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Pope Benedict XVI
April, 2005–February, 2013

You are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my Church,
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it.
To you I will give the keys to the
Kingdom of Heaven.
Mt 16:18-19

How A New Pope Is Chosen
By John Thavis, Catholic News Service

The voting by cardinals to elect the next pope takes place behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, following a highly detailed procedure last revised by Pope Benedict XVI.

Under the rules, secret ballots can be cast once on the first day of the conclave, then normally twice during each subsequent morning and evening session. Except for periodic pauses, the voting continues until a new pontiff is elected.

Only cardinals under the age of 80 when the “sede vacante,” or the period between the death or lawful resignation of one pope and the election of his successor, begins are eligible to enter the conclave and vote for the next pope. In theory, any baptized male Catholic can be elected pope, but current church law says he must become a bishop before taking office; since the 15th century, the electors always have chosen a fellow cardinal.

Each vote begins with the preparation and distribution of paper ballots by two masters of ceremonies, who are among a handful of noncardinals allowed into the chapel at the start of the session.

Then the names of nine voting cardinals are chosen at random: three to serve as “scrutineers,” or voting judges; three to collect the votes of any sick cardinals who remain in their quarters at the Domus Sanctae Marthae; and three “revisers” who check the work of the scrutineers.

The paper ballot is rectangular. On the top half is printed the Latin phrase “Eligo in Summum Pontificem” (“I elect as the most high pontiff”), and the lower half is blank for the writing of the name of the person chosen.

After all the noncardinals have left the chapel, the cardinals fill out their ballots secretly, legibly, and fold them twice. Meanwhile, any ballots from sick cardinals are collected and brought back to the chapel………..

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

...Continue reading this article on the home page of our parish website. There are also several other wonderful resource articles for you to read about the Papal Transition. Or stop in the parish center for a hard copy if you would like.
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 – 11:30am, 8:30am hospitality or_

_Friday, March 15, 2013, from 7 – 9:30pm, 6:45pm hospitality_

**Stations of the Cross** 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 6-6:30pm** in church.

Join us for **Taizé Prayer** on **Friday, March 22nd following Stations.**

**What is Taizé Prayer?**

_Taizé Prayer is a liturgy filled with song, scripture and silent meditation. The sanctuary is candlelit, making a space that is ready for meditative silence and song. The music of Taizé is repetitive and chant-like. The simple melodies wed to simple texts enable you to easily enter into the prayer and enter into a place of profound meditation. The service quickly grabs your intellect and promises to renew your spirit._

**Come to Me**

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the easiest person in the world to be with. Even if you cannot pray very well, or even if you do not say anything at all, the mere fact that you come to HIM in the Blessed Sacrament is, in itself, a prayer of faith that will greatly benefit your soul. Adoration Chapel is open on Mondays from 2:30 - 9:00 p.m. The Rosary is prayed at 2:30 and 8:45 p.m. This Lent—come and spend some time with HIM.

**Holy Hour & Benediction:** Fr. Filbert will lead us in prayer on **Monday of Holy Week, March 25 from 8-9pm** in church.
Experience Lent at SJC

Our SJC Lenten Experience at a Glance…

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls: Weekly interactive website and bulletin information help us to give alms and pray for the poor around the world.

Return Your Rice Bowl to Mass Palm Sunday, March 24 at any Mass

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday at 6pm in church

Morning of Meditation: Saturday, March 9, 8:30am

RCIA 2nd Scrutiny: 12:15 Mass on Sunday, March 10

Crossroads Service Project: Sunday, March 10

Parish Mission: March 9-10 weekend at all Masses and March 11, 12 and 13 at 7pm

Evening of Meditation: Friday, March 15, 7pm

RCIA 3rd Scrutiny: 10:45 Mass Sunday, March 17

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm

Taize Prayer: After Stations on Friday, March 22 at 6:30 pm

Kolbe Lenten Retreat: ongoing via email

Holy Hour & Benediction: Fr. Filbert will lead us in prayer on Monday of Holy Week, March 25 from 8-9pm in church

Holy Week & Easter Schedule on our parish website.

Adult Formation Opportunity

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is organized around four Pillars: the Creed (what we believe), the Liturgy, specifically the Sacraments (how we celebrate the Christian mystery), Morality (how Christians live their lives based on the Ten Commandments), and Prayer.

Join us for a 12-week study on the first of the four Pillars of the Catechism: The Creed. During the twelve sessions we will study the twelve articles of the Apostle’s Creed through a video presentation, group discussion, and at-home preparation.

Thursdays, beginning March 21 at two times: 1:30pm or 7pm in the Parish Center. The cost of materials is $35 and includes all study materials, a binder and a paperback copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Please register at the Parish Center or online before March 15. Study materials are available in the Parish Center now if you would like to check them out. If cost is holding you back, please email Fr. David at ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org.
R C I A

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.

Scrutinies: The purpose of scrutinies is to complete the conversion of the elect.

Last Sunday we sent our catechumens and candidates to Holy Name Cathedral for the Rite of Election. Now we refer to them as the elects for they have been elected for the reception of the sacraments at Easter Vigil. It was such a powerful ceremony in which our candidates joined many other candidates from parishes around the archdiocese. Cardinal Francis George welcomed them and called them to continue in their journey of conversion.

Having been elected and now in the final turn before they receive the sacraments, we will be performing the scrutinies on the next three Sundays at Mass. As I wrote in a previous article, scrutinies are very essential in the RCIA program. A lot of the rites of initiation—just to name what the difference is in general terms—celebrate a kind of decision or commitment. And that has a content that is very easy to understand because we live in a culture, a society where making decisions and choices and commitments is something that we get. The scrutinies are a different genre of rites. They are really a ritual about emptying. And this goes back to what Lent is all about. It’s about emptying. And it’s therefore the kind of a rite that’s not really about making a commitment, being affirmed or making a decision. It’s more about looking at something, seeing something, and allowing that self-emptying to proceed—as well as therefore to be filled with the light of Christ.

The ritual text says, “The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.” The rite focuses on three things: to deliver them from the power of Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength. This is about surrounding them with prayer and the power of God to help them to become ready to celebrate the sacraments of initiation.

As a community we participate in these scrutinies with our elect. We join with them in a special way during the prayer of exorcism and intercessions. We pray that they may overcome the power of evil. We also pray that all of us may overcome the power of evil that prevents us from doing good deeds. We will be invited to silent prayer and then voice our prayers and be able to name the evil so we can have power over them. That’s a part of our tradition of exorcistic prayer. When you know the name of some creature, you can have power over it. In fact, that’s why in the Garden of Eden the first humans were given the power to name the animals, because they had dominion over them. So naming the demons is a part of what happens in the scrutinies.

Let us gather our prayers for our Elects: Krista, Chris, Kevin, Linda and Brian in the coming weeks when we do the scrutinies as they prepare for the reception of the sacraments.

More next week. Fr. Filbert
REFLECTION

In your prayer this week, consider the people who have cultivated and nurtured you through times of learning, failure or dry periods. Take stock of the gifts that you have been given—the good fruit that comes from your life of faith. As Christians we believe in our responsibility for the well-being of others, especially when their basic human rights are being compromised. Offer these gifts to God as your Lenten sacrifice, and in your prayer, ask that they be nurtured, tended to, graced and returned so that you can bear fruit in the world.

Last weekend’s first reading from the book of Genesis reminded us of the covenant that God made with Abram. God promised Abram the land flowing with milk and honey, multitudes of offspring and blessings. The gospel reading reminded us of the Transfiguration, in which Jesus’ glory is revealed to us. We are invited to take the ascent into the spiritual mountain, be transfigured and share the glory of God with others.

There are many ways we can share the blessings and the gifts God has given us with other people especially the poor and the less fortunate. Through the CRS Rice bowl program we are invited to join faith communities across the U.S. to pray with our families and fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, and at the same time learn about the people who will receive help from our sacrificial contributions.

Last week we learned about East Timor and how our contributions could help to stop the serious problem of tuberculosis. This week our focus is on the country of Lesotho. Our prayers and our contributions will help bring further childhood education in Lesotho.

Bringing Early Childhood Education in Lesotho

Lesotho is a landlocked and enclave, completely surrounded by its only neighboring country, the Republic of South Africa. It’s a small country and about 40% of the population live below the international poverty line of US $1.25 per day. In Lesotho, CRS works with the Good Shepherd Sisters to ensure the rights of orphans and vulnerable children to high-quality early education opportunities. The Early Childhood Care and Development program focuses on five key areas of development: physical, mental, social, spiritual and emotional. As a result of the program, children are better prepared to follow instructions from teachers, sit in a classroom for several hours and socialize with one another. CRS’ education programs in Lesotho and around the world help young children receive a strong foundation in learning. This week we pray for the families in Lesotho and give to CRS Rice Bowl to help the Early Education Care and Development Centers to provide and education which will give the children a good start towards a bright future.

Catholic Social Teaching
Focus: Rights and Responsibilities

We must take responsibility to protect the rights of all people. These rights include the rights to life, food, shelter, education and employment, along with political and cultural rights.
Parish News & Notes

Protecting God’s Children Workshop
A VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children workshop will be held in the Parish Center on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. All SJC volunteers who have contact with children are required to be VIRTUS trained. Register online at www.virtus.org. Contact Mary Beth Drafz at mbdrafz@stjohnofthecross.org or 708-246-4404 with questions.

Baptism Prep Class
New parents planning to have their child baptized at SJC must attend a preparation class led by a trained couple from our baptism team. The next class will be held in the Parish Center on Thursday, March 7th at 7pm. We ask that you register to attend this class by calling our office at 246-4404 to ensure we have a spot ready for you. Godparents and new babies are always welcome to come with new parents.

Rediscover Catholicism Book Study
Session 5 which covers pages 279-317 will be held this week on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. OR Friday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. Do not miss our last session in this series.

Welcome!
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 erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org

Winter Parish Advisory Council Update
Dear Parishioners,

The Parish Advisory Council (PAC) met on Saturday, February 9th for its winter meeting to promote collaboration and communication between our parish consultative bodies, ministry advisory groups and PAC goal committees as we lead our parish in living out its vision and mission. As part of our commitment to keeping you informed of our work, a letter is published in the bulletin and our minutes and pre-read materials can be found on our website.

Some highlights of our meeting include:

- As a way to help our parish reverse our deficit financial trend, last fall the PAC commissioned a Stewardship Committee to help the parish focus on the last line in our mission statement: “Faithfully steward our time, talent, and treasure.” This committee’s goals include stewardship of faith (understanding and living our faith), expanding the role of laity in ministry, and enhancing parishioner participation and fellowship. Possible action plans were discussed with the Council.
- The PAC discussed and affirmed the Welcome Committee’s new 3 step welcoming process for new parishioners facilitated by a Welcome Coordinator in an effort to help our parish be more welcoming and engage new members in our community.
- Parishioners are encouraged to become more involved by serving on the School Advisory Board, Youth Catechesis Council, or the Parish Advisory Council. More information on what each consultative body does and when it meets can be found on the website. Elections will be held the weekend of May 11-12.
- Your feedback is requested in 2 areas: worship and communications. Go to our parish website to provide us with your comments and suggestions or stop by the parish center to fill out a hard copy. We appreciate your input and time.

I look forward to keeping you informed of the accomplishments of the Parish Advisory Council after we meet in the spring.

Karin Teglia
PAC Chairperson
Crossroads

CALENDAR EVENTS:
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!
April 14 Home Group Mtgs
April 28 Spring Mass 5pm

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
As you can see most of our events have found their leaders!
Leader’s End of the Year Dinner on May 19
  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!

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 3pm, 2nd graders arrive 3:30pm, all finish by 4:30pm
Please bring items to fill the baskets:
  • little stuffed animals
  • small toys like cars and dolls
  • coloring books & crayons
  • small toiletries
  • stickers
If you have any questions, contact Kathleen King at kheals@aol.com or 708-784-9453

MANY THANKS to our FISH FRY Team for their awesome efforts to organize, plan, and coordinate a great night of delicious fish & fellowship!
  Great job Michael Thomas, Thomas Korenchan, Adam Conrath, Kerri DiMonte, Beth Korenchan, and Eileen Thomas!
We are grateful to our SJC Men’s Club for handling the cooking! Their support is an asset to providing such a great night.
Proceeds benefit our conferences & work tour trips. ...allowing our teens to learn & grow in their faith!
This week our sixth grade students visited Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. Feed My Starving Children is a not-for-profit committed to feeding God’s children in body and spirit. Our students hand packed meals for many malnourished children. These meals will be part of a shipment that will be distributed to nearly 70 countries around the world. This was a wonderful experience for our students, and the teachers thought it would be a perfect opportunity, during Lent to remember those who are less fortunate.

Are you a YC family who is interested in learning more about St. John Of The Cross Parish School? We welcome you to visit our school and meet our administration, teachers, and parents on **Sunday, March 10 from 10:15-11:30 a.m. or Monday, March 11 from 6:15-7:30 p.m.** in the school’s Learning Resource Center. Please contact Jennifer Miller, Director of Advancement at 708-246-4454 to RSVP and for more information.

**This week at SJC**
March 4-8 Terra Nova Testing All Day
Living the Gospel

The owner of the fig tree only cares about whether the tree bears fruit—he has no regard for the tree and its life. The gardener, on the other hand, cares about the fig tree, sees the life still there, and wants to give it every chance (“I shall cultivate . . . and fertilize it”) to produce. He understands that as long as there’s life, there’s potential to bear fruit. He understands that it’s not only the fruit that is worthwhile, but the very life of the tree itself. As long as there’s life, something more can come.

The challenge of Lent is urgent: “repent or perish; bear fruit or be cut down.” But what does this urgency mean for most of us who are scarcely huge sinners? Although murder and adultery and apostasy (giving up the faith) and other public, scandalous, heinous sins are as much a part of our church now as they were when the early church practiced public penitence, the vast majority of us are just common sinful folk. Sometimes it’s not so obvious to us of what we must repent. We are sort of stuck—like the fig tree; it was still alive, just wasn’t doing much. The challenge of Lent is to allow Jesus to “cultivate” and “fertilize” us so that we know of what we are to repent and can begin bearing even more fruit. Heeding the message of the gospels is one way we prune ourselves of sins. The gospels are the measure against which we can examine our daily living. Another way is to pay attention to the people around us. They can reflect back to us behaviors we need to change as well as draw us out of ourselves to act in charity and graciousness. Christian living—and repenting—isn’t something undertaken in isolation. It always involves other people.

Closing Prayers:

May we choose the new life repentance promises and come to bear an abundance of fruit. May we remain faithful to God’s ways, value life, and cultivate justice and peace. Our Father ... 

For Reflection:

· Like the owner of the fig tree, I show little regard for how my actions waste away life when . . .

Jesus’ call to repent and choose new life means to me . . .

©Living Liturgy 2012

Meditation by Richard Rohr

God is Not Santa Claus

If we want to go to the mature, mystical, and non-dual levels of spirituality, we must first deal with the often faulty, inadequate, and even toxic images of God that most people are dealing with before they have authentic God experience. Both God as Trinity and Jesus as the “image of the invisible God” reveal a God quite different—and much better—than the Santa Claus god who is “making a list, checking it twice, going to find out who’s naughty or nice” or “I will torture you if you do not love me” god (worse than your worst enemy, I would think). We must be honest and admit that this is the god that most people are still praying to. Such images are an unworkable basis for any real spirituality.

Trinity reveals that God is the Divine Flow under, around, and through all things—much more a verb than a noun; relationship itself rather than an old man sitting on a throne. Jesus tells us that God is like a loving parent, who runs toward us while we are “still a long ways off” (Luke 15:20), then clasps, and kisses us. Until this is personally experienced, most of Christianity does not work. This theme moves us quickly into practice-based religion (orthopraxy) over mere words and ideas (orthodoxy).

Readings for the Week

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<th>Monday</th>
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KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

Hope

We are at our best at Sunday Mass, when we are focused and paying attention to what is going on right now. That isn’t, however, the whole story. Focusing and paying attention in the moment is good and necessary at Mass, but it’s also necessary to keep an eye on what’s ahead — our future. In and through the Mass, we hope; we look ahead to our future; we keep an eye on our future.

The prayers of the Mass express how we hope and how we look ahead: “We await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” And just before Holy Communion, the priest says, “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” The supper of the Lamb is our destiny in heaven. While we wait and as we move forward on the journey, we celebrate the Eucharist looking ahead. Saint Paul says, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Exploring the Priesthood?
March 3, 2013 – Third Sunday of Lent

God called Moses from a burning bush and Moses replied, “Here I am.” Do you have the courage to say “Here I am?” That is the first and most important step. If you have ever thought about priesthood, consider attending the next Exploring Priesthood Weekend retreat held on April 12-14, 2013 at Mundelein Seminary to learn about the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago.

For information contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or at bwelter@archchicago.org or go to www.ChicagoPriest.com.

Special Thanks to Tina Jenkins Crawley and the 5 Alive teens for an amazing evening of inspirational music on February 24. Keep up with Tina at www.tjcmusic.com or follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tjcrwleymusic. Tina’s CD’s are available in the Parish Center for $10.

Fr. Sasso to Say Last Mass at SJC
Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 14, 5:00pm Mass, as St. Thaddeus will join us here to celebrate Father Sasso’s last Mass with us.

Central and Eastern Europe Collection
Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This Collection supports Catholic organizations that provide food, shelter, medical care, catechesis, and companionship for the lonely in a region still struggling in the aftermath of atheistic Soviet rule. Your donations help to restore the strength of the Church in the region. Please give generously to the Collection next week. This is not a second collection.

Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to learn more.

The Lord is kind and merciful.
Overcoming Anxiety

Anxiety, like all tensions, eats at us at various levels. More superficially, we worry about many things. Deep down though we are anxious in a way that colors most everything we do. So much of what motivates and drives us is an unconscious attempt to free ourselves from anxiety. We are forever nursing the hope that we can free ourselves from anxiety through achievement, success, financial security, fame, leaving a mark, and through power and sex. We nurse the secret belief that if we have the right combination of these our lives we will have the substance we need to feel secure and non-anxious.

But experience soon teaches us that these things, though good in themselves, are not our cure. Indeed they can, and often do, make us more anxious: As soon as we have financial security, we become anxious about protecting it; and as soon as we have power, we are constantly looking over our shoulders in fear about losing it. As well, success can quickly become a cancer because we have a congenital propensity to identify our self-worth with our achievements and this pressures us always to be doing something of importance for fear of no longer feeling worthwhile. And sex, unless it is experienced inside a truly committed and unconditional relationship, becomes a drug, with the same addictive quality and ineffectiveness as any other drug. Sex, like achievement and fame, will not quell the deep demons inside us.

We are forever trying to give ourselves wholeness, but we cannot. We cannot self-justify. We cannot make ourselves immortal. We cannot write our own names into heaven. Only love can write our names into heaven. What's the algebra here?

Some years ago, I went on a weeklong retreat directed by Fr. Robert Michel, a French-Canadian, Oblate missionary. He began the retreat with these words: "I want to make this a very simple retreat for you. I want to teach you how to pray in a particular way. I want to teach you how to pray so that in your prayer, sometime, perhaps not this week, perhaps not even this year, but sometime, you will open yourself so that in your deepest self you will hear God say to you: 'I love you!' Because before you hear this inside you, nothing will be enough for you. You will be searching for this and for that, running here and running there, trying every kind of thing, but nothing will ever be quite right. After you hear this from God, you will have substance; you will have found the thing you've been looking for so long. Only after you have heard these words will you finally be free of your anxiety.

In a culture too-easily given to false-sophistication, it can be tempting to dismiss his words as naïve, or over-pious, or sentimental; but what these words are inviting us to is, in essence, what Jesus invites us to in John's Gospel.

As we know, in the Gospel of John, Jesus exhibits very little humanity. John's Gospel depicts him as divine from the first page to the last. And, in that Gospel, the first words out of Jesus' mouth are an invitation: "What are you looking for?" The entire Gospel of John then tries to answer that question: What are we looking for? Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we are looking for many things: Living-water which quenches our deepest thirst and never needs to be drunk again, a truth that sets us free, a rebirth to something above, a light that shines eternally. But these images can seem abstract. What's the real kernel inside them?

The Gospel of John eventually answers that a very clear way. Near the end of the Gospel (indeed this was probably the original end of John's Gospel) we have that poignant, post-resurrection meeting between Jesus and Mary of Magdala. It takes place in a Garden, the archetypal place where love happens: Mary, carrying spices to embalm his dead body, goes searching for Jesus on Easter Sunday morning. She meets him, but doesn't recognize him. Supposing him to be the gardener, she asks him where she might find the body of the dead Jesus. Jesus replies by repeating the question with which he opened the Gospel: "What are you looking for?" Then, before she can answer, he gives the deepest answer to that question: He pronounces her name in love: "Mary". In that very-particularized affirmation of love (for which Robert Michel invites us to pray) he writes her name into heaven. He gives her substance, and he cures her of her anxiety.

Since love needs to be mutual, that affirmation has to be responded to in kind. And ... in that lies the risk: As Simone Weil puts it: "Inner communion is good for the good and bad for the bad. God invites all the damned into paradise, but for them it is hell." God willing, for us it is heaven!

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.
SJC Men’s Club
Men’s Night Out Friday, March 22
6 p.m. until ??
Parish Center Basement

Pool
Cards
Foosball
NCAA Basketball
Food and beverages

Come join your fellow parishioners for a night of fun and games.

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. whitting910@yahoo.com This is a wonderful way for moms to connect with other moms in our parish.

St. Gall All School Reunion
Saturday, March 9, 2013 The lost shall be found—we hope! Please call 773-737-3454 so you can receive an invitation and alumni updates.
Black History Month Closes
St. John of the Cross parishioners joined members of our sharing parish, St. Thaddeus, on Sunday, February 24, in a lively, music-filled liturgy to close Black History Month. Each of us was welcomed by one or more St. Thaddeus parishioners, be it in the parking lot, in the pews, in the narthex or in fellowship hall. Members of St. John of the Cross brought up offertory gifts. The liturgy included a tribute to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids, the first labor organization led by blacks to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor (AFL). Prior to this organization, porters worked long hours for little pay, no job security, and spent half their wages on food, lodging and uniforms.

Prom Night for Teens with Disabilities
Nazareth Academy invites local teens with disabilities to a special Prom Night from 7-9 p.m. on Saturday, March 9th at the school.

Each guest will be accompanied by a Nazareth student, who will be their “buddy” for an evening of dancing, snacks and games, and prom pictures.

The event is sponsored by the Nazareth Friends in Service and Hospitality (FISH) and the Nazareth Student Council.

Admission is free but reservations are required. For more information, see fishdance@nazarethacademy.com.

Bake Some Cookies for Off the Street Club
Off the Street Club, the oldest boys and girls club in Chicago, is a home away from home for more than 3,000 children from the city's West Side. The Club offers kids ages 4 to 18 a safe haven from the gangs, drugs and violence that pervade the neighborhood.

More than 16 years ago, Western Springs and Off the Street Club formed a relationship that brings together Western Springs families and OTSC kids through a number of activities, including the annual Circle of Friendship Party. About 200 children are expected to attend this year’s party on March 9 at the Lyons Township High School Corral.

As part of the festivities, we hope to provide cookies. Please drop off your baked cookies or bars at the Parish Center March 6 through March 8 on the designated table. It is helpful to the party's organizers if cookies are grouped in a dozen per paper plate. Thank you for your help.

Questions? Contact Debbie Pusinelli (708) 246-6760 ext. 251, pusinelli@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us

Interfaith Career Network
Your job search is made up of many parts, not the least of which should be Networking. Please join us for a supportive evening of networking on Thursday, March 7, 7-9 p.m. Meet with other job seekers in our community. Expand your network with 1-2 roundtable sessions. Share leads, ideas and information. Bring copies of your resume or a handbill. If you don’t have one, come anyway. We can provide you with how-to do tips and suggestions. We look forward to welcoming you at the First Baptist Church, 20 North Ashland Avenue. Use the Bell Avenue entrance. This program is open to all and there is no charge to attend.

HCS Family Services is looking for volunteers to work at the food pantry located at 19 East Chicago Ave, Hinsdale. The volunteer positions available are a few days a week beginning at 8:30 a.m. Food is delivered at that time and the volunteers would be responsible for receiving and storage. Please contact Julie Suarez at 630-323-250 ext. 106
Our Weekly Calendar and Intentions

Monday, March 4
9:30 a.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
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, March 5
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:00 p.m. Rediscover Catholicism Session 5
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. Rediscover Catholicism Session 5
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. YC Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 6
9:00 a.m. Women’s Club Flourish Lenten Faith Sharing
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, March 7
9:30 a.m. Sacred Space Faith Sharing Group
12:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
6:00 p.m. YC Fostering Faith
6:30 p.m. Lenten Family Rosary
7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting
7:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group (school chapel)

Friday, March 8
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club
6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Rediscover Catholicism Session 5

Saturday, March 9
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:30 a.m. Morning of Meditation

Sunday, March 10
3:00 p.m. Easter Basket Project
4:00 p.m. BEDS Cook
6:30 p.m. YC 7th Grade Speaker

Mass Intentions
Monday, March 4, St. Casimir
6:30 James Davlin
7:45 O’Malley & Madigan Families; Marcia McCormick

Tuesday, March 5
6:30 Ron Haley
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Lorraine Herald

Wednesday, March 6
6:30 Bill King
7:45 Jack McDonnell; John F. Hirsch, Jr.

Thursday, March 7, Ss. Perpetua & Felicity
7:45 Maura Clark; Ramon Sanchez

Friday, March 8, St. John of God
7:45 Bob Moore; Sarah Wildman

Saturday, March 9, St. Francis of Rome
8:00 Gene Figliulo; Archie Reimann
5:00 Dr. Norbert Mann; Tracey Gannon

Sunday, March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent
7:30 Amedeo & Adina Misantoni; Dennis Havatin
9:00 Eugene Garvy; Bob Petkus
10:45 SJC & St. Thaddeus Parishioners
12:15 Jean Finn; Jack McDonald
5:00 Michael Mahoney; Steve Sagat

Italics—Living

Pray for Our Sick
Dave Alm
Ashley Davis
Mikel Dodd
Regina Feeley
Anthony Garvy
Karen Hult
Ruth Ilg
Gloria S. Meyers
John Misantoni

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
James Burns, father of Kathy Burns
Woody Gaun, father of Bruce
Katherine Mastandrea
Rose Kavanaugh, aunt of Mary Symington

Wedding Banns
Joshua Press & Melissa Richards

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

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Elizabeth Russell-Jones    Welcome       erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
All are invited to come to our

Lenten Parish Mission
March 9 – 13
At All Weekend Masses &
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Evenings at 7 p.m. 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!”