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Dear Parishioners,

An update, an explanation and a clarification.

**The UPDATE**: Fr. Joe McDonnell left La Grange Hospital and was at Lexington Nursing Home for a little over a week for physical therapy. Following his doctor’s recommendation he has been discharged from Lexington and is continuing therapy and regaining strength. He is grateful for all of your concern and prayers. Fr. Joe will not be on the Mass schedule until he has completely recovered to his doctor’s and his own satisfaction, which we hope won’t be too terribly long. Please continue to keep him in your prayers. If you would like to drop him a note or a card, please send it to him at the Parish Center.

**The EXPLANATION**: Now that the frontice piece has been removed from around the altar, more of you are noticing the box that is under it. Last All Soul’s Day we took all of the envelopes that you filled out with people’s names to be remembered during the year. Every week one of the daily Mass intentions is for ‘Our Beloved Dead’, which includes everyone whose name is written and placed in the box. We will leave them there for the remainder of the year, and then when next All Soul’s Day comes, they will be replaced by the new names enrolled on the envelopes for the following year. When we pray that all the angels and saints are praying with us, those enrolled with the All Soul’s envelopes are part of that great company of heaven. So now you know what that box is.

**The CLARIFICATION**: At the Holy Thursday liturgy, I asked the catechumens and candidates, “What was the food at the meal we just heard proclaimed from the Gospel?” There were various guesses until I said there was no food at the meal. There was no mention of bread and wine, take this and eat, drink, It was all replaced by the foot washing by Jesus. That seems to have confused a number of people and I know that because they have brought it up to me. A clarification that would have been helpful would have been if I more clearly specified that I was asking only about the Gospel of John. (Which is the Gospel that is read on Holy Thursday.) Of course Matthew, Mark and Luke have bread and wine at the accounts of the Last Supper in their Gospels. Which is what makes John’s Gospel even more powerful. The whole idea of sharing in the intimate meal of Jesus where he gives his body as bread and his blood as wine becomes overwhelmed by the washing of the feet of his disciples. The sacred meal is not a time of relaxing or passivity, but rather a moment of radical service for the whole world. Without service, John says, there can be no sacred meal. I apologize that I was not clear in the homily on Holy Thursday. But I am also glad that people listened closely enough that they wrestled with what they heard, and they struggled to have it make sense for them. Any homily that can do that is a success, even if, or especially if, the homilist fails to communicate clearly.

Please continue to keep those preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in your prayers. They are busy with their final preparations, memorizing their prayers and the songs they will sing. The dresses are being bought, the shoes shined, the suits cleaned. What they learn now about the Eucharist is just the beginning of a life of learning about the Eucharist. They are being formed and transformed by what they are learning from your life at home and our life as a community. May we be the best of teachers, more by what we do than by what we say.

Peace,
Fr. David
Seasons of Hope Bereavement Prayer Group
6 Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
April 11 through May 16th
Parish Center
Facilitators: Andrea Gagliani and Kathleen Broderick

Our Lord assured us that those who mourn are blessed, and they shall be comforted. *Seasons of Hope* offers the bereaved an opportunity to share in God’s love. Sessions will explore mourning through scripture, prayer, reflection and faith sharing. If you’re in need of consolation after losing a loved one, join us. **Come and be comforted. All are welcome.**

For more information pick up a *Seasons of Hope* pamphlet at the exits or the kiosk in church. New members are still welcome to join us this second week of the Program. Call Andrea at 708-246-1520 to register or you have any questions.
Living the Gospel

The gospel hints at two failures: the fishermen coming back with no fish, Peter’s denial of Jesus before his death. Yet these failures became occasions for Jesus’ gift of abundance: a large catch of fish, a fuller love that would “glorify God.” Faithful discipleship is not measured by absence of failure, but by openness to obeying new commands from Jesus, recognition of God’s abundant gifts, and willingness to grow into new life. While Jesus calls Peter (and us) to faithful love and discipleship, Jesus is also patient with us as we learn what it means to be his risen presence in the world, feeding and tending his beloved.

Just as Jesus’ presence is persistent, so is the call. So, then, must our response to follow him be persistent. Like Peter and the early disciples, our love is to be incarnated in continuing Jesus’ mission—preaching, teaching, forgiving, etc. Taking up Jesus’ mission, however, is more than simply doing. We cannot forget that to do Jesus’ mission is to bring his risen presence to others by tangible manifestations. We might not provide an abundance of fish to weary fishermen, but we can provide an abundance of nourishment, love, and care to anyone we meet. This means that we begin to see the risen Jesus in the “everydayness” of our lives. This means that we allow ourselves to be fully nourished by Jesus (on his very Body and Blood; through his word) and gradually be transformed more and more into his risen presence for others. Like Peter, we will fail. But also like Peter, we can learn to love to the end. Easter is every day that we love ourselves and others into new life. And in our daily love, we “glorify God.”

Closing Prayers:

May we receive God’s abundant gifts and respond with faithful discipleship.

May we glorify God by the faithfulness of our love for others.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

· The risen Jesus has manifested his love for me by . . . I manifest my love for him by . . .

· My daily growing in love for Jesus and others “glorifies God” in that . . .

Readings for the Week

Monday
Acts 6:8-15
Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
John 6:22-29

Tuesday
Acts 7:51–8:1a
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab
John 6:30-35

Wednesday
Acts 8:1b-8
Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a
John 6:35-40

Thursday
Acts 8:26-40
Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20
John 6:44-51

Friday
Acts 9:1-20
Ps 117:1bc, 2
John 6:52-59

Saturday
Acts 9:31-42
Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
John 6:60-69

4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 13:14, 43-52
Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5
Rev 7:9, 14b-17
John 10:27-30

At Mass, we receive Holy Communion. We don’t take Holy Communion. We hear, “The Body of Christ,” and the host is placed in our hands or on our tongue. We receive the Bread of Life. This pattern is so important, and it’s not just fussing about words or gestures. The action captures the reality that is so important. The Lord is feeding his people in the Eucharist. We are not taking our own food. We are not feeding ourselves. It is the Lord who in his generous love feeds and sustains us.

Perhaps our independent spirits push us to want to take care of ourselves and to feed ourselves, and maybe even control the whole of our lives. Receiving Holy Communion redirects us to our true dependency on him who feeds us and sustains. And it is the Lord.

New Life in the Holy Spirit!

A seminar with clear practical teaching & sharing…Time for worship in song, prayer, & Healing Mass…..Bringing God’s word and a new joy in your Catholic faith!

Monday evenings—April 15-May 20
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8433 Bailey Rd.
Aylesford Prayer Community, Darien
708-484-4915 to register

Experience the Love of God the Father
His Plan for You in Jesus
The Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit
Jesus Lived in Darkness and Faith, Just As We Do

Luke tells us that Jesus walked the journey of faith just as you and I do, and thus has him “pray.” Jesus needed strength and resorted to prayer—during his temptation in the desert, before choosing the apostles, during his debates with his adversaries, in the garden, and on the cross. We like to imagine that Jesus did not flinch, doubt or ever question God’s love. The much greater message is that in his humanity he did flinch, have doubts, and ask questions—and still remained faithful. He is indeed our “pioneer and perfecter” in the ways of faith who “disregards the shamefulness of it all” (Hebrews 12:2).

You see Jesus’ faith tested in the temptation scenes in Luke 4:1-13. The basic question, put before him three times, is this: “Is God to be trusted?” That is the great question that the human race is asking at the most basic level. We hear Jesus ever more resoundingly answer, “Yes, God is on your side. Yes, God is more for you than you are for yourself.”

Adapted from The Good News According to Luke: Spiritual Reflections, p. 92

Year of Sunday Mass: Question of the Week

As we hear in the Gospel, the Risen Lord Jesus stays close to us through the ministry of Peter and others who feed the sheep of Jesus.

How am I mindful and grateful for the ministry of Word and Sacrament that sustains my life through the ministry of the Church?

Prayer for Generosity

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, Teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost, To fight heedless of wounds, To labor without seeking rest, To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward Save the knowledge that I have done your will. Amen.

St. Ignatius of Loyola
Have your Petitions taken to the Lourdes Shrine

Next month some of our parishioners who are members of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, a Catholic lay religious order, will be making their annual pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine at Lourdes, France where the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Bernadette.

You may participate in this prayerful experience by having your petitions placed at the Shrine by this group. Drop off or send your typed petitions or intentions in a sealed envelope to the Parish Center before April 25th. Mark the outside of the envelope: Lourdes Petitions. Envelopes will not be opened. To receive an acknowledgement of when your petition was presented (usually as part of a Mass celebrated before the Grotto) please include your name, address and zip code on the envelope.

Reflections on my 2012 Lourdes Pilgrimage

Last May, my sister and I attended a week long pilgrimage to Lourdes, France offered by the Order of Malta. The closest comparison I can make to the joy I experienced is that of the childlike wonder of a perpetual Christmas morning. We traced the steps to the Grotto where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858. I, like others with mobility issues, was transported via a rickshaw like cart, which was pulled by an Order of Malta volunteer. I remember watching the legs of my “puller,” a prostate cancer survivor, step in march-like fashion to move me up steep inclines in the hilly town. So maybe when I face some steeper “hills,” I need to lift my legs a little higher and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. I am grateful to have received so much goodness, grace and caring both in France and at home where a team of friends kept things going in my absence. Lastly, I remember my sister’s response to me when I cited all of the things that could prevent us from taking the trip: “If Our Lady wants us to go, we will go.” Her trust in the Blessed Mother and her sharing this pilgrimage with me serve as a constant inspiration to “Let go and let God.”

Peace,
Ann Marie C.

Church Women United
May Friendship Day - May 3

9:30 Bible Study and 10:30 program—The theme is Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality

There is an optional luncheon after the program. The cost is $7 and reservations are requested.

First United Methodist Church
4300 Howard Ave, Western Springs
Contact Carolyn Grela 630-662-0517 for reservations.

WOMEN GOLFERS: IT’S TEE TIME!

The St. John of the Cross women’s nine-hole golf group is now organizing. We will play golf on Monday mornings at the Village Greens of Woodridge, 1575 W. 75th Street, Woodridge, from May 6 through September 30. Tee times start at 7:30 a.m. Senior rates are available. It’s an informal group, and new participants are welcome. For more information, call Mary McDonald, 630-654-4323, or Pat Wees, 630-789-1688.

2nd Annual ChargerFeast 2013
Annual Spring Fundraising Event at St. Joseph High School Saturday, April 20

Pot Luck Extravaganza & Celebrity Pasta Cook-Off for local restaurants, trivia, DJ, split-the-pot, raffle, games of chance, and more! Home of the 2013 Super Raffle Drawing where $23,500 will be given away in cash prizes. Tickets are $15. Must be 21 yrs. old to attend.

All proceeds will be used as financial aid and scholarships for young men and women attending St. Joseph High School.

For more information, visit www.stjoeshs.org or email Stephanie Morton, smorton@stjoeshs.org/708-562-7488, x 148.
St. John of the Cross Parish is home to a beautiful statue of Our Lady in our Garden of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Commissioned by our Parish in 2006, the statue was made of pure white Carrara marble by a sculptor, Nicola Stagetti, in Pietrasanta, a small town located on a mountainside near Carrara, Italy.

The statue depicts a young Mary at the Annunciation when she accepted the will of God to give flesh to the Son in her womb and bear Him into a waiting world without understanding—only faith. Mary has one hand over her heart and the other over her womb physically symbolizing where she had to accept the will of God—in her heart and in her womb.

Inspired by Mary’s courage, many visit our beautiful garden to pray for the strength to accept the will of God in their lives. Those who may have lost a loved one, or a job, or are facing an illness, or other trying situation turn to our Blessed Mother, the one who bore Him and knows him so well, asking for her intercession and tracing her pattern of holiness in their hearts.

For sometime our Parish has considered commissioning a smaller statue of our Blessed Mother so that Parishioners could have one at home for prayer and contemplation. Before we begin the process of meeting with an artist and getting a mold made that closely depicts our beautiful Mary, we’d like to gauge your interest in the idea. We are thinking the statue, which would be made of some Carrara marble by DaPrato Rigali, would be about 14 inches tall and cost roughly $125. Please respond below and feel free to add any comments.

__________________________

_____ Yes, I definitely would buy a statue for myself.
_____ Yes, I also would definitely buy statues as gifts.
_____ Maybe I might buy a statue.
_____ No, I definitely would not buy a statue.

Why? Tell us what you think. Drop off comments at the Parish Center or call MJ Martin at 246-4404, x 123 or respond online this week.
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES for ADULTS

Jesus served breakfast to his disciples and said to them, “Tend my Sheep” & “Feed my Sheep”

Consider how you are following Jesus’ words in caring for His sheep. Who better to care for and feed with your example of faith than our teenagers!?!?!!

Here are summer opportunities for adults to share faith, tend teens and others:

* Two adults for OLC local trip June 10-14 (daily commute to Cicero, no overnight)
* One adult needed for OLPH trip Aug 8-13 (be a part of their 50th anniversary)

If this is not for you, but you believe you have a gift to share with our teens please contact Katie to get information regarding opportunities in the fall! 708-246-4404 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

CONFERENCE & WORK TOUR spots are available for teens!

pick-up in the Parish Center office or download from our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service

REGISTER ASAP as final deadlines for conferences are at the end of April!

Openings on trips:
OLC trip June 10-14, ND Vision June 17-21
YLC June 28-30, Habitat July 7-13
OLPH Aug. 8-13

You never know who or what you’ll meet while taking a summer adventure!

One of our crew members put this tape smile on the wall so as we moved furniture and supplies up and down stairs at OLC we were greeted with a grin!

CALENDAR EVENTS:
April 14 Advisory Mtg 10am
Home Group Mtgs
April 28 Spring Mass 5pm & activities after
May 5 Final Home Group Meetings
May 19 Leaders Meeting 6-8pm
June 6 6:30-8:30 p.m. Work Tour Mtg
June 10-14 OLC local trip
June 13 SJC Battle of the Bands

Crossroads teens & families will host the water & pop stands at our SJC Fest June 27-30.
More details will follow so reserve that weekend to share in the fest fun!

The National Catholic Youth Conference will happen November 21-24 and initial registrations are due by the end of April. If you are interested in finding out more check out past-attendees’ descriptions in the featured section of our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads.
The eighth grade science curriculum is the study of life science. They began the year by studying cells and heredity and then moved on to more complex organisms. Last week, the students, began their frog dissection unit. They will soon begin a study of the systems of the human body.

Bridget Fitzgerald, a 2002 SJC graduate and this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade Queen, paid a special visit to our student body. Bridget attended the St. Patrick’s Day liturgy and spoke to our students about the impact that SJC made on her life. After Mass she spent time visiting with some of her former teachers and their students in their classrooms.

In our art classes students worked with various colors to design many Easter projects. The Kindergarten students designed stained glass eggs with crosses in the center using tissue paper while the Fourth Graders used foil to design mosaic crosses.

**Calendar of Events**

Tuesday, April 16, School Advisory Board Meeting, 7p.m.

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**Interfaith Career Network**

**Job Support Workshop**

Please join us when the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange will host a six-week job support skills workshop each Tuesday evening from 7-9 pm. Whether you are unemployed, underemployed, looking for a career change or a recent grad looking for your first professional position, this informative workshop is for you.

**Tuesday, April 16:** Dr. Joe Yount will kick off the series with a special presentation on managing your emotions throughout the process of looking for a new job.

**Tuesday, April 23:** Dennis Hamilton will speak on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments which are keys to preparing a compelling resume and “elevator speech”. Interested in making an entire career change? Dennis will also discuss how to assess your skills and prepare a strategy to make the change you want.

FPCLG is located at 150 South Ashland Avenue; meetings will be held in Westminster Hall. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com. This workshop is open to all and there is no cost to attend.

**Learn How to Leverage The Power of LinkedIn**

Thursday, April 18, 7-9 pm
St. John of the Cross Parish Center

Discover how powerful a resource LinkedIn can be in your job search. LinkedIn is a professional networking tool unlike other social media sites that millions of professionals, administrative and hourly workers use to extend their reach in the business community.

Meetings are open to all and there is no cost to attend.

**CN offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at:** [www.interfaithcareernetwork.org](http://www.interfaithcareernetwork.org)

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**Interfaith Community Partners**

Providing transportation and support for independent living

Next training session: April 28, 12:15-3:15 p.m.
Congregation of St. Joseph
1515 W. Ogden Ave., La Grange Park

Become an active volunteer.
Call 708-579-8929 or email interfaith@att.net
Our village forming children in faith!

Many volunteers give of their time and talents with the YC children. They also are delighted to discover their faith grows in the process. 22 parishioners volunteer at YC even though they do not have children in the program; 29 high-school teens bless our youth with their energy and love of the Lord and many, many parents serve. Please take a moment to thank these amazing individuals, parents, and teenagers when you see them this spring. We honor them for their gift of love! Please prayerfully consider joining your neighbors and friends in YC next year, and you will be amazed at how much you receive from giving to our children!

All you need is a love for Christ!!

THANK YOU!!!

Meredith Adler
Kelly Albright
Peggy Anderson
Jennifer Arquilla
Patty Ayala
Julia Barnicle
Wendy Basty
Rosaria Becker
Sue Bidstrup
Joann Boblick
Kathleen Broderick
Val Brossard
Christopher Brynda
Eileen Brynda
Andrea Burke
Nancy Burke
Aine Byans
Karen Cairo
Irene Callam
Barb Campbell
Grant Campbell
Steven Campbell
Diane Campion
Linda Caplice
Ashley Carlson
Kim Carlson
Bill Casey
Vicki Castro
Joan Clpton
Abby Conboy
Cindy Conboy
Chris Cone
Bernadette Cooley
Grace DeWitt
Erin Doherty
Joannie Doyle
Julia Doyle
Serena Dreher
Mireya Duffy
Colleen Fera
Gail Fiedler
Ken Fiedler
Francesca Fiernamente
Michelle Fink
Erin Flanagan
Maribeth Flaws
Michelle Flaws
Carrie Frech
Drew Frech
Jenny Frey
Grace Gallo
Nick Gallo
Regina Gallo
Steve Gallo
Jean Garner
Janet Gassmann
Chris Geneser
Lisa Geneser
Jane Gill
Kris Gleason
Kari Gough
Tyler Graf
Jennifer Griffin
Annie Gustafson
Joe Haberkorn
Renee Halpin
Teddy Hans
Mallory Hasty
Matthew Henick
Christine Hennessy
Melissa Hennessy
Lynne Hiatt
Sheila Higney
Kathy Hillphafer
Jacki Hincks
Ann Hoffman
Scott Hoffman
Jim Hogg
Kellie Holinger
Kristen Hosome
Marian Hughes
Kirsten Hultman
Laura Jachim
Ed Jamrozik
Meghan Jancewicz
Amanda Johnson
Charlie Johnson
Diana Kamenjarian
Jenny Kaminski
Kevin Karpinski
Michael Kelly
Michelle Kelly
Tim Kenny
Chris Kidder
Gina Kidder
Julia Kiely
Thomas Kiely
Susan Kiley
Marit Kirklys
Eileen Koch
Mary Kral
Sarah Kreikemeier
Trish Kretzer
Kady Lang
Deb Lebed
Catie Lee
Ann Legan
Beth Lesniewicz
Judy Letsinger
Mary Lichtenauer
Karen Lipinski
Carolyn Madigan
Leslie Makovic
Kathy Marcon-Kane
Becki Mares
Susie Martin
Diana Masella
John Masella
Samantha Masella
John Mazur
Katie Mazur
Heather McCarthy
Karin McCauley
JoAnn McGarry
Lisa McGovern
Mary McGovern
Patty McHenry
Sarah McHugh
Jayne Mikulski
Mike Mikulski
Linda Mikuta
John Miller
MaryLiz Miller
Julie Misarti
Beatrice Mologousis
Kristen Mologousis
Bob Montesano
Danielle Montesano
Elizabeth Moore
Madonna Muscarello
Tom Muth
Kyle Norbut
Sara Norgle
Dawn O’Hea
Karen Olenec
Megan O’Malley
Susan Ormsby
Colleen Pabst
Kristina Patt
Celeste Pearson
Sara Pethokoukis
Ana Ramirez
Hilary Remijas
Theresa Reyes
Shirley Rice
Carol Richards
Bill Rohaly
Victoria Rohrscheib
Ali Russo
Kristin Ryan
Steve Schell
Laurel Schumm
Cathy Siciliano
Erika Siegfried
Paul Siegfried
Connie Sizemore
Kathy Skwara
Laurie Smillie
Julie Smith
Tom Smith
Nicole Sommers
Paula Stahnke
Julia Staiano
Allison Striegel
Pat Stryszak
Dena Stukenberg
Kara Suda
Margaret Swinehart
Deanne Sykora
Charlie Thomas
Donna Thornton
Laura Timmel
Jakkie Tisa
Maddie Tisa
Olivia Tisa
Carolyn Tobin
Caroline Tyler
Myra Ureel
Jen Van Wyck
Maureen Vear
Meg Vorpahl
Beth Walsh
Tom Walsh
Leslie Walters
Kerri Watson
Diana Whelton
Colleen Whittingham
Lorna Williams
Katie Wojtowicz
Heidi Wood
Tim Woods
Susan Wyckoff
Mary Yocius
Maria Young
Mark Zator

THANK YOU!!!

Celebrate ~ Honor ~ Thanks ~ Gratitude

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# SJC Women's Club

## 18TH ANNUAL FLOWER SALE

Landscape Quality Flowers & Baskets at a Great Price!

Color photos, plant descriptions & care instructions for all plants at the parish website: [www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org)

Need Help? Please contact Katie Pruitt at 708-784-0065

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### HERBS & VEGETABLES - 3" Pots

- Italian parsley
- Basil
- Thyme
- Cilantro
- Rosemary
- Oregano
- Sage
- 3-pack big boy tomatoes
- 3-pack green bell peppers

**total # of herbs/veg x 2.00 =**

### GERANIUMS - 7" Pots

- White
- Red
- Fuchsia

**total # of 7" pots x 11.00 =**

### MARTHA WASHINGTON - 6.5" Pots

- Royal lavender
- Merlot

**total # of 6.5" pots x 10.00 =**

### GERANIUMS - 12" Deco-Pots

- Coral
- Fuchsia
- Red
- Melody blue

**total # of 12" pots x 32.00 =**

### 6" POTS

- Fountain Grass (purple)
- Caladium (white)

**total # of 6" pots x 9.00 =**

### HYDRANGEAS - 7" Pots

- Blue
- Pink

**total # of hydrangeas x 22.00 =**

### 4½" POTS

- Lantana (yellow)
- Helichrysum (licorice plant)
- Helichrysum (licorice-lemon)
- Scabiosa Blue
- Bacopa Snowstorm (white)
- Vinca vine
- English ivy
- English ivy - variegated
- Spikes

### Million Bells

- Rose
- Blue (purple)
- Yellow

**Double Impatiens**

- Red
- Pink
- Burgundy

**Verbenas**

- Burgundy
- Pink
- Purple

**Sweet Potato Vine**

- Blackie (dark burgundy)
- Marguerite (lime)

**Coleus (Vegetative)**

- Red
- Rustic orange
- Perilla magilla
- Electric lime

**Zonal Geraniums**

- White
- Pink
- Fuchsia
- Salmon

**total # of 4½" pots x 3.50 =**

### Hanging Baskets

- Floribunda Geranium (pink)
- Scabiosa Blue Wonder
- Bacopa Snowstorm (white)
- Torenia Summer Blue Wave

### New Guinea Impatiens

- Red
- Electric rose
- Lavender glow

### Double Wave Petunia

- White
- Violet blue
- Dark pink

### Ivy Geranium

- Light lavender
- Red

### Trailing Petunia

- Lavender
- Plum vein
- Rhythm & blues

### Trailing Verbena

- Purple/blue
- Wild rose

### Non-Stop Begonia

- Yellow
- Apricot
- Rose pink
- Scarlet red

**total # of baskets x 18.00 =**

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### Bedding Flats

- Coleus
  - Watermelon
  - Wizard mix

- Begonia
  - Pink green foliage
  - Pink bronze foliage
  - Red green foliage
  - Red bronze foliage
  - White green foliage

### Impatiens

- Mixed
- Lipstick/dark pink
- Light pink
- White
- Blue pearl

### Petunia

- Mixed
- Yellow
- Red
- Violet/midnight blue
- White

### Marigold

- Yellow
- Orange
- Alyssum (white)

**total # of flats x 16.00 =**

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**TOTAL $ DUE:**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SJC WOMEN'S CLUB

Name: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

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We appreciate your support! The flower sale helps to support our parish community as well as local non-profit organizations providing assistance to women, children and families.
We live in a highly secularized culture. Generally this draws one of three reactions from Christians struggling to live out faith in this context:

First, a growing number of Christians of all denominations see secularity more as an enemy of faith and the churches than as an ally. In their view, secularity is a threat to religion and morality and is, in the name of freedom and open-mindedness, slowly suffocating Christian freedom. For them, secularity contains within itself a certain tyranny of relativism which can aptly be labeled “post-Christian” and “a culture of death”.

A second group simply accommodates itself to the culture without a lot of critical reflection either way. They adjust the faith to the culture and the culture to the faith as suits their situation. For them, faith becomes largely a cultural heritage, an ethos more than a religion, though this is not as much of a blind sell-out as it first appears. Deeper struggles go on beneath, prompted not just by the soul's perennial questions but also by the Judeo-Christian genes inside the DNA of both the culture and the individual. So these individuals selectively take values from both the Judeo-Christian tradition and the secular culture and blend them into a new marriage, seemingly without a lot of religious anxiety.

A third group has a more nuanced approach: Persons such as Charles Taylor, Louis Dupre, Kathleen Norris, and, a generation earlier, Karl Rahner, see secularity as a mixed bag, a culture of both life and death, a culture that in some ways is a progression in and a purification of moral and religious values, even as it is losing ground morally and religiously in other ways. Of major importance in this view is the idea that secular culture, secularity, is the child of Judaism and Christianity. Judeo-Christianity, at least for the most part, gave birth to Rene Descartes, the principles of the Enlightenment, the French revolution, the Scottish revolution, the America revolution, and thus to democracy, the separation of church and state, and the principle that so much undergirds secularity, namely, that we agree to organize public life on the principle of rational consensus rather than on the basis of divine authority (allowing, of course, for divine authority to influence rational consensus).

In this view, the opposite of secularity is not the church, but the Taliban or any view that holds that public life should be governed by divine authority irrespective of rational consensus. Secularity then is more our child than our enemy. However, if that is true, then why is secularity often so bitter and overly-critical in its attitude towards the Christian churches? This can seem like a contradiction, but secularity can be anti-Christian for the same reason that adolescents can be bitter and overly-critical towards their own parents, namely, adolescence is often immature and grandiose. But an immature, grandiose adolescent isn't a bad person, just an unfinished one.

Viewing secularity from this perspective, it is equally important to highlight both the moral and religious ground that has been lost in secularity as well as the moral and religious ground that has been gained. Both can be seen, for example, by looking at a highly secularized culture like the Netherlands: On the one hand, it is very weak in church attendance and in explicit Christian practice. Along with this there is the tolerance and legalization of abortion, drugs, prostitution, and pornography. On the other hand, they are a society that takes care of its poor better than any other society in the world and one that is recognized for its emphasis on generosity, peace, and the equality of women. These are not minor religious and moral achievements.

Where do I stand? Mostly with this third group and its belief that secularity is not our enemy but our child and that it carries inside itself both highly generative streams of life and asphyxiating rivulets of death. On the one hand, I draw a lot of my life and joy from its creativity, color, exuberance, and generative energy, often times against my own Germanic-propensity for greyness and acedia. I am also uplifted on a regular basis by the real generosity and genuine goodness that I find in most people I meet. Importantly too, I reap its stunning benefits - freedom, protection of my rights, privacy, opportunity for education, wonderful medical care, information technology, access to information, wide cultural and recreational opportunities, clean water, plentiful food, and, not least, the freedom to practice my faith and religion.

On the negative side, I recognize too its elements of death: The tolerance of abortion, the marginalization of the poor, the itch for euthanasia, lingering racism, widespread sexual irresponsibility, a growing addiction to pornography, and an ever-growing trivialization and superficiality. As reality television becomes more indicative of our culture, I begin to despair more for its depth.

As an adult child of Rene Descartes, I breathe in secularity, a very mixed air, pure and polluted; and I find myself torn between hope and fear, comfortable but uneasy, defending secularity even as I am critical of it.

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 www.ronrolheiser.com.
Women's Club Spring Fellowship and Fundraiser!
April 24th from 7:30-9:30
Hillgrove Wine Cellar
$35 per person includes a wine tasting, cheese and light appetizers
10% of wine bottle sales and 15% wine case sales will go to SJC Women's Club
A Taste of Western Springs Raffle will include items from area merchants.
Drop your reservation off at the Parish Center (include your name and email address on check or envelope)
or deliver to Denise Schullo at 4709 Wolf Rd (246-0254)

Help Us Raise Some Dough!
Women's Club HomeMade Pizza Company Fundraiser
Tuesday, April 30th
Hinsdale HomeMade Pizza Company
More details can be found on the Women's Club page of the SJC Website

Book Drive for Our Lady of Charity School
The Women's Club will be holding a book drive to benefit our newest sharing parish, Our Lady of Charity School (OLC) in Cicero. This school continues to grow and prosper in enrollment as well as spirit, despite declining funding. We will be asking parishioners to stop in the narthex of church the weekends of April 13, 14, 20, 21 and 27 & 28. The drive will work similar to Share Christmas, where you stop in the narthex, receive a specific title to purchase/donate off of the OLC teachers wish lists, and return it to the Parish Center on or before May 8th. Don't have time to shop? Be an Our Lady of Charity Book Angel and send in a donation! Envelopes will be available in the parish center and back of church to send in donations. Come and help a young catholic child READ! Questions? Want to receive a title to donate now? Contact Colleen Pabst at 708-246 4014 or mahoney5674@yahoo.com.

Open Board Positions
Do you look forward to Women's Club functions such as Cooking Night or the Flower Sale? Perhaps you have ideas for new events. Would you be interested in working with the charities we support or helping to get the word out about what's happening in the Women's Club? Maybe you enjoy meeting new people and helping out behind the scenes. No matter what your talents are the Women's Club welcomes you! Please contact Jeannie Francis at 708-246-4695 or Connie Madden at 417-2012 to learn more about open positions beginning next school year 2013. You can also learn more about the Women's Club at our page on the SJC website.

Annual Women's Club Fashion Show...Help Needed!
The Women's Club is seeking Fashion Show committee members to coordinate this exciting event. We need help in many areas including invitation design, response coordination, securing silent auction items and more. Share your talents and join the team that makes this bi-annual tradition happen! Contact Katie Pruit at 784-0065 for more information.

Are you Spring Cleaning? The Women's Club needs your unwanted stuff!
Keep us in mind as you clear out your attic, garage and basement this spring. Watch for more information regarding collections for the 40th Annual Garage Sale - Saturday, June 22nd
Lord Hear Our Prayer

**Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord**
Connie Blazek, sister of Tom Licar
Louise Flanagan, sister-in-law of Bob & Marian McNulty and Greg Nelson
Sally Gage, sister of Suzanne Woodward
Julie Janowiak, sister of Matthew Janowiak
Theresa Jeziorski, mother of Patricia Roszkowski
Joseph Leder, former parishioner
Jean McCabe, mother of Jack McCabe
Jean Onesto, mother of Anthony Onesto
Anne Zwarycz, mother of Jane Crossland

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. Psalm 30

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, April 15**
6:30 Ellen McGowan; Our Beloved Dead
7:45 Joe Surdyk; Floyd A. Placzek

**Tuesday, April 16**
6:30 Florence Devine
7:45 Mark Bestler; James A. Piszczor

**Wednesday, April 17**
6:30 Dorothy Carlini
7:45 Patricia Wehner; Ann Joyce Dudek; Mary Ann Albrecht

**Thursday, April 18**
7:45 Tony Tunney; Ramon Sanchez

**Friday, April 19**
7:45 Loretta and Frank Burke; Winnie Nuzzo

**Saturday, April 20**
8:00 Franklin Smith; Britta Pistauer
5:00 Patricia Wehner; Bob Petkus

**Sunday, April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter**
7:30 Nicky Sawka & Vasil Sawka; Kateryna Sawka
9:00 James Wahs; Gene Miley
10:45 SJC & St. Thaddeus Parishioners
12:15 Nick Marchese; Stanley Kundys
5:00 Frank LaGiglio, Jr.; Laura Ann Minotis

*Italics—Living*

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

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Jessica Koch  Music  jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin  Operations  mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones  Welcome  erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Youth Catechesis

Registration Fair

Remember!! Register your children for 2013-2014

Stop by the School Multi-Purpose Room and Register in 3 easy steps on
Sunday April 14th from 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Monday, April 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

1. Check and update pre-printed family registration form
2. Choose session and volunteer on back of form and sign
3. Pay tuition (partial or full) by credit card*, check or cash

*Visa, MasterCard and Discover accepted. Convenience fee will be added to cover cost of credit card use.

1 - 2 - 3 It’s that easy!!

If you are adding new children to your form, please bring a copy of their baptismal certificate, if they were not baptized at SJC.

Sunday, April 14
8:30-Noon
and
Monday, April 15
5:30-7:30 pm

Save $10 on YC fees by registering at the Registration Fair
April 14-15

VBS!
JULY
8-12

Register for VBS at the Fair!

Call the YC office at 708-246-6760

YC Schedule

Classes K-6 10:15-11:30am Sunday, April 14, 21, 28,
6:15-7:30pm Monday, April 15, 22, 29
Home Groups and Special Needs Sunday, April 21

Please join us for our final YC Mass, Sunday,
April 28th at 9:00 am