ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 3, 2013

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Dear Parishioners,

This is the weekend for the Annual Catholic Appeal. This will be my sixth time asking you to donate to this archdiocesan appeal. While there was some uncertainty on both our parts (if not yours, then definitely on mine) when we first did this, at this point it seems most people understand why the archdiocese needs this appeal. It has become a source of critical support for many of the formation programs for priests, deacons and the laity. It helps the cash flow for the Pastoral Center which provides much needed support to parishes and schools. It supports marriage ministry, religious education, youth ministry and inner city schools.

It has also become a critical source for the financial reality of our parish. Last year we were able to benefit from the Annual Appeal to the tune of over $150,000.00. You have responded generously and faithfully. 91% of pledges are paid in full to the Annual Appeal, a phenomenal success rate. Without that source of income we would be in dire financial straits.

There is an illusion that SJC has all the money it could ever need. We are in a stronger financial position than some parishes because all of the buildings are paid for, we are not repaying any loans and we have (modest) savings that allow us to keep up with major maintenance issues in a timely fashion. Frank DiPompeo’s management of all of our buildings has allowed us to stay on top of extraordinary projects and to plan upcoming projects (like the air conditioning unit for the Parish Center which is rapidly coming to the end of its useful life). Marguerite Chrusciel does an extraordinary, incredibly accurate job with our budget, enabling us to stay very much on top of our financial management. The Parish Finance Council is diligent in its responsibility for the overall financial health of the parish. But dynamics are changing.

The Sunday offertory is the stable, most dependable source of budgeted income. It has remained relatively flat since the countrywide financial crisis that began in 2008 with the collapse of the housing market. When ordinary operating expenses are not covered by the income generated from the Sunday offertory, the parish financial health has to rely on wills and bequests and additional sources of revenue. The Annual Appeal is such an additional source of parish revenue.

The archdiocese schedules the Appeal before Lent so that it does not detract from that important season. This year, however, that means you may not have even paid your Christmas bills and we are asking for your generosity yet again. Please know that the Annual Catholic Appeal is important both to the archdiocese and to our parish.

Thank you for your generosity.

Peace,
Fr. David
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One of the great privileges I have as Archbishop of Chicago is the opportunity to meet so many different people from parishes in every part of our Archdiocese. If I am asked to offer advice, I sometimes mention that in reaching out to others – even when we ourselves are struggling or suffering – God will often move in our lives. I assure them that God’s love never fails and that, despite the trials we face, God is always present. It is in loving others that love often is returned to us.

The theme of this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal is taken from Saint Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians - Love never fails. I hope that the Appeal will lead us to better understand God’s love and express our own love of the Church by supporting initiatives that serve those in need.

Consider, for example, some ways that the Annual Catholic Appeal makes God’s unfailing love real in the world: aid to Catholic schools, parishes, religious education programs and ministry formation, initiatives to foster respect for life, as well as those that make the world more just, peaceful and loving. Through its support of Catholic Relief Services, the Appeal serves people worldwide, without regard for religious affiliation, whose lives are devastated by natural disasters, illnesses, wars and famines.

I would be grateful if you would consider joining me in making a generous gift this year. Support for the Annual Catholic Appeal means loving support for real people in real need. Any funds raised are carefully spent; it is money for God’s work, and we use it accordingly. Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of many. May God bless you and those you love. You are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
The parish is operating on budget for the six month period ending December 31, 2012. Some points to note on our financial picture:

- Total ordinary income is lower than budget primarily due to lower than expected Sunday Offertory collections.
  - Our Sunday offertory alone is not sufficient to cover church operating expenses. The challenge to increase this important revenue source remains a top priority for the long-term financial health of our parish.
  - Reflecting your generosity, our Christmas Collection totaled $284,000. While slightly lower than last year it was greater than budgeted due in large part to a single donor.

- Total expenses for the parish are also below budget by $72,641 reflecting our careful cost control mindset across all parish ministries as well as lawn, snow plowing and utility savings.

- In sum the parish operations are $5,000 better than budget at the halfway point of our fiscal year.

- The ($136,318) annual net budget figure shown above is an operating deficit. When sources of extraordinary income (which cannot be budgeted for) such as special investment income and our Annual Catholic Appeal rebate are factored in, we are optimistic that we will finish the year even. Revenue generated for the Annual Catholic Appeal first benefits the archdiocese, and then once we have met our goal the remainder of our Appeal donations stay within our parish, a rebate we have come to count on in our budget.

- Giving electronically is a more effective way to generate Sunday offertory for the parish. Parishioners are encouraged to make their Sunday and holy day donations electronically via our secure online payment option. Go to www.stjohnofthecross.org/giving to donate.

- Each spring our parish staff works with the Finance Council to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1st. Much time and effort goes into evaluating both income and expenses to ensure that we faithfully steward our parish resources. We look forward to updating you with our progress on the budget as well as our third quarter numbers as they become available.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact MJ Martin (mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org) or Fr. David (ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org).
Living the Gospel

Jesus speaks “gracious words” to the people of Nazareth about bringing glad tidings of freedom for captives and the oppressed, sight for the blind. These words, however, are not only applied to Jesus and his ministry, but to the people as well. Hearing these words challenges the people themselves to do what they hear (thus are the words “fulfilled in your hearing”), and for this they reject Jesus and want to destroy him. Yet God, whose word Jesus speaks, delivers him (“passed through the midst of them”). Eventually enemies do destroy Jesus on the cross. But in the end God’s gracious words of deliverance prevail. The ultimate word is Jesus; the ultimate deliverance is risen life, which is ours when we hear and heed the gracious divine words spoken to us.

All of us struggle to hear and respond to God’s word in our lives. This Sunday we are confronted with the reality that we are not always going to like what we hear in God’s word. God’s word always takes us beyond where we are (or where we want to go). It is the very word which questions our status quo and asks us to give up our own wills and embrace God’s will. It is the very word which nudges us to surrender ourselves and our own small world to encompass the larger vision of a world in which God assures that all are met with love and dignity. Like Jesus, we ought to not fear the fury of others. When we witness to a way of living that challenges others and their assumptions, we may well cause fury. But as Jesus’ enemies did not, in the end, destroy him, neither will those whom we anger by the goodness of our lives destroy us. God delivers, God gives us risen life. We need not fear.

Closing Prayers
May we faithfully hear God’s word, speak God’s word, live God’s word. May we find in the gracious words of Jesus the courage to live the prophetic words of Jesus. Our Father . . .

©Living Liturgy 2012

Question of the Week

LK 4:21-30
If we become what we eat in receiving the Eucharist, how is my life more prophetic because of Sunday Mass?

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 p.m. 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.
**Meditation**

**The Methodology of Prayer**

Richard Rohr Daily Meditation

I would like to offer you a form of prayer to practice letting go and practice what seems like losing but is actually finding.

“The Welcoming Prayer” encourages you to identify in your life, now or in the past, a hurt or an offense: someone who has done you wrong, or let you down.

- Feel the pain of the offense the way you first felt it, or are feeling it in this moment, and feel the hurt in your body. (Why is this important? Because if you move it to your mind, you will go back to dualistic thinking and judgments: good guy/bad guy, win/lose, either/or.)
- Feel the pain, grief, and anger, but not to create the usual win/lose scenario. Identify yourself with the suffering side of life, how much it hurts to hurt. How abandoned you felt if you were abandoned. Hold this in your heart space, your body space, instead of processing it mentally, or creating a story line.
- Once you can move to that place and know how much it hurts to hurt, you will not possibly want that experience for anybody else.
- This might take a few minutes. Welcome the experience and it can move you to the Great Compassion. Don’t fight it! Don’t split and blame! Welcome the grief and anger in all of its heaviness. Now it will become a great teacher.
- If you can do this you will see that in actually welcoming the pain and letting go of all of your oppositional energy against suffering, it will actually free you from it! It is like reversing your engines. Who would have thought this? It is our resistance to things as they are that causes most of our unhappiness—at least I know it is so for me.

Adapted from *The Art of Letting Go (CD)*

**Faith Sessions 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 7-9pm.

- 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 Parishioner, Michelle Gehrke at mgehrke@yamchicago.org or 312-466-9473. Feel free to spread the word to Young Adult friends and relatives.
Lent Begins next week
All Lenten Programs will be introduced next weekend, Feb. 9-10. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 13. Masses are at 6:30am, 7:45am, 9:15 School Mass, 4:00pm Word Service with Ash Distribution, and 6:30pm Mass

Rediscover Catholicism Book Study
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. 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.

Preparing for your new baby to receive the Sacrament of Baptism
Congratulations on your new baby! Our monthly Baptism preparation session 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 can join us or if you have any questions. All are warmly welcomed!!

flourish
Join the Women’s Club new faith sharing group 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. Our next session is Wednesday morning, February 6th from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

2013 New Thinking for a New Era:

Spiritual Journaling Mondays, 2:30 p.m.
Our parish Spiritual Journaling group is beginning to study 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.

Grief Support Groups at Loyola Medical Center
Begin to heal, not to forget, but to heal through understanding grief and sharing your unique journey with others. There is no fee, but donations are accepted. Advance registration is necessary. Call Nancy Kiel, 708-216-1646.

Adult Loss of a Parent Group
For adult men and women who are grieving the loss of a parent. Tuesdays, Feb. 5-March 12 6:30-8pm

General Journey Toward Healing
For adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Tuesdays, Feb. 19-March 26 6:30-8pm

Widow-Widower Group
For adults who are grieving the loss of a spouse. Thursdays, March 7-April 11 3-4:30pm
The Spirit of the Lord is upon them

Saturday, January 26th over 200 students received their Confirmation in two beautiful ceremonies presided by Bishop Manz. Our youth have been preparing for Confirmation in small groups for over a year. Saint names such as Anne, Joseph, Patrick, Olaf, Malachy, Lucy, Bernadette, Rose and so many more filled the church as our youth took these names as their own. The church was filled with the Spirit of the Lord!

Thank you to all our families. You have allowed us and their small group leaders, catechists and others to walk this journey with your children. We are honored. Congratulations to all our newly Confirmed!

A Celebration of Gifts

Thank you to all our families. You have allowed us and their small group leaders, catechists and others to walk this journey with your children. We are honored. Congratulations to all our newly Confirmed!

YC Schedule

Classes K-6  10:15-11:30am  Sunday, Feb 3, 10 and 24
             6:15-7:30pm  Monday, Feb 4, 11 and 25
FFC         Noon to 1:30    Sunday, Feb 3
Home Groups and Special Needs  Sunday, Feb 10 and 24*
*February 24th, 8th graders will all come for speaker at 6:30 pm

Youth Catechesis Office

yc@sjcross.org  * 708-246-6760  * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Sunday during class ~ Monday 8:30am-7:00pm ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30am-4:00pm

Join us February 24th
at 9:00 am Mass
Watch throughout the year as YC celebrates the Year of Sunday Mass!
School News

2nd Graders Study Dinosaurs
Last Thursday, our second grade class spent the day at the Field Museum. The students spent the day with hands-on activities, learning more about dinosaurs. A docent led them through the lesson. Prior to their visit, students created a "Dino Diorama" in which they each studied and gathered information on one dinosaur for research booklets.

Author Visits 5th Graders
Curtis Jobling, creator of Bob the Builder and the Wereworld series, visited the LRC and discussed his techniques and career with the fifth graders. This was a wonderful event as Jobling discussed animation, sketched Bob and his friends for the students. Jobling also left the students with an important message, "If you have a hobby… something that you have a talent for, keep these things going; even when you get to high school, don't let them fall by the wayside," he said. "You don't know where it might take you. At the very least, it'll be a rewarding pastime for of your lives. At the most, you might be able to make a living out of it, as I've been fortunate enough to."

Crossroads News

Fr. McDonnell Scholarships
Our parish Women’s Club has made the applications for the Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell Scholarship for Catholic high school students available for pick-up. Copies of the application are available in the Parish Center, School & YC offices. Applications are due back by Monday Feb. 18th.

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 one volunteers)

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) (LAST CALL!) Need 2 adults & 2 teens to coordinate alongside Anselmo Marquez

CONFERENCE & WORK TOUR PACKET IS NOW AVAILABLE
Packets can now be picked-up in the Parish Center office or downloaded from our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service. The registration deadline is Feb. 8th. Fundraising & formation begin soon so get on board early to have all the resources necessary for a transforming experience!

CALENDAR EVENTS:
Feb. 10 Home Group Meetings
Feb. 24 Home Group Meetings
March 1 FISH FRY
March 3 Home Group Meetings

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. khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or 708-246-4404
While saying farewell the night before he died, Jesus told those with him that he "had other sheep that are not of this fold" and that those with him at that particular moment were not his only followers. Very importantly, he also said that he longed for unity with those others just as urgently and deeply as he longed for unity with those in the room with him.

Among other things, this means that no matter what our particular Christian denomination, we are not Christ's only followers and that we have no more right to his love than those millions of others who are not of our own kind. Moreover, to be a disciple of Jesus means that we, like him, also have to hunger and pray for unity with those who are separated from us. Indeed the divisions among us as Christians, the fact that we are divided into more than a hundred separate denominations and the fact that, within these denominations, we are further bitterly divided by ideologies and live in distrust of each other, constitutes perhaps the biggest of all scandals that Christianity has given and continues to give to the world.

For the most part, despite considerable good will and genuine effort in recent years, we are still not praying for each other and reaching out to each other with any real heart. The relationship between Christian denominations today, and often inside of those denominations themselves, is characterized more by re-entrenchment than by openness, distrust than by trust, disrespect than by respect, demonization than by empathy, and lack of charity than by courtesy and graciousness. Sadly, too, more so than by ecumenical hunger and openness, our churches are characterized too much by a self-sufficiency and smugness that says: "We have the truth. We have no need of you!"

But who are our real brothers and sisters as Christians? Is it those within our own particular denomination? Perhaps, though perhaps not! Several times during his ministry while Jesus was talking to a group of people, someone approached him and told him that his mother and his family were outside the circle of this particular group, wanting to talk to him. Jesus’ reply is far-reaching: In each case, he responds with a question: "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers and sisters?" And he answers his own question by saying: "Those who hear and keep the word of God are mother, and brother, and sister to me."

In a society where blood relationship meant everything, this statement is a stunning one. Blood may be thicker than water but, Jesus asserts, faith is thicker than blood. Faith is the real basis for family. It trumps biology. Moreover, without straining the logic, implied in this too is that faith also trumps denomination. Who is your real brother or sister as a Christian? Your fellow Roman Catholic? Your fellow Presbyterian? Your fellow Lutheran? Your fellow Baptist? Your fellow Evangelical? Your fellow Methodist? Your fellow Anglican or Episcopalian? Clearly, for Jesus, it is the person who most deeply hears the word of God and keeps it, irrespective of denomination. Christian discipleship is defined more by the heart than by a particular church membership card.

This makes for a non-negotiable mandate within our Christian discipleship: We need to radiate Jesus’ hunger for intimacy with all people of sincere faith and, to that end, our actions towards those outside our own religious circle must always be marked by respect, graciousness, and charity - and a genuine signal that we hunger for unity with them.

Genuine respect, graciousness, and charity can only be predicated on a humility that believes that our own church, whatever our denomination, does not have the whole truth, that we are not free of error, that we are not free of sin, and that we are not fully faithful to the gospel. All of us, all Christian churches, are journeying towards fullness, towards a full understanding of the truth, and towards a more radical and honest fidelity to what Jesus asks of us. None of us has arrived. All of us are journeying still towards where we are called.

Thus, our real ecumenical task, no matter our denomination, is not that of trying to win over converts or convince others that we are more right than they are. Our primary task is inner conversion within our own denomination. Our primary task is to try, as individuals and as churches, to be more faithful to the gospel. If we do that we will eventually come together, as one church, under Christ because as we all go deeper into the mystery of Christ and grow more deeply in our own intimacy with Jesus, we will (in the beautiful phrase of Avery Dulles) "progressively converge", eventually meet around one center and one person, Jesus Christ.

Kenneth Cragg, after spending years as a Christian missionary to Islam, suggested it will take all the Christian churches to give full expression to the full Christ. Clearly all of us still need to stretch our hearts. Father Ron Rolheiser
Ministry Spotlight: Minister of Care

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

(Mathew 25: 34 – 36)

Do you feel moved by the words of the Gospel that invite us to bring Christ to the sick and elderly at their homes and in hospitals?

Our parish Ministry of Care gives the sick, the elderly and the homebound an opportunity to receive Christ in the Eucharist, to pray and experience the love and care from our parish and feel connected to our community of faith. Ministers of Care make a weekly visit to a parishioner’s home or a monthly visit to an area hospital depending on your schedule. Oftentimes the friendship that grows from time spent together in prayer and talking is greatly treasured by both.

Confirmed practicing Catholics are welcome to become Ministers of Care. You will receive special training at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien to help you learn how to minister to the sick and elderly both pastorally and scripturally.

If you would like to learn more about this important ministry please contact Fr. Filbert Ngwila at the Parish Center. 246-4404x-120 or fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org

Sharing Their Experiences

I have been a Minister of Care for the last 10 years. I provide weekly visits to elderly parishioners who are unable to get out and go to church. I consider it an honor to bring our Lord to those who cannot make it to church. I get more from the ministry that I put forth myself.

~Gene Ognibene

Every 4 to 6 weeks, I bring Holy Communion to patients at RML Respiratory Hospital in Hinsdale. Many patients are very ill and on ventilators. Some are tube fed temporarily and are not allowed to have anything by mouth, including the Eucharist. Whether it is giving the Body of Christ, praying with the patient and/or family members, or praying silently over a comatose patient, it is a great honor to even be in the same room with those sharing in the sufferings of Christ. It is a profoundly humbling and precious experience. Each and every time I am there, I receive much more than I give.

~Irene O’Ryan-Fox

For the past ten years I have been a minister of care. I have visited people in their homes and attended the sick at LaGrange Hospital. It has truly been a remarkable experience. To see the respect and reverence people have for their faith has been enlightening. Seeing faith in action has strengthen my own faith. I have been blessed to have this opportunity.

~Jackie Colando

I have been going to RML since 1987. And I was a home visitor before lay people were carrying the host. At one time I brought communion to LaGrange also. I have a sudden bonding with the sick and feel great empathy for the sick. Now it is my turn.

~Marie Coyne

I’ve been a minister of care for 18 months. So far I have visited people mostly at home. It has been a complete privilege. The people I visit are so appreciative but I am the one who is the most grateful.

~Mo Dunne
Thank You from Catholic Charities

Thank you for your generous support of the Food Pantry at Catholic Charities West Suburban Service. Thanks to your collection, we are able to provide assistance to over 1,000 individuals who come to us on a monthly basis. Your contribution has had a tremendous positive impact on our ability to assist local families in need.

Thank you for partnering with us to improve the lives of the families in our community.

Thank You from St. Barbara’s in Brookfield

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to all at SJC for again remembering St. Barbara Food Pantry with your generous donation of $200. The families using our food pantry continue to seek our help. Thanks to your generosity we are able to care for our neighbors and respond to their requests for assistance. Wishing you all a blessed New Year!

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.

HOPE: An Immigrant Reality

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me..”(Matthew 25:35)

Legislation approved by Illinois lawmakers in January 2013 will allow undocumented immigrants living in the state to obtain a Temporary Visitor Driver’s License (TVDL). The 250,000 undocumented drivers in Illinois can get a TVDL after paying a fee, passing driving tests and buying auto insurance, thereby making roads safer. As Catholics, we are called to respect every human being – regardless of immigration status – and their efforts to get to work in order to provide for their families.


Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education
3525 S. Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60653
Elena Segura (312) 534-5333, esegura@archchicago.org
**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, February 4**
6:30 James Gallagher; Leon Eich
7:45 Gena & Domenico Scorta; Betty Bucelli

**Tuesday, February 5, St. Agatha**
6:30 Ernest Colando; Jeannette Zimmer
7:45 Msgr. John Dolciamore; Rosario Gomez

**Wednesday, February 6, St. Paul Miki**
6:30 Dorothy Carlini; Howard Hague, Jr.
7:45 John Spalo; Jack McDonnell

**Thursday, February 7**
7:45 Estella Cook; Lawrence Hickey

**Friday, February 8, St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Josephine Bakhita**
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Dan Donovan

**Saturday, February 9**
8:00 Keith Bowles; Kyra Victoria Martyn
5:00 Judy Grzelak; Frank Stlofa

**Sunday, February 10, Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time**
7:30 Gene Miley; Frances May Blakeney
9:00 Dolores Williams; Henry Allan, Jr.,
10:45 Laura Stark; Jean Finn
12:15 Tom Muldowney; Dwyer & Millette Families
5:00 Patricia Cebula; Jean Finn

*Italics—Living*

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**Pray for our Beloved Dead**

- **Rita Cederholm**, mother of Eric
- **Nora Walsh**, mother of Ann Reed, grandmother of Michael, Lauren and David
- **Judy Nosek**, wife of Bill, mother of Bill and Lisa Labovitch, grandmother of Lucy
- **Angela Mann**, mother of Pam Banda
- **William O'Donohue**, husband of Helene, father of Terry, Mary, Tim, and Ian
- **Frank Yanez**, husband of Martha, father of Martha Maria, grandfather of Laura Perez-Ullivarri

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**Pray for the Sick**

- Marie Coyne
- Ruth Ilg
- James Ryan
- Barbara Ryan

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**Trying to get in touch with us?**
**More info is on our website:**
[www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org)

Fr. David P. Dowdle, Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila, Associate Pastor
fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. McDonnell Scholarships
Our parish Women's Club has made the applications for the Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell Scholarship for Catholic high school students available for pick-up. Copies of the application are available in the Parish Center, School & YC offices. Applications are due back by Monday Feb. 18th.

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.

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 Network (ICN) offers job support through various programs throughout the month. Visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org or the parish website. Workshops are open to all and there is no charge to attend.

Tuesday, February 5 from 7-9 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church LaGrange: Susan Sedler and Dennis Hamilton will help you craft that all important “Elevator Speech.” Time will be allowed to practice your personal statement with fellow attendees.

Thursday, Feb. 7 from 7-9pm at 1st Baptist Church LaGrange and
Tuesday, February 12 from 7-9 pm 1st Presbyterian Church LaGrange: With 80% of the jobs found in the “hidden job market,” networking is the heart of any job search. Learn the fundamentals of this critical search strategy.

Trivia Night Thanks
SJC Men's Club wishes to thank all those who attended Trivia Night 2013. Thank you to Kevin Cooney, Greg Koerner and Joe Durkin for all their efforts in organizing the event. Thank you to all our prize donors: The Hot Dog Company, Q BBQ, Hortons, LaGrange Movie Theatre, Hillgrove Wines, Elite Fitness, L T Shaw and Assoc.

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 is now open. Stop in the Parish Center. We are open everyday.

Need Host Families for Two Foreign Students
Two “Host Families” are needed for two Turkic University students who plan to attend a short-term management orientation program approximately May 4-18, 2013. In recent years, SJC members have offered their homes and motivation to help with foreign students' career development. If you can help: 708-246-5556 or lepinske@sbcglobal.net

Special Event for Women
You are invited to Celebrate the Heart of Women. Nurture your spirit with a beautiful Liturgy. Enjoy Sunday brunch with friends and a special presentation "The Culture of a Well Woman" by parishioner Richard Farrell, M.D., Internal Medicine on Sunday February 24th 9 AM-12 PM Oak Lawn Hilton. Seating is limited. Your payment of $40 secures your reservation. Call 708-424-9988 or register at LCMH.org/Celebrate by February 19th.

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.
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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CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
    Saint John of the Cross #9239

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    Western Springs, IL 60558

PHONE —
    708-246-4404

CONTACT PERSON —
    Shirley is on vacation. Please call MJ or Mary Beth.

SOFTWARE —
    Microsoft Publisher 2003
    Adobe Acrobat 6.0
    Windows XP Professional
    HP Scanjet 6200C

PRINTER — HP Laser Jet 6P

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT —
    Cover through

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN —

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
Getting Ready for Lent—Ash Wednesday is February 13th

The Little Black Book is Back
The Little Black Book can be our constant companion for Lent—a commitment of just 6 minutes per day. The right-hand side of each page will cite a part of the Gospel for the Mass each day and suggest some reflections. The left-hand side has timely thoughts, quotes and information that will teach us about our faith. The Little Black Book will be available after Masses next weekend, February 9-10, and Ash Wednesday, February 13 for a free will offering of $1.

Small faith sharing group options are being offered during Lent. Please sign up online or in the Parish Center. Groups meet for 1-1.5 hours each week.

Thursday afternoons Noon starts Feb. 14 Parish Center
Thursday evenings 7:00pm starts Feb. 14 School Chapel
Monday mornings 9:30am starts Feb. 18 Parish Center
Wednesday evenings 7:00pm starts Feb. 20 Parish Center
A one time free will offering of $6 is suggested.

Continue on your spiritual journey toward spiritual transformation and a more contemplative peace-filled life. Contemplative living is a way of responding to our everyday experience by consciously attending to our relationships. It deepens our awareness of our connectedness to others and this becomes a meaningful direction in our lives. The program involves weekly readings and time for reflection that will be discussed in the small groups.

Wednesday mornings Flourish 9:00am starts Feb. 13
Wednesday afternoons 2:00pm starts Feb. 13
Thursday mornings 9:30am starts Feb. 14
Monday afternoons 1:00pm starts Feb. 18
Monday evenings 6:30pm starts Feb. 18

All in Parish Center Free Will Offering of $2
Sacred Space is a way to look for God’s presence in your life through daily prayer scripture and meditations and weekly small group faith sharing. Fill each day of your Lenten journey with growth and inspiration. Enrich your prayer life.

Name:___________________________________________________________
Email and Phone: __________________________________________________

Bridges:  Mondays 9:30am  Wednesdays 7pm  Thursdays Noon  Thursdays 7pm
Sacred Space:  Mondays 1pm  Mondays 6:30pm  Wednesdays 9am

Wednesdays 2pm  Thursdays 9:30am

Circle Your Choice ~ Drop form at Parish Center or Sign-Up Online