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
Dear Parishioners,

Before Mass one day this week a parishioner said to me, “My 33 year old son is so excited about this pope!” Someone who has been involved in catechesis in the parish for a long time tells me: “One of my adult children texted me during the week and told me-I so love this pope!” Someone interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic tells Fr. Fil: “This pope is something else. I really like him.”

Pope Francis has generated more positive media coverage in the past few months than the Church has received in years. I heard from someone that one of our YC moms had read the entire 16 page interview and then had to write her reactions to it, there was so much to the interview. Enthusiasm for papal leadership, finding a new middle, rejoicing in hearing from Rome what many have believed for a long time and to them it just seems like common sense but they had never been affirmed in their belief before, taking pride in belonging to an institution that has made so many feel so shamed for so long; it is all a phenomenon generated by this Vicar for Christ. I have told several people: I don’t remember praying for any pope’s longevity before, but for this pope I pray for longevity.

The pope himself has cautioned that institutional change takes a long time if it is to last. People need to adjust, to reflect; to pray about what is ever ancient, what is ever new. And the challenge of this pope is to be grounded in the Gospel that gives hope to the least, the lost and the last. Wasn’t that what we were always supposed to be grounded in?

This coming Friday is October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Sing praise for Brother Sun and Sister Moon, have your pet animals blessed for the blessing they are in your life, and pray in thanksgiving to the patron saint of the pope for inspiring new life around the world in the Catholic Church.

Did you hear the ‘shout out’ on the Emmy Awards Show from Gail Mancuso, winner of the Best Director in a Comedy Series, to our own Bill Bright? Gail was a student of Bill’s 43 years ago when he was teaching 8th grade in Melrose Park. Bill had the students involved in all kind of creative writing and acting and Gail credits him with being the teacher that helped her find her true calling and gave her life direction. To have that kind of impact on even one student for a teacher gives meaning to all the sacrifice and hard work that is the labor of love of education. And to be made aware of the gratitude for it, in any small way much less on the stage of national television, is truly to be humbled as Bill was, but also so very proud, as he justifiably also is of Gail. KUDOS to them both, and to all the teachers who never hear directly, but know in their hearts, they have touched a student’s life.

Is God calling you to go on the Beloved Retreat? Are you looking for a spiritual enlivening deeper than newspaper headlines? Are you hesitant and yet still curious about how you can grow in your faith? Be sure to sign-up before the space is gone. You’ll never regret it.

Peace,
Fr. David
Become Involved in Liturgy

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**
Volunteers are needed for Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:45am Sunday Mass. Preparation materials and training are provided. Please help us to continue to offer this ministry. The commitment is only once a month but the reward is great!

Please call Megan O'Brien at 708-784-0732.

**We invite you to become involved in a liturgical ministry! Call Jim Clauer if you have any questions—x137.**

**New Communion Minister Training**
Sunday, October 13, 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Adults and high school teens who have a sincere love and appreciation for God’s gift of the Eucharist are welcome to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during weekday and Sunday Masses. In addition to the desire to serve, Extraordinary Ministers must be baptized Catholics who have received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation, must go through training and be free to receive the sacrament and no restrained though a marriage situation. Training Sessions are held in church. No need to register, just come!

**New Lector Training**
Sunday, October 20, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Lectors proclaim the Word of God during Mass. This ministry is open to all adults and high school youth who are registered members of the parish, have a sincere love for the Word Of God contained in scripture, have been fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacrament of confirmation, who preferably possess good reading skills and a clear speaking voice.

**Ushers Needed at All Masses**
Ushers, Ministers of Hospitality, are men or women of high school age or above willing to give their time during liturgies to help others attending Mass. This includes welcoming and guiding people to their seats before Mass, at communion time, taking up the collection and aiding the handicapped or anyone taken ill. Parishioners interested in joining this ministry are welcome and needed, particularly at the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

**Praise the Lord, my soul!**

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**Pet Blessing**
Friday, October 4 at 4 p.m.
East Lawn behind the Parish Center
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!

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**RCIA Classes Beginning**
Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm
Parish Center

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

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

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www.stjohnofthecross.org 9-29-13 page 3 Praying ~ Serving ~ Sharing
Help Your Kids Understand Scripture

Choose one of the following activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- As a family, make plans to do one activity in the coming weeks that shows your responsibility to the poor and needy. You might volunteer to work in a local soup kitchen or food pantry, or assist such service organizations as Habitat for Humanity. Other possibilities include organizing a food drive at your church or volunteering to mentor young children at a school or after school program in your community. After you have completed your project or activity, talk about how you as a family can continue to care for the poor and needy on an ongoing basis.

- At the evening meal, have each member of the family take a turn leading a personal prayer for the poor and for all of those who serve the poor.

- Play a game with your child to see how many of God’s gifts he or she can name. On a large sheet of paper, write across the top: Top 25 Gifts from God. Have your child start by naming one of God’s gifts. Then you name a gift. Alternate back and forth with your child and see if you can come up with twenty-five gifts. Say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for what you have been given. Ask for the grace to share your gifts with others.

Introduce kids to positive Catholic role models

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux  Feast Day October 1

She was dead at the age of 24. She spent the last decade of her life behind the walls of a cloistered Carmelite monastery in northern France. She never wrote a word of theology. And yet, Pope John Paul II declared St. Thérèse of Lisieux a Doctor of the Church. Ever wonder why?

Marie-Françoise-Thérèse Martin was the ninth and last child of a saintly couple. Her childhood was scarred with separations. She was four when her mother died. She later longed to follow her two elddest sisters to the Carmelite convent in Lisieux.

Path to holiness

She joined her two sisters in the convent at age 15. Again she was the youngest, now among 26 other nuns. At her profession in September 1890, she took the name Sister Thérèse of the Infant Jesus and the Holy Face.

Thérèse’s holiness is found not in the convent’s seven hours of daily prayer, nor in her domestic work, nor in her time in charge of the sacristy or as assistant to the mistress of novices. Her heroic sanctity is found in the way she performed her daily tasks even as she carried personal crosses. Attitude was everything. Her “Little Way,” which evolved over the years, was the practical expression of her loving spirit of self-forgetfulness.

Her emotional suffering centered upon her father who, soon after she entered the convent, suffered a mental illness which necessitated a three-year institutionalization. Thérèse considered his illness her greatest suffering.

That suffering would be eclipsed on Good Friday, 1896, when she began exhibiting symptoms of tuberculosis. The 23-year-old nun experienced incredible pain and bouts of suffocation. A few days later, she began experiencing a third cross, a complete loss of faith. An incident of sheer desperation shows how she struggled to cling to God: Using her own tubercular blood which she had spit up, she penned the Apostles’ Creed and pinned it to her religious habit.

Love alone counts

In the midst of all this, she continued to be faithful to the daily schedule, to give herself to community activities and even to write devotional poems at the community’s request. The attitude of self-forgetfulness consumed her.

When asked about her “Little Way” a few days before her death, Thérèse described it as the way of spiritual childhood, of confidence in and abandonment to God. Expressed in selfless deeds of love—a smile, a kind word, a simple act of charity—it was “to throw at Jesus’ feet the flowers of little sacrifices, to win Him through our caresses.”

The “Little Flower,” as she once referred to herself, cared to give the very best—flowers symbolized in practical little sacrifices of self-forgetful love. The future Doctor of the Church summed up her secret the day before her death:

“It is love alone that counts.”
Lifelong Catechesis: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel Reading**

*Luke 16:19-31*

*Jesus tells the parable of the reversal of fortunes between the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus.*

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

A major theme in the Gospel of Luke is the importance of the care of the poor in the life of discipleship. In the parable found in today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the life of a rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, who lives in the shadow of the rich man and his wealth. Both die. Lazarus finds himself in heaven; the rich man in the netherworld. The rich man asks for assistance from Lazarus in his torment. But Abraham reminds the rich man of the good things he had in his life and describes the current situation as a reversal of fortunes. The rich man then asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his family, but this is denied with the reminder that Moses and the prophets have warned of judgment for those who neglect the care of the poor.

In the context of Luke's Gospel, this parable, delivered in the presence of a crowd of listeners, is part of Jesus' response to some Pharisees. These Pharisees are described in Luke's Gospel as "loving money." (Note: The Pharisees were followers of a sect of Judaism active before, during, and after Jesus' lifetime. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for popular Jewish piety. They put less emphasis on Temple worship and more on applying the law to everyday life. Though they are often portrayed negatively in the Gospels, they shared many of Jesus' and the early Church's concerns about the law.) Jesus observed that the actions of some Pharisees betrayed misplaced priorities: they spoke one way, but acted in another. The story of the rich man and Lazarus demonstrates the importance of the care of the poor and is a reminder to those who would follow Jesus of the unimportance of wealth in the eyes of God.

*Used with permission Loyola Press 2013*

**Theme:** God cares for the poor and the oppressed, and we should too!

**Breaking Open the Word**

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

**Step One: Listen to the Word**

When you hear the story of the rich man, Lazarus, what catches your ear in it? What word or phrase really strikes you?

**Step Two: Look into Your Life**

**Question for Children:** Jesus teaches us to share what we have with others. What do you have that you are able to share?

**Question for Youth:** The Gospel story tells us that we are judged by what we do or don't do for the poor and needy. How are you currently reaching out to those in need? What more could you do?

**Question for Adults:** What choices can you or have you made to balance your own life with those who are homeless, poor and in need of assistance for daily living? How does this Gospel reading inform you about that?

**Did you know** that in 2012 as part of our Jubilee Anniversary Celebration, relics of St. Theresa of Avila, St. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, loved as The Little Flower, and Saint Thérèse’s parents were buried under our altar. Louis and Zélie Martin are the first husband and wife whose cause for sainthood has been initiated (which is why they are called “Blessed”). They emphasized the tremendous importance of marriage and family life. Their faithful love as husband and wife was absolutely essential to the stability of society. Their married love enabled them to encourage religious vocations in their children.

**What are relics?** “Relics” comes from the Latin word *reliquiae* which means “remains,” and in Catholic teaching there are three types. **First-class relics** are instruments of Our Lord's passion and the material remains of a Saint after his/her death. **Second-class relics** are objects that were used by a Saint (clothing, prayer book, manuscript written by him/her, etc.). **Third-class relics** are objects with some other, less direct, connection with a Saint.

**Find more about relics on our parish website.**

**Readings for the Week**

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>27th Sunday in O.T.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zech 8:1-8</td>
<td>Zech 8:19-23</td>
<td>Neh 2:1-8</td>
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<td>Bar 1:15-22</td>
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<td>Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23</td>
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<td>Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9</td>
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*www.stjohnofthecross.org 9-29-13*
Come Follow Me……..Spending our time in Prayer

“A Short Course on Prayer”
Excerpts from an article by J.J. O’Leary, SJ  Go to our parish website to read more.

...Spiritual writers all agree that an infallible sign of God’s presence is a desire for God. If you want to pray, you are already praying. The desire to pray is the evidence that God is already at work, at prayer, in you. The first graces we get are our desires and just to be reading this, shows desire in your life.

The prayer I would like to talk about is prayer of the heart, intimate prayer, praying from where we are. First of all, I believe most of us pray far more than we think we do. Anytime we reflect on our families, our children, our students, our job, something we are grateful for, that is beautiful prayer. Many of us think prayer is thinking about and talking to God out there. But prayer begins with reality. The first reality we have is ourselves and that’s where prayer begins....

God speaks to us in our deepest human experiences, feelings, desires, thoughts, or ideas. So to be aware of these experiences is to become aware of God’s work in them and then to offer ourselves through them to God. We focus on our own experience to hear God’s word in them and then are called to respond. What is God saying to us through this? We don’t need to solve problems, worry, plan, or control. In other words, we recognize the God within and then listen reverently to the many ways God speaks to us through our thoughts, our feelings, our children, our students, our fellow workers. ...

Some people find it very helpful to begin their prayer by making, not a “traditional act of the presence of God,” but an “act of the presence of self.” How am I? Where is my spirit? What is my mood? What is going on? Possibly, just bringing that to God will be someone’s prayer. Or by seeing if any special thought or concern surfaces. “God speaks to us most clearly through the events in our life,” says Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. ...

In the play Fiddler on the Roof, Tevye prays about the love of his wife, the marriage of his daughters, his own poverty, the loss of his homeland—because these were where he was present at that time. For others, prayer might center on a friend who is in some serious conflict; or it might be a young person or student we have recently counseled, a regret we are wrestling with, my spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, grieving a loss, or something I’m especially grateful for. Those are the situations where God is present in my life today.

People often ask “Where is God in my life?” The best response I can give is to ask “Where are you?—that’s where God is.” In this way prayer can be something very practical and steeped in where we really live. In brief, we recognize the divine within ourselves, rather than trying to engage a God out there somewhere. Because just to be is a blessing, to live is holy. Our lives are holy just as they are. If there is one thing Jesus revealed, it is that he loves what he finds. He loves us just as we are. Nothing in our life is distasteful to God.

Prayer starts where we really are because God is in us as we are.

In summary, I’d suggest that the best thing we can do to nourish a prayer life is to regularly ask God to teach us how to pray. I don’t believe there is any gift God wants to give us more than the gift of prayer. But, it seems, so few people ever ask for that. And then with the few minutes that we spend in prayer, whether it’s five, ten, or sixty minutes a day, to ask the Lord to remember, to recognize where God is in the midst of our lives. This will provide a whole new tonality to our days and deepen in us the “20/20 vision” that helps us see life whole and in clear perspective.
Richard Rohr

Meditation

We must learn to be able to think and behave like Jesus, who is the archetypal human being. This becomes a journey of great love and great suffering. These are the two normal and primary paths of transformation into God, preceding all organized religion. This journey leads us to a universal love where we don’t love just those who love us. We must learn to participate in a larger love—divine love.

In this, God utterly leveled the playing field and made grace available from the first moment of creation when “God’s Spirit overshadowed the chaos” (Genesis 1:2). Surely the God who created all things was thus available to all creation, starting with the so-called Stone Age people and the natives of all continents, and yes, even the barbarians. I can only assume that they loved and suffered too and thus met God, “who is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

Any journey of great love or great suffering makes us go deeper into our faith and eventually into what can only be called universal truth. Love and suffering are finally the same, because those who love deeply are committing themselves to eventual suffering, as we see in Jesus. And those who suffer often become the greatest lovers.

http://www.sacredspace.ie/
Visit Sacred Space for daily prayer.

Presence
Dear Lord, help me to be open to you for this time as I put aside the cares of this world. Fill my mind with your peace. You Love.

Freedom
Your death on the cross has set me free.
I can live joyously and freely without fear of death.
Your mercy knows no bounds.

Consciousness
In the presence of my loving Creator, I look honestly at my feelings over the last day, the highs, the lows and the level ground. Can I see where the Lord has been present?

The top priority in Jesus’ heart is mercy. This reflects the nature of God. He calls each one of us to belong to a new way of living characterized by mercy, justice, gentleness, and purity of heart. What is my top priority?
Parish News and Events

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

Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6 Sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. 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.

Baptism Preparation Meeting
The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held Thursday, October 3 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.

Position 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.

Counseling Available at SJC
If you or a family member is having difficulty dealing with this complex and stressful world in which we live, The Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities can help you. For further information or to schedule an appointment please call (312) 655-7725.

Spiritual Direction for Adults
Spiritual direction encourages you to explore a closer relationship with God. In the midst of a busy life, many people find it difficult to notice God’s action in their daily affairs. Yet, at the deepest level, all of us long for a more conscious experience of God’s presence and love. You might come to spiritual direction for a variety of reasons, including to integrate spirituality into your daily life, discern and make difficult choices, and share your hopes, struggles and losses.

Marianne Firlit is our parish Spiritual Director. Her office is in the rectory. To make an appointment call the parish center.

“This Week at SJC” Email Newsletter—Get Yours
Each week the parish sends an email newsletter to parishioners and friends of SJC. The email features upcoming events, shares ministry stories and connects you to your faith. If you’re not getting This Week at SJC, sign up today.

Ministry of Care
If you, a family member, or someone you know are homebound, unable to attend weekly Mass, a trained Minister of Care will bring you or your family member Holy Communion. You and the lay Minister of Care can decide on the day, time and frequency of the visit(s). For more information contact Fr. Filbert Ngwila at 708-246-4404 x120.

New Parishioner Welcome Weekend
All new parishioners are invited to join us at any Mass on October 12-13 for a special parish welcome and blessing. Join us for coffee and goodies after the Sunday 7:30, 9:00 and 10:45am Masses.
We are looking for volunteers to help this weekend at the hospitality or as a greeter at one of the Sunday Masses. Call Elizabeth Russell-Jones to volunteer or for more information. 708-246-4404 x155.
Outreach

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Thanks SJC
Dear Parishioners,

We can never thank you and all the people of St. John’s enough for all your support for our poor parish here in Williamsburg Kentucky. I am in awe of your faithful efforts to help us continue our Catholic presence here in the mountains where there are so very few Catholics. Each week so many come for assistance—food, gas, rent, electricity, water, heating bills, etc. The needs are great and we could not continue without your support.

It was great that some young, and not so young parishioners came down to volunteer their services in August when we celebrated our 50th anniversary. I don’t know what we would have done without them. They were a tremendous help and we are so grateful. I look forward to another Crossroads group next August.

I read your fantastic website. What a wonderful parish you have and great opportunities! People here just could not imagine a parish your size nor all the activities you engage in. God be praised!

Thank you so much for the $700 check. Let us be united in prayer.
Sister Mary Joyce Moeller

Interfaith Career Network
Job Support Workshop
Week # 3: Tuesday, October 1, 7-9pm: this week Dennis Hamilton will help you craft that all important “elevator speech”. Time will be allowed to practice your personal statement with fellow attendees.
Week #4: Tuesday, October 8, 7-9pm: with 80% of the jobs found in the “hidden job market”, networking is the heart of any job search. Jim Peterson and Diane Rink will coach you on the fundamentals of this critical search strategy.

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.

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

Events in our Community

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.

Heartland Community Blood Drive
Mt. Assisi Academy, 13860 Main Street, Lemont, IL 60439 Wednesday, October 9, 7 am—12 noon To register, call 630-257-7844

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 www.AcademyOfOurLadyAlumnae.org

Looking for Crafters & Vendors
For a Holiday Bazaar at St. Louise de Marillac on Saturday, Nov 23rd from 9-3 Please Contact Nancy Toribio 708-704-9352 or tribtribe@comcast.net

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.
**SJC Clubs**

**SJC Men's Club**

SJC Men's Club invites all men of the parish to a Bears Thursday Night Football gathering on Thursday, October 10th in the Parish Center. Please join us for food, beverages and camaraderie.

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**Save the date:**

**Trivia Night III**
Saturday January 25, 2014
6:30pm

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**St. John of the Cross Women’s Club**

The mission of the St. John of the Cross Women’s Club is to bring the women of our parish together to foster and celebrate our spiritual and social well-being. Through our fundraisers, retreats, spiritual reflections and social events, we seek to develop a closer relationship with God and one another.

Every woman of the parish is considered to be a member of the Women’s Club. We invite you to attend our various functions and seek your assistance in the planning and coordination of our events. Please contact any of our Board Members if you are interested, or if you have any questions or suggestions.

You should have received our Calendar of Events with a list of our activities & fundraisers. If you did not receive a postcard from the Women’s Club or if you have any questions regarding any of our events, please contact Maureen Chopp at (708) 246-7280.

We would also like to send you reminders of our events by email. Please send us your email information to SJCWomensClub@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next event!

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**Crossroads**

We welcome all parishioners to attend our 1st ever Crossroads update meeting on October 6 at 10 a.m. The update meeting is a forum to bring together all our teen coordinators and adult mentors and any parishioner who wants to hear more about our ministry and all upcoming Crossroads events.

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**Don’t Forget:**

**Sep 29** Pizza after 5pm Mass
**Oct 5** Kickball North lawn 3:30pm
**Oct 6** Home Group meetings
  Freshmen Experience 6-7:30pm

For a complete calendar of Crossroad events for the year go to:

www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

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

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Without the assistance of the Divine Being ... I cannot succeed.
With that assistance, I cannot fail.

**Abraham Lincoln**

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

YC classes continue to share faith and grow in love for our Lord Jesus!
It’s not too late to volunteer, we are still in need of help on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm.
Please contact the YC office if you can give of your time and talents as an aide or Co-Catechist.

YC Schedule

Classes K-6  10:15-11:30am  Sunday, Sept 29 Oct 6, 20, 27
             6:15-7:30pm  Monday, Sept 30, Oct 7, 21, 28
FFC        Noon-1:30 pm  Sunday, October 6
Jr Hi Groups On campus  either Oct 20 or 21
Special Needs younger class  Sunday, Oct 6 and 20
Confirmation class  Sunday, Sept 29, Oct 6

2nd Grade Parent Meeting
For parents of children who will be receiving 1st Reconciliation and First Eucharist this year.
Thursday, October 3rd at 6:30pm in the Church

God our Father,
We lift our hands and hearts to you, knowing that you will fill us with good things.
Guide our feet on the path of peace.
Amen.

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760
www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am-4:00pm
St. John of the Cross Parish School
“Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge”
Early Childhood and Kindergarten Open House
October 16th 9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 17th 1:30-3:00 p.m.
708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL 708.246.4454

Academic Programs
• Three and Four Year Old Preschool
• Full and Half Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-8
• Archdiocesan curriculum and complete Spanish, computer, art, music, and physical education programs

Faith and Service
• School Liturgies and Classroom Prayer Services
• Sacramental Preparation
• Grade Level and School Service Experiences

School Facilities
• Computer Lab and Mobile Laptop Computer Carts
• Learning Resource Center with Computer Stations
• Two Gymnasiums
• Lunchroom
• Music and Art Rooms
• Science Lab
• Outdoor Environmental Learning Space

Also offering extended day program for before/after school care, comprehensive extra curricular programs, and no cut athletics for grades 5-8

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 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.

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

Coming Soon
St. John of the Cross Annual Fall Book Fair
More details next week!
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
March 14       St. Patrick’s Party

(luncheon elsewhere)

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, Trudy Schmitt at 708-246-1619.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

SJC Saintly Senior Club
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:_______________________________________

# Reservations at $15_____  $20 _____

Total Enclosed: $_____

www.stjohnofthecross.org  9-29-13  page 13  Praying ~ Serving ~ Sharing
**Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord**

Bishop Timothy J. Lyne, D.D.

Mark Douglas Joyal, husband of Kathleen and father of Henry and Lucas

William D. Plourde, son of Doris and father of John, Daniel

**Pray for our Sick**

Dale Alm
Paul Cervony
John Casey
Terry Cullen
William Dwyer
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge
Benediine Gordus
Karen Hult
Barbara Jacob
Allison Kazragis
Shirley Kazragis
Joe & Rosie King
Greg LaValle
Fr. William Mannion
Olga Theresa Matusik

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, September 30, St. Jerome**
7:45 Chester Cebula; John Byerwalter

**Tuesday, October 1, St. Thérése of the Child Jesus**
7:45 Laverne Peters; Marie O’Brien

**Wednesday, October 2, The Holy Guardian Angels**
7:45 Sally Gage; Barbara Mann

**Thursday, October 3**
7:45 Joan Rooney; James E. Purcell

**Friday, October 4, Bl. John XXIII**
7:45 Elizabeth G. Purcell; Ben Spinato, Sr.

**Saturday, October 5**
8:00 John Pecis; Michelle Sprinkle
5:00 John Fash; Gene Harris

**Sunday, October 6, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 SJC & St. Thaddeus Parishioners
9:00 Gene Miley; Karen McAlleenan
10:45 Stephen T. Ryan; Dorothy D Esposito
12:15 Gloria Oechsel; Alexander Sobey
5:00 Louise Reilly; Jack Byans

**Italics—Living**

*There was an error in last week’s bulletin. Mass times have not changed. Sorry!!*

**This Week at SJC**

**Monday, September 30**
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 pm Little Rock
2:30 pm Adoration
2:30 pm Spiritual Journaling
5:30 pm Finance Council

**Tuesday, October 1**
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 pm RCIA
7:00 pm YC Council Meeting

**Wednesday, October 2**
9:00 am Father Bonin Reflection
9:30 am Bible Study 3
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
7:00 pm Boy Scout Parent Meeting
7:30 pm Christian Meditation

**Thursday, October 3**
3:30 pm Brownies
7:00 pm Baptism Prep Meeting
7:00 pm Promise

**Friday, October 4**
9:30 am Mom’s Club
4:00 pm Pet Blessing

**Saturday, October 5**
7:00 am Christian Meditation

**Sunday, October 6**
10:00am Crossroads DOS/FSR Advisory
2:30 pm New Lector Training

**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
Bill Bright  Outreach  bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
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Katie Hayes  Crossroads High School  khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch  Music  jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin  Operations  mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones  Welcome  erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
On Not Faking Humility

It's hard not to fake humility; yet, seemingly, we need to do just that.

For instance, some of the sayings of Jesus on humility seem to raise more questions than they answer. For example, in the parable of taking seats at the table, Jesus suggests that we should not move towards the highest place, lest somebody more important comes along and we will be humiliated by being asked to move lower. Rather, he says, move towards the lowest place so that the host might come and ask us to move higher, and in this way our very humility will be showcased before the other guests. Whoever humbles himself will be exalted, and whoever exalts himself will be humbled. On the surface, this would seem like little more than a strategy to get honored while all the while looking humble.

The biblical invitation to not consider oneself better than others begs the question: Can someone who is living an essentially moral and generous life really believe that he or she is no better than someone who is uncaring, selfish, or even malicious in how he or she relates to God, others, and the world? Do we really believe that we are no better than others? Did Mother Teresa really believe in her heart that she was no better than anyone else? Could she really look at herself and say: "I'm just as great a sinner as there is on this planet?" Or, did she, and must we, in the end, feign humility because we don't really believe that we're no better than what's worst on this planet?

And so we can ask ourselves: Is our belief that we are no better than others, often times, really only a pose, something we have to affirm about ourselves but which doesn't stand the full test of honesty? Further, isn't our humility, in the end, really not just a subtle strategy to be honored in a deeper, more-respected way? Who wants to be seen as proud and full of himself? And, can we ever be humble without then taking pride in that? Do we really believe that we are no better than anyone else?

I'm partial to an insight John Shea once offered in trying to answer this. Looking at some diary entries by Bede Griffiths, where Griffiths openly confesses that he is no better than anyone else, Shea asks whether given the quality of Griffiths' moral and spiritual life and given the depth and compassion he developed through years of prayer and discipline could Griffiths really have believed that he was no better than anyone else? Could he really not compare himself with others? Is it really possible for any of us not to compare ourselves with others?

Shea suggests that the key to those questions lies in looking closely at what Griffiths means when he asserts that he is no better than anyone else. When Griffiths makes those assertions he is not focused on his, or anyone else's, moral actions. At the level of moral actions, it is humanly impossible not to make comparisons. We all make comparisons, even when we deny that we do so. But the roots of humility do not lie in where we stand, above or below, others in terms of our moral actions.

When Griffiths sincerely sees himself and believes himself to be no better than anyone else in this world, he is looking rather at his core, at the depth of his heart, where he sees that he, like everyone else in this world, is vulnerable, alone, fearful, naked, self-centered, inadequate, helpless, contingent, just as much in need of God and others as absolutely every other person on this earth, and, thus, no better than anyone else.

Nobody gives himself life, sustains himself in life, or gives himself salvation. We are all equally inadequate and helpless here. Our contingency levels us all, from Mother Teresa to Hitler, and the key to genuine humility lies in recognizing that. Indeed, the more morally and psychologically sensitive we are, the more likely we are to recognize our neediness and our solidarity in weakness with everyone else. When a Bede Griffiths makes the claim that he is no better than anyone else and that he stands in need of God's mercy just as much as every sinner on earth, he is not faking humility, but he is not making moral comparisons either. He is speaking out of something deeper, namely, the fact that ultimately we are all equally helpless to give ourselves life.

The invitation to humility is a clear and constant echo inside of Christian spirituality, from Jesus, through Bede Griffiths, through Mother Teresa, through every spiritual guide worthy of the name: Become like a little child. Take the lowest place. Never consider yourself better than anyone else. Know that you need God's mercy just as much as the greatest sinner on earth. However we don't come to this by comparing ourselves to others, but by recognizing how utterly naked we all stand outside of God's mercy.

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.
Join us at the Beloved Weekend

Much has been advertised about our upcoming parish retreat just two short weeks away.

Why are retreats an important part of our faith formation?
Retreats are important because they allow you to step away from the frantic world of doing and open your mind and heart to what is really important. They allow you time to breath in God's words and let them touch your heart. Retreats have the power to change you.

How this retreat is different?
This retreat is different because at the core it helps you feel loved by God - not judged but held by a loving God. This is something God wants us to know but we just can't really believe. The Beloved Weekend has the power to gift us with this unending love. It is this love that lets us love more deeply and fully. You cannot give away what you do not first possess.

What do we do on the weekend?
The Beloved Weekend is based on 4 scripture passages. The weekend allows us the opportunity to listen to the way these passages can be lived. The team, through telling their stories, helps us realize how God is working in and through us. There is time on the weekend for prayer, private reflection, and the celebration of God's love for us. Throw in laughter, good food, beautiful surroundings and fellowship and you have a perfect fall weekend.

How do I register?
Simply pick up a brochure at the church exits or stop in the parish center for a registration form. Confidential scholarships are available through Fr. David.

Renewing
The Beloved weekend experience was very nurturing and spiritually energizing for me. I left believing again in the goodness and Godliness that surrounds us every day.
~Rich Gagliani

Transforming
The Beloved weekend has strengthened my faith and hunger for God. It was worth taking the time out of my family's busy life for myself. It has continued to be a gift to me and my family each day.
~Mary Beth Dvorak

Nourishing
It didn't seem like the right time to go on a retreat with a 4th grader and 3 year old twins at home. I went and came away from the weekend with an amazing sense of peace and an overwhelming feeling that 'I am enough' and 'I am loved by God unconditionally'.
~Tiffany White

Come to our Beloved Weekend.
Friday, October 11 through Sunday, October 13th at the nearby Carmelite Retreat Center in Darien.