We of St. John of the Cross Catholic Parish are disciples of Jesus, who desire to further His mission. A caring community that cherishes our parish heritage, we generously share our varied gifts and resources with others. We live our Catholic Faith, celebrate the Sacraments, and pursue life-long religious education and formation opportunities that support us in being witnesses and proclaimers of the Gospel.

MASS SCHEDULE
Monday-Friday: 7:45am
Saturday: 8:00am and 5:00pm Anticipation
Sunday: 7:30am
9:00am
10:45am
12:15pm
5:00pm

CONFESSIONS
Saturdays following morning Mass

SEPTEMBER 22, 2013
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Dear Parishioners,

Ten days ago, on Saturday September 7th, Catholics around the world were called to prayer by Pope Francis. The horror of the civil war in Syria had revealed the government’s use of chemical weapons against their own people.

President Obama had announced his decision that an attack on Syria was justified as a response to this violation of an international ban on chemical weapons that has been in existence since the end of the WWI by the vast majority of the countries of the world. The president had called for a debate and vote on this issue by the United States Congress, to begin Monday, September 9th.

To date, no debate or vote by Congress has had to take place as other factors radically changed the dynamics of international politics. The details are still being worked out, but at this time it looks like there is no need for the United States or any other country to intervene in preventing the government of Syria from continuing use of chemical weapons against their own people. Did the nonviolent leadership of the Pope play a role in helping to bring this set of circumstances about? Can the power of prayer be credited with turning hearts set on revenge to be focused on another way of resolving conflict and division? Is the world beginning to learn the futility of violence? I choose to believe.

The United States is often described as the most powerful nation on the face of the earth, the last true ‘superpower’. We have the capacity to destroy the world several times over if we used our multi-billion dollar nuclear arsenal. And yet we are being brought to our knees in Afghanistan by IED’s, improvised explosive devices, that probably cost between thirty and a couple of hundred dollars in materials.

"Pens and books are the weapons that defeat terrorism." This quote is attributed to Malala Yousafzai, the 16 year old Pakistani education activist who survived a 2011 Taliban assassination attempt. Maybe it should be pens, books and prayer.

Peace,
Fr. David

Just a reminder: the Beloved Retreat is coming quickly. The weekend of October 11-13 is just three weeks away. Pray whether this is the right time for you to make the retreat. It may very well be the best gift you could give yourself.

O loving God,
we give you thanks
during this autumn season.
We accept with joy the gifts of
this year’s harvest.
We praise you for sunshine,
for rain, for cold winds,
for all that these days hold.
As Earth begins its season of waiting,
we too wait upon your
ever-faithful care of us.
We pray for ourselves and
for all people in our world in need.
Amen
Dear Parishioners,

September is such a wonderful month with the start of the new school year, but also a very busy one as new routines and activities fill our days. This weekend I would like to draw your attention to two important events at our parish that will occur in the coming week: the beginning of our RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, sessions and the annual Anointing of the Sick Mass. Please read more about each below and consider joining us or share it with someone you think should know about it. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the parish office or stop me in the narthex after one of the Masses this weekend. ~ Fr. Fil

From the Desk of Fr. Filbert Ngwila

RCIA Sessions are held on Tuesdays beginning September 24th from 7-8:30pm - parish center.

What is RCIA?
RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a process (often called a “journey of faith”) aimed at welcoming others into our Catholic family through reflection on the experiences of their lives, the messages of sacred Scripture, and the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Who takes this faith journey?
A. An unbaptized person interested in learning about the Catholic faith B. Catholics, who, though baptized, are not catechized and/or did not complete their sacraments of initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation) C. Persons baptized in another Christian faith who seek to make a profession of faith in the Catholic tradition and be accepted into full communion with the Catholic Church.

What if I am not sure if I want to become Catholic, but want to learn more about Catholic teachings and practices?
The RCIA journey respects each participant’s faith experience and faith development timetable. Those “inquiring” about the Catholic faith meet with other inquirers, faith community members, and RICA team members at informal sessions. Friends and family members are welcome to attend also.

What will we study?
RCIA is more about faith formation than information. Resource materials are provided, videos are used where applicable, but the “heart” of RCIA is relationship and conversion. It is how we change from behaviors and attitudes which center on self to actions and choices which come from a relationship with a compassionate and loving God. Sessions include topics such as Jesus Christ, the seven sacraments, our Catholic Mass, how we pray, the Church calendar, the Virgin Mary, moral issues/Catholic teachings, the Trinity, the Bible, the saints, church history and Catholic tradition.

How do I begin the RCIA process?
If you are attending Mass, have begun to ask yourself, “What do I believe in?” or have already been seeking spiritual direction, then you may have already begun the RCIA faith journey. Come join us on Tuesday.

Next Sunday, September 29, we will have a special 12:15pm Mass for those who desire to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Following Mass there will be a reception for those anointed and their families and caregivers.

Who may be anointed?
“The Sacrament of the anointing is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death” (Catechism 1514). The Sacrament of Anointing is appropriate for those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or advanced age. This includes persons who are seriously ill whether at home, in hospitals or in nursing homes, as well as sick children who are old enough to experience benefit from the Sacrament. It could be physical, mental or emotional. The sacrament may be repeated if the person becomes ill again or if their condition becomes worse. A person may also be anointed before surgery.

What is involved in receiving the sacrament?
We come before The Lord for healing. Like all sacraments, the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration. The sacrament includes the following principle elements: the priest in silence lays his hands on the head of the sick person and prays over them. He then anoints their forehead and hands with the Oil of the Sick saying, “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”

What are the effects of the sacrament?
The special grace of the sacrament unites the sick person to the passion of Christ, gives strength, peace and courage to endure sufferings of illness or old age, imparts the forgiveness of sins if the sick person was unable to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance, provides for the restoration of health and helps to prepare the person for passing over to eternal life.

Where should I sit at Mass? Do I need to talk to a priest first to receive the sacrament?
Those wishing to be anointed will receive a name tag from a Minister of Care as they enter church. The minister will guide you to reserved pews, however, anyone sitting in other areas of church will be asked to stand to receive the sacrament. No prior arrangements need to be made to be anointed or attend the reception. At the end of Mass, there will be a special blessing for doctors, nurses, caregivers and all health professionals.
Caring for Older Adults: The Challenge and the Gift
On Wednesday, Sept. 25th, Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div., a certified advanced care facilitator and instructor and founder of Talk-Early-Talk-Often.com, will discuss the realities surrounding difficult conversations with aging parents about their future. Whether about housing, driving, health care choices or end of life options, these conversations can be tough. Adults with an aging parent or seniors curious about end of life care options, are welcome to attend. This free lecture is sponsored by St. Thomas Hospice.

6:45pm check in and light refreshments; 7:00-8:30pm presentation (includes question and answer session) in the Parish Center

To attend call Lynette at 630-856-6982 or lynette.cremerius@ahss.org

Upcoming Program at the Well
Co-Sponsored by SJC—$25 fee is waived—Program free to our Parishioners
The Ongoing Creation of Stars, Planets, and Life led by Astronomer and U of Chicago Professor, Grace Wolf-Chas, on Tuesday, September 24th 7:00-9:00pm at The Well, 1515 Ogden Ave. in LaGrange

During the last few decades, tremendous progress has been made in tracing the evolution of the Universe through the emergence of life on Earth. One fairly recent discovery is that the formation of planets and stars is an ongoing process. Indeed, we can observe nascent planetary systems in diverse stages of evolution; we’ve also learned that most “adult” stars appear to be accompanied by planets.

Parishioners must register by calling the parish center receptionist.

Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6 sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm beginning Thursday, October 10th in the large meeting room in the rectory. Fellow parishioner and educator, Kathleen Broderick, and Fr. David team up to lead this intimate grief support group for adults who have experienced loss of any kind. There is no charge to attend. Come to the west side brown door of the rectory and ring the bell. To register, contact Kathleen at 708-246-1165 or kathleen.broderick@yahoo.com

Divorce & Beyond
Open to adults experiencing or having completed divorce. Journey with fellow parishioners who have gone through the same things as you. Journey through stress, anger, and guilt to forgiveness, happiness and growth. Know that you are loved and welcomed as part of our parish family. Every other Friday evening at 7:00-9:00pm. The next meeting is Friday, September 27th. Materials $10. Call Ann Marie Calistro to register 708-784-9311.
Imagine, for a moment, a family gathering around the dinner table. Believing that the food on the table is a blessing from God, the family takes a few moments to pray, to thank God for the goodness He has shown them in providing nourishment for their bodies. They’ve said this prayer a thousand times before—and perhaps that’s why it sounds so rushed, so uninspired, so forced. Sound familiar?

In any family, each person probably has a particular form of prayer that’s most meaningful to him or her. Honor that by letting each individual choose a different prayer for the meal at least once a week… and have some fun with it. Here are just a few ideas:

• Sing the traditional Grace Before Meals prayer—improvise the melody.

• Say a prayer chain—go around the table and let each person tell God something he or she is thankful for that day.

• Read a passage from Scripture—don’t worry about having to add anything to it. Let the verse be the prayer.

• Take 15 seconds of total silence, letting each family member pray to himself or herself. You may be amazed at how powerfully prayerful a pause can be!

• Move the prayer from before the meal to after the meal. Simply changing when you say the prayer can help people focus more on the act of praying.

By mixing up the ways you pray at the table, you can ensure that habit won’t trump heart. In the process, you’ll discover again the joy of meeting God in mealtime prayer!

Introduce kids to positive Catholic Role Models

Saint Michael the Archangel
Feast day September 29

Archangels are one of the nine choirs of angels. Archangels have unique roles as God’s messengers to people at critical times. Among all the angels, they have the most special and protective love for all people and for the earth. The Church recognizes Michael the Archangel as one of the greatest of the archangels. He is the guardian of the Church, as well as the patron saint of police officers, grocers, mariners, and paratroopers. The feast honoring Michael the Archangel is September 29.

Family Connection
Talk with your children about some things that they have done to show that they can be trusted. Talk a bit about what it means to be responsible. Responsibility often means that we put aside something of passing value for something of greater value. Loyola Press 2013
Gospel Reading

*Luke 16:1-13*

Jesus tells a parable about a dishonest steward who is commended for his prudence; one cannot serve both God and money.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's Gospel sounds puzzling to contemporary readers, but it can be made less so by considering the economic system which stands behind the parable. A steward is dismissed because he is squandering his master's property. He is called dishonest because he is not serving the interests of the rich man, his employer. In response the steward, in an attempt to ensure favor for himself among the rich man's debtors, brokers repayment of the rich man's loans by foregoing the interest and fees that had been levied to line the steward's pockets. It is this action, in which the steward puts aside his greed and takes the longer perspective in order to enhance his security, which is commended by the rich man.

The passage concludes with three morals for the listeners. The first exhorts the listener to be prudent about the use of wealth. Like the steward in the parable, those who would follow Jesus must put transitory affairs in proper perspective. Christians should handle the affairs of temporal life with an eye toward eternal life.

The second concerns trustworthiness. Those who can be trusted in small things can also be trusted in great things. If Christians handle money and other passing things responsibly, then they can also be trusted with the affairs of the Kingdom of God.

Finally, Jesus tells his listeners that no one can serve two masters simultaneously. God must be put ahead of money. Loyola Press 2013

**Theme:** How do we use what God has given us?

**Breaking Open the Word**

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today’s Gospel

**Step One: Listen to the Word**

Again today, the Gospel is demanding. When you heard it proclaimed, how did you feel? What word or phrase struck you? What is most memorable about this reading?

**Step Two: Look into Your Life**

**Question for Children:** Clothes, food, toys all cost money. How do you keep your faith more important than money?

**Question for Youth:** The Gospel tells us that money can get in the way of serving God. How can you use all that you have (possessions, money, time, talent) to serve God?

**Question for Adults:** Money is an important part of modern life. Suggest one or two ways you can keep the need for money in balance with your faith.

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**Praise the Lord,**
who lifts up the poor.

*(Psalm 113)*

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**Readings for the Week**

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6</td>
<td>Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cf-5</td>
<td>Ps 13:1-2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8</td>
<td>Ps 149:1-18, 22</td>
<td>Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13</td>
<td>Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10</td>
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The great challenge of our lives is to respond to Christ’s call, the essence of which is to be with him as he works. We are to share Christ’s life, to think like him, to do what he does.

Richard Rohr Meditation

One of the major problems in the spiritual life is our attachment to our own self-image—either positively or negatively created. We confuse this idea of ourselves with who we actually are in God. Our ideas about things are not the things in themselves. Concepts of themselves are not immediate contact with reality. Deep religion is deep contact with full reality, and Jesus seems to be saying that full reality is nothing to be afraid of—in fact, quite the contrary.

Who we are, and forever will be, in God, is the only real, enduring, and solid foundation for our identity. God always sees his son, Jesus, in me, and cannot not love him (see John 17:22-23). What the Gospel promises us is that we are objectively and inherently children of God (see 1 John 3:2). This is full reality.

It is not a moral worthiness that we attain; it is ontological, metaphysical, and substantial worthiness, and we have it from the beginning, our own private “immaculate conception,” as it were. When this given God image becomes our self-image, we are home free, and the Gospel is just about the best good news that we can hope for!

Adapted from Preparing for Christmas with Richard Rohr (book)

Helping People Pray: Why Pray?

Our Catholic tradition tells us that we come from God and that all of life is a journey back to God. In John 16:5 Jesus said, “Now I am going to him who sent me.” If, like Jesus, we are on our way back to the Father who sent us, isn’t it a good idea to stay connected with him along life’s way? Such connection, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, accomplishes several things.

Prayer keeps us mindful that God is. Our loving, merciful God always is. Who wants to be deprived of knowing this God? Who wouldn’t want to have the ability to draw from this eternal well of faith, hope, and love?

Prayer keeps us aware that we depend on God. We exist because of God’s love for us. Our lives continue because we are sustained by the physical world God created, including the world of our own miraculous bodies.

Prayer helps us consent to God’s working in our lives. Giving consent to God is not always an easy thing to do. We would prefer to avoid life’s difficulties. The inevitable suffering we experience in life can become a source of invaluable learning when we consent to God’s will. This is what the saints experienced. It can be just as true for us.

Prayer keeps us aware of our joyful destiny: loving union with God. Many of us say that we want to get closer to God. Prayer is the way. Jesus calls us not servants but friends. And friends must make time for friends—to enjoy one another, to listen to one another, and simply to do things together. When making time for God becomes a priority, we are on the way to becoming closer to God. It is wise and healthful to disengage for a while each day from the multiple demands made upon us and to spend some time with God. When we make this time, the other things generally get done as well. I’ve heard people say, “If I skip my prayer time, the quality of my day suffers.” Getting closer to God is demanding but fulfilling too. It is why we were created. Why pray? God invites us. Jesus calls us friends, and friends need to spend time together.

Sister Marlene Halpin, O.P., is a nationally recognized speaker and author on the topics of prayer and spirituality. Her many books include the popular 189 Ways to Contact God for Loyola Press.
Guided by the words of St. John of the Cross, “In the evening of life we will be examined in love,” our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News. Therefore, we will:

Celebrate Eucharistic liturgies that enliven our spirits,
Be a welcoming community who calls forth the gifts of each person,
Engage in life-long formation that calls us to convert our hearts,
Share the teachings of our Catholic faith,
Value relationships and expand outreach,
Advocate for the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church.

To support this mission, we will communicate effectively, promote lay leadership and collaborative models of governance, and faithfully steward our time, talent and treasure.

www.stjohnofthecross.org

**Baptisms**

This month we welcomed the following children into the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism.

**Isla Marie,**
daughter of Christian and Christine (Swick) Giustini

**Ian Philip,**
son of Philip and Jaclyn (Bacci) DeLong

**Cooper Remington,**
son of Carl and Allison (Prieto) Oviedo

**Zoe Katherine,**
daughter of Ryan and Katherine (Lutzow) Hayes

**Megan Ann,**
daughter of Timothy and Susan (Atella) Mahoney

**Brian Thomas,**
son of Thomas and Mary Claire (Schafer) Downs

**Lea Jacklin,**
daughter of Andrew and Jill (Andrys) McGrath

May we remember your light today when we see the radiant sun, a burning candle, or a shining lamp. Jesus, our light, we praise and thank you. Shine on us forever.

John 12:46

**Baptism Preparation Meeting**

**Thursday, October 3**

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held Thursday evening, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center. Godparents as well as new babies are most welcome to attend with parents. Please call the Parish Center if you are coming or if you have any questions.
Parish School

Last week, our students participated in Games Day. The children enjoyed this event while quite a bit of learning took place. Our physical education teachers, Mrs. Bak and Mrs. Maley, taught social skills, responsibility, cooperation, self motivation and self discipline while they learned different playground games. These lessons helped create a safe environment on the playground and in the classroom while increasing physical activity and making recess a positive experience.

Our Parent Association sponsored an Ice Cream Social to welcome new families. Many children and families came to the parking lot to not only enjoy some ice cream, but meet others. Thank you to our Parent Association for sponsoring another wonderful fun filled event.

This Week at SJC
Sept. 23  All School Liturgy  9:15 a.m.
Sept. 24  Picture Day, All Day
          Parent Association Meeting, 9 a.m., PC
          Flu Presentation, 6:00 p.m., LRC
Oct. 7   Curriculum Night Grades 5-8, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 27  No School – Staff Development Day

Youth Catechesis

YC classes began last week with a fun Open House and lots of joy seeing everyone again! It’s not too late to volunteer — we are still in need of help on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm. Please contact the YC office if you can give of your time and talents as an aide or Co-Catechist.

7th Grade Kick-Off

This Sunday, September 22nd at 6:30pm in the Parish Center

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@stjohnofthecross.org  * 708-246-6760
www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am - 4:00pm
News and Events

Holy Hour for Life
In honor of Respect Life Month, Fr. Fibert will present a Holy Hour for Life on Monday, October 7th from 8-9pm in the main church.

Praying for Life
For 40 days beginning Wednesday, September 25th through Sunday, November 3rd from 7am-7pm each day people in our community and around the world will fast and pray for an end to abortion. Locally, people will gather to pray at Access Health Center in Downers Grove. To be a part of this effort email parishioner, Sue Stroka, at 40DaysDG@gmail.com. Regardless if you are able to be a part of this vigil, all are encouraged to pray for the sanctity of life.

Boy Scout Ad Altare Dei
Religious Emblem
The Boy Scout Religious Program for Ad Altare Dei will run from September 18 to December 3. Scouts will meet on Wednesdays from 8:00-9:00 pm. Scouts must have completed sixth grade. Any interested Scouts can call Celeste Pearson at 708-579-0619 or email her at cpearsonaad@gmail.com.

"Joining The Tower Chorale is making an investment in the quality of your life...", Patrick Godon, Director. The 28th season of rehearsals begins on Monday night, October 7th in Western Springs for three programs: 1) December: sacred and secular holiday music, 2) March: formal concert of a Masterwork, and 3) May: pop, Broadway, folk, or world music. See details at: towerchorale.org

For additional information please contact: Kathy Daley at 708-420-3125 or Tom Licar at 708-246-4708

Pet Blessing
Friday, October 4 at 4 p.m.
North Lawn of Church
Weather Permitting
Bring your family pets to a special pet blessing in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4th), patron saint of animals.

Be sure to bring your animals on leashes or in carriers, and don’t forget anything special you might need to care for your animal when outside!

Ron Rolheiser, OMI to Speak on Oct. 5 9am-3pm
at the Abbington Banquet Hall in Glen Ellyn. Topics to be discussed:

Morning Session: Toward a New Evangelization
Trying to Communicate Faith Within the Context of Secularity, Paradigm Shifts, A Graying Church and Bitter Polarization

Afternoon Session: Dark Nights and Doubts Within Our Faith
Understanding Both The Meaning and the Invitation Within Our Faith Struggles

Fee is $55; $45 for catechists. Sponsored by Mayslake Ministry
Register at http://www.mayslakeministries.org/events.php#spiritualityconference.

St. Cletus Family Fest
Saturday, October 5 - Noon—4 PM
$25 unlimited fun wrist band (trampoline, obstacle course, carnival games, rock climbing wall & more)
Brew Fest from 6-10:30 p.m. Tickets $15 each $20 at the door (buffet dinner, craft beers, raffles & more)
Tickets on sale after weekend Masses.
Crossroads Family News

September 28th, 2:00-3:30pm in Parish Center: We will be putting together Care Packages for former Crossroads members who are now college freshmen. We are inviting 5th and 6th grade members of the parish to join us.

Don’t Forget:

Sep 22  Home Group meetings
         Freshmen Experience 6-7:30pm

Sep 28  Care packages for Crossroad alumni 2-3:30pm
         Kickball North lawn 3:30pm

Sep 29  Pizza after 5pm Mass

For a complete calendar of Crossroad events for the year go to:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

CROSSROADS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
REGISTER AT
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

“I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university.” — Albert Einstein

Mother/Daughter Campout
Rescheduled

Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, s’mores and beverages for the girls. Great treats for the moms too!

the st. john of the cross women’s club invites you to
THE MOTHER & DAUGHTER CAMPOUT 2018!

Friday, September 27  6:30-9:30 p.m.

Candy Hunt - Inflatable Fun Movie on The Big Screen

Bring your tent and gear for a night of fun!
We will supply the food, drink and games!
$10 per person * RSVP by Sept. 25th.

PLEASE RETURN BOTTOM PORTION TO RSVP

NAME: __________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________
PHONE: __________________________
E-MAIL: _________________________
NUMBER ATTENDING: ADULTS ______
CHILDERN ______
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ ________

(COST $10.00 PER PERSON)

Please make your check payable to:
St. John of the Cross Women’s Club
(Checks or cash can be dropped off at the Parish Center)

Questions? Contact:
Denise Schullo (deec7@hotmail.com)

Steve Foody: crossroads@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Hayes: khayes
News and Events

St. Jude Thaddeus Church Choir
Twelfth Annual Concert
Today, 4pm
Mr. Timothy D. Walker, Sr., Minister of Music presents GREATER IS COMING today, 4pm at our sharing parish St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church 9540 Harvard Street, Chicago.
Ticket Donation $10

35th Annual Oktoberfest
September 28, 9am-3pm
St. James Lutheran Church
5129 Wolf Rd., Western Springs
Luncheon Served 11 am-2pm
German Music, Brats, dogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad and much more!!
Many Crafters, Huge Bake Sale, Face Painting, Charity Gift Drawings
Proceeds go to various Charities
Website: stjamesws.org
708-246-6228

Volunteers Needed for Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 9:00 and 10:45am Mass. Preparation materials and training are provided. The commitment is once a month. Please call Megan O’Brien, 708-784-0732.

Positions Open at SJC
SJC has an opening for an adult babysitter at our Sunday morning babysitting service in the Garden Room of the Rectory. This is a paid position. Please call Rita Forster, 246-4519.

Lunchroom aide in the school lunchroom 2 or 3 days a week - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - at St. John of the Cross Parish School.

To apply, please contact Mary Beth Wingert at 708-246-4454 or wingert@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us. Need help immediately.

Outreach

Interfaith Career Network
Job Support Workshop
Tuesday, September 24, 7-9 pm: speaker, Dennis Hamilton, will provide a presentation on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments. These are the keys to preparing a compelling resume and “elevator speech”. Dennis will also discuss how to assess your skills and prepare a strategy in making a career change.
Tuesday, October 1, 7-9pm: this week Dennis Hamilton will help you craft that all important “elevator speech”. This workshop is open to all and there is no charge to attend. We look forward to welcoming you in Westminster Hall at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange, 150 South Ashland Avenue. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com.

Free Resume Review September 28 from 9-11am. 20-minute one-on-one conversation with a human resources, or other search related professional for some ideas and suggestions that may enhance or refresh your resume. St. Cletus, 700 W. 55th Street in La Grange.

Sponsors Needed
The Legacy Guild is a charity organization that provides college scholarships to students in LT District 204 who have lost a parent. Founded 1 year ago this group has already provided over 20K in college scholarships to 12 students living in Western Springs, La Grange, La Grange Park and Countryside. The Guild is looking for sponsors for their Fall Golf Outing on Oct. 18. Contact: Bob Bock at 708-646-9047. More info at http://www.thelegacyguild.com//com

Volunteers Needed at Aging Care Connections
Aging Care in LaGrange needs front desk volunteers to answer the phone. Call Niki at 708-354-1323 x 226 for more information on how you can help.
Disappearing Roots
"Home is where we start from." T.S. Eliot wrote that and it describes an experience that can be felt both as a freedom and as a heartache. I cite my own case:

I grew up in a second-generation immigrant community on the Canadian prairies. My grandparents' generation had been the first settlers in that region and everything they built, from their houses to their schools, were understandably built with what they could afford and situated along roads and railways they could access. They did the best with what they had and didn't have the luxury of building with long-term permanence in mind.

Consequently many things of buildings that surrounded me when I was a child have since disappeared: The elementary school that I attended closed while I was still a student there. Both the building and school grounds have long ago disappeared. Wheat fields grow there now and you would never know that a school once existed on that location. The same holds true for the high school I attended. It too has disappeared, buildings and grounds replaced by grain fields. Indeed, the entire town that gave it its address has disappeared.

After high school, I attended two separate seminaries and each of these too suffered the same fate; both stood empty for number of years and then were gutted by fire. The theological college I taught at for the first 15 years of my priesthood was demolished to make room for a new freeway and now operates out of new buildings on a different site. The farm that I grew up on still operates, though the house I grew up in is now abandoned and the fields rented out. Nobody in my family lives there anymore. It's symbolic perhaps that the only building that's still in use from my early years is the church where I worshipped as child. Every other building of my youth, adolescence, and early adulthood has disappeared. I am an orphan in terms of the buildings that nurtured me in my youth.

But, in this, I'm hardly unique. All of us today, in different forms, are orphaned in this way. Already in 1970, Alvin Toffler, in his famous book, Future Shock, pointed out how transience and impermanence are beginning more and more to shape our psyches, as things, people, places, knowledge, and organizations pass through our lives at an ever-increasing rate. And he wrote this long before the impact of information technology began to reshape our lives much more radically. The transience and impermanence that Toffler describes in 1970 are dwarfed and taken to their square root by information technology today. By today's standards, things, people, places, knowledge, and organizations were passing through our lives at a snail's pace forty years ago, in 1970. Today, more than the buildings of our youth are disappearing from our lives.

What's to be said about this? What does this transience say about our lives and our times? Is this good or bad?

I suspect that we're all still sorting this out. Transience and impermanence aren't sins, though they aren't necessarily virtues either. For me, it seems, they're a mixed bag, a mixed blessing. On the positive side, they've brought us a new freedom. For many centuries, people were too much imprisoned by the suffocating permanence of the things, places, and knowledge of their time. They had stability, but often had petrification as well. Everything held firm, but too firm, few new doors ever opened. The transience and impermanence in our lives sets us free in a way that allows us to let ourselves be nourished and blessed by our roots, even as we aren't bound by them.

But there's a huge heartache in this as well. Constantly having the familiar disappear can also grieve the heart, and it should. It's healthy to want to go back to visit the old houses, schools, neighborhoods, and textbooks that once nurtured us. And so the loss of the things and places of our youth can be painful.

But the pain of transience and impermanence in our lives also helps point us towards the things that don't change, namely, faith, hope, and love. These can never be bulldozed-under, replaced by grain fields, burnt-down by fire, expropriated and knocked down to make way for a new freeway, or rendered obsolete by newer software. In this world, scripture tells us, we have no lasting city, but we are already inextricably bound up with things that do last forever.

Centuries before Christ, the biblical writer, Qoheleth warned us that everything in this life is vanity: "Vanity of vanities, everything is vanity." However he uses the word "vanity" in a different sense than we do today. For him, it does not connote a psychological narcissism or an unhealthy preoccupation with our appearance and persona. Rather, for him, "vanity" simply means vapor, a passing mist, transience, impermanence, something that disappears too quickly.

Experiencing that transience can give us a heartache; but it can also make us search more deeply inside all this impermanence for that which is permanent.

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.
Saintly Senior Club

If you are 55 or older, look no further! The Saintly Senior Club has planned 4 delicious luncheons and entertaining programs just for you.

Now is the time to become a member of the Saintly Senior Club. Friends are most welcome too.

Save the dates:

- October 11th: Oktoberfest
- December 6th: Christmas Party
- February 14: Valentines Day (luncheon elsewhere)
- March 14: St. Patrick’s Party

Membership is only $10 per year. Luncheons are $15 for members and $20 for non-members—a savings of $5 per luncheon.

(If paying by check, please make separate checks for dues and luncheons.)

Please fill out, mail or drop off at the Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Rd., Western Springs, IL 60558

Name:____________________________________
____________________________________

Address:____________________________________
____________________________________

Phone:____________________________________

Amt. Enclosed:_________________________

Any questions can be directed to Chairperson, to Trudy Schmitt at 708-246-1619.

SJC Saintly Senior Club

Es ist die Zeit des Jahres wieder!
Die Saintly Senioren Oktoberfest
Mittagessen wird bald hier sein.
Registrieren Sie noch heute!

proudly presents its fall Oktoberfest Luncheon

Friday, October 11th at 11:30 am
in the Parish Center

Cost: Members $15, Non members $20

R.S.V.P.’s due on Monday, October 7th

Enjoy a delicious, authentic German luncheon. Wine, beer, and soft drinks included. A lively entertaining program follows lunch! This is a great opportunity to connect with other seniors in our parish. Hope to see you there! Any questions, call Trudy Schmitt at 708-246-1619.

Name(s):____________________________________
____________________________________

Address:____________________________________
____________________________________

Phone:____________________________________

amt. Enclosed:_________________________

# Reservations at $15_____ $20 _____

Total Enclosed: $_____

We look forward to seeing you soon!

www.stjohnofthecross.org  9-22-13  page 14
This Week at SJC

Monday, September 23
10:30 am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 pm Little Rock
2:30 pm Adoration
2:30 pm Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, September 24
9:00 am Parent Association Meeting
9:00 am Protecting God’s Children
9:05 am Pray the Rosary in the Mary Garden
9:30 am Focus on Sunday Scriptures
1:00 pm Sacraments Study
6:30 pm Protecting God’s Children
7:00 pm Sacraments Study
7:00 pm RCIA

Wednesday, September 25
8:30 am Father Bonin Reflection
9:30 am Bible Study 3
1:00 pm Contemplative Outreach
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
3:30 pm Sorting for Troops
6:45 pm St. Thomas Hospice talk on Caring for Older Adults
7:30 pm Christian Meditation

Thursday, September 26
9:00 am Room Parent Meeting
9:00 am Flourish
2:15 pm Market Day Pick up
6:30 pm Outreach Meeting

Friday, September 27
7:30 am Staff Development
7:00 pm Divorce and Beyond

Saturday, September 28
7:00 am Christian Meditation
1:30 pm Crossroads Service Project

Sunday, September 29
1:15 pm Anointing Mass & Reception
5:30 pm Crossroads Pizza Night

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Teresa Peterson, wife of Chuck
mother of Kristen Davies, and Erika Peterson

George Fanning, brother of Bill Fanning

Ann Sheldon, grandmother of Deirdre

Toni Callahan, sister-in-law of
Vince and Diane Grant

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 23, St. Pio
7:45 Joe Surdyk; Evelyn Kowal

Tuesday, September 24
7:45 Arlene Bishop; Daniel O’Brien

Wednesday, September 25
7:45 Dunn-Figliulo Families; Christine Hussman

Thursday, September 26, Ss. Cosmas & Damian
7:45 Gloria M. Distel; Gora & Maier Families

Friday, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul
7:45 William Albertson; Genrose Hlavin

Saturday, September 28, Ss. Wenceslaus & Lawrence Ruiz
8:00 Mary Jane Manley; Misantoni Family—living & deceased
5:00 Richard Sprague; Robert Plechaty

Sunday, September 29, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 Paul Doyle; Thomas E. Doyle
9:00 Gloria Distel; Gene Miley
10:45 Donald Parker; Patricia Wirth
12:15 Therese Jurkacek; Thomas Martin
5:00 Steve Ryan; SJC & St. Mark Parishioners

Pray for our Sick

Dale Alm  Vickie McNally
Paul Cervony  Jay Meehan
John Casey  Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Terry Cullen  Bob Petreas
William Dwyer  Rick Reimer
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge  Dan Santucci
Bernadine Gordus  Teresa Schaefer
Karen Hult  Charles Sugrue
Barbara Jacob  Guy Thomas
Allison Kazragis  Joshua Tischler
Shirley Kazragis  Baby Kameron Walters
Joe & Rosie King  Mary Catherine Warren
Greg LaValle  Pam Wilson
Fr. William Mannion  Elizabeth Witek
Olga Theresa Matusik

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

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SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN — September 22, 2013

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
Nourishing
The retreat helped me re-examine the way I parent, benefitting both myself and my family.

Karin Teglia

Healing
No matter how young or old we are there is a broken part of us that feels unworthy of love. Beloved helped heal a part of that for me.

Marianne Firlit

Building Community
Beloved has the potential to change our parish from ‘the pew up,’ enlivening people’s faith lives and increasing their generosity in service to one another.

Fr. Dave Dowdle

Transforming
The Beloved retreat was a powerful weekend for me filled with thought-provoking talks, rituals and solitude.
Looking back I realized it marked the beginning of a whole new spiritual journey for me.

Suzanne Doonan

Give yourself the gift of the weekend Beloved Retreat October 11-13
Reservations are limited.
Reserve your spot today.
Don’t miss the opportunity.
Scholarships are available.

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

Please pick up a pamphlet at the exits of the church for more information and registration.