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Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 13th. Those who come to begin Lent by coming to Mass and receiving ashes will be reminded to ‘Repent and believe in the Gospel.’ The schedule for Ash Wednesday can be found on page 8 of today’s bulletin.

A child is born, a gift of new life through God’s grace. Bundled in a receiving blanket and cradled by the love of a mother and a father the child feels warmth and safety. Recognizing their voices and faces, the baby quickly comes to know his mother and father, and overtime the infant’s behavior mirrors that of his parents. A gentle touch, a caring closeness, a kind voice, nurtured with warmth and food...a parent’s love is indelibly imprinted on the child and shapes his identity.

Richard Rohr writes, “God always entices us through love. Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change, is the experience of love and acceptance itself. This is the engine of change….When you fall into God’s mercy, when you fall into God’s great generosity, you find, seemingly from nowhere, this capacity to change. No one is more surprised than you are. You know it is a total gift.”

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.

Lent is also a time of final preparation for our RCIA Elect 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.

Walk with us this Lent. On the pages that follow we have highlighted many opportunities that invite us to reflect on God’s great love and forgiveness, and how we can become more whole and healed and authentic.

Rev. David P. Dowdle  Janet Caschetta  Katie Hayes  
Rev. Filbert F. Ngwila  Jim Clauer  Jessica Koch  
Bill Bright  Kathleen Gorman  MJ Martin
Lenten Parish Mission: March 11, 12, and 13 at 7 p.m. in Church

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

March 9 – 13, 2013 (Weekend Masses & M, T, W at 7pm)

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.

“All of us, with our unveiled faces, reflect like mirrors the brightness of the Lord, as we are gradually turned into the image that we reflect.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

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!”
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 Women’s Club 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.

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 this weekend and Ash Wednesday for a free will offering of $1.

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
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.

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 West Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park.
This Lent, we are invited not so much to think of what we will “give up,” but more, to think about how we will enhance, renew and develop our relationship with Jesus. As a parish community, we will participate in CRS Rice Bowl as a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially the most vulnerable around the world. Expressing love for those in need expands our hearts in hope.

Along with 13,000 faith communities across the U.S., our parish will participate in Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten Rice Bowl. This program invites us 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.

At Masses on Ash Wednesday and on the first weekend of Lent, February 16-17th, each parish family will receive a cardboard Rice Bowl to fill with spare change and a Lenten Calendar with prayers, recipes and reflections.

Then each week in Lent we will learn about hunger and poverty in a different country. In addition, children in our parish school and YC program will receive Rice Bowls in their classrooms and will participate in special activities to help them deepen their awareness of needs throughout the world.

Your Rice Bowl can be brought to Mass on Palm Sunday, March 24, or dropped off at the Parish Center after Palm Sunday.

Watch the bulletin and website each week as we learn, pray, fast and give to those who are poor and hungry.

Abundant God, Help us this Lent to let go of those things that weigh us down. May our prayers and sacrifices bring us closer to your Son, Jesus, and help bring life to our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty. May we proclaim the dignity of life, and celebrate the witness of your love each day. Amen.

WHAT IS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES?
Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. We are motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist the poor and suffering in nearly 100 countries on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion or nationality. Ninety-four percent of our expenditures go directly to programs that benefit the poor overseas. Our programs touch more than 100 million lives.

Through CRS Rice Bowl we will pray together; give things up, or fast, in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of hunger and poverty around the world; and give sacrificial donations to those in need.

WHAT YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT
Fasting
Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics 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. The special Paschal fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

Practice Fasting by…
- Joining the Church in it 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
The season of Lent is special to the extent that we make it so; to the extent that it celebrates our life in Christ; to the extent that it announces our uniqueness as people who belong to God; to the extent that we invest it with meaning. Lent is special to the extent that it invites us to grow in grace and holiness.

Our journey begins with prayer, fasting and generosity to others that lead us to discipleship with Jesus. God sees what we do and blesses it, creating virtue, habits of goodness that become more automatic the more we exercise them.

Our SJC Lenten Experience at a Glance…

Ash Wednesday, February 13: 6:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. school, and 6:30 p.m. Masses. 4:00 p.m. Word & Ash Service

Little Black Books: distributed this weekend and Ash Wednesday after all Masses
Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls: distributed on Ash Wednesday and Feb. 16-17 weekend at all Masses. Weekly interactive website and bulletin information help us to give alms and pray for the poor around the world.

Lenten Small Faith Sharing Groups: Begin on Ash Wednesday
Stations of the Cross: Each Friday at 6pm in church
Crossroads-Men’s Club Annual Fish Fry: Friday, March 1
Lenten Retreat at the Well: Saturday, March 2
RCIA 1st Scrutiny: 9am Mass on Sunday, March 3
Morning of Meditation: Saturday, March 9 beginning at 8:30am
RCIA 2nd Scrutiny: 12:15 Mass on Sunday, March 10
Crossroads Easter Basket Service Project: Sunday, March 10
Parish Mission: March 9-10 weekend at all Masses and March 11, 12 and 13 at 7pm in church
Evening of Meditation: Friday, March 15 beginning at 7pm
RCIA 3rd Scrutiny: 10:45 Mass Sunday, March 17
Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, March 19 7:00 p.m.
Taize Prayer After Stations on Friday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Return Your Rice Bowl to Mass Palm Sunday, March 24 at any Mass
Kolbe Lenten Retreat: ongoing via email
Holy Thursday: March 28
Good Friday: March 29
Holy Saturday: March 30
Easter Sunday: March 31
If you have ever heard motivational and Dynamic Catholic speaker Matthew Kelly, you know his energy. If you haven't, you can look up his speaking engagement schedule and put it on your list of "todos." Whether you are an engaged, disengaged, lukewarm engaged or "I don't know how engaged I am or want to be" Catholic OR non-Catholic (yes, many non-Catholics love to listen to him), he is sure to make you think and reflect on many things.

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire." St. Catherine of Siena

Matthew Kelly spoke at St. John of the Cross on Saturday morning to 800 people…and counting…from their teens to those in their 80's. He certainly doesn't make being a Catholic look dull and boring. His energy is contagious and his suggestions to become more engaged with your spirituality exemplify that getting to know the Shepherd can be exciting and fulfilling. But WE need to do our part, each and every single one of us. We need to take ownership to help sustain our Church.

"If you do nothing else with your life, get to know the Shepherd. Live your life from the spot deep within you. The world has enough people living shallow lives." So apparently the current life expectancy in the US right now is 77 years. Matthew portrayed a story about when a 77 year old passes away and makes it to Heaven and is confronted by God. God will ask the person how their life here on earth was and he/she will respond something to the effect of, "Well God, I think I had a good life. I did this and this and this, went here, and saw that and so on…" God will then ask him/her, "That's all good and sounds nice, but did you get to know Me? You had 77 years to do that. Did you get to know Me?"

THE JESUS QUESTION
Do we know Him? Do we take the time to get to know Him? So many of us live busy lives "full of noise", as Matthew Kelly says, driving here, taking our kids there, working long hours, running in circles, thinking we don't have enough hours in the day, etc. It is important to be involved with certain activities and functions, but how important are the ones we are involved in? How important are the multiple activities our kids are in that take up so much of our time? Just as the coaches and kids in these activities are strategizing and experiencing occasional "game changers," Matthew Kelly's "game changer" suggestions for our spiritual life, despite how engaged we are, will benefit us so if we make it to Heaven, we will have a good answer for God and how we got to know Him.

Lent is coming and right now we have time to think about what we will do better, do more of, do for the first time, or give up. Matthew states, "Jesus wants to turn your life upside down so it will then be right side up and transform our lives." Here are his three "game changers." Pick one. One just might lead to another…..Continued next week…….

Marie Gerken, Parishioner
During CSW week we also celebrated our excellent teachers. Pictured here is Mrs. Jackie and some of our first graders in the LRC.

Our second graders in Mrs. Connelly’s room were awarded medals for writing and reciting the Best Chant about SJC.

7th graders show their spirit on Spirit Day.

5th grade vs. 6th grade in a “Tug of War”

Greeters at Mass
Helping the Hungry

Every week when you come to church each person is encouraged to bring along a can of nonperishable food to the narthex to help feed the hungry. Just think...if we each just brought one can, jar or box of soup, mac and cheese, vegetables, rice, beans, cereal, fruit, meat, tuna or peanut butter we could collect over 3,000 food items or 125 cases each week. Just think of how many people will have a meal because of your caring and generosity. Together we can make a difference.

Interfaith Career Network
Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 7-9 pm: with 80% of the jobs found in the “hidden job market,” networking is the heart of any job search. Jim Peterson will coach you on the fundamentals of this critical search strategy.

Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 7-9pm: Judy Kennedy will lead this week’s session on interviewing. This workshop is open to all and there is no charge to attend. First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue.

For further information, please visit our website: www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Sharing Connections Furniture Bank
Sharing Connections’ Mission: To respectfully provide furniture and hope to neighbors in need.

Sharing Connections’ Vision: Tonight, everyone eats at a table and sleeps in a bed.

Who Receives Help: Partnering with social service agencies in the area, SCFB provides furniture and household items to 300 low income families each month.

How You Can Help: Donate gently used beds, tables and chairs, sofas, loveseats, and new fixed-side cribs. Call 630-971-0565

Black History Month Celebration
St. Thaddeus in Chicago
February 24 9am Mass and Reception
Call the parish center if you would like to attend.

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

This past week Catechists gathered to discuss the implementation of keeping our children safe into the curriculum. Our goal is to have all God’s children know how to listen to their intuition and find a trusted adult. Discussions included on-line safety and personal boundaries. The resources being used can be viewed at www.praesidiuminc.com and www.netsmartz.org. They have great resources for parents as well. Thank you to all the volunteers that were able to join us.

Thank you to the YC Council for providing our volunteers with hospitality for passing on our faith!

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

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

Simon Peter begins a more sure relationship with Jesus by allowing him to take command of his boat. He moves to allowing Jesus to take command of his heart, openly confessing the truth about himself (“I am a sinful man”). Finally, he allows Jesus to take command of his whole life (“left everything and followed him”). Like Peter, we are to allow Jesus to take command of us—our possessions, our hearts, our lives. We are to see that what is at stake in Jesus’ commands to us is life-threatening and life-giving. Life-threatening because choosing to follow Jesus costs us our all—we “leave everything.” At the same time, we receive all—more than even an abundant “catch of fish,” we receive Life. Yet God truly does give us a choice about answering the call. Jesus merely announces, “from now on you will be catching men.” Peter was free to respond or not.

If we pay attention to details in this gospel beyond the immediate call and response events, we might be caught by surprise. Too often we feel the burden of discipleship is solely on our own shoulders. The gospel depicts Jesus initiating the call—he comes to Peter at his boat; he invites Peter to follow. Our discipleship rests upon Jesus long before we begin to follow. The surprise of the gospel is that we are never alone when we hear and follow God’s call; divine Presence always abides within us, enables us to hear the commands and call of God, and to answer the call and remain faithful to it. God meets people where they are. Sinfulness isn’t a stumbling block to following God’s call. In spite of our objections, God gently and persistently says to each of us, “You’re still the one I want.” God’s is a gentle command. Our response must be strong.

Closing Prayers

May we allow Jesus to take command of our possessions, our hearts, our lives. May we encounter Jesus and heed his call in our everyday lives. Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

· I hear God calling me to . . . Some of my excuses for not accepting God’s call are . . .
· I allow Jesus to take command of my possessions when I . . . of my heart when I . . . of my life when …

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Readings for the Week

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<th>Saturday</th>
<th>1st Sunday of Lent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen 1:1-19</td>
<td>Gen 1:20-2:4a</td>
<td>Joel 1:12-18</td>
<td>Deut 30:15-20</td>
<td>Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13</td>
<td>Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6</td>
<td>Deut 26:4-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c</td>
<td>Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9</td>
<td>Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17</td>
<td>Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6</td>
<td>Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6</td>
<td>Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15</td>
<td>Deut 26:4-10</td>
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CALENDAR EVENTS:
Feb. 10 Home Group Meetings
Feb. 23 Work Tour 1st Formation mtg 10am
Feb. 24 Home Group Meetings
March 1 FISH FRY
March 3 Home Group Meetings
Juniors & Seniors at PC 6pm

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
As you can see most of our events have found their leaders!
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.

CONFERENCE & WORK TOUR
PACKET IS AVAILABLE
pick-up in the Parish Center office
or download from our website
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service
Registration deadline was this weekend so turn in your information ASAP!
Fundraising & formation begin soon so get on board early to have all the resources necessary for a transforming experience!

As we enter Lent, please think, what is the best gift I can give? YOURSELF! Your time, energy and spirit to assist teens in learning about, growing in, and building their faith!
Adults are always welcome to join our ministry—call Katie for details 708-246-4404.
Give the gift of YOU to our youth ministry & you will gain so much more!

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.
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!

Calling All Young Adults – 20s & 30s, Married & Single – to join us!

Encountering Christ Lenten Faith Sessions
Young Adults throughout 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 our goals, dreams, hungers, concerns and spiritual needs, as well as our relationship to the larger Church.

Each session has a period of faith sharing based on Scripture, and on April 6 there will be a gathering with Cardinal George and your peers from throughout the Archdiocese. Next meeting dates are Feb. 21, March 2, 7, 14, 21 and April 6. More info is on our website. 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 sessions take place at St. Francis Xavier Parish right in LaGrange.

For further information and to register please contact Michelle at mggehrke@yamchicago.org or 312-466-9473.

Guest Singer at Sunday 5 p.m. 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.

Come after me and I will make you fishers of men. Alleluia, Alleluia.

www.stjohnofthecross.org  February 10, 2013  Page 14
Prayer as Sanity and Balance

Our generative years are a marathon, not a sprint, and so it's difficult to sustain graciousness, generosity, and patience through the tiredness, trials, and temptations that beset us through the years of our adult lives. All on our own, relying on willpower alone, we too often fatigue, get worn down, and compromise both our maturity and our discipleship. We need help from beyond, from somewhere even beyond the human supports that help bolster us. We need God's help, strength from something beyond what's human. We need prayer.

But too often we think of this in pious rather than realistic terms. Rarely do we grasp how much prayer is really a question of life and death for us. We need to pray not because God needs us to pray but because if we don't pray we will never find any steadiness in our lives. Simply put, without prayer we will always be either too full of ourselves or too empty of energy, inflated or depressed. Why? What's the anatomy of this?

Prayer, as it is understood in all its best traditions, Christian and other, is meant to do two things for us, both at the same time: Prayer is meant to connect us to divine energy, even as it makes us aware that this energy is not our own, that it comes from elsewhere, and that we may never identify with it. Genuine prayer, in effect, fills us with divine energy and tells us at the same time that this energy isn't ours; that it works through us, but that it's not us. To be healthy, we need both: If we lose connection to divine energy we drain of energy, depress, and feel empty. Conversely if we let divine energy flow into us but identify with it, somehow thinking that it is our own, we become grandiose, inflate with self-importance and arrogance, and become selfish and destructive.

Robert Moore offers a very helpful image to illustrate this, that of a small fighter-plane having to fuel-up inflight. We have all seen video footage of a small fighter-jet fueling-up while still in the air. Hovering above it is a mother-plane with a huge reserve of fuel. The little plane has to fly close enough to the mother-plane so that a nozzle from the mother-plane can connect with it so as to refill its fuel tank. If it doesn't make this type of contact it runs out of fuel and soon crashes. Conversely, if it flies into the mother-plane, identifies with it, it goes up in flames.

Few images capture as astutely the importance of prayer in our lives. Without prayer, we will forever find ourselves vacillating between being too empty of energy or too full of ourselves. If we do not connect with divine energy we will run out of gas. If we do connect with divine energy but identify with it, we will destroy ourselves.

Deep prayer is what energizes us and grounds us, both at the same time. We see this, for example, in a person like Mother Teresa, who was bursting with creative energy but was always very clear that this energy did not come from her, but from God, and she was merely a humble human instrument. Lack of real prayer makes for two kinds of antithesis to Mother Teresa: On the one hand, it makes for a wonderfully talented and energetic man or woman who is full of creative energy, but is also full of grandiosity and ego; or, on the other hand, it makes for a man or woman who feels empty and flat and cannot radiate any positive energy. Without prayer we will forever be bouncing back and forth between grandiosity and depression.

Thus, unless I have real prayer in your life, if I'm sensitive, I will more than likely live inside a certain habitual depression, afraid that really accessing my energies and acting on them would lead others to think I'm full of myself. Since my sensitivity won't allow that, I entomb many of my best energies on the unconscious premise that it's better to be depressed than be accused of being an egotist. But Jesus, himself, in his parable of the talents, warns us strongly about the price that's to be paid for burying one's talents, namely, emptiness, anger, and lack of delight in our lives. Often times, if we check beneath our angers and jealousies, we will find there a buried talent that's bitter because it has been suppressed. Virtue at the cost of suppressing our energies leads to bitterness.

Conversely, if I don't care if people think me an egotist and I don't have real prayer in my life, I will let the divine energies flow freely through me, but I will identify with them as if they were my own, my talents, my gifts, and I will end up full of ego and grandiosity, with those around me wishing I was depressed!

Without prayer we will always be either too empty of energy or too full of ourselves.

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.
Rediscover Catholicism Book Study
Session 4 which covers pages 223-278 will be held on
Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.
OR Friday, Feb. 22 at 7:00 p.m.

There are 3 different days-times to choose from for each session. Sessions are held every other week. All Sessions are held in the Parish Center. Come to Session 4 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.

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.

2013 New Thinking for a New Era:

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

James Kenny Memorial Plaque
Today, February 10, St. John of the Cross Parish is honoring James Kenny with a memorial plaque for his dedication, service and love to our parish children. The plaque will be placed outside the 2nd floor gym.
Our Weekly Calendar & Intentions

Monday, February 11, 2013
10:30 AM Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 PM Little Rock
2:30 PM Adoration
2:30 PM Spiritual Journaling
3:30 PM Girl Scouts Brownie Lower Level East

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
9:30 AM Focus on Sunday Scriptures
1:30 PM Sr. Josephine's Bible Study
3:00 PM Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
3:30 PM Girl Scouts
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Teacher Recognition Trust
7:30 PM Boy Scouts

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 Ash Wednesday
6:30 AM Mass and 7:45 AM Mass
9:00 AM Flourish Sacred Space Lenten Faith Sharing Group
9:15 AM School Mass
9:30 AM Bible Study
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:00 PM Endow Group
2:00 PM Christian Meditation
2:00 PM Sacred Space Lenten Faith Sharing Group
3:30 PM Children's Choir
4:00 PM Word & Ash Service
6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Mass
7:30 PM Christian Meditation
7:45 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, February 14, 2013
9:30 AM Sacred Space Lenten Faith Sharing Group
12:00 PM Bridges Lenten Faith Sharing Group
3:15 PM Children's Choir Practice
6:00 PM YC Fostering Faith
6:30 PM Family Rosary church
7:00 PM Bridges Lenten Faith Sharing Group (school chapel)
7:30 PM Choir Practice

Friday, February 15, 2013 No School
9:00 AM Mom's Club
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 16, 2013
7:00 AM Christian Meditation

Sunday, February 17, 2013 First Sunday of Lent
8:00 AM RCIA

Monday, February 18, 2013 President's Day
Parish Center Regular Hours: 9am-8pm

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 11, Our Lady of Lourdes
6:30 Our Beloved Dead; Ellen McGowan
7:45 Raymond Matusik; Ramon Sanchez

Tuesday, February 12
6:30 Donald Rigali; James Gallagher
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Gloria Oechsel

Wednesday, February 13, Ash Wednesday
6:30am John F. Hirsch, Jr.; Jim Gallagher
7:45 am Judy Grezlak; Kathleen O’Flaherty
6:30pm Deceased members of Cebula Family
Deceased members of Maleszka Family

Thursday, February 14, Ss. Cyril & Methodius
7:45 Florence Devine; Irene Rooney

Friday, February 15
7:45 Maria Cosenza; Rose Adducci

Saturday, February 16
8:00 Lawrence Hickey; Ramon Sanchez
5:00 SJC & Holy Cross Parishioners

Sunday, February 17, First Sunday of Lent
7:30 Patricia Brennan; Marian Bernasor
9:00 Judy Grezlak; Mary Kirkwood
10:45 Mary & Cerillo Trinco; Ann & Ross Grecco
12:15 Anthony Madaio; Bill King
5:00 Bill Sturgeon; Donna Procaccio

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick
Dale Alm Gloria Spranza Meyers
Marie Coyne James Ryan
Ruth Ilg Barbara Ryan

Pray for our Beloved Dead
Fr. John Collins

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

Fr. David P. Dowdle Pastor ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila Associate Pastor fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp Deacon john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright Outreach bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta Director of Youth Catechesis jcascetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer Worship jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman School Principal gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes Crossroads High School khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch Music jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin Operations mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
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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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