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Dear Parishioners,

Mid-90’s temperatures in mid-September? So, if you are a grade school student are you glad the school is air conditioned so you can have class, or do you wish it was not air conditioned so you could be dismissed early? What’s a kid to think? Actually, I think they are glad it is air conditioned because they really do want to be in school at this point. They are enjoying their classmates and their teachers. And it is good to have them back.

This week we welcome the roughly 1100 students for the beginning of Youth Catechesis (YC) classes which take place on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. We try to schedule things in such a way that they are ‘family friendly’ but for those families that neither Sunday morning nor Monday evening meet their needs, we also have Family Faith Connection (FFC), which is basically home schooling. I pray it is a year of growth in wisdom and grace for all.

If you were at Mass last weekend you heard an invitation to the Beloved retreat that will take place the weekend of October 11-13 at the Carmelite Center in Darien. I have high hopes for this retreat experience enlivening the faith of many in the parish. There are no age restrictions for adults between 21 and 101. We hope that a broad spectrum of folk with varied backgrounds and states of life will make up this first retreat effort that I hope will become a regular feature of our life together. It 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.

As part of their preparation to lead the retreat, a small group of parishioners made the retreat for themselves first during the past year. Some of those are the people who spoke after communion last week. I hope you picked up a brochure to learn more about the retreat. (You can always get more information from the parish website.)

One of the things that make people pause about going on one of these kinds of opportunities is that they are afraid they will have to talk or to share in a group. Not so! You are free to share as little or as much as you would care to, or care not to, as the case may be. No one wants you to be uncomfortable or awkward. For some people it takes a long time to process what they are feeling or thinking. Not a problem! Go at your own pace and your own comfort level. Of course, don’t be too surprised if something comes out of your mouth in spite of yourself! That’s called the Holy Spirit.

Another thing that gives pause is that people are afraid they will be roped into this retreat for the rest of their lives, somewhat like CHRP did. Again, not so! Only those who have made the retreat are leaders, but not everyone who makes the retreat wants to do that. No problem! It is first and foremost for you and your relationship with the God who gives you life. Anything after that is pure gift. You choose what to do with your gift.

So the location is convenient, scholarships are available so money shouldn’t be an issue (talk to me!), you have time to get babysitters and cover other bases and you owe it to yourself, your marriage and your family. What’s not to like? But seriously, it may just be one of the best things you can do for yourself and your faith.

The temperatures are supposed to be much more normal by the time you read this. The Bears have a chance to win two in a row. Thank God for the convenience of air conditioning and for the breath you breathe. And pray for peace in Syria and the world.

Last Thursday, September 12th was the 25th anniversary of Fr. Bill Bennett’s death. Along with the other founders of the parish, we are still blessed by his hard work and dedication to SJC. May God give him the reward of the goodness of his life.

Peace,
Fr. David
RCIA Inquiry Session This Week

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process which interested adults and older children are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. At our parish, we have dedicated men and women on our RCIA Team who help lead our sessions and guide our candidates and catechumens as they engage in the process of reflection, prayer, discernment and formation.

This Tuesday, September 17th, we will meet in the church at 7:00 pm for the information session. We invite people searching in their faith, those who desire to be baptized Roman Catholic, receive Communion and be confirmed, and those who were baptized into other Christian faiths but now want to become full members of the Catholic Church.

This first meeting will be an information session and will hopefully answer your questions. It will give you an idea of what the process entails and we will hear from those who were part of RCIA class of last year.

RCIA sessions which are held weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7-8pm in the parish center will begin on Tuesday, September 24th.

RCIA is a process which focuses on growth of a person's faith. It is a journey that begins with inquiry, and as we move along we come to appreciate God's presence in our lives and are transformed by his grace. With the help of our RCIA Team and the whole parish community, our catechumens and candidates will receive the sacraments of initiation and be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil in April, 2014.

I invite you to come to this information session to learn more, and please pass this information to any person you know who might be interested.

Peace!
Fr. Fil Ngwila

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Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon John 1: 38 – 39.
Stewardship: A Way of Life
Praying Service Sharing

Grounded in Gratitude
When we recognize that everything we have — our faith, our families, possessions and even our next breath — are gifts freely given by God for no purpose other than to demonstrate God’s love for us, we begin to appropriate an authentic attitude of Christian gratitude. But in our individualistic and secular culture it is easy to overlook this most basic truth and to place our trust in self sufficiency instead.

Because it is not reflexive to adopt a proper attitude of gratitude for our complete dependence on God, we need to be intentional about carving out time in our busy lives for prayer, Scripture reading and reflection on our relationship with God.

For those who make such a commitment, one of the first fruits is a deeper sense of gratitude and a growing recognition of our need to respond as stewards for the immense love God has shown for us.

Lord,
your love and generosity toward us, your children,
is beyond all that we could imagine.
Help us always to be mindful that all that we have comes from you.
Teach us to be respectful stewards, caring for your blessings, and using the specific gifts you give to each of us to build up your body, the church—in our parish, homes and families—and in our community so that all that we do will honor you.
We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, Amen.

Seminary Collection
Next Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next weekend we celebrate Seminary Sunday in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago. On this occasion, we honor the ministry of the many priests who serve you with that same charity in the future.

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Mundelein Seminary is a place where vocations to the diocesan priesthood are discerned and strengthened. During this Year of Faith, we have worked to strengthen our efforts in the New Evangelization. Pope Francis has encouraged us all to be “true evangelizers,” “bridges” to Christ for others. This is the call of every Christian, and each priest has a special role in this call to evangelize as an alter Christus.

Each year, as I ordain the graduates of Mundelein Seminary to the priesthood of Jesus Christ, I do so with confidence that they have been formed for fidelity and service and are well educated in the Catholic faith. The best example of the work of the seminary is reflected in the quiet and compassionate ministry of your pastors and parish priests as they live out their ordination commitment each day to bring Christ to you as they preach, teach and administer the Sacraments. I thank them for their good example, and I thank you or your prayers and financial contributions, which provide our future priests with the education and environment they need to “prepare well” to serve God’s faithful. I ask you to pray for those whom God is now calling to the ordained priesthood from among our families and friends. Talk to young men you know whom you think might be good priests; encourage them to explore the possibility of priesthood.

I ask you to especially remember your bishops, your parish priests and our seminarians each day in prayer. You and your intentions are in ours. May God bless you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

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Parish News

The Anointing of the Sick
On Sunday, September 29th at the 12:15 p.m. Mass we will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament of healing imparts spiritual grace upon the Christians suffering from illness of body, soul or frailty of aging. If you or someone you know is being tried by illness, we invite you to join fellow parishioners as we pray for healing and strength. At the end of Mass a special blessing will be given to caregivers, nurses, doctors and all medical providers.

The Ministers of Care will sponsor a reception in the Parish Center following Mass. Anyone in need of transportation or additional information, please contact Gloria Deizman 708-246-5314 or Sylvia Kuzel sakuzel@att.net.

Looking for a creative & social outlet that will enrich your faith?
New members are encouraged to join the choir!

The Traditional Choir is a 40 member group that sings choral masterworks, American folk songs, spirituals, chant, and traditional hymns. They sing on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and rehearse on Wednesday evenings. The Contemporary Ensemble is a smaller group incorporating drums, guitars, and other instruments that sings the best in contemporary worship music. They sing on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and rehearse on Thursday evenings. To get involved or to find out more about music ministry, please contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries: jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org

Singing helps me to participate more fully. After the Mass has ended, I really feel like I’ve spoken with God through music and song.—Patti Brakenridge, Contemporary Ensemble

God gave us all certain talents and what could be better than to use those talents to praise God and help others to pray.—Ken Hilger, Traditional Choir

Children’s Choir News
Did you know that St. John of the Cross has two choirs available to all children in the Parish? Please call Ann Bourjaily-Maney at 708-246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net.

New This Year—
”5 Alive” Choir Will Sing Every Sunday
Are you a high school/college aged person looking for a way to get involved in music at SJC? Our Sunday night 5pm Mass is looking for you@ Rehearsal just before Mass at 4pm. No regular commitment is needed. Call or email Ann Bourjaily-Maney. Or visit the 5 Alive Facebook page.
Fall Adult Formation Programs & Prayer Opportunities at a Glance

Adult Formation Programs

Go to our website for more details on each program. All classes are held in the parish center. Participants may join these programs at any time.

Christian Meditation
Wednesdays 2:00 and 7:30pm and Saturdays 7:00am
Mondays 10:30am 11th Step

Eucharistic Adoration
in Mary Chapel
Mondays 2:30-9:00pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:30 and Rosary at 8:45pm

Pray the Rosary
Before and after morning Mass and on Tuesdays at 9:05am in Mary Garden or Church

Focus on Sunday Scriptures
Tuesdays at 9:30am

Pillar Study II: The Sacraments
Tuesdays at 1pm or 7pm. Classes began Sept. 10, but new participants may still join. Materials $25

Little Rock Land of the Bible
Fr. Phil will lead eight sessions on Mondays at 1pm beginning Monday, September 16th. Materials $10

Spirit Packed into Soul with Fr. Harry
Wednesdays at 9am. Bring a favorite poem and notepad

Flourish Faith Sharing & Scripture Study for Women
Every other Thursday at 9:00am. Register by email to Sue Bidstrup at jsbidstrup@ameritech.net

Upcoming Program at the Well
Co-Sponsored by SJC—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
Evolution ~ Christian theology ~ other faith traditions ~ evidence of other worlds beyond earth ~ Go to our website for more details. Parishioners must register by calling the parish center receptionist.

Ongoing Prayer Opportunities

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. Materials $10. Call Ann Marie Calistro to register 708-784-9311.

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

Jesus responds to those who criticize him for keeping company with the unworthy.

Background on the Gospel Reading
In chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. The outcasts of society, the taxpayers, and the sinners approach Jesus eager to hear what he has to say. In Luke's Gospel, hearing is a sign of conversion. The Pharisees and scribes, still suspicious of Jesus, complain about him associating with sinners. So he tells them these three parables.

In the first story, the parable of The Lost Sheep, the shepherd leaves behind the 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep. When he finds it, the shepherd rejoices not alone as in Matthew's version, but with friends and neighbors. In the same way, God rejoices more over 1 sinner who repents—like the outcasts who have come to hear Jesus—than over the 99 righteous like the Pharisees and scribes. The second story, about a poor woman who will not stop searching until she finds her lost coin, makes the same point. Why are the Pharisees complaining? They should rejoice when the lost are found.

Finally we come to what is probably the most memorable parable in the Gospels, the story we know as The Prodigal Son. Just as in The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin, this story (found only in Luke) is really about the seeker. The loving father is at the center of this parable. Even though his son runs off with his father's inheritance and squanders the money, the father waits for him, hoping for his return. Upon his son's return, the father, “full of compassion,” runs out to embrace and forgive him before the son can utter one word of repentance. At this point the rejoicing begins.

The parable does not end there. Rather, it makes one more point about the older son's reaction. This son who never left, just like the Pharisees and scribes who feel they are righteous, refuses to enter his father's house to join in the rejoicing. He has served his father. He has obeyed him. Perhaps it was not out of love. The father's response teaches us that God's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

Step One: Listen to the Word
You have heard this parable many times. When you listened to it today, what word or phrase or image really struck you? What feeling does this story leave you with?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: The father in this story welcomed his son home, even after he ran away and did bad things. How do you know God welcomes you after you do that?

Question for Youth: The prodigal son was welcomed home even though he had sinned. How hard is it for you to ask for forgiveness? Is it hard for you to believe that you are still loved even when you have sinned?

Question for Adults: When you wander away from being true to your faith, how do you know God will take you back? What signs do you see?

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia, alleluia

Theme: Come home. God's forgiveness is always there. God forgives before we even ask for forgiveness.

Readings for the Week

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Read or retell in your own words, the three stories from the Gospel. Ask your children to recall games they play that involve losing or hiding something and then finding it. (Hide and Go Seek, Ghost in the Graveyard, Button, Button, Who’s Got the Button?) Talk about how exciting it is to find the person or thing being looked for.

Ask your children if they have any memories of losing something special or being lost themselves. Share the stories as well as the fears or feelings. Then tell them that just as you would go to any length to find and bring them home if they were lost, so too would God. That is what Jesus is telling us in the three stories. No matter what we do, no matter how wrong we are, God, our loving father, is always anxious to forgive us and welcome us back home.
Daily Requirements

A while back I had to wait a few minutes for a prescription to be filled and, having nothing better to do, I filled the time by reading the back of the bottle of multi-vitamins I was purchasing.

I was amazed how much of the “minimum daily requirement” of various vitamins and nutrients the multi-vitamins contained. Because I take a multi-vitamin every day, I began to wonder why I am not a lot healthier than I am. It then dawned on me that probably the most important of those three words was “minimum.” Whenever we do the minimum, we probably shouldn’t expect great results.

Sometimes, without being consciously aware of it, I take the “minimum daily requirement” approach to my spiritual life. I pray and preside at Mass, but at times this can become more a routine part of my day than a mindful and attentive time with God. In effect, I go through the motions, but my mind and heart are somewhere else. Now this is not a deliberate choice on my part; rather I just fall into a bad habit of doing the minimum daily requirement in terms of my spiritual life. I suspect I am not alone in this. At times, without our deliberately choosing it, we can put our relationship with God on autopilot and we can settle for the minimum daily requirement of time and effort in terms of our spiritual life.

When the above happens, we need to do something to jump start our spiritual life. Things that might help include: spending some extra time in prayer or trying to pray in new or different ways. Making time for some spiritual reading or for a day of reflection or a retreat can also help. Being part of a community of faith that nurtures and challenges us can also give a boost to our spiritual life. The important thing is to realize when we have settled for the minimum daily requirement in regard to our spiritual life, and then make some positive choices to get back on track.

At times the minimum daily requirement can be a good thing. This is certainly true in regard to multi-vitamins. The minimum daily requirement is not a very good long term strategy, though, in terms of our spiritual life. To keep our relationship with God on track, we need to do more than the minimal daily requirement. This is both our challenge and our goal as followers of Jesus. Fr. John Bauer

Silence is really absolutely necessary for the human spirit if it really is to thrive. Not only just to thrive, but to be creative, to have a creative response to life, to our environment, to our friends. Because the silence gives our spirit room to breathe, room to be. (John Main, The Hunger for Depth and Meaning)

Richard Rohr
Daily Meditation

Make Sure You Are Hungry

Christ is the bread, awaiting hunger.
— St. Augustine

Eucharist is presence encountering presence—mutuality, vulnerability. There is nothing to prove, to protect, or to sell. It feels so empty, simple, and harmless, that all you can do is be present. In most of Christian history we instead tried to “understand” and explain presence. As if we could.

The Eucharist is telling us that God is the food and all we have to do is provide the hunger. Somehow we have to make sure that each day we are hungry, that there’s room inside of us for another presence. If you are filled with your own opinions, ideas, righteousness, superiority, or sufficiency, you are a world unto yourself and there is no room for “another.” Despite all our attempts to define who is worthy and who is not worthy to receive communion, our only ticket or prerequisite for coming to Eucharist is hunger. And most often sinners are much hungrier than the so-called saints.
Thank you from Kolbe House

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your continued help to Kolbe House. The $1,200 Check that we received helps us to pay our bills, take care of families who have someone incarcerated and carry on with our regular jail visits. This economic help also helps us meet the unexpected needs of the men and women who have been recently released from jail or prison.

The relationship that we at Kolbe House have with you is a gift. Through the good work of various St. John volunteers our jail lists are constantly updated, emergency situations are handled. A call is made that asks how can we help, how many stamps do you need for the Christmas cards that are given out in jail. The seasons may change but this life giving relationship only gets better. Your light shines brightly here among us whenever we talk about St. John of the Cross.

Always know that I am personally grateful that we have met. You are all a blessing in our lives and in the lives of those whom we serve.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriquez

Interfaith Community Network

A five week job support skills workshop begins on Tuesday evening September 17 from 7-9 pm. Join us at the First Presbyterian Church located at 150 South Ashland Avenue. Please enter on Catherine Ave. No charge.

Your Brain, Your Interview Thursday, September 19 from 7-9pm — How the brain works...replacing negative messages with positive ones so you can be at your best for your interview and life in general. Speaker, Joan Zietlow. St. Cletus Education Building, 700 W. 55th Street in La Grange Enter the building at the flag pole entrance.

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. 700 W. 55th Street in La Grange.

Shop to Benefit Beds Plus

Mark your calendar and plan to shop at Whole Foods in Hinsdale on Wednesday, Sept. 18th. 5% of your purchases will be donated to Beds Plus. Beds Plus helps homeless individuals obtain stable affordable housing and provides a continuum of professional supportive services including emergency overnight shelter. www.bedspluscare.org

Annual Parish Collection Ends Sept. 16

Donation Boxes in Church and Parish Center

The mission of Operation Support Our Troops IL is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and overseas. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain. Questions: Contact Debbie Pusinelli (708) 246-6760 ext 251

Top Ten Items Needed at This Time:
1. Individual cold drink mix packets (Gatorade, Propel)
2. Slim Jims/Jerky
3. Crackers (16 oz or less)
4. Nuts (20 oz or less)
5. Cereal/breakfast bars
6. Flyswatters/fliestrips
7. Sunscreen (8 oz or less, no aerosol please)
8. Antibiotic or anti-itch cream
9. Toilet paper
10. Insect Repellent Wipes or Spray (8 oz or less, no aerosol)

ICP Volunteers Needed

Interfaith Community Partners, based in LaGrange Park, is seeking volunteers to provide escorted transportation to mainly medical appointments, friendly visitation and well-being telephone checks to seniors still living in their homes but no longer driving. A one-time training is provided. Flexible scheduling is accommodated. If you would like more information, please contact them at 708/579-8929.

ICP Benefit Save the Date: Wed. Oct. 16. Go to their website for more information.

St. Jude Thaddeus Church Choir Twelfth Annual Concert

Mr. Timothy D. Walker, Sr., Minister of Music presents GREATER IS COMING Sunday, September 22, 4pm at our sharing parish St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church 9540 Harvard Street, Chicago. Ticket Donation $10
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.

Academy of Our Lady Alumnae Reunion
If you graduated in a year ending in 3 or 8 you will receive a special salute at the A.O.L. Alumnae Association all-school Reunion 2013 from 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday, October 5 at the Hilton Oak Lawn Hotel, 94th and Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn. For more information, please call the A.O.L. Alumnae Office, 773-445-2300, or visit the website www.AcademyOfOurLadyAlumnae.org

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

Oktoberfest
Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 4-11 pm--RAIN OR SHINE--St. Louise De Marillac Parish, 31st and Harrison Avenues, in LaGrange Park presents their annual Oktoberfest, a family fun festival with free admission! For more information call 708-352-7388 or visit www.slmeparish.org/oktoberfest

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.

Caring for Older Adults: The Challenge and the Gift
On Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Center 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.
To attend call Lynette at 630-856-6982 or lynette.cremerius@ahss.org

Mom’s Club—Moms of children 6 and under!
Our next meeting will be held Friday, September 20 in the Parish Center from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Contacts: Ellen Twomey and Jennifer Van Wyck

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.

Protecting God’s Children
Our parish is offering 3 sessions for parents, coaches, or any volunteer who has regular contact with children. The workshops which will be in the Parish Center are scheduled for Sept. 18 6:30pm, Sept. 24 at 9am and 6:30pm. To attend go online to www.virtus.org.
On Monday, the students attended an all school liturgy on Patriot Day. This year’s 6th grade class planned the liturgy and asked our student body to bring in 911 non perishable food items to donate to local food banks. Thank you to all as our 6th graders exceeded their goal!

Students in Preschool and Kindergarten celebrated Grandparent’s/Special Friend’s day this week. Each child had the opportunity to invite his or her grandparents or someone special to the classroom. Our guests had a wonderful time as the students prepared special songs and participated in craft projects with the children.

All 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students: Trying to decide which Catholic High School to attend?

St. John of the Cross Parish School will be hosting a Catholic High School Fair for all parish junior high students on Tuesday, October 1st from 7-8:00 p.m. in Hynes Hall (multi-purpose room) in the the SJC Parish School. Representatives from 17 Catholic High Schools (Benet, Brother Rice, Fenwick, Immaculate Conception, La Lumiere, Marist, Montini, Mother McAuley, Mount Carmel, Mt. Assisi, Nazareth, Queen of Peace, St. Ignatius, St. Joseph, St. Laurence, St. Rita and Trinity) will be available that evening and are anxious to meet 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students and parents. Also, flyers explaining the Reverend Joseph McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship Fund will be available. Questions regarding the SJC High School Fair may be directed to Mrs. Kathleen Gorman, Principal, at (708) 246-4454.
Crossroads

CROSSROADS SEPTEMBER 8TH KICK OFF PARTY

Dodge ball Champs: Stanton Home group

CROSSROADS REGISTRATION FOR FALL IS OPEN!
CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER AT
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

Sep 15 Fresh-Soph retreat mtg 10am
DOS mtg Noon
Sep 21 Kickball North lawn 3:30pm
Sep 22 Home Group meetings
Freshmen Experience 6-730pm

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. -MLK

YC Schedule
Classes K-6 10:15-11:30am Sunday, Sept 15, 22, 29
6:15-7:30pm Monday, Sept 16, 23, 30
FFC/Preschool Noon-1:30 pm Sunday, October 6
Home Groups and Special Needs Sunday, Sept 15, 22

First Day of Classes!
Open House for Parents!
During class attend the classroom for part of the time, then come to a presentation on the year ahead.
Plan to join us!!!

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

Steve Foody: crossroads@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Hayes: khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

www.stjohnofthecross.org
Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, s’mores and beverages for the boys. Great treats for the moms too!

the st. john of the cross women’s club invites you to

THE MOTHER & DAUGHTER CAMPOUT 2013!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH — 6:30-9:30 PM

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! $10.00 per person ★ RSVP by Sept. 16th

PLEASE RETURN BOTTOM PORTION TO RSVP

NAME: __________________________________________

ADDRESS: _____________________________________

PHONE: _______________________________________

E-MAIL: ______________________________________

NUMBER ATTENDING: ADULTS ___________

CHILDREN ___________

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)
Monday, September 16
10:30 am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 pm Little Rock
2:30 pm Adoration
2:30 pm Spiritual Journaling
6:45 pm Washington Trip Parent Meeting

Tuesday, September 17
9:05 am Pray the Rosary in the Mary Garden
9:30 am Focus on Sunday Scriptures
1:00 pm Sacraments Study
7:00 pm Sacraments Study
7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, September 18
8:30 am Father Bonin Reflection
9:30 am Bible Study
9:30 am Bridges
11:30 am Ladies Bridge
1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
6:30 pm Virtus Training
7:30 pm Christian Meditation

Thursday, September 19
7:00 pm Faith Sharing Group

Friday, September 20
9:30 am Mom’s Club
6:30 pm Mother/Daughter Camp Out

Saturday, September 21
7:00 am Christian Meditation

Sunday, September 22
9:30 am YC Small Group
9:30 am YC Home Group
10:00 am Crossroads DOS/FSR
3:00 pm YC 7th Grade Kick Off
6:00 pm Freshman Experience

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Stanley Kulpa, husband of Marie, father of David
Rolland (Bob) Floch, father of Michael, Patricia Bruzek and Nancy

Wedding Banns
Timothy Forster & Krista Rue

Mass Intentions
Monday, September 16, St. Cornelius
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; John K. Quinlan

Tuesday, September 17, St. Robert Bellarmine
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Catherine Schnitzer

Wednesday, September 18
7:45 George A. Poullet; Bob Cosgrove

Thursday, September 19, St. Januarius
7:45 Beth Eichler; Roche Williams

Friday, September 20, Ss. Andre KimTae-gon & Paul Chong He-sang
7:45 Andrew White; Michael Collins

Saturday, September 21, St. Matthew
8:00 Rita O’Carroll; Joey Kurzz
5:00 Frank J. Rock, Jr.; Robert Plechaty

Sunday, September 22, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 Bruno Shukis; Robert Baal
9:00 Carol Delany; Maureen O’Malley
10:45 Jean Premo; Gene Miley
1215 SJC and OLPH (Uganda) Parishioners; Tom Martin
5:00 Alice Sobey; Dan Boyle

Italics—Living

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

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

Fr. David P. Dowdle    Pastor    ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila    Associate Pastor    fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp    Deacon    john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
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MJ Martin    Operations    mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones    Welcome    erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
CONBOY'S-WESTCHESTER FUNERAL HOME
A Family You Can Rely On...
Today and Tomorrow.
10501 W. Cermak Road, Westchester
708-562-5900
Parishioner

For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-566-6170
It’s worth it.
Make time for the Beloved Retreat!

Experience ~ Inclusive ~ Love ~ Truth ~ Healing

Maybe you have never been on a retreat or have not been on a retreat since high school. Maybe you are a regular retreat goer. Regardless of your retreat experience, making Beloved your “getaway weekend” may be one of the best decisions you will make for your personal and spiritual life.

The team enjoyed talking with everyone last weekend after Mass. Here are some of your-

Commonly asked Questions?

Q: Is it an overnight?
A: Yes. The rooms accommodate two people with a private bath and the cost includes all meals and snacks. It starts at 7pm on Friday and concludes at 2pm on Sunday.

Q: My son or daughter did Kiaros. I want what they had. Can I find it here?
A: Yes. Many of the pieces of the retreat are similar. Terry led Kiaros for many years and he’s been influence by the enriching experience. However, Beloved is an adult experience.

Q: Do I have to talk?
A: No, all table participation is optional.

Q: If I go does it mean I will be expected to participate in the next retreat.
A: No. All participation is optional. Even if you choose to commit, it is for 6 meetings prior to the next retreat in October of 2014.

Q: Is this a retreat for couples or can I go alone or with a friend?
A: All of the above. All are welcome.

Q: I know of someone from another parish who would enjoy this retreat. Can I invite them?
A: Yes. All are welcome.

The Team: Suzanne Doonan, Mary Beth and Don Dvorak, Marianne Firlit, Sr. Pat Francis, Andrea and Rich Gagliani, Marie Gerken, Nancy Michalica, Amanda and Eddie Sandrick, Karin and Dean Teglia and Tiffany White.

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 or any member of the team above.

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