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Adult Formation Opportunities
Fall, 2013

Like a mustard seed, the seed of faith will mature and flourish as we grow in our relationship with God.

Pillar Study II: The Sacraments
A twelve week study of the power, purpose and origin of the Sacraments through reflective discussion, dvd learning, and home study. Class meets on Tuesdays beginning September 10th at 1pm or 7pm in the parish center. $25 covers the cost of study book. To register drop off an envelope at the parish office marked Sacrament Study with your contact info and book fee enclosed.

Little Rock: Lands of the Bible
Participants will take a visual and spiritual journey to the Holy Land via video lecture and discussion. Eight Mondays beginning September 15th from 1pm to 2:30. Cost of materials is $10. Call Joan Roeder at 708-354-4862 to register.

Spirit Packed into Soul with Fr. Harry
Wednesdays from 9-11:30am beginning September 4th. Fr. Harry will offer a brief intro into the power of poems in all of life. Each session will include examples of the power and surprise of poems and reflection on the Sacred (Lectio Divina) in prose and poems. Participants are invited to bring a poem to memorize in whole or part and share what it means to you. Bring a note pad.

Meet Fr. Harry!
Retired just 4 years ago, Fr. Harry Bonin has been helping out at weekday Mass at our parish for the past year. Fr. Harry, who was ordained in 1965, holds a Master of Arts in Voice, a Master in Social Work and a STL. He has been a parish priest in the Chicago area and taught music and language at Quigley for many years. In fact, Fr. David was once a student of Fr. Harry!

Flourish Faith Sharing for Women
Grow in faith and friendship every other Thursday beginning September 12th from 9-10:30am in the parish center. The first eight sessions will focus on scripture study using a dvd by Jennie Allen. (Here is a link to the study called "Stuck" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMzh11pVQ2g.) Book order and registration by August 26 to Sue Bidstrup at jsbidstrup@ameritech.net or Liz Williams at lisbethwill@sbcglobal.net

Divorce & Beyond Support Group at SJC

When a marriage ends it is more than a separation of two people. It is a death of an important part of their lives. The grieving process of a divorce is unique to each individual. A divorce signifies the failure of a relationship, not that the individuals themselves are failures.

**Divorce and Beyond** is a program designed to offer support, fellowship and respect to our brothers and sisters experiencing or having completed divorce. Come share and know that others have gone through the same things as you. Know that you are loved and welcomed as part of our parish family.

Three trained parishioners will help you through the journey of initial stress, anger and guilt to ultimate forgiveness, happiness and growth. The sessions will cover experiences and emotions that divorcing people go through and will discuss activities for making divorce a growing experience.

Everyone is very welcome to this eight week support group, no matter where you are in the divorce process. It is important to know you are not alone. Participants are encouraged to attend all eight sessions.

Friday evenings from 7-9pm in the parish center: Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 22, Dec. 6th and Dec. 20.

Program book is $10. To register, drop off money and your contact info to the parish center office in an envelope marked Divorce & Beyond by Sept. 9. Any questions, contact Ann Marie at 708-784-9311.
Why go on the Beloved Retreat?

**Friendship ~ Inspiring ~ Community ~ Accepting ~ Game Changer**

Our lives are busy. Days are full. Leaving many of us wishing there were more hours in the day to fulfill everything we *think* we need to *accomplish*. We feel exhausted and empty. Going on a retreat can be a game changer, not only for our spiritual life, but for our everyday life. We have seen it in teens when they come back from Kairos. Some of us remember the experience of Christ Renews His Parish. We may desire renewal or a “reboot”, but can we afford to put aside the day-to-day responsibilities in our lives and take the time to *retreat*? Whatever stage we are in life, we may feel there is still more to experience. We might ask, “Is this all there is? How can I experience life in a deeper way?”

Going on a retreat can allow you to step away from the frantic pace of work, school, TV, the internet, your kids activities, and the anxiety of the world and open your mind and heart to what should be central in your life. It can allow you the opportunity to breath in God’s words and experience them in a new way. Retreats are an ancient practice that have been around for many years for a reason. In the desert, Jesus spent 40 days in retreat praying and fasting to prepare for his ministry (Luke 4: 1-13). He invited His disciples into the desert on retreat as well (Mark 6:31).

Can we spend a weekend in retreat to prepare us to live a more fulfilled life?

> “I went on the Beloved Retreat this past April and came away from the retreat with an amazing sense of peace and an overwhelming feeling that ‘I am enough’ and ‘I am loved by God unconditionally’. The sense of community on the retreat was beautiful and something that I am looking forward to sharing at St. John of the Cross.” ~ Tiffany White

> In my life, retreats have been time set aside to listen to God, who speaks in prayer, in silence and sometimes in the voices of others. At the Beloved Retreat, other people related stories about times God worked in their lives or spoke in their hearts. It was both encouraging and inspiring. ~ Andrea Gagliani

Please consider joining us and prepare to call yourself Beloved.

Questions? Please contact Andrea Gagliani, agagliani@sbcglobal.net, 246-1520, Tiffany White, tfoxwhite@gmail.com, 246-8896, or Marianne Firlit, mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org, 839-0377

Pick up a pamphlet at the exits of the church for more information and registration or go to the parish website. Space is limited.
"What are you looking for?"

John 1:38

As summer draws to an end,
you are cordially invited to join us for a

Morning of Meditation

Saturday, August 24 from 9-11:30am

8:30am Hospitality

Reflection on Prayer ~
(DVD featuring Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB,
Director & Spiritual Leader of the WCCM)

Periods of Meditation ~ Times for Sharing

All are invited: Those who meditate, those who want to learn to meditate, those who want to know more about meditation

Free will offering accepted Reservations requested, but not required

Contact: Mary at 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com

What does letting go on the practical level tell us?
Letting go is different than denying or repressing. To let go of something is to admit it. You have to own it. Letting go is different than turning it against yourself; different than projecting it onto others. Letting go means that the denied, repressed, rejected parts of yourself, which are nonetheless true, are seen for what they are; but you refuse to turn them against yourself or against others. This is not denial or pretend, but actual transformation.

The religious word for this letting go is some form of forgiveness. You see the imperfect moment for what it is, and you hand it over to God. You refuse to let any negative storyline or self-serving agenda define your life. This is a very, very different way of living; it implies that you see your mistakes, your dark side, but you do not identify with either your superiority or your inferiority. Both are equally a problem.

 Forgiveness is of one piece. Those who give it can also receive it. Those who receive it can pass forgiveness on. You are a conduit, and your only job is not to stop the flow. What comes around will also go around. The art of letting go is really the secret of happiness and freedom.

Adapted from The Art of Letting Go: Living the Wisdom of St. Francis
Reflections on Sunday Scripture

Jesus has come not only to bring peace but also division.

Having reminded the apostles and the crowd that facing the coming judgment takes patience, Jesus now goes on to speak of how difficult it will be to wait. He tells them that he has come to set the earth on fire. Recall that in chapter 3 of Luke’s Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd that he is baptizing with water, but someone mightier is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire Jesus speaks of here is the distress caused by the coming judgment. It is also the fire of the Spirit that Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, will describe descending on the disciples on Pentecost. That fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the good news of Jesus’ Resurrection.

Jesus will be the first to experience the distress of the coming judgment. His baptism will be the conflict into which he will be immersed as he approaches Jerusalem and his death on the cross. His followers will not be spared that distress. The angels at Jesus’ birth proclaimed peace on earth, and Simeon, holding the baby Jesus in the Temple, said to God: “Master, now you may let your servant go in peace.” Here Jesus tells the crowd not to think he has come to bring peace; he has come to bring division. Simeon said as much when he turned to Mary and said that the child was destined for the rise and fall of many and to be a sign that will be contradicted. Peace is the ultimate end of the Kingdom of God, but peace has a price. Jesus is warning the crowd that wherever the Word of God is heard and acted upon, division occurs. Fathers will be divided against sons and mothers against daughters.

The coming judgment forces us to look at the implications of our commitments. As Jesus warned in last Sunday’s Gospel, a commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here he reminds the crowd that those who commit to him will find it affects the way they relate to friends and family members. The angel who announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah said John would go before Jesus to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. But a commitment to Jesus forces us to change the way we live our lives, and this can put strains on relationships.

We don’t expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. In today’s reading, he reminds his followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

Where does grace surprise you in your everyday life?

As you manage the usual busyness of your day—paying bills, making dinner, getting the oil changed in your car—consider this: At every hectic or mundane moment, you are invited to participate in the life of God.

This can seem almost too much to take in, but it’s true. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines grace as “a participation in the life of God.” Because God pours forth grace to each of us at every moment according to our needs and our situation in life, all through our day the Creator of the universe is freely inviting us to share his life.

We know what it means to participate in the life of another. Married couples enter that state when, brimming with love, they commit to one another “for better or for worse.” Parents participate in the life of another when, filled with awe, they realize a new life is on the way. Family life is all about participating in the life of others; and at its best, it is full of grace.

The Catechism also says that grace is free and undeserved help. We cannot earn grace, but it is up to us to acknowledge and accept it. Here are four ways to open your life to grace:

1. **Ask for what you need.** In the prayer Jesus taught us, we ask for daily bread, forgiveness, and guidance on the way. You might ask for the grace to deal better with a difficult person at work. Or pray for the grace to be kinder when your child asks “why” for the umpteenth time. Don’t be afraid to ask.

2. **Ask with an open mind.** Be willing to let go of your own agenda and say yes to the grace God offers. Don’t hand God your game plan and say, “Here are my ideas, and I’m counting on you to do your part.” Remember, “Thy (meaning God’s) will be done.”

3. **Watch for the ways God responds.** Grace often arrives in surprising ways. Through prayer and being aware, you can learn to recognize God at work in your life. One of the surest signs of God’s grace: a feeling of gratitude and a desire to give to others.

4. **Pass it on!** When we love one another, we pass on God’s life to others. Having been blessed, we can bless others in our family, at work, in our community. Having been forgiven, we can forgive others. Having been strengthened, we can share our strength. Grace is not meant to be hoarded and stored. It’s meant to touch the lives of others.

When you move through your day buoyed by God’s grace, it can spill over into the lives of your spouse, your child, all those in whose lives you participate. Grace is truly the gift that keeps giving.

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**Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time**

Courage

Being a strong Catholic parent takes courage. We are called upon to stand firm and enact consequences even when other parents take an easier route, causing our children to conclude that we are unfeeling tyrants. Courage enables us to follow through on our convictions and act boldly even when the outcome is unclear. It enables us to stand by our beliefs and remain confident that our action will be best for our child in the long run. Courage enables us to think beyond the moment’s discomfort to how today’s actions (or inactions) will help or hinder our child in the future. And when our convictions tell us to take a stand but our fear tells us no, courage enables us to defeat our fear and lovingly serve our children’s best interests. —Tom McGrath

**YEAR OF STRONG CATHOLIC PARENTS**

The ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO in partnership with LOYOLA PRESS.

For more parenting resources: www.loyolapress.com

www.CatholicParentsChicago.org

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**Q: HOW CAN I GET MY CHILD TO TALK TO ME MORE ABOUT HIS FAITH?**

**A:** Begin by practicing listening skills whenever your child shares some important thoughts and feelings. Listen without judgment, repeat back what your child says, and do not offer advice, simply ask your child what he/she thinks they should do. Try this listening style when you and your child are alone, driving somewhere and notice the result. Often, when we stop “fixing” things for him/her and refrain from offering advice and pointing out moral lessons, children really open up. Use this communication technique when topics about religion come up, and see if your child is more open to talking about God and questions of faith.

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**Readings for the Week**

**Monday**
- Judg 2:11-19
- Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44
- Matt 15:16-22

**Tuesday**
- Judg 6:11-24a
- Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14
- Matt 19:23-30

**Wednesday**
- Judg 9:6-15
- Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
- Matt 20:1-16

**Thursday**
- Judg 11:29-39a
- Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10
- Matt 22:1-14

**Friday**
- Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
- Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10
- Matt 22:34-40

**Saturday**
- Rev 21:9b-14
- Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18
- John 1:45-51

**21st Sunday O.T.**
- Isa 66:18-21
- Ps 117:1, 2
- Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

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**Parish News**

**New to our community?**
If you are new to the Parish and would like to register, please visit our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org

**Looking for Host Families to help us welcome!**
If you would like to be a host family to our new members or would like information on being a host family, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones at 708.246.4404 x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

**Becoming Catholic**
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 contact Fr. Filbert Ngwila fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org.

Mark your calendar and come to our informal Inquiry Session on September 17th at 7pm in church to learn more about RCIA.

**Electronic News**
Sign up to receive the parish bulletin and weekly newsletter electronically. Go to our home page of the website and find the “tool box” on the left side. The sign up form is the 4th icon down. You will receive the bulletin on Saturdays at 5pm and the weekly newsletter on Thursdays at 5pm.

**Update Our Parish Records**
If you have moved or have a new cell phone or email address, please update your contact information with our parish office. Send any changes to mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org Thanks!!

**Married in 1963?**
Have you registered for the Annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass? If not, there is still time to register. The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 2:45 PM at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois.
To register, please call the Family Ministries Office at 312.534.8351 or register online at: www.familyministries.org.

**Calling All Moms of Young Children!**
Join the Moms’ Club for an ice cream social at Springdale Park on Friday, August 23rd from 9:30am-11:00am. New members EXTREMELY welcome!
Want to get on our email list? We will send you weekly updates of our events! Send an email to: sjcmoms@gmail.com Contacts: Ellen Twomey & Jen Van Wyck

**Traditional Choir rehearsals begin**
Wednesday, September 4, and Contemporary Ensemble rehearsals begin Thursday, September 5. New members are invited to try us out by attending our first rehearsal without further obligation. Contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries, to find out more!

**Children’s Choir News—Start up Dates!!**
Did you know that St. John’s has 2 choirs available to all children in the parish?

Cherub Choir serves children in grades 1-3 and practices on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 4:30 in the church. The start date is Sept. 11th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20.

Youth Choir serves students in grades 4-8, and practices on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30 pm in the church. The start date is Sept. 12th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20. Mark your calendars as you schedule your kids for fall activities! Questions? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

08-18-13 www.stjohnofthecross.org page 8
Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program Thank you

Thank you for your gracious and generous donation to the 2013 Rice Bowl Program. Your prayer, sacrifices and spirit in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need have made a difference in the lives of millions of people around the world. This year our parish, including our YC and school children, donated $7,901.16. This year’s donations went towards improving agriculture in Burkina Faso, stopping tuberculosis in East Timor, providing high quality education in Lesotho, offering community savings groups in the Dominican Republic, providing clean water in Pakistan, and helping alleviate hunger in the Diocese of Oakland, CA.

Thank you so much for your participation in this important program. May God bless our collective efforts as we seek to make a difference in this world with what we share with our brothers and sister.

Fr. Filbert Ngwila
SJC Rice Bowl Coordinator.

SJC Food Pantry Collection

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.”

Food collected for the month of August will be going to our neighbor parish, St. Cletus in Countryside. Suggested items include:

- Cans of meat, fish, chili
- Cans of fruit and vegetables
- Pasta, rice, macaroni, noodles
- Peanut butter and jelly,
- Cereal
- Soup, crackers
- Soap, laundry detergent

Thank you for your generosity!

Who is a Christian steward?

One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

For disciples of Christ—everyone who responds to Jesus’ invitation, “Come, follow me” - Christian stewardship is an obligation, not an option. Correctly and fully understood, Christian stewardship holds every individual accountable to God for personal care of the universe. At the time of judgment, God will have the right to ask: “What did you do with my world?”

Christian stewardship, therefore, applies to everything—all personal talents, abilities, and wealth; the local, nation and world wide environment; all human and natural resources wherever they are; the economic order; governmental affairs; and even outer space. Stewardship does not tolerate indifference to anything important in God’s world.

Stewardship is a way of life. It challenges Christians, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, to try to see the hand of God in all creation. It is a lifelong process of study, reflection, prayer, and action. To make stewardship a way of life for individuals, families, parishes and dioceses requires a change of heart and a new understanding of what it means to follow Jesus without counting the cost.

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. (Ps24:1)
ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER
for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago

On Sunday, September 8, 2013, the annual benefit dinner for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will take place at the Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont. The evening will start with Cocktails and Silent Auction at 5:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. Tickets are $175 per person.

Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program is unique. Commencing in September, 1999, it has annually recruited seminarians in Poland who, with the approval of their respective bishops there, have each freely elected to leave their native Poland with the idea of completing their seminary training here, first at Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program in Chicago, then at Mundelein Seminary.

Among those attending will be His Eminence Cardinal George along with the auxiliary bishops of Chicago. During the dinner the Guzior Family will be honored with the Caritas Christi Award.

For tickets and reservations please call Mrs. Camille Kopielski 847-394-2520. For further information call also Very Rev. Jacek Wrona or Dorothy Lin 312-915-0598.

Aging Care Connections’ Early Stage Memory Loss Seminar is an eight-week program designed for individuals diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia and their family members and friends. Group sessions will offer participants the opportunity to explore what memory loss means to them and to learn ways to: cope with changes, maximize strengths, enhance communication, and plan for the future. Participants will meet in two separate groups--those experiencing memory loss in one group and family members or friends in the other. The groups provide education, emotional support, and social interaction in a safe and supportive environment. Individuals will have the opportunity to give and receive support from those in similar situations. This program is provided at NO COST to the participants.

Begins: Thursday, September 12,   Ends: Thursday, October 31, 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm
Location: Aging Care Connections, 111 W. Harris Avenue, La Grange  708-354-1323

To enroll in the seminar, or to obtain further information, please call Ruth Folkening at 708-354-1323, x 228. Pre-registration is required. www.agingcareconnections.org

August 6, 2013

Thank you and farewell from Sr. Margie at OLPH sharing parish

Dear Fr. David and SJC Parishioners,

I write this month’s thank you note with a bit of a lump in my throat. This will be the last time I will have the privilege of offering my thanks to you for your faithful monthly Sharing and your continuing support.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kentucky this Sunday, the Bishop will formally install Fr. Jesu Mariasalether as our pastor. What a wonderful way to begin our next 50 years!

On August 15th I will begin a month off for retreat, vacation and time with family and friends. After that I will get together with my Provincial Superior and see what Divine Providence may have in mind for me to do next. I will miss the wonderful people here, but it is time to move on.

It has been a blessing to know you—you are truly a blessing to all who are served by OLPH and St. Boniface Parishes.

You will continue to be in my prayers. Keep me in yours.

Gratefully,

Sr. Margie
Crossroads

CALENDAR EVENTS:
Aug 18 Speaker Mike Patin provides training
9am for adults, noon for teen leaders
Aug. 25 DOS mtg 10am
Sept. 8 DOS mtg 10am & Kick-off Party
Dodgeball game for all teens 6pm

PRAYER REQUESTS:
- For our high school teens as they begin the
  new school year in the coming week—that
  they give their best as students and know
  that God loves them always.
- Of support and encouragement to our most
  recent high school grads as they venture to
  new beginnings in college or work—that
  they know God’s love is with them always
  and SJC is always a spiritual home for
  them.
- Of thanksgiving for all those who have
  joined our new leadership team and in hope
  for the remaining needs to be met!

WANTED: ADULT AND TEEN LEADERS on Fall Ministry Teams:
Welcome our newest high schoolers during their Freshmen Experience for the fall semester!
Lead our confirmation candidates on their Day of the Spirit Retreat Day Saturday Oct. 26th.
Become a home group leader for our freshmen!
Details about these positions and our new leadership board can be found on our website at
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/descriptions For further information contact Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or Christopher Zurowski teen retreat coordinator, 708-724-0419

First glance you see a couple guys watching another guy fix something.

Here’s the facts:
This photo was sent the first day Al, Paul & Michael were serving at our
Sharing Parish OLPH in Kentucky. Al, on the ladder, went there last year. Sr. Margie does not like to climb ladders.

After digging a bit deeper, you can see the
way our parish partners with our Sharing
Parishes by helping do things they are not
able to do. You can see Al taking the lead
after his previous experience there. Paul
and Michael sharing and bonding over the
efforts of serving others.

Youth Ministry helps teens go deeper in their
faith. We pay attention, take a little time and
share our willingness to learn together.
The Lord desperately needs you to share your faith!!

“Beg the harvest master to send laborers to gather the harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

It is important that we sow seeds of faith in children early to allow those seeds to grow! Being a Catechist is an opportunity to teach the youth of the Church.

We still need volunteers! Anyone is welcome! This is such a meaningful role in the parish. Find your treasure at YC!

Please pray about …
Sunday AM needs Catechists for:
Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th grade

Monday PM needs:
2nd grade Aide, 3rd, 4th & 5th Catechists

The Youth Catechesis Office welcomes our newest staff member, Megan O'Malley!

Megan will Coordinate grades Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades for YC. Megan has been a member of the St. John of the Cross Parish for 8 years since moving to Western Springs with her beautiful family.

Megan has a strong faith and high energy. We are looking forward to our children experiencing all the gifts that Megan will be offering.

Please keep Megan in your prayers as she begins the rewarding ministry of Catechetical Coordinator. WELCOME!
## Protecting God’s Children Workshops at St. John of the Cross Parish Center Fall, 2013

### Who

| All Parents, Coaches, Room Parents, any Volunteer in the parish who has regular contact with children. Sign up now as seating is limited. |

### What

| Workshop includes two thirty minute videos and discussion |

### When

| August 28 Evening 6:30-9:30 pm  
| September 18 Evening 6:30-9:30 pm  
| September 24 Evening 6:30-9:30 pm  
| September 24 Morning 9am-Noon |

### Where

| St. John of the Cross Parish Center |

### How

| You will need to register for this training by going on-line to the internet site for Virtus Training at www.virtus.org Click on the "registration" on the left side, choose “begin the registration process” and then choose “Chicago, IL” |

### Why

| We are all affected by the abuse of children by representatives of the Church and society. In response the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provided guidelines for the safety of our children in their Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. These recommendations have then been translated into an action plan by Cardinal George. Every employee and volunteer who has regular contact with children is required to attend a training session of Protecting God’s Children. These workshops will inform and inspire participants to be part of the solution and to help keep our youth safe from harm. |

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### Welcome Back

Students, Faculty & Staff!

**Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, August 20**  
Parent Orientation—Parents Only in LRC  
ALL New Parents 6:30-7pm  
Preschool Parents 7-8pm  
Kindergarten Parents 7-8pm

**Wednesday, August 21**  
Meet Your Teacher Night—Parents & Students  
6:45-7pm in Gym  
7-8pm in Classrooms

**Thursday, August 22**  
First Day for Grades 1-8  
Kindergarten Open House 9-10am  
Parent Tailgate Party 9am in parking lot

**Friday, August 23**  
Kindergarten begins

**Friday, August 30**  
All School Opening Liturgy 9:15am

**Prayer for Teachers:**

Loving God,  
Our creator, our savior, our companion,  
bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today. Refresh our souls and renew our spirits as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to. We welcome those who are new to this community and ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them. Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to this school, and may you guide them to return with open hearts and minds eager to learn.

We ask this in Your name, Amen
In a masterful book on grace, Piet Fransen suggests that we can test how well we understand grace by gauging our reaction to this story:

Imagine a man who during his whole life is entirely careless about God and morality. He's selfish, ignores the commandments, ignores all things religious, and is basically consumed with pursuing his own pleasure - wine, sex, and song. Then, just hours before his death, he repents of his irresponsibility, makes a sincere confession, receives the sacraments of the church, and dies inside that conversion.

What's our spontaneous reaction to that story? Isn't it wonderful that he received the grace of conversion before he died? Or, more likely: The lucky beggar! He got away with it! He got to have all that pleasure and still gets to go to heaven!

If we felt the latter emotion, even for a moment, we have never deeply understood the concept of grace. Rather, like the older brother of the prodigal son, we are still seeing life away from God's house as fuller than life inside God's house, are still doing the right things mostly out of bitter duty, and are secretly envying the amoral. But, if this is true, we must be gentle with ourselves. This is an occupational hazard for good, faithful persons.

Jesus, himself, expresses this in the parable of the vineyard workers. This parable was addressed to Peter in answer to a question. Peter, on behalf of the other disciples, had just asked Jesus what reward they were going to receive for their fidelity to him. Jesus answers by telling him the story of very rich and generous landowner who goes out one morning and hires workers to work in his vineyard. He hires some early in the morning, promises them a good wage, keeps hiring others as the day progresses, each new group having to work fewer hours than the group before them, and ends the day by hiring a group of workers just one hour before work is to end. Then he tells his foreman to pay everyone a full day's wage. But this leaves the workers who toiled the whole day somewhat bitter. "This isn't fair!" they protest. "We worked the whole day and bore the heat of the sun and this last group worked just one hour. It's unfair that we all receive the same wage!" The generous landowner, obviously representing God, is gentle in his response: "Friend, didn't you agree to this wage? And isn't a good wage? Are you envious and angry because I'm generous?"

Remember to whom those words are being addressed: Jesus is addressing Peter ... and, in effect, through this parable, is addressing all good people who are morally and religiously bearing the heat of the day. And Jesus is assuring us that we will be rewarded richly for doing this. But, as the parable makes clear, there's a catch: Simply put, we will be rewarded with heaven and it will be wonderful; but, and this is the catch, we can have everything and enjoy nothing because we are watching what everyone else is getting!

I sometimes try to highlight this point rather graphically when I give retreats to priests and religious. I have them consider this scenario: Imagine you live out your life in fidelity to the your vow of celibacy, metaphorically and otherwise bearing the heat of the day and, when you get to heaven, the first person you meet there is Hugh Hefner, the founder of Playboy. In shock you protest to God: "How did he get in here? It's not fair, given the life he lived and the life that I was asked to live!" And God, the over-generous landowner, gently replies: "Friend, didn't you agree to a life of celibacy, and isn't heaven a wonderful place? Are you envious and angry because I'm generous?"

And, how different this reaction to that of a true saint who, upon meeting someone like this in heaven, would, like the father of the prodigal son, rush over in joy, embrace the person, and say: "I'm overwhelmed with joy that you made it!"

Thomas Halik, a Czech writer, suggests that one of the reasons why so many people in the world reject the churches is that they see us as "embittered moralizers", older brothers of the prodigal son, doing our religious and moral duties, but bitterly, and criticizing those who don't live like us out of hidden envy. Nietzsche made a similar accusation more than a hundred years ago.

Sadly, there's more than a little truth in that accusation. Too often, we are embittered moralizers, secretly envying the amoral and criticizing our world out of bitterness. But that's an occupational hazard for the good and the faithful. Peter and first apostles struggled with it. Why should we be immune?

We needn't be immune, but we do need to be honest in admitting that, despite our real goodness and fidelity, this indicates that we are still far from being full saints.
This Week at SJC

Monday, August 19
7:30 a.m. Teacher's Meeting
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation Group
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, August 20
7:30 a.m. Teacher's Meeting
5:00 p.m. Stewardship PAC Meeting
6:30 p.m. RCIA Team Training

Wednesday, August 21
7:30 a.m. Teacher's Meeting
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, August 22
10:30 a.m. Catechist Meeting
6:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting

Saturday, August 24
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:30 a.m. Morning of Reflection

Sunday, August 25
10:00 a.m. DOS/FSR Advisory Meeting

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 19, St. John Eudes
7:45 Barbara Cervenka; Bob & Bernice Trickey

Tuesday, August 20, St. Bernard
7:45 Antionette Piszczor; Mary Devereux

Wednesday, August 21, St. Pius X
7:45 Galvin/Grogan Families; Catherine Pozen

Thursday, August 22, Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Amedeo & Adina Minsantoni

Friday, August 23, St. Rose of Lima
7:45 Roche Williams; Herman Ozga

Saturday, August 24, St. Bartholomew
8:00 Goss Family, living and deceased
Sugrue Family, living and deceased
5:00 George Gallagher; Gene Miley

Sunday, August 25, 21st Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Helen Devereux; Charlotte & Edward Fidelus
9:00 Shawn Feeley; Theresa Ripoli
10:45 Angela Baumer; Mary & Ben Carnevale
5:00 SJC & St. Thaddeus Parishioners

Try for our Sick

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Italics—Living

Wedding Banns
Amanda Sine & Matt Medhat
Claire Linehan & Mark Peterson

Collect: O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

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

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Thank you to the Fest Committee, the many Volunteers, and all of the families and friends who enjoyed the Fest!

Our 2013 Fest was an overwhelming success, not only financially, but for community, family fun and fellowship!

Through the efforts of many, Dan Madden (Chairperson of SJC Fest 2013) presented Fr. Dave with a check for $68,000.00 to SJC Parish.

We look forward to
SJC Fest 2014
June 26th - 29th

For more information on joining our FEST committee for next year, contact Dan Madden (708)417-1999.