“Which of the three was neighbor to the man who fell among robbers?” asked JESUS.

“The one who treated him with compassion,” answered the man.

“Then go and do the same,” said JESUS.

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Grief Support for Children and Parents

Buddy's Place of Pillars is a family-based grief support program for children ages 4-18 who have experienced the death of someone important in their lives. Buddy's Place offers children and their surviving parent(s) a safe and supportive group where they can express their grief and learn coping skills with others who have experienced similar losses.

Buddy's Place is looking for volunteers to help support grieving children and their families in a variety of ways, including Greeters and Group Facilitators. The required 24 hour training is scheduled for August 5, 7, 9, and 14 from 12:00pm-6:00pm in LaGrange. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Huggins, Buddy's Place Director, 708.995.3750 buddysplace@pillarscommunity.org.

Save the Date
SJC Beloved Retreat for Adults
October 11-13, 2013

Join us for Christian Meditation in the Parish Center
Mondays 10:30am 11th Step Meditation
Wednesdays 2:00pm and 7:30pm and Saturdays 7:00am

(...) the purpose of saying or sounding your mantra, is that that becomes the focus of your attention, of your concentration. You are not thinking about anything. You are not, as it were, pursuing any insights that are coming to you, any thoughts that are coming to you. You leave those. You let them, as it were, fall away. (John Main, The Hunger for Depth and Meaning)

The opposite of the truth is falsehood or illusion. And meditation is a commitment to the truth, a commitment, that is, to turn from trying to make our own reality, and a commitment to live in the light of God, to live by the light of God. (John Main, From Anxiety to Peace)

We Welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor

We welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor who will be speaking at all the Masses this weekend. For over 170 years the Little Sisters have dedicated their lives to caring for the elderly poor. Our aging population continues to grow and dignity at the end of life is increasingly threatened. The Little Sisters believe the elderly are our greatest treasures. Our elderly brothers’ and sisters’ lives have brought them a unique perspective in our human family. Through their accomplishments, our elders bring lessons in endurance and self-sacrifice. Through their life-long experiences, the elderly bring lessons in what is important in life. The Little Sisters welcome the elderly as Jesus Christ Himself and serve them with love and respect until God calls them home. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor with a donation.
A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

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AURELIO’S PIZZA • BUONA BEEF • UNCLE BUBS

AND THE OVER 400 VOLUNTEERS!!
WITHOUT YOU THIS EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE!!

AND ALL WHO ATTENDED!!
Living the Gospel

“What is written in the law?” Jesus asks the “scholar of the law” in this Sunday’s gospel. Many would tend to answer by citing the Ten Commandments or civil law. But the lawyer in the gospel answered correctly when he named love as the law. Law is not about keeping rules, or even organizing ourselves, but about loving others. And, above all, love is about relationships. Eternal life is not inherited by keeping laws, but by caring for others and treating them with mercy. The law of love teaches us to “love . . . with all . . . with all . . . with all . . .” Love is nothing less than the unconditional gift of self.

Every detail about the Good Samaritan’s actions model for us love as nothing less than the unconditional gift of self to another. This is what the First Letter of John reminds us: “for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20b). Each of us must go beyond minimum requirements of good relationships to extending the kind of love that is the fullest gift of self. As followers of Jesus, we are to love, care for, and have mercy on others as he did: giving ourselves entirely. The “dying” part of Gospel living can get awfully burdensome if we always think of it in negative terms. Our reflection on this gospel invites us to place our self-sacrificing to meet the needs of others in the larger context of love. Love is made concrete in our care for others. This is more than just preaching a “social gospel.” It is saying that there is an indissoluble link between caring for others and loving, between loving others and loving God. Thus doing for others is more than a nice act; it is a way we make God’s kingdom come.

Closing Prayers:

May we recognize those in need and respond with love and compassion.

May we love others with an unconditional gift of self.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

· What makes it hard for me to “love . . . with all” is . . .

What makes it easier is . . .

· I was the neighbor in need when . . . and . . . loved me “with all” by . . .

Collect: O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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.

Readings for the Week

Monday
Exod 1:8-14, 22
Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8
Matt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday
Exod 2:1-15a
Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34
Matt 11:20-24

Wednesday
Exod 3:1-6, 9-12
Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7
Matt 11:25-27

Thursday
Exod 3:19-20
Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27
Matt 11:28-30

Friday
Exod 11:10-12:14
Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18
Matt 12:1-8

Saturday
Exod 12:37-42
Ps 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15
Matt 12:14-21

16th Sunday in O.T.
Gen 18:1-10a
Ps 15:2-3, 3, 4, 5
Col 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42
One afternoon one of my daughters was uncharacteristically cranky. She started whining, wouldn’t listen, and seemed intent on making my life miserable. I grew increasingly impatient and angry until I realized that she was coming down with the flu and her irritability was a symptom. Once I knew the cause of her crabbiness, compassion replaced my impatience. I began to care for my daughter and deal with a small but healthy dose of guilt in my heart. Patience means facing life on life’s terms, which means on God’s terms. It means tolerating delay, something our fast-paced society finds difficult. The way to patience is to keep your eye on the big picture and be fully attentive to the present moment. To cultivate patience this week, pray using Jesus’ words, “Thy will, not mine, be done.” —Tom McGrath

Radio Program

The Strategic Pastoral Plan: Reflect Christ’s Light radio program is heard on the Archdiocese’s Catholic Community of Faith broadcast on Relevant Radio, 950AM, on the third Wednesday of every month from 9—9:30 a.m. Hosted by Nancy Polacek, the program will feature teens and young adults who are putting their faith in action by helping others.

Just a reminder:

From Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, there is no 12:15pm Mass and no weekday 6:30am Mass.

Love begins by taking care of the closest ones - the ones at home.

Mother Teresa
VBS July 2013
Crossroads Family News

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR—did you read Katie’s letter in last weekend’s bulletin? If you missed it you can find it on our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads under Katie’s Corner.

PRAYER REQUESTS:
- For teens who need God’s love in their life—that we welcome them openly
- For parents who struggle in the realities of raising a teenager—that they feel Mary & Joseph’s love, modeling and support
- For teens who know how to do good and follow Christ’s example—that they have courage to stand up for and live their faith

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN:
As our Strategic Plan moves forward we are thrilled to have 4 teens, a college young adult and 6 adults joining our Coordinators team. What does this mean? Why does this matter?

It means our teens care about the ministry and want to see the good things we do to reach other teens. It means our college teen had such a great experience she is willing to give of her time to ensure others know the positives of home groups. It means adults in our parish care about our teens and this ministry and are willing to mentor our teen leaders.

It matters because allowing more people to take ownership and leadership of small pieces of our ministry will allow each area to have focus, attention and an openness to drawing teens into their faith.

It matters because our secular world doesn’t see the value in community, faith and trust but these people are showing that they do see the value and they will build all three areas as we venture forward this year.

Many thanks to Mary, Terry, Lis, Aaron, Joe, Jim, Maren, TJ, Katie, Abby, Sean! Who will join our efforts? **Maybe YOU!!!**

LEADERSHIP ROLES AVAILABLE on Fall Ministry Teams:

Spots open for both teens & adults:
- to welcome our newest high schoolers during their Freshmen Experience for the fall semester!
- to lead our confirmation candidates on their Day of the Spirit Retreat Day Oct. 26th.

Details can be found on our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/descriptions.
Contact Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404 khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or Christopher Zurowski, teen retreat coordinator, 708-724-0419 to have questions answered.

CALENDAR EVENTS:
July 23  Post-habitat reunion mtg
July 30  OLPH final pre-trip mtg
Aug 1-4  Kairos 14 retreat
Aug 8-13 Pilgrimage trip to OLPH
Aug 18 Speaker Mike Patin provides training 9 a.m. for adults, noon for teen leaders

Last weekend our Habitat Work Tour crew left early Sunday morning to serve in West Virginia.

Many thanks to Aaron, Matt, Tera, Kylene, Emily, Joe, Maribeth, Michael, Casey, Maureen, and Deirdre for serving on behalf of our parish and being Jesus’ hands and heart.
Your Invitation:
We are looking for both married couples as well as individuals who are parents to join our parish Baptism Team. Members of the baptism team serve as both teacher and role model and are frequently the face of the parish for the very first time as couples bring their baby to be baptized.

The Goals of the Baptism Ministry are to:
⇒ Welcome the parents of infants to the process of preparing for Baptism,
⇒ Affirm the importance of their role as parents and first teachers of faith,
⇒ Celebrate joyfully with them as their child is baptized,
⇒ Pray and support them in the months ahead as they learn to become strong Catholic parents, and
⇒ Help weave these young families into the fabric of our parish community.

Your Role:
Two Team members lead a monthly preparation session together on the first Thursday evening of each month as well as coordinate and attend to the details on the Sunday when the baptisms take place, welcoming the families and assisting the priest or deacon. The time commitment is usually 3-4 prep sessions and 3-4 baptisms during the course of the year.

Next Steps:
If you are interested in learning more, please email Fr. Filbert at fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org. Fr. Filbert will lead a training session in August for new team members and then you will begin your ministry by shadowing current baptism ministers.

RCIA

Becoming Catholic (RCIA)
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process designed for those who are considering joining the Catholic Church by celebrating the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. The process welcomes adults who have never been baptized and those who have been baptized in another Christian tradition, as well as adult Catholics who wish to be confirmed.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Each year people are welcomed into the church at St. John of the Cross Parish through the RCIA process. The RCIA is an engaging, dynamic, respectful, challenging and – ENJOYABLE journey. Fr. Filbert Ngwila and his RCIA team graciously host the RCIA on Tuesday evenings during the school year. If you would like to learn more about how you can become Catholic please contact Fr. Filbert Ngwila at fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org.
Outreach

Interfaith Career Network

Slaying the Job Search Demons
We invite you to join us on Thursday, July 18 from 7-9 p.m. for a program designed to help people in career exploration and the job search process. During the job search, it’s easy for the demons of Fear to inhabit the job seeker’s head. Fear causes mental paralysis leading to hesitation and missed opportunities. This presentation will identify elements of Fear and techniques to help overcome them. Our speaker Jim Fergle is Manager, Employment Services, DuPage Workforce Development Division at the DuPage Career Center in Lisle. This program is open to all and there is no charge to attend. We look forward to welcoming you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 South Wolf Road in Western Springs.

Free Resume Review
Our next quarterly resume review is on Saturday, July 20, from 9-11:00 am. Join us and have a helpful 20-minute one-on-one conversation with a Human Resource or other search related professional for some ideas and suggestions that may enhance or refresh your resume. Looking for some helpful job search strategies? Need some coaching with your elevator speech? This is a terrific opportunity. We look forward to seeing you at St. Cletus Education Building, 700 West 55th Street in La Grange. Please enter the building at the flag pole entrance.

Accelerate Your Job Search
Join a Search Action Team
Resume writing, handbills, elevator pitches, networking, social media and interviewing skills are all important ingredients in a successful job search. Meet with other job seekers to put all you have learned into a plan…with actions and results. Search Action Teams meet each week to 1) set objectives for the week, 2) review accomplishments, 3) gain insight from team members, 4) determine next steps. To join a Team, go to www.interfaithcareernetwork.org and click on the Search Action Team link in the upper left hand corner.

Interfaith Career Network offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Dear Parishioners,

I want to take this moment to thank you for your generosity. The $1,200 check that we received strengthens our service and allows us to continue our ministry to the incarcerated of Cook and Lake County jails and the youth who are currently in the Juvenile Detention Centers.

The Gospel mandate to visit those in jail/prison is what we share as one Church. We as the staff and volunteers of Kolbe House find Christ present in the men, women, and youth that we meet. Many times the detainees offer us an example of faith and are an inspiration in our lives. We discover that we stand on holy ground when we gather for prayer with one another.

As a Church we also serve the pastoral needs of the persons who have suffered from those that we visit. Wounds take time to heal and reconciliation is not easy yet we are called to stand with one another in these difficult moments. Presence and listening to one another binds us to one another.

One of the four pillars of our ministry is santuario/sanctuary. This word refers not only to a safe place but also is a place of prayer in our church. On the first Sunday of every month families of the incarcerated, parishioners of Assumption Parish, Kolbe House volunteers and benefactors gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. Around the table of the Lord we live out the Gospel as best as we can for and with one another. Always know that the people of St. John’s are held in prayer and heart especially during these moments. I remain

Gratefully yours,
Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez
Director

Make Me an Instrument
"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

St. Francis of Assisi
Who needs reality TV when you have all the drama of the Old Testament? Come see Back Door Theater’s original production of “The Real Housewives of Judaea” It will be held at the Reber Center on the North Campus of Lyons Township High School with two shows on Friday, July 19 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All monetary donations made at the door will go toward stocking the shelves of the SFX Food Pantry. Back Door Theater’s mission is to engage young people in an experience of faith through the expressive arts as a part of the larger faith communities of Grace Lutheran and St Francis Xavier. For further information please contact Becky Hayes at bechayes@sbcglobal.net or at (708) 878-2790.
Fifty years ago, Kay Cronin, wrote a book entitled, Cross in the Wilderness, chronicling how, in 1847, a small band of Oblate missionaries came from France to the American Pacific Northwest and, after some bitter setbacks in Washington State and Oregon, moved up the coast into Canada and helped found the Roman Catholic church in Vancouver and in significant parts of British Columbia's mainland.

She describes these men, no doubt with some over-idealization and hagiography, as tough, totally dedicated, and completely without concern for their own comfort and health. They left their beloved France while still young, knew they would probably never see their loved ones again, and accepted to live lives that were constantly in danger both from the harsh elements of their frontier environment and from the threat of death from various Native tribes and various government forces and mercenary soldiers who distrusted them, for opposite reasons. They were threatened many times, chased out of various missions, some were kidnapped for periods of time, and a number of their houses and missions were burnt down. They lived perennially on the edge of danger, never secure, never free from threat.

Moreover, they had next to nothing in terms of creature comforts. They lived in log and mud hovels, ate bad food, and sometimes no food. They had virtually no access to doctors, little access to what might make for good hygiene, and often, while travelling, had to sleep outside without proper shelter from rain and cold, causing many of them to develop rheumatism and other such illnesses at an early age. Moreover, they were never able to sink roots, to get comfortable at any place, to make the kinds of friends and contacts that could be a comfort and support to them. They had faith, God, and each other, and little else.

But they were able to take all of this in stride, without undue self-pity or complaint. They wrote very positive and idealistic letters to their motherhouse in France and to their families and kept journals within which they expressed mostly joy about their modest successes in the ministry, seldom uttering a complaint about the bad housing, bad food, and instability in their lives.

As an Oblate missionary myself, as a member of the same religious family, I read all of this, of course, with pride. I am proud of what these men did, and rightly so. They were selfless to the point of death.

But, that being said, reading their story is also very humbling. Looking at their radical sacrifice of all comfort, for me, is a mirror that I peer into with considerable trepidation and shame. I look at my own life and see far too much in the way of an addiction to comfort and safety. I don't want what they had: I want healthy food, clean water, proper hygiene, regular rest, access to good doctors, access to news, to information, access to travel, regular contact with family and friends, opportunities for retreats and vacations, access to ongoing education, and, not least, I want safety. I want to be a good missionary, but I want to be comfortable and safe.

I take some consolation in the fact that times today are much different than they were when these French missionaries landed in the Pacific Northwest. I couldn't do the work I do, at least not for a very long, without proper housing, proper food, proper hygiene, access to education and information, regular rest, and healthy recreational outlets. My life and my ministry are a marathon, not a sprint, and proper self-care is a virtue not a vice.

Still, it's easy to rationalize and become addicted to comfort and safety. St. Paul, reflecting upon his own missionary life, once wrote that he was comfortable with whatever was dealt to him - much or little. I like to believe that too for my own life, but, and this is true for most of us, the more we live with much, the more we tend to protect ourselves inside that plenty.

Thomas Merton once said that what he feared in his own life was not so much a massive betrayal of his vocation, but a series of "mini-treasons" that lead to a different kind of death. And that's the peril that I fear too, for myself and for our culture.

As children of our culture, I believe, we easily become addicted to comfort and safety. Once we have grown used to safety, good food, clean water, proper hygiene, access to good doctors and proper medicine, access to constant entertainment, access to instant information, regular connection with our loved ones, boundless educational and recreational opportunities, and wonderful creature comforts of all sorts, the danger looms large that we will not easily, or at all, be able to let go of any of these. Consequently we will end up as good persons, no big betrayals, but no big self-sacrifice either; not only unable to give up our lives for our friends but unable to give up even our comfort.

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.
Thank you for supporting the

Women’s Club Garage Sale!

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This Week at SJC

Monday, July 15
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Wednesday, July 17
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Theology on Tap
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, July 18
7:00 p.m. Career Networking Group

Saturday,
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 15, St. Bonaventure
7:45 Don Spiering; Bruno Ziemba

Tuesday, July 16, Our Lady of Mount Carmel
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Mary Meyer

Wednesday, July 17
7:45 Josephine Humphrey; Bob Cosgrove

Thursday, July 18, St. Camillus de Lellis
7:45 Jean Onesto; Maureen Sheridan

Friday, July 19
7:45 William Sturgeon; Catherine Pozen

Saturday, July 20, St. Apollinaris
8:00 Annamay O’Connor and Theresa Healy; Norbert Zimmer
5:00 Bernice & John Wisniewski; John Barron

Sunday, July 21, Sixteenth Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Helen Hutton; Elizabeth Wojtowicz
9:00 Jack Scriba; Deceased Members of SJC Parish School Families
10:45 SJC & Kolbe House Parishioners
5:00 Ron Stevens; William Durkin

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Lawrence Hanson, husband of Rita
Dorothy Kreikemeier, mother of Kirk & grandmother of Sarah, Billy & Joe
Jean Oczkowski, mother of William, Richard & Thomas
Sr. Nadine Ostdick, SND
Dorothy Owens, mother of Darryl & grandmother of Nora, Ann & Thomas
Ray Stanis, husband of Jeanne

Pray for our Sick

Linda Drone Jay Meehan
Kat Egan Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge Primet Rotondo
Todd Goldstein Rick Reimer
Karen Hult Teresa Schafer
Barbara Jacob Guy Thomas
Allison Kazragis Freddy Ulrich
Shirley Kazragis Ed Veomd
Joe & Rosie King Mary Catherine Warren
Fr. William Mannion Pam Wilson
Baby Maddie Mayer

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

Wedding Banns
Michael Stadler & Stephanie Taylor
Nicholas Wroblewski & Katie Shuba

St. John of the Cross Parish would be honored to be remembered in your will and estate planning.
CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20'S AND 30'S MARRIED OR SINGLE:

Theology on Tap: Begins this Wednesday
at SJC Parish Center
No need to RSVP, Just Come ~ Friends Welcome

Theology-on-Tap is a free summer speaker series for Young Adults in their 20’s and 30’s (married or single). All the talks occur in a casual environment with time for socializing, learning and sharing. Light refreshments will be provided. Please join us each week to learn more about our Catholic faith and ourselves.

Fr. John Cusick 7/17/13 from 7-9PM
Recognizing God in Everyday Events: Is There More There Than Meets the Eye?
Fr. John Cusick, ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1970. In 1977 he was given the task to create Young Adult ministry and as the Director of Young Adult Ministry has dedicated his life to Young Adults. He has designed a number of programs including Theology On Tap. His influence is extensive and accomplishments are too many to number. He is a dynamic priest and a passionate speaker.

Dr. Kate DeVries 7/24/13 from 7-9PM
Why Bother With Church?
Dr. Kate DeVries was the associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago. She holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Catholic Theological Union, and Masters Degrees in Divinity, Pastoral Studies and Special Education. She is an amazingly talented and caring individual, speaking on an important question we should all answer.

Fr. Terry Keehan 7/31/13 from 7-9PM
Reconciliation & Eucharist: Two Fascinating Fonts of God’s Desire to Connect With Us
Fr. Terry Keehan is the Pastor of Holy Family parish in Inverness. He has led retreats, missions and workshops nationally with a special focus on young adult issues, and responding to God’s call in life. He always speaks from the heart with great enthusiasm.

Fr. Paul Novak 8/7/13 from 7-9PM
Letting Go & Letting God: A Catholic Strategy for Getting Free?
Fr. Paul Novak, O.S.M., who was ordained a Servite priest in 1990, currently is president of De La Salle Institute High School. Additionally, he currently assists at Old St. Patrick’s Church. He will help us to understand that we don’t have to hold onto our baggage.