate, you should ‘see’ the pastor. When you see the pastor you should ‘see’ the auxiliary bishop. When you see the auxiliary bishop, you should ‘see’ the bishop of the whole diocese. However, without the people none of them are needed. When you see the people, you should ‘see’ the Body of Christ, that nourishes and educates all of its young children, some of whom are in the parish school.

I am grateful to Bishop Manz for coming to say ‘thank you’ for all your support, both recently and over the years.

Stay warm, Fr. David

P.S. Seniors: if God wants you to come to church on Sunday he needs to give you two things, and they have to be given at the same time. God has to give you both good weather and good health. If you don’t have both, God is telling you to stay home. These extremely cold temperatures are life threatening. If you have circulation problems, breathing problems, COPD, heart problems, leg problems and a host of other issues, and snow (snow?) and cold temperatures as well, please do not endanger yourself by trying to come to church. Sunday Mass is on Channel 9 WGN at 9:30 am specifically for you.
The Annual Catholic Appeal helps to strengthen families and local communities through capital improvement grants to parishes and schools serving economically challenged neighborhoods in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Appeal funds the recruitment, education and formation of lay ministers and deacons, and the continuing education and on-going formation of priests.

At Baptism we receive the gift of our faith. The formation of Catholic faith in our children is continued through the nurturing role of parents and teachers. The world offers our children choices that challenge their faith. We answer that challenge through religious education programs and Catholic schools. The Appeal funds grants and scholarships for Catholic schools serving economically disadvantaged communities. It also funds parish ministries that provide religious education to children, youth and adults in economically disadvantaged communities.

**Mass Intentions**

An important part of our Catholic tradition is to pray for those who have died. Requests that a particular loved one be remembered at Mass can be arranged at the Parish Center Office. Sympathy cards are available if you wish to notify the family that a Mass will be offered at our parish. Occasionally people will request that a Mass be said for the living on an anniversary or birthday. A Mass intention stipend of $10 is requested.

The 2014 Mass book will be open for intentions tomorrow, January 28th at 9am. Stop in, have a cup of coffee and visit us! We are looking forward to seeing you!

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**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  
fgwila@stjohnofthecross.org

John Schopp  
Deacon  
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com

Bill Bright  
Outreach  
bright@stjohnofthecross.org

Janet Caschetta  
Director of Youth Catechesis  
jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org

Jim Clauer  
Worship  
jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org

Kathleen Gorman  
School Principal  
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us

Katie Hayes  
Crossroads High School  
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Jessica Koch  
Music  
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org

MJ Martin  
Operations  
jjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org

Parish Center 246-4404  
School 246-4454  
Youth Catechesis Office 246-6760
Congratulations!

Sarah Catherine Fitzgerald
Michael Anthony Flynn
Julianne Veronica Fortuna
Jillian Lea Gallo
Liam Christopher Geoghegan
Elise Kateri Gerken
Jacob Luke Gleason
Kevin Peter Gomez
Max Sebastian Good
Haley Catherine Gorman
Austin Christopher Graf
Margaret Bernadette Grier
Adam Anthony Griffith
Benjamin Patrick Griffith
Jacob Paul Griffith
Nicholas John Grossi
Nina Teresa Groto
John Henry John Hagan
Ryley Adele Halloran
Juliana Olivia Halpin
James Joachim Hanson
Emma Patrick Harrigan
Amanda Maria Harris
Caitlin Clare Hartman
Harrison Bede Hayes
Patrick Joseph Heneghan
Grace Cecelia Hennessy
Clare Juliana Hillshafer
Dayne Quintin Hultman
Luke Patrick Jachim
Alex Andrew Janicki
Marc Malachi Johnson
Zachary Joseph Joseph
Michelle Christine Jugovich
Joseph Mark Kalata
Julia Fara Karpinski

Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Jillian Teresa Almase
John Paul Amico
Sophia Gianna Andreotti
Michael Daniel Antkiewicz
Owen Andrew Arnold
Michael Blaise Azuara
Haily Joanna Baran
Emma Elizabeth Bastyr
Nicholas Blaise Baumel
Isabella Maria Bavone
Daniel Andrew Beck
Matthew Joseph Beck
Matthew Matthew Bednara
Sean John Bock
Cayden Faith Bonaccorsi
Mason Ignatius Borzym
Mary Sofia Brenner
Bridget Theresa Brodlo
Katherine Elizabeth Broedlow
Michelle Clare Buhrmaster
Madisyn Catherine Burk
Brendan Maurice Burtker
William Olaf Burton
Anna Kinga Busza
Andrew Peter Callahan
Emily Cecilia Callam
Marielle Ann Calvano
Madeline Catherine Campbell
Margaret Margaret Caplice
Jack Jerome Carey
Kathryn Elizabeth Carlson
Ryan John Carlson

Austin Stephen Carmody
Patrick Francis Caruso
Michael Raphael Cascino
Terry Luke Casella
Carla Louise Cavanagh
Ronald Anthony Christian
Connor Isidore Ciecko
Kathryn Lucy Cipra
Lena Francis Cirone
Luke Wolfgang Coleman
Shannon Alice Cone
Brendan Joseph Conway
Giovanna Raphael Conzo
Francesca Cecelia Coppola
Mary Margaret Elizabeth Creamer
John Daniel Curley
Lily Lucy Daker
Gary Thomas DeCesare
Thomas Michael DeCesare
Molly Teresa Delaney
Dana Isabella Dombkowski
Mary Mary Dufficy
Therese Therese Dufficy
Emily Catherine Dulla
Robert Michael Falconer
William Patrick Feeley
Aidan Luke Fera
Margaret Rita Ferguson
Molly Clare Ferguson
Kevin Michael Finn
Nicole Theresa Finn
Colan Brendan Fitzgerald
John Peter Fitzgerald
Kathryn Clare Fitzgerald
Strengthened for service to the Body of Christ

Peter James Kelly
Charles Vincent Kidder
Meghan Elizabeth King
Brian Paul Kral
John Paul Michael Kravcik
Jonathan Michael Krol
Nicole Lillian Krueger
Kiely Jane Kruse
Colin Olaf Kubacki
Alix Anne Lamana
Jack Charles Lambert
Matthew Andrew Lang
Jake James Leonard
Lauren Rose Lombard
Emma Veronica Longoria
Maeve Genevieve Lynch
Timothy Timothy Madigan
John Patrick Mannebach
Robert Richard Martin
Serena Bridget Martinath
John Luke Masella
Ciara Marie McCormack
Matthew Sebastian McDonnell
Thomas Michael McDonnell
Meghan Cecilia McGarry
Lucy Brigid Meehan
Thomas Michael Meehan
Philip Francis Metcalf
Katherine Catherine Meyer
Timothy George Mikulski
Juliana Katharine Mitchell
John Patrick Mohler
John Constantine Mologousis
Katherine Elizabeth Moore
Margaret Cecilia Morris
Andrew Paul Morrissey

Jack John Mortell
Claire Rose Mulchrone
Caroline Bernadette Murphy
Katie Mary Nocerino
Andrew Lawrence Nowak
Gianna Rose O'Connor
Timothy Patrick O'Malley
Molly Elizabeth Owens
Alexander Patrick Pall
Colin Leo Parker
Connor Joseph Pasko
Dominic Anthony Pavone
Sophia Christina Pethokoukis
Matthew Michael Phillip
Jacqueline Elizabeth Pittacora
Grace Elizabeth Polka
Margaret Anne Pollard
Thomas Andrew Powers
Ian Patrick Quinn
Stephanie Joan Quirk
Sarah Rose Ramsey
Olivia Juliana Raphael
Julia Rose Reichert
Jonathan Richard Remijas
Joseph Augustine Rohaly
Mary Isabella Rokicki
Meghan Cecilia Rooney
Brooke Veronica Sands
Alexandra Lucy Sarros
Justin Joseph Schlender
Thomas Peter Schneider
Morgan Catherine Schopp
John Andrew Sheehan
Conor Albert Sheldon
Philip Stephen Smith
Charles Anthony Sommers
Emma Josephine Sorrentino

Caroline Maria Spitkovsky
Alex Francis Stahnke
Charlie Lucy Stancik
Clare Philomena Sullivan
Maeve Rose Swinehart
Thomas Christopher Sykora
Kamila Veronica Szymbach
Matthew Joseph Teglia
Allyson Mary Tomisk
Matthew Thomas Ureel
Anthony Ignatius Vecchio
Molly Francis Walkowski
Cecilia Bernadette Walsh
Hope Mary Walsh
Brooke Anne Warble
Chandler Alexander Weyer
Megan Bernadette White
Spencer Anthony White
Nathan Benedict Wiggin
Ethan Nicholas Willett
Justin Justin Williams
Nicholas Joseph Wojcicki
Linnea Christina Wood
Diana Bridget Zawaideh
Andrew Peter Zeitler
Adam Peter Zimmerman
John Andrew Zircher
Vincent Andrew Zona
George Thomas Zurowski

Congratulations!
Living the Gospel

Luke portrays Jesus as One who had a clear understanding of who he was and his mission. Who he was: the One “in the power of the Spirit.” His mission: “to bring glad tidings” to the poor, captives, blind, oppressed. From the very beginning what Jesus came to fulfill has been observed, treasured, handed down. But the Good News cannot be proclaimed only by Jesus. Those who come after Jesus are "to bring glad tidings" in many ways to many people. Luke wrote a gospel, and in this fulfilled who he was and his mission. Now we ourselves are to be the bearers of the Good News so that others may “realize the certainty” of the story we have received. We are certain about our story and how we live when Jesus is the model from whom we draw our words and make the decisions which shape our life. We are certain when we speak “in the power of the Spirit.” It is not our words we speak, but God’s words of eternal life. The gospel each of us writes is written by the way we live. And when this living is in accordance with the Gospel, then we fulfill who we are and our mission, too.

As the Lukan community received Jesus’ teachings, so have we. Our ministry? Transpose Jesus’ teachings from words on a page to a way of living. Who are the poor, the captives, the sightless in our midst? Who needs the glad tidings of God’s mercy and presence preached to them? How is our word Jesus’ word that “is fulfilled in [our] hearing”? Do our lives bear out our own certainty about the “teachings [we] have received”? Christian living is none other than taking God’s word and making it concrete by the very way we live. Our daily living is the Word made flesh among us.

Closing Prayers
May we faithfully observe, treasure, and hand down the Good News of Jesus. May we faithfully proclaim the certainty of the Good News, enfleshing Jesus in our daily living. Amen.

Meditation by Richard Rohr

Moralism instead of Mysticism

God always entices us through love. Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change, is the experience of love and acceptance itself. This is the engine of change. If the mystics say that one way, they say it a thousand ways. But because most of our common religion has not been at the mystical level, we’ve been given an inferior message—that God loves you when you change (moralism). It puts it all back on you, which is the opposite of being “saved.” Moralism leads you back to “navel-gazing,” and you can never succeed at that level. You are never holy enough, pure enough, refined enough, or loving enough. Whereas, when you fall into God’s mercy, when you fall into God’s great generosity, you find, seemingly from nowhere, this capacity to change. No one is more surprised than you are. You know it is a total gift.

Adapted from Following the Mystics Through the Narrow Gate

Year of Sunday Mass:
Question of the Week
Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath according to his custom.
How does tradition or custom impact how often I attend Sunday Mass?

KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

At Sunday Mass, we sit, we kneel, we bow, and we stand. Every gesture, every action has its own meaning. We sit in a posture of receptivity. We kneel to express our reverent worship, as we do when we bow. And we stand for a couple of reasons. We stand at the Gospel out of respect for the Word of Jesus that comes to us. We stand at other parts of the Mass for a different reason. For example, we stand for the Collect, the Prayer over the Offerings, the Prayer after Communion, the Creed, and for the Lord’s Prayer.

When we stand during these prayers and the Profession of Faith, we express our identity and dignity as adopted sons and daughters of God. Jesus says that we are no longer servants but his friends. And Paul says that we are no longer strangers and aliens but members of the household of God, truly sons and daughters in the Holy Spirit. In the Mass, we stand before God because we belong to God.
flourish

Join the Women’s Club new faith sharing group on Feb. 6 to discover and celebrate God’s unique dream for each of us! Join us anytime throughout the year! Contact Sue Bidstrup at jsbidstrup@ameritech.net for info.  Wednesday mornings from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Coming dates: Feb. 6 & 20, April 3 & 17.

Session 3 which covers pages 139-222 will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. OR Friday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 p.m.

There are 3 different days-times to choose from for each session. Sessions are held every other week. All 5 Sessions are held in the Parish Center. Come to Session 3 even if you were not able to keep up with the reading or missed the last Session. The Study Guide is also available electronically on the parish website or in the Parish Center. It's not too late to participate! Call the Parish Center or register on our parish website. Extra copies of the bestselling book by Matthew Kelly are now available in the Parish Center or the Community Room of church if you did not get your copy! There is no cost for the book, Study Guide or Book Seminar.

Spiritual Journaling Mondays, 2:30 p.m.
Beginning Monday, January 28 we will be studying Breathing Under Water by Richard Rohr. If you need a copy of the book, contact Betsy Spiering at 708-246-8315. All are welcome!

This group meets weekly to do a variety of things to strengthen their spiritual life through book discussion, writing, and faith sharing. The format changes with suggestions from within the group. Meetings last for about 1 1/2 hours each Monday afternoon.

2013 New Thinking for a New Era:

Christian Meditation as an 11th Step Practice
We are a group of men and women from 12 Step Programs following the teachings of John Main and the World Community for Christian Meditation. We are not a replacement for, nor are we affiliated with, any 12 Step Program of recovery. We are here to share this ancient path of contemplative prayer as a way to practice the 11th Step: “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Join us for a quiet time of Meditation on Monday mornings from 10:30-11:30 in our Parish Center. Contact Janet with questions 246-4866.

Everyone is welcome: those who Meditate, those who want to learn to Meditate and those who want to know more about Meditation.

SJC thanks Relevant Radio for helping us to advertise Passion & Purpose. Listen to 950AM 930 AM 1270 AM Talk Radio for Catholic Life

Passion & Purpose Live will begin at 9am in church on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. The 8am Mass will be in the Parish Center so feel free to arrive early to park and get situated in church.

During the event there are 2 breaks when you can walk to the parish center or school multi-purpose room to stretch your legs and get a water bottle or light snack like pretzels or crackers which will be provided. Participants are encouraged to eat a good breakfast at home before coming.
CALENDAR EVENTS:
Jan. 27 Home Group Meetings
Feb. 10 Home Group Meetings
Feb. 24 Home Group Meetings

Please continue prayers for our 4th Team and Kairos 13 Team as preparations continue for our March 14-17 retreat.

We are so grateful for the passion and love that these teens and adults are sharing with their peers.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
As you can see many of our events have found their leaders! With just a couple remaining the time to check in is NOW! (events will be cancelled by dates in parenthesis if no leaders volunteer)

Prayer Experiences Night on March 3 (LAST CHANCE to join us before we cancel: Jan. 21)
Need 1-2 Juniors or Seniors & 1 adult to facilitate the organizing of the gathering of home groups to experience various prayers offered by spirituality committee

Leader’s End of the Year Dinner on May 19
Need 2 adults (preferably parents) to act as hosts for the catered dinner (order, greet, serve, pack & clean) while Katie runs the meeting with teen & adult leaders

Teen Battle of the Bands (tentatively on June 13) (Jan. 21) Need 2 adults & 2 teens to coordinate alongside Anselmo Marquez

SUMMER CONFERENCE & WORK TOUR
INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON: please check our website for the info packet and details!
Many thanks to Joe Gazdacka, Maribeth White, Michael Grabis & Kim Vitale for all their efforts to organize our adventures ahead!

Girls Church League Basketball…. Is there an interest? Would any of our high school female parishioners like to play, from late March-May? Please let Katie know & spread the word. We are in the need of 1-2 more adults to ensure we can join the Church League so please contact Katie Hayes for details.

www.stjohnofthecross.org January 27, 2013 Page 8
Today marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, our annual celebration of Catholic Education. This year’s theme is “Catholic Schools Raise the Standards.” This is a particularly fitting theme for Catholic Schools which are known for their strong focus on academic excellence, high moral standards, and faith development in our students.

We are indeed fortunate to have a wonderful example of the high standards of Catholic education here in our parish. During Catholic Schools week, we will open our doors for our Annual Open House Thursday, January 31, 2013 from 9:15-11:15 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Parents and parishioners can see what our students are accomplishing at our Blue Ribbon School. Please invite friends who are considering Catholic education to visit the school.

We also invite you to share in our service project. There are over 1.7 million teens that are homeless. The number one item that shelters need are jeans for these children. If you have some jeans that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Parish Center or School this week. SJC hopes to collect 1000 pairs of jeans.

Many people contribute to the success of St. John of the Cross Parish School, including teachers, staff, administrators, parents, volunteers, and you, our parishioners. Many thanks to all on behalf of the children of our parish.

This week at SJC
Monday, Jan. 28 All School Liturgy 9:15
Tuesday, Jan. 29 Puppet Shows 11:40 – 2:40 in LRC Invention Convention 2:30-3:30 Thursday, Jan. 31 Open House 9:15-11:15 & 1:30-3:00
Friday, Feb. 1 Spirit Day

Open to all adults seeking to grow in faith. Offered at no cost to you, courtesy of the Religious Education Burlington Cluster of area churches. This course can lead to certification with the Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry. Workshop will be located in the Parish Center.

Register to learn about...
• Sources of Knowing How to Live Justly
• Decalogue: Living in Right Relationship
• Jesus Christ: Primary Point of Reference for Moral Living
• The magisterium: Moral and Social Teaching

Register TODAY at 708-246-6760 or yc@sjcross.org

Presented by Sr. Mary McNulty, OP

Watch throughout the year as YC celebrates the Year of Sunday Mass!
Join YC students during Super Bowl by placing an “O” in Super for Souper Bowl Sunday

More than 22 years ago, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created Souper Bowl of Caring, and have rallied youth across the US to raise over $90 million for people in need. On Sunday February 3rd, millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join the young people of our Youth Catechesis Program as they demonstrate God’s love by caring for their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It is a simple, yet significant act. Drop off a can of soup, non-perishable food items or a monetary donation at the signs: “SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” at YC classes and church narthex on February 2nd and 3rd.

Our youth are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Everything collected will be donated to a area food pantry chosen by SJC YC Council. Please give generously.

tacklehunger.org

IRA Charitable Gift News

If you’re age 70½ or older, you may be able to take advantage of an important incentive for charitable giving. Congress has re-authorized for 2012 and 2013 the provision that allows individuals to make gifts of up to $100,000 per year from their IRA accounts to one or more charities, without first incurring income tax on the withdrawal. Your gift may also count as your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA. This means that you can direct up to $100,000 a year from your IRA to our parish with no federal income tax liability.

Contact Dan Cochran of the Finance Council at cochradf@comcast.net or Rich Goode the Archdiocese’s Director of Planned Giving at rgoode@archchicago.org or 312/534-7848. More information is on our parish website.

Thank You from Kolbe House Jail Ministry at Assumption

Thank you for SJC’s sharing check for $1,200. It always means a lot to be supported by the people of your parish.

Now that Christmas has passed we are back to a normal routine of visiting Cook and Lake County Jails and the Juvenile Detention Center. Fr. David Kelly, the chaplain for the Juvenile Center and Deacon Perez and I will meet next month with 2 deacons who visit the incarcerated in Lake County. Our objective is to support and resource their good work. They have many volunteers who visit Lake County Jail which currently houses 700 detainees. We are trying to improve our ministry collaboration with this vital area of the Archdiocese.

Fr. Kelly is preparing Kolbe House’s online email Lenten retreat which helps us feed the spiritual roots of our ministry while connecting with others who support us by their prayers. (More info will come in February.) Deacon Pablo will soon host a formation meeting for volunteers so that we can tap into the wisdom of their experiences to better serve the men and women we visit in jail.

We know that everything is in God’s hands. We try to be instruments of God. I have to admit that there are disappointments in this ministry as there are in all aspects of life. We try to do our best and your support strengthens us as we stay connected in prayer and mission.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez
Director
SJC Women’s Club
Annual Cooking Night
All women of the parish are invited to the Women’s Club Cooking Night on Wednesday, January 30th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. This year Parishioner, Mary Gail Bennett of Deliciously Yours in Burr Ridge, will present an evening of family friendly dinners that are quick and easy to make. Also, David Trout of the Savory Spice Shop in Hinsdale will provide a sampling of spices from the evening’s menu to help you get started on your dinner. Cost is $10 per person, check or cash to the Parish Center by January 28th. Space is limited. Questions can be directed to Elizabeth Turcich at elizabeth@turcichfamily.com. More information on Cooking Night and the Savory Spice Shop is on the website.

SJC Men’s Club Speaker
All men of the parish are invited to a morning with Fr. Terry Keehan, Pastor of Holy Family in Inverness on Saturday, February 9th at 9am – 10:30am. Fr. Terry will speak on “Our Work – the Primary Call from God.” Light morning refreshments will be served. Fr. Terry’s bio can be found on the home page of the website.

Job Search Assistance
Interfaith Career Networking hosts workshops to help those hunting for a job. No charge to attend any session. Go to our parish website for a full description.

Jan. 29 from 7-9 p.m. – Resume Prep First Presbyterian Church of La Grange
Feb. 2 from 9-11:30 a.m. One-on One Resume Reviews at St. Cletus School
Feb. 5 from 7-9 p.m. – Crafting an Elevator Speech at First Presbyterian Church of La Grange
Feb. 7 from 7-9 p.m. Roundtable discussions with other job seekers at First Baptist Church in LaGrange

A New Program for Young Adults
Young Adults – 20s & 30s, Married & Single are invited to Encountering Christ Lenten Faith Sessions
Young Adults throughout the Arch. of Chicago are gathering with peers this Lent for good conversation about our Catholic faith and the ways God is at work in our lives. We will also discuss Young Adults’ goals, dreams, hungers, concerns and spiritual needs, as well as our relationship to the larger Church.

The process includes 5 sessions of faith sharing based on Scripture, dialogue with Bishop Manz, and a gathering with Cardinal George and your peers from throughout the Archdiocese. This is an opportunity to meet other Young Adults who share your faith, and, as a group, to let your voice be heard. Join us when you can.

All Faith Group sessions will take place at St. Francis Xavier Parish Rectory, 7 – 9 PM, Courtyard Room, 124 N. Spring Ave., LaGrange, IL, 708-352-0168.

Thurs., Feb. 7 – Encountering the Living Christ
Thurs. Feb. 21 – The Way to Conversion: Growing Closer to Christ and One Another
Sat., March 2 - Meet with Bishop Manz and peers from other local groups, noon to 4 pm, location to be announced
Thurs., March 7 – The Way of Communion
Thurs., March 14 – The Way to Solidarity: “I am with you in this!”
Thurs., March 21 – Christ Prepares us and Sends us on a Mission
Sat., April 6 – Meet with Cardinal George and peers throughout the Arch. of Chicago, noon to 9 pm at DePaul University for faith sharing, large and small group discussion, a conversation with Cardinal George, Mass at 5:45 pm and a social

For further information and to register for this exciting process, please contact Michelle Gehrke at mgehrke@yamchicago.org or 312-466-9473. Also, feel free to spread the word to Young Adult friends and relatives.
The Intelligence Inside of the Aging Process

What can God and nature have had in mind when they designed the aging process? Why is it that just when our mental prowess, our human maturity, and our emotional freedom are at their peak, the body begins to fall apart?

Our faith, of course, because it opens us to a perspective beyond our biological lives, sheds some light on these questions, though it doesn't always give us a language within which to grasp more reflectively what is happening to us in the aging process. Sometimes a secular perspective can be helpful and that is the case here.

James Hillman, in a brilliant book on aging entitled, The Force of Character and Lasting Life, takes up these questions. What did God and nature have in mind when designing the aging process? He answers with a metaphor: The best wines have to be aged in cracked old barrels. The last years of our lives are meant to mellow the soul and most everything inside our biology conspires together to ensure that this happens. The soul must be properly aged before it leaves. There's intelligence inside of life, he asserts, that intends aging just as it intends growth in youth. It's a huge mistake to read the signs of aging as indications of dying rather than as initiations into another way of life. Each physical diminishment (from why we have to get up at night to go to the bathroom to why our skin sags and goes dry) is designed to mature the soul. And they do their work without our consent, relentlessly and ruthlessly.

The aging process, he asserts, eventually turns us all into monks and that, indeed, is its plan, just as it once pumped all those excessive hormones into our bodies to drive us out of our homes at puberty. And God again is in on this conspiracy. Aging isn't always pleasant or easy; but there's a rhyme and reason to the process. Aging deliteralizes biology. The soul finally gets to trump the body and it rises to the fore: "We can imagine aging as a transformation in beauty as much as in biology," writes Hillman. "The old are like images on display that transpose biological life into imagination and art. The old become strikingly memorable, ancestral representations, characters in the play of civilization, each a unique, irreplaceable figure of value. Aging: an art form?"

Increasingly, as we age, our task is not productivity, but reflection, not utility, but character. In Hillman's words: "Earlier years must focus on getting things done, while later years consider what was done and how." The former is a function of generativity, we are meant to give our lives away; the latter is a function of dying, we are also meant to give our deaths away. And the aging process raises a second series of questions: What value do the elderly have once their productive years are over? Indeed the same question might be asked of anyone who cannot be useful and productive in a practical sense: What is the value of someone living with Alzheimer's? What is the value of people continuing to live on in palliative care when there is no chance of recovery or improvement and they have already slipped away from us mentally? What is the value of the life of a person who so mentally or physically challenged that by normal standards he or she cannot contribute anything?

Again, Hillman's insights are a valuable supplement to the perspectives offered us through our faith. For Hillman, what aging and disability bring into the world is character. Not just their own. They help give character to the others. Thus, he writes: "Productivity is too narrow a measure of usefulness, disability too cramping a notion of helplessness. An old woman may be helpful simply as a figure valued for her character. Like a stone at the bottom of a riverbed, she may do nothing but stay still and hold her ground, but the river has to take her into account and alter its flow because of her. An older man by his sheer presence plays his part as a character in the drama of the family and neighborhood. He has to be considered, and patterns adjusted simply because he is there. His character brings particular qualities to every scene, adds intricacy and depth by representing the past and the dead. When all the elderly are removed to retirement communities, the river flows smoothly back home. No disruptive rocks. Less character too."

Aging and disability need to be regarded aesthetically. We are culture that does everything it can to deny, delay, and disguise aging. We put our elders away into separate homes, away from mainstream life, tucked away, no disruptive rocks for us to deal with. We are also a culture that is beginning to talk more and more about euthanasia, defining value purely by utility. If Hillman is right, and he is, than we are paying a high price for this, we have less character and less color.

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.
**Moms’ Club**

Moms of Young Children is a group that gathers weekly on Fridays in the Parish Center from 9:30-11:00 for conversation and social time for little ones. All are welcome. Just stop in. Questions can be directed to Colleen Whittingham whitting910@yahoo.com. This is a wonderful way for moms to meet other moms in our parish.

**Scout Pancake Breakfast**

Boy Scout Troup 117 and our Men’s Club team up for a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the Scouts. Mark Sunday, February 10th on your calendar after all Masses, 8:30-12:30 in the Parish Center.

**Teacher Recognition Trust Fund Party & Raffle: March 2nd**

Save the Date for our 25th anniversary party on Saturday, March 2 at Butterfield CC. Cocktails, dinner, live music and live and silent auctions!

Be sure to get in on our NO Giveback Raffle of 2 grand cash prizes of $15,000 and $5,000. The last early bird drawing of $1,000 will be drawn on Feb. 14th! Raffle tickets are $50 each or 6 for $200. Contact Jackie McDonnell at jmcdonnell51@hotmail.com or 784-9561 for tickets.

The Teacher Recognition Trust Fund allows us to show our appreciation to all of our teachers and administration for their commitment to our parish school.

**Guest Singer at Sunday 5pm Mass**

We are excited to announce that Tina Jenkins Crawley, contemporary/gospel singer, will be joining our teens on Feb. 24 at the 5:00 mass to provide inspirational music and prayer. Tina is singer/songwriter from the area who is on a mission to spread the good news. Don’t miss this uplifting evening of great song and worship.

Join the Saintly Seniors of our parish at their annual Valentine Luncheon & Program. **Friday, February 15th** at 11:30 a.m. William Tell Terrace Room at 6201 Joliet Road, Countryside. Convenient parking is available in the southwest corner of the lot. Use the west entrance. Please rsvp by **Monday, Feb. 11th.** No refunds after this date. Tickets are $25 per person for lunch, glass of wine and program. Please indicate entrée choice and name of guest. Any questions can be directed to Trudy Schmidt at 246-4696.

**Entrée Choice:** Butt Steak, Chicken Marsala or Tilapia.

**Name:**

**Phone:**

**Number of Guests:**

**Total Enclosed:**

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www.stjohnofthecross.org
Baptisms

In January, 2013, we welcomed the following children into the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism.

Thomas Michael Cannon, son of John and Katharine (Krueger) Cannon
Charlotte Rose Madeja, daughter of Kyle and Melissa (Lee) Madeja
James Joseph Page, son of William and Karen (Laurinaitis) Page

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

Ministry Spotlight

Baptism Team

Ministry Description

Remember when your first born was going to be baptized? What a thrilling time for you and your family. It is also a thrilling time for the parish as we welcome a new Christian to our parish family.

Please consider being a part of this most important ministry that welcomes and celebrates the miracle of life. The baptism team is frequently the face of the parish for the very first time as couples bring their baby to be baptized.

One baptismal couple a month (the first Thursday at 7:00 pm) facilitates the preparation sessions so that you would only do about two or three sessions a year. Being present on the Sunday when the baptisms take place, welcoming the families, assisting the priest or deacon, assuring all is in readiness is a very important aspect of this ministry as well.

You will be trained and have all aspects of the ministry explained to you before making a commitment. Come and learn the theology of baptism and the richness of the baptism liturgy that you will help parents to understand.

Testimonials

My husband, Scott, and I have been on the Baptism Team for over 7 years. It’s great to be able to volunteer as a couple. This is a joyous, happy ministry. Parents remember us as they get each of their children baptized. It is a wonderful way to connect with parishioners.

Jenny Mazur

Being on the Baptism Team allows us time to plan, teach and pray in a focused and intimate way. We have received so much love and support from our parish that we want to give some of our time and talents in return. It has been a privilege and a joy to welcome young parents and their babies into our parish family.

Nancy and Joe Polacek

Key Contact

Fr. Filbert Ngwila, Associate Pastor
fnwgila@stjohnofthecross.org or 246-4404 x120

Baptism Preparation Meeting

Thursday, February 7th

The Baptism preparation meeting this month will be held Thursday evening Feb. 7 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.
Our Weekly Calendar & Intentions

This Week at SJC

Monday, January 28
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
3:30 p.m. Brownie Meeting

Tuesday, January 29
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday, January 30
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Women’s Club Cooking Class
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, January 31
2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick up
6:30 p.m. YC Catechist Meeting

Friday, February 1
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club

Saturday, February 2
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:00 a.m. Mass in Parish Center
9:00 a.m. Matthew Kelly Passion & Purpose

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 28, St. Thomas Aquinas
6:30 John B. Elo; Raymond Matusik
7:45 Baby Tyler & Giuseppe Capone
   Marie Dowd

Tuesday, January 29
6:30 Our Beloved Dead; Donald Gallagher
7:45 Tom Muldowney; Frances Keane

Wednesday, January 30
6:30 Mary Pat Ryan, Lawrence Hickey
7:45 Jack McDonnell; Eileen McNally

Thursday, January 31, St. John Bosco
7:45 Ed Landahl;
   Birdie & Sean Rowar

Friday, February 1
7:45 Lawrence Hickey; Don Kummerow

Saturday, February 2, The Presentation of the Lord
8:00 Steve Sagat; Meg Scanlon
   IN Parish Center
5:00 Carmelo DiFranco; Chuck Tysiak

Sunday, February 3, Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Frank Rock; Goldie Bis
9:00 O’Malley & Madigan Families; John Goldrick
10:45 Wilma E. Clarke; Andrew Applegate
12:15 Theresa Ripoli; Nancy Drehde
5:00 SJC & Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Italics—Living

Remember Our Sick

Irene McGill, mother of Mark
Leonard Mancioni, father of Sue
Robert Harazin, father of Robert, Thomas, William, Maureen, James Margaret, & Timothy
Lawrence Szot, husband of Joyce, father of Theresa, Lawrence II, Nick, Chloe, & Skylar
Jim Haggerty, brother-in-law of Maureen Whalen & Colleen and Joe Brosnan
Frank Jaros
Elizabeth Wojtowicz, husband of Ed, mother of Katie
Helen Fanning, sister-in-law of Bill Fanning
Madeline Lanzendorf, mother of Sarah Davidson
Rita Cederholm

Melissa Beacom
   Garth Christie
   Marie Coyne
   Ashley Davis
   Mary Sue
   Donohue
   Karen Hult
   Ruth Ilg
   Emily Johanns
   Lois Corrine Johnson
   Maureen Knoernschild
   Lee Lepinske

Yvonne Lowry
   Nancy Olin
   Greg Palaschak
   Terry Peterson
   Karen Phillip
   Barbara Redling
   Arlene Rehak
   Barbara Ryan
   James Ryan
   Bob Sturenfeldt
   Sally Verde
   Christian Zacher

Readings for the Week

Monday
Heb 9:15, 24-28
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday
Heb 10:1-10 Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11
Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4
Mark 4:1-20

Wednesday
Heb 10:11-18
Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday
Heb 10:19-25
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Mark 4:21-25

Friday
Heb 10:32-39
Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday
Mal 3:1-4
Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Heb 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Fourth Sunday in OT
Jer 1:4-5, 17-19
Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17
1 Cor 12:31–13:13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13
Luke 4:21-3

January 27, 2013
CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
Saint John of the Cross    #9239

ADDRESS —
5005 S. Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558

PHONE —
708-246-4404

CONTACT PERSON —
Shirley is out of town so call MJ Martin with any issues. Thank you. x123

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
Celebrate SJC School during Catholic Schools Week January 27th-February 2

Thank you for supporting our school!