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5005 S. WOLF ROAD WESTERN SPRINGS 60558
708-246-4404
WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG
This Lent we invite you to become more aware of the love of our Father. We are his beloved children. He loves us and accepts us just as we are. He knows that we sin and are not perfect, yet he still loves us. Through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and generosity to others we awaken our senses that may have become dulled over time, our awareness of God and his great love for us. He calls us to look within our hearts and to transform ourselves by mirroring his love for us in the love we give to others; much like the newborn who mirrors his mother and father. Our dying to self and being more and more like the one who created us leads us to new life and a greater intimacy with him, the one who knows us, confides in us and strengthens us, a loving God full of mercy who brings us to new life at Easter.

Lenten Parish Mission: March 9 – 13, 2013
At All Weekend Masses & Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Evenings at 7pm in Church

God said: “Who told you that you were naked?”

We are created in the Divine Image, but spend our lives costuming false images of ourselves, which disguise our deepest truth, separating, stressing and shaming us. Lent is a time to refine our vision to see who God sees and live from that belovedness, which God delights in. Come home to a party where costumes and masks are unnecessary: a celebration of the naked beautiful truth of who we are. Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm. will lead us in reflecting on what images of God define us, what has to die or be stripped away to become more whole and healed and authentic.

Monday: Who is that stranger in the mirror?
Tuesday: Now we see dimly as in a mirror.
Wednesday: You are my beloved, in you I delight.

Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., has been Director of the Society of the Little Flower since 1991. A native of New Britain, CT, he entered the Carmelites in 1959. Ordained a Priest in 1967, he served in Catholic high school ministry in Louisville, KY and then served as Principal of Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, IL from 1975 to 1988. He has Masters Degrees in Theology, Medieval History, and Religious Education. Fr. Bob claims “St. Therese is my friend, as well as my boss!”
Experience Lent at SJC

Fasting
Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on all the Fridays of Lent. The special Paschal fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday by those who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Practice Fasting by…
- Joining the Church in its observance of the Lenten Fast
- Choosing to add your own day of fasting each week
- Abstaining from negative talk and attitude such as gossiping, complaining, or stereotyping, etc.
- Incorporating a new and helpful discipline into your schedule such as exercise, a new volunteer commitment, or Bible reading, etc.
- Identifying and changing the choices, actions, and habits that keep you from being fully alive

Family Rosary
Thursdays in Lent (except Holy Thursday) 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The Rosary is also prayed every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room. The Rosary is also prayed daily before and after the 7:45 am Mass in the Mary Chapel.

Evening or Morning of Meditation
During this Lenten season you are cordially invited to join us for a special meditation program, Progress not Perfection. We will meditate, share, watch A Symbol of the Journey, a DVD presentation narrated by Laurence Freeman, OSB, and there will be a period of Lectio Divina, a way of prayerful listening to scripture. All are invited: those who meditate, those who want to learn to meditate, and those who want to know more about meditation. Reservations are requested but not required—contact: Mary at 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com Saturday, March 9, 2013, 9 – 11:30 am, 8:30 pm hospitality or Friday, March 15, 2013, from 7 – 9:30 pm, 6:45 pm hospitality

Kolbe House Online Retreat
This year’s Kolbe House Lenten email retreat will reflect on the words of the psalmist, “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps.46:10). Volunteers and staff who visit youth who are detained at the Cook County Juvenile Center will offer stories and reflections to help you along your Lenten journey. Whether you have participated in the past or are new to the Kolbe House Lenten email retreat, we invite you to embark on a familiar journey. To start go to http://www.kolbehouseministry.org/lentretreat2013_welcome.htm

Stations of the Cross
Stations help us to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ’s sufferings and death. It has become a staple during Lent at our parish and is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion. All ages are welcome on Fridays at 6-6:30 pm in church.

Taize Prayer
Taize Prayer is an ecumenical form of prayer consisting of song, scripture, light and meditation. Join us on Friday, March 22nd following Stations.
Experience Lent at SJC

Join a faith sharing group anytime, or if life is too hectic for you, the books will be available in church this weekend or at the parish center for your own private reading and prayer. Take some time for yourself this Lent.

Monday mornings 9:30am
Wednesday evenings 7:00pm
Thursday afternoons Noon
Thursday evenings 7:00pm School Chapel

All in Parish Center except Thursday evenings.
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.

Monday afternoons 1:00pm
Monday evenings 6:30pm
Wednesday mornings Flourish 9:00am
Thursday mornings 9:30am

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.

Come to our Fish Fry! It is a great way to meet other parishioners!!

4th Annual Lenten Fish Fry: Friday, March 1st 5-8pm

Proceeds to benefit the Crossroads’ s Work Tours

Tickets on sale before & after Masses this Weekend only in the Parish Center!
Adults-$12, Seniors-$9, Children 10 and under-$6, under 4 free
Tickets available for early seating at 5 p.m. and later seating at 6:30 p.m.
Come and enjoy a night with your fellow parishioner & don’t worry about cooking! We are ready to feed a multitude!
Questions? Call Kevin Cooney 708-784-0862 or Eileen Thomas 630-337-4086 or tho402440@student.lths.net
Lent is a time of final preparation for our RCIA participants who have journeyed since last fall and have grown in their desire to follow Christ and know the Father’s love. As they prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, we invite our parish community to pray with them and for them as they share in new life.

When people from another spiritual background seek baptism in the Catholic Church, they do so by stages. First we accept them into the order of catechumens. Then as they complete their catechetical formation we enroll them among the "elect" or those chosen for baptism. This rite of election generally coincides with the beginning of Lent. Three times during Lent the church prays the scrutinies to encourage a spirit of repentance among those who seek a worthy celebration of baptism.

Although scrutinies have returned fairly recently to Catholic parishes, they originated early in church history. St. Ambrose and St. Augustine celebrated them in the fourth and fifth century to mark the spiritual progress of the catechumens. The moral preparation of catechumens included prayers of exorcism, to drive out the spirit of evil which kept them from embracing Christ as their light. In the scrutinies the church discerned if those exorcisms had achieved their effect. Catechumens entered the church, stood barefoot on goatskin, and renounced evil influences all night. Those unworthy of baptism had to wait another year for Easter to roll around again.

Today's scrutinies seem less intense. They still include an exorcism, in which the priest or deacon prays that the spirit of evil may be replaced by the spirit of good. Their purpose is not so much to examine the candidates’ mental readiness, but their spiritual readiness. Scrutinies offer the catechumens the support they need to approach the waters of baptism worthily. For those who are already baptized, the scrutinies invite us to embrace the same spirit of self-searching and repentance. At Easter we renew our baptismal promises as we see the catechumens baptized.

So during Lent we renew our repentance as we see the catechumens scrutinized. The scrutinies remind us of the seriousness of our Christian life and inspire us to turn from evil and pursue good. They enliven our recommitment to Christ at Easter.

I invite you to pray for our Catechumens Krista Rue and Chris Kristufek, and our Candidates, Kevin Kline, Linda Dolezal and Brian Wolf. As a community we walk with them, we encourage them and we pray for them as they approach the day in which they will fully join our worshiping community.

Fr. Filbert Ngwila
Associate Pastor
At all masses last weekend each family received a cardboard Rice Bowl to fill with spare change and a Lenten Calendar with prayer, recipes and reflections. In the spirit of Lent, together we will participate in the Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowl program that invites us to pray with our families and fast in solidarity with those who are hungry.

Each week in Lent we will learn about hunger and poverty in a different country and about the people who will receive help from our sacrificial contributions. Last week, we learned about growing food in Burkina Faso, and this week our reflection continues as we learn about East Timor.

REFLECTION

In your prayer this week, reflect on a time when your vision was clear and you had a good idea of what God was calling you to do or to be. Is that vision still in place? Does it affect your daily life? Consider how, this Lent, you can make this vision even stronger.

STOPPING TUBERCULOSIS IN EAST TIMOR

TB is a very serious problem in East Timor, which is an island nation near Australia. The disease is easily spread among people living in houses with poor ventilation, which are common in rural villages. CRS is working with health centers, prisons, boarding schools and orphanages in East Timor to help reduce the incidence and burden of TB using several strategies such as helping develop a media campaign that encourages population to look for signs and symptoms of TB and to provide training to local community health partners to help monitor the treatment of TB patients. Through CRS help volunteers are able to identify cases in rural areas and find means of bringing medical help to them. CRS continues to provide means to prevent and treat TB in this area. This week we pray for families in East Timor and give to CRS Rice Bowl to help small clinics that treat TB patient in Klibur Domin and other rural areas in East Timor.

Catholic Social Teaching Focus:
Community and Participation
Human beings are not only sacred, but also social. How we participate in our families and communities, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person.

CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program that helps us to live in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable around the world. We pray to reflect on what type of person we are called to be. We fast to remove the things that get between us and God, and to remember those without enough to eat. We give to honor Jesus’ call to serve those in need.
JULIAN OF NORWICH AND CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING:  
A Lenten Day of Retreat

Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
Facilitator: Father William Meninger

Father Meninger will explore with us the life and spirituality of mystic Julian of Norwich who had a series of visions of Jesus in 1373.

We’ll see how Julian’s contemplative posture was, in the words of St. Paul, “praying without ceasing,” or seeing God in all creation at all times and is a way of life accessible to us today.

Father Meninger will share several experiences of contemplative living that may be familiar to us in our own lives. Allowing such experiences to deepen in us can be life altering.

COST: $60 (includes lunch).  
The Well is located at 1515 W. Ogden Ave. in LaGrange Park.

This Lenten Retreat is co-sponsored by our parish at The Well. The $60 registration fee is waived for our parishioners. We ask that you bring $10 cash that day for your lunch. Register by calling the Parish Center receptionist by February 24th.
When we arrive at church on Sunday morning, we are in a particular spot at a specific time. We are mistaken, however, to think that we are just here and right now. When we walk into church and celebrate Mass together, we are linking ourselves across time and space with countless people and a long history.

“Remember, Lord, your Church spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity together with our Pope. . . .” Throughout the world, believers are hearing the same Word and sharing in the same Bread of Life. We link ourselves with believers across the entire world. “Remember also, Lord, your servants who have gone before us with the sing of faith. . . .” We link ourselves with those who have died and with all the faithful saints who proved their love.

Not just here and not just now but across a universe of faith and a history of loving fidelity we link ourselves with others at Sunday Mass.

Year of Sunday Mass:
Question of the Week

LK 9:28b-36
If the Eucharist is the “source and summit of Christian life”, what “mountaintop” experiences have Sunday Mass given me? How have I heard the voice of God more clearly through the Eucharist?

The Lord is my Light and Salvation.
Psalm 27

Baptisms
In February, we welcomed the following children into the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism.

Declan Chance Jason, son of Jason & Jacqueline (Duax) McBride
James Kenneth, son of Matthew & Susan (Smith) Kipp
Blyth Timothy, son of Timothy & Mara (Blyth) Nolan
Thomas Merritt, son of Thomas & Katherine (Dillon) Okl
Harrison Charles, son of Nathan & Lauren (Johnson) Senter
Leo Jerome, son of Louis & Marissa (Nunez) Plucinski
Ryan Brendan, son of Neil & Michele (Haddad) Slattery
Kira Isabelle, daughter of Anthony & Nicole (Cirko) Turano
Joseph Brian, son of Trent and Claire (Schultz) Warren

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 Prep Meeting March 7th
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. To assist in our class preparation, please register to attend this class by calling the Parish Center at 708-246-4404.

Guest Singer at Sunday 5 p.m. Mass Today!
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.
Living the Gospel

“Jesus . . . went up the mountain to pray.” Like us, Jesus sought communion with his God and Father. He most likely didn’t go up the mountain expecting to be transfigured, but his prayerful union with his Father manifested his identity as One who shares in the Father’s glory. During prayer Jesus’ “face changed.” This phrase is biblical language indicating that Jesus himself changed. When the transfiguration takes place Jesus is already on the journey to Jerusalem. To come to the glory promised by the transfiguration, however, Jesus could not remain on the mountain, but had to continue his journey to Jerusalem and the Cross.

Jesus talks about his exodus, his passing through suffering and death to the glory of risen life. Our salvation is to follow Jesus into his passion and death so that we, too, might attain the glory of new life. Our following Jesus is spelled out in the ordinary “dyings” of our everyday living: reaching out to visit a lonely elderly person, listening to a troubled adolescent, biting our tongue instead of saying sharp words, still having patience when we’ve been pushed too far or simply run out of energy. The utterly amazing thing about our embracing these little, everyday “dyings” is that we ourselves experience a kind of transfiguration. As we learn to say yes to God and others, we grow deeper into our own identity as the chosen ones of God. We become more perfectly members of Christ’s Body when we act like Jesus did—when we reach out to others who are in need, when we bring a comforting touch, when we forgive. All these are ways we are faithful on our journey to Jerusalem. Our whole life, then, is a transfiguration, a passing over from our old sinful ways to the ways of light and grace offered by God.

Closing Prayers
May we embrace the challenges of the cross and experience risen glory. May we use these Lenten days as a time of deepened prayer and personal transformation.

For Reflection
• What it means to me that I am destined to share in Jesus’ glory is . . .
• My Lenten practices are bringing about this change in me.

Readings for the Week

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
<th>3rd Sunday of Lent</th>
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<td>Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13</td>
<td>Ps 50:8-9,16bc-17, 21 and 23</td>
<td>Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16</td>
<td>Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6</td>
<td>Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21</td>
<td>Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9, 10, 11-12</td>
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Rediscover Catholicism Book Study
Session 5 which covers pages 279-317 will be held on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. OR Friday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

There are 3 different days-times to choose from for each session. Sessions are held in the Parish Center. This will be the closing session for our book study.

Extra copies of the bestselling book by Matthew Kelly are 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. All are welcome.

Grief Support at Loyola Medical Center
Widow-Widower Group
For adults who are grieving the loss of a spouse.
Thursdays, March 7-April 11 from 3-4:30pm

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.

Open Registration for Grief Support at Buddy’s Place for Children
Buddy’s Place is a family based children’s grief support program for families with children ages 4-18 who have experienced the death of a parent or significant adult. The 8 Week Session is a grief support group that provides support and education. It meets for 8 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:15pm - 7:30pm beginning April 10th. In addition, Buddy’s Place also offers a monthly family support group that meets on the 2nd Monday of every month. All groups meet from 6:15pm - 7:30pm. There is no cost to participate in Buddy’s Place however registration is required. Families should call Kelly Huggins at 708.995.3750 or email at khuggins@pillarscommunity.org for more information and to register.

Saintly Senior Club Luncheon
Mark your calendar today to attend the annual St. Patrick-St. Joseph Senior Luncheon on Friday, March 15th at 11:30am in the Parish Center. Enjoy corned beef and entertainment with fellow parishioners. Members $15-Guests $20. RSVP by March 11 at the Parish Center. Questions, call Trudy at 246-1421.

Name: _______________________________________________________
Phone: ______________________________________________________
Total: _____________________ Amount: ___________________

Do you remember when you first moved to town and joined St. John of the Cross? Remember how big the Parish felt to you? We are introducing Welcome! Would you like to be a part of an “important piece of the puzzle” that of welcoming our new parishioners? The commitment would be to contact the new parishioner at least 3 times over 3 months.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones at elizabeth@russell-jones.us or 708.246.6282.

You say you “believe” every Sunday as you recite the Creed. But do you know what you’re saying you “believe” in? Do the truths of the faith—listed in the Creed—really permeate your life? Learn how these ancient truths contain the promise of peace, joy and happiness for our lives.

The Creed is a 12-part program that will launch you on an amazing journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. You’ll learn how your personal journey fits into the amazing story of salvation that we pray every Sunday in the Creed.

Join us for twelve Thursdays beginning on March 21 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. or 7-8:30pm in the Parish Center. Study materials are $35. Register online or at the Parish Center by March 15th.
Crossroads

CALENDAR EVENTS:
Feb. 24 Home Group Meetings
March 1 FISH FRY 5pm or 6:30pm
    PURCHASE TICKETS at masses!
March 3 Home Group Meetings
    Juniors & Seniors at PC 6pm
March 10 Easter Basket Service Project
    Teens arrive 3pm, 2nd graders 3:30pm
March 14-17 Kairos 13 retreat
    Please pray for teams as they prepare!

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED AS AN ADULT LEADER with CROSSROADS?

I don't think of myself as a leader but a person who shares experiences. What gifts the teens have given me: Renewed faith. Seeing them and their faith renews me with hope for the future church.

~Marianne Mangan, work tour mentor

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
As you can see most of our events have found their leaders!
Leader’s End of the Year Dinner on May 19
We only need 1 more adult (preferably parents) to act as hosts for the catered dinner (order, greet, serve, pack & clean) while Katie runs the meeting with teen & adult leaders.

CONFERENCE & WORK TOUR spots are available!

pick-up in the Parish Center office or download from our website
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service
REGISTER ASAP to join in fundraising & formation efforts!

I don't think of myself as a leader but a person who shares experiences. What gifts the teens have given me: Renewed faith. Seeing them and their faith renews me with hope for the future church.

~Marianne Mangan, work tour mentor

Working with Crossroads teens is a constant reminder of how important community is. These teens reach out to each other in faith formation, service, and infamous high school tribulations with sincere friendship.

~Monica Barc, CR alum & work tour leader

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED AS AN ADULT LEADER with CROSSROADS?

Being a leader for our teens consists of caring for them, sharing yourself and being willing to learn alongside them. There are short-term roles, seasonal roles & long-term places where adults are needed.

Please take time this Lent to pray about joining our adult leaders team!
Contact Katie Hayes for details, 708-246-4404 ext. 140 khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Or check out details on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads under leadership tab

EASTER BASKET FILLING PROJECT
All Parish 2nd Graders are invited to join our high school teens to fill & decorate baskets for kids who will not otherwise receive a basket!

Join us Sunday March 10
Teens Arrive 3 p.m., 2nd graders Arrive 3:30 p.m.
All finish by 4:30 p.m.

Please bring items to fill the baskets: small toys, crayons & coloring books, candy, small toiletries of toothbrushes & paste, hair ties, stickers, stuffed animals, etc. to fill. Baskets will be provided.
Saint John of the Cross Celebrated Valentine’s Day
A very special tradition in our preschool classes is the Mother’s Tea for Valentine’s Day.

The children welcomed their mothers into their classrooms and presented them with a special Valentine’s Day pin, performed special songs, read books, and shared some wonderful tea and cakes. Each mother looks forward to this beautiful day and SJC moms wear their pins for many Valentine’s Days to remember this special event.

While our preschool classes held teas, our primary grades hosted parties for the children. The children participated in craft projects, played games, and exchanged Valentines with their classmates. Our intermediate and junior high students spent time working on puzzles and other projects with their buddies to celebrate the holiday.

Friday evening, our Student Council sponsored the junior high dance. Many thanks to our parents and faculty members who helped organize the event.

This week at SJC
Feb 25  All School Liturgy, 9:15 a.m.
Feb 27  Teacher Recognition Trust Meeting
March 1  Stations of the Cross 9:15 a.m. Church
March 2  Teacher Recognition Trust Party, 6:30 p.m.

The Anatomy of Love
Sunday, February 24\textsuperscript{th} ~ 6:30-8:00 pm
in the Parish Center
Holistic view of how healthy Christian love progresses

- Discover the difference between Love and Infatuation
- Explore how we fall in love
- Hear the importance of setting boundaries
- See why waiting matters

There is one presentation for all Newly Confirmed 8\textsuperscript{th} grade students. Parents are encouraged to attend too! This presentation replaces their home group meeting on February 24\textsuperscript{th}, please mark your calendar for this important evening presentation on Sunday, February 24\textsuperscript{th} 6:30 pm and plan on joining your child in the Parish Center for this engaging, interactive, informative & enlightening speaker, John Grossman!

Join us Today
February 24th at 9:00 a.m. Mass
Watch throughout the year as YC celebrates the Year of Sunday Mass!
Thank You from Our Sharing Parish, St. Mark

Dear Parishioners,

We gratefully received your monthly sharing parish contribution of $1,000.00. It is a true blessing to us here at St. Mark. I cannot tell you how much I really appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of the parishioners at St. John of the Cross Church.

It is because of your continuous support that we are able to carry our mission here at St. Mark Parish. Once again, we give our gratitude to all of you for being our angels this past Christmas Season. Your gifts provided our families with the resources to obtain Christmas meals, clothes, toys, games, etc.

Our Youth Ministry was able to take our kids to a ski trip to Devil’s Head Resort in Wisconsin. All of the Youth Group members did some fundraising to pay for this trip. However, they were short of their fundraising goal. They did not raise enough money for all of their members to go. Fortunately for the kids, we were able to use some of the funds you sent us to make up for the difference.

The Youth Group had a blast during this ski trip. They all returned in one piece thank God! They brought back with them bags of wet clothes and many great experiences to share with their families, and their friends. They wanted to make sure that we sent you a thank you because without your support they would have had to stay at home or hangout in the streets.

During the season of Lent, we are about to enter a spiritual journey of reflection, fasting and prayer. We are getting ready for our St. Mark Parish Live Stations of the Cross on Division Street on Good Friday. We will also provide our parishioners a Lenten Retreat. It is because of your support that we are able to provide a warm place to hold the retreat, a stipend for our guest speakers, and meal for the participants.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Jesus Medina, Pastor

From Kolbe House

Dear SJC Parishioners,

I write to thank you for the continued help in our ministry to the incarcerated through the Sharing check of $1200 that we have received. We at Kolbe House feel supported by St. John’s through the food, clothing, and various events that connect us to one another.

We are entering into Lent which is often called a School of Repentance and, if I could, add Reconciliation. We learn from one another’s good example of how to be generous not just monetarily but also in our service to others. We pray more intensely for greater peace amidst all the violence and hurt that surrounds us. We sacrifice ourselves in ways that bring greater life and happiness to others who are struggling. All of us form the Body of Christ that serves as a source of reconciliation to the people around us.

I am grateful that we as staff and volunteers of Kolbe House are united with you in these ways. We walk the same path that leads to Holy Week together. Thank you for being such faithful traveling companions with us. I remain

Your brother in the Lord,
Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez, Director

Interfaith Career Network

Are you “Linked In” with the people that can help you with your job search? Join us on Tuesday, February 26, 7-9 p.m. and learn about this must-have social media tool for job seekers. Aileen Gilpin, Principal at Gilpin Consultants, will provide a “Linked In” primer and answer your questions on how to effectively use this powerful online resource. This workshop is open to all and there is no charge to attend. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com. We look forward to welcoming you in Westminster Hall at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange, 150 South Ashland Avenue. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue.

Interfaith Career Network offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website: www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.
A friend of mine likes to jokingly pretend he’s the ultimate egoist and will occasionally crack this quip: “Life is hard because I have to deal with the magnitude me!” Ironically our ultimate struggle in life is exactly the opposite: We are forever dealing with the insubstantiality of me! We are forever fearful that we have no substance, nothing of lasting value, no immortality. We fear that we might ultimately disappear.

Jesus called this anxiety and frequently cautions us against giving into this fear. It’s interesting to note that, for Jesus, the opposite of faith is not doubt or atheism, but anxiety, a certain fear, a certain insecurity. What, more precisely, is this fear?

At one level, Jesus makes it clear: We are too anxious, he tells us, about our physical needs, food, drink, clothing, and shelter. As well, we are too anxious about how we are perceived, about having a good name and about being respected in the community. We see this in his warning about how we are to imitate the lilies of the field in their trust in God and his multiple warnings about not doing things to be seen by others as being good. But we’re always anxious about these things, all of us, and our fear here is not necessarily unhealthy. Nature and God have programmed us to have these instincts, though Jesus invites us to move beyond them.

More deeply, beyond our anxiety for our physical needs and our good name, we nurse a much deeper fear. We’re fearful about our very substance. We’re fearful that, in the end, we are really only, as the author of Ecclesiastes puts it, vanity, vapor, something insubstantial blown away in the wind. That’s the ultimate anxiety and you see it already in animals, in their irrevocable and often violent drive to get into the gene pool, nature’s form of immortality. We have the same irrevocable (and sometimes violent) drive for immortality, to get into the gene pool, nature’s form of immortality. But, for us, that takes on multiple forms: Plant a tree. Have a child. Write a book. In essence, leave some indelible mark on this planet. Guarantee your own immortality. Make sure you can’t be forgotten.

We are always anxious about our substance and immortality and are always trying to create this for ourselves. But, as Jesus, often and gently, points out, we cannot do this for ourselves. No success, no monument, no fame, no tree, no child, and no book, will give ultimately still the anxiety for substance and immortality inside us. Only God can do that. We see one of Jesus’ gentle reminders of this in the Gospels when the disciples come back to him buoyed-up by the success of a mission and share with him the wonderful things they have done. He shares their joy, but then, in essence, gently reminds them: Real consolation does not lie in success, even if it’s for the Kingdom. Real consolation lies in knowing that our “names are written in heaven”, that God has each of us individually, lovingly, and irrevocably, locked into His radar screen. Real consolation lies in recognizing that we don’t have to create our own substance and immortality. God has already done this for us.

But because we are anxious and fearful we try, as St. Paul puts it, “to boast”, that is, to create for ourselves some immortal mark on this planet. Classical Protestant spirituality, following St. Paul, would say that we are forever attempting to “justify ourselves”, to write our own names in heaven, through our attempts to immortalize ourselves.

How do we ever move beyond this? Where can we find the trust to give up on fear and anxiety, especially to move beyond the ceaseless pressure inside us to create some kind of immortality for ourselves?

Only love casts our fear. And our deepest fear can only be cast out by the deepest love of all. To give up on anxiety and on our need to create substance and immortality for ourselves we need to know unconditional love. Unconditional love, whether it comes from God or from another person, gives us substance and immortality. Gabriel Marcel once said that to love another person is to say to him or her: You, at least, will never die!

But unconditional love, this side of eternity, is not easily found. God loves us unconditionally, but, most times, we are too wounded (emotionally, psychologically, and morally) to be able to existentially appropriate that. Simply put, it’s hard to believe that God loves us when it seems no one else does and we struggle to love ourselves. No wonder we are habitually anxious and forever trying to in some way earn love through some kind of measuring-up or standing-out.

So what’s the cure? What will cure our fear and anxiety is a deeper surrender to love, both in terms of our intimacy with God and in terms of our intimacy with God. But that surrender requires taking a deep risk. What’s the risk?

To be continued.

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.
Our Weekly Calendar and Intentions

Monday, February 25
9:30 a.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
10:30 a.m. 8th Grade Speaker
1:00 p.m. Sacred Space Faith Sharing Group
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
2:30 p.m. Adoration
6:30 p.m. Sacred Space Faith Sharing Group

Tuesday, February 26
9:00 a.m. Parent Association Meeting
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Peace Builders Interviews
3:00 p.m. Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. Teacher Recognition Trust
7:30 p.m. Wedding Coordinators

Wednesday, February 27
8:00 a.m. Principals Diocese Meeting
9:00 a.m. Women’s Club Flourish Lenten Faith Sharing
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
1:00 p.m. Endow Faith Sharing Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, February 28
9:30 a.m. Sacred Space Faith Sharing Group
12:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick up
6:00 p.m. YC Fostering Faith
6:30 p.m. Family Rosary
7:00 p.m. Crossroads K 13 Meeting
7:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group (school chapel)

Friday, March 1
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club
5:00 p.m. Fish Fry
6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 2
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:30 a.m. Morning of Meditation

Sunday, March 3
12:00 p.m. RCIA Luncheon
6:00 p.m. Crossroads Prayer Experiences

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 25
6:30 Donald Gallagher; Dr. Antanas Lipskis
7:45 Tony Adolf; Liz Wojtowicz; Lisa Bailey

Tuesday, February 26
6:30 Helen King; Bill King;
Don & Jim Gallagher
7:45 Al Sobey; Thomas B. McCarthy, Jr.

Wednesday, February 27
6:30 Our Beloved Dead
7:45 Catherine Schnitzer; John F. Hirsch, Jr.

Thursday, February 28
7:45 Michael Turlek; Alice Sobey

Friday, March 1
7:45 Courtney McGregor; Lawrence Hickey

Saturday, March 2
8:00 Tony & Winnie Sweeney; Ginny Kuchta
5:00 John Den Besten; Carol T. O’Malley

Sunday, March 3, Third Sunday of Lent
7:30 Edmund Sebastian; Ellen McGowan
9:00 SJC & St. Mark Parishioners
10:45 Conner Lowry; Robert Maliszewski
12:15 Theresa Ripoli; Dr. James Watts
5:00 Stephen Ryan; Ben Spinato

Italics—Living

Wedding Banns

Joshua Press and Melissa Richards

Pray for our Sick

Dale Alm  Karen Hult
Ashley Davis  Ruth Ilg
Mikel Dodd  Gloria Spranza Meyers
Regina Feeley  James Ryan
Anthony Garvy  Barbara Ryan

Pray for our Beloved Dead

Ed O’Malley, father of Tim
and grandfather of Danny & Timmy

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

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The SJC Teacher Recognition Trust shows appreciation and provides additional compensation for our quality teachers and staff and supports their professional development. These benefits help to attract and retain superior educators who believe in Catholic education despite the fact that they could be more highly compensated elsewhere.

This year we celebrate SJC Parish School's distinction as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School, awarded for overall academic excellence in student achievement levels. Thank you, teachers, for providing such a high quality of education to our students!

Saturday, March 2, 2013

at

Butterfield Country Club

Live Music performed by Spoken Four

Dinner and Drinks • Live and Silent Auctions

“No Giveback” Raffle

Only 2,500 raffle tickets will be sold.
Winning tickets will be drawn at the party. Winner need not be present.

Two grand prizes: $15,000 and $5,000

Early Bird Raffles: $1,000 each (final drawing: 2/14)

RAFFLE TICKET PRICE:
$50 each or Six for $200 (receive two free)

For raffle tickets, please contact Jackie McDonnell:
jmcdonnell51@hotmail.com or 708.784.9561.