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.

Respect Life Sunday
October 6, 2013

Open your hearts to life!

 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,

To be faithful to Church teaching you have to understand the genius of ‘both and’ rather than ‘either or’. Church teaching at its best holds apparent contradictions, often in creative tension, to show a way that is not a political solution or biased by preconceptions. Rather it tries to articulate a response that is faith based. The beauty and the difficulty of church teaching is that it is grounded in principles first. Application of the principles is where people of good will can disagree in coming to a resolution, as long as the underlying principles are upheld. The bishops of Colorado released a joint statement this week titled “Immigration and Our Nation’s Future”. The 3,000-word letter outlines seven moral principles, based on Catholic social teaching, which put the human person at the center of any discussion of immigration. What follows are summaries of the seven principles.

1. **The principle of the common good**: “Catholic social teaching, especially over the last 120 years, has not failed to repeat that every able member of the community, especially those in positions of public authority, has a grave responsibility to work to preserve and promote the common good.”

2. **The universal destination of the world’s resources and the right to private property**: “The fact that God gave creation to everyone means that when people cannot meet their basic subsistent needs or those of their families, the right to private property yields to the universal destination of goods.”

3. **The dignity and rights of all migrants should be respected and protected**: “Because of every person’s God-given dignity, the Christian response to immigrants should be one of hospitality that rejects all sentiments and manifestations of xenophobia and racism.”

4. **The creation of nations and the right to control borders are legitimate**: “The Church teaches that the creation of nations and states with sovereign boundaries does not contradict the principle of the universal destination of the world’s resources because it favors an internally just political order.”

5. **The right to emigrate and respect for local laws**: “The Church has continually taught that people have a natural right to emigrate, that is, to leave their country in search of better economic and social conditions for themselves and their families.”

6. **Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection**: “Because of the serious dangers refugees face, the international community has a more serious obligation to accommodate their requests for asylum than it does for those who emigrate from countries that have a more stable social situation.”

7. **Authentic integration of immigrants and the enforcement of laws**: “Experience shows that when a society is too ethnically and culturally diverse it can give rise to political instability. Therefore, when politicians make decisions about immigration policies, the question of integration cannot be overlooked.”

(For the whole document you can go to the website of the archdiocese of Denver or the diocese of Colorado Springs.)

Please pray for a just and fair resolution for all concerned to the tremendous challenge of creating a new immigration system that takes into account the realities of a globalized world economy.

On a different note, Fr. Filbert and I will be with the three parish deacons and their wives this Sunday afternoon for the annual St. Francis Day Celebration sponsored by the Diaconate Council. I am so very grateful for the many combined years of faithful service they have given to our community so generously. If you feel God may be calling you to the diaconate, please contact me so we can discern together.

This is the last weekend to commit to the Beloved Retreat. Let God speak to your heart in new ways by giving yourself the gift of the time of this weekend away. See the website for additional information.

Peace,
Fr. David
Open Your Hearts to Life: Respect Life Sunday—October 6th

LIFE CHAIN
Sunday, October 6th  2:30-3:30
What is “Life Chain”? It is that spectacular event that annually draws the attention of hundreds of thousands of Americans. The concept is simple, the effect stunning. People of all ages and faiths stand reverently in silent prayer, for one hour along a major street or highway, holding signs that proclaim the importance of human life.

Always held the first Sunday in October, The Life Chain is a visual statement by the Christian community that it supports the sanctity of human life. Uniform signs (no graphic depictions) are provided for participants, so the overall impression is one of solidarity in belief and purpose.

This Sunday in Illinois there are dozens of chains. The Saint John of the Cross Chain begins at Wolf Road along Ogden Avenue. The Saint Cletus Chain begins at LaGrange Road & west on the South Side of Ogden. Saint Francis Xavier begins in front of their church, and the Saint Barbara chain begins at Prairie and Ogden. Joining us are local and Chicago area parishes and over 1800 parishes across the country.

For more information check on chain sites at LifeChain.Net. Come and join us for one prayerful hour. All you have to do is show up.

Respect for Life
God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life. Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death.

Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry.

Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect.

Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Excerpts for this bulletin article were taken from the USCCB Respect Life Statement & Pamphlet. For more go to: http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/index.cfm

Each October we begin the activities of Respect Life Month with the observance of Respect Life Sunday, celebrated on October 6th this year.

We live in a society of unbelief, where the unborn, the sick, the homeless, and the elderly are often unwanted and endangered by acts of violence or neglect. Our news is often filled with shocking acts of terrorism (Boston Marathon bombing), mass shootings (Aurora, CO and Newtown, CT) and murders (Chicago).

Despite these challenges, Pope Francis reminds us that we always have hope in Christ. The Holy Father speaks not only of physical life, but spiritual life as well -- our life in Christ that has the power to transform us. By opening our hearts to his love and mercy, we let Christ dwell in us and we see more deeply the intricate and unique beauty of each person.

What does it mean to open our hearts to life? It means to search our souls and acknowledge our deepest longing for Christ's love. Though we are capable of sins against human life such as abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, we are not beyond Christ's mercy.

Opening our hearts to life in Christ empowers us for loving, merciful action toward others. We must give witness to the Gospel of Life and evangelize through our lives. We must personally engage others and share the truth about human life. Opening our hearts to life means that we reject the killing of human beings from the moment of conception to their natural death. Opening our hearts to life means we oppose the death penalty, slavery, human trafficking, terrorism, and unjust war, and that we work to eradicate the conditions that prevent others from realizing their full human potential.

Only a tender, compassionate love that seeks to serve those most in need, whatever the personal cost, is strong enough to overcome a culture of death and to build a civilization of love. Let us open our hearts and reflect on how God might be calling each of us to witness the sacredness of human life and assist in pro-life efforts that will heal the world. We may be called to help parents welcome their unborn child as a miracle of God's creation, to reach out to a single working mother with our assistance, to visit the elderly or aid those who are sick and suffering, to pray and fast for life, to advocate to our elected officials, to assist educational efforts in our parishes, and to share our beliefs with our children.

Our families must be schools of unconditional love, acceptance, affirmation and consolation, where children of all ages learn by modeling their parents to respect and defend all life, to accept others and love generously, and to share with and care for those in need. It is a place to learn humility and mercy, to learn to imitate Christ.

Lasting happiness in this life is found in giving of oneself generously to others, loving gratuitously and seeking nothing in return. Those who love need no other reward beyond the happiness they feel in knowing they have brought comfort to another person. With God's help we can be more aware of the needs of those around us and open our hearts to all human life.

www.stjohnofthecross.org  10-6-13  page 3  Praying ~ Serving ~ Sharing
Background on the Gospel

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus teach about faith and service to God. The context is a continuing dialogue between Jesus and his followers about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus has just finished an instruction on sin and forgiveness. There are two related teachings that Jesus offers to his disciples when they cry out for an increase in faith. The first is the familiar reminder that faith, even just a little, will enable the followers of Jesus to do wondrous things. But this uplifting and inspiring teaching is quickly followed by the second teaching, a caution about knowing one’s place in God's plans. The disciples of Jesus are to understand themselves as servants to God and his plans. Even when God works wonders through us, with our mustard seed-sized faith, we must not seek praise. Our participation in God's plans is God's grace to us—nothing more, nothing less. When we are graced enough to cooperate with God, the work we do is nothing more than our obligation to God as faithful stewards. And yet, our faith enables us to believe that what we have offered in service to God, as his servants, can be made to produce a hundredfold.

Our Lady of the Rosary: October 7th

Many religions use beads to keep track of prayers. Our Rosary, a circle of beads, is like a garland offered to Mary because we pray a prayer on each bead. This well-loved prayer has its roots in the 150 psalms. People who couldn't read began praying 150 Hail Marys instead, the equivalent of three of our modern rosaries covering the original three sets of mysteries.

The story of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is an interesting one. In the 16th century Pope Pius V was having trouble with the Ottoman Turks, who were a real danger to Christianity. After months of disagreements and bickering, he was able to unite Spain, Venice, and the States of the Church in a naval expedition to fight the Turks.

The two navies met in the Gulf of Lepanto in Greece on October 7, 1571. On the same day, the Rosary Confraternity of Rome was meeting at the Dominican headquarters there. The group recited the Rosary for the special intention of the Christians at battle. The Christians defeated the Turks in a spectacular victory and believed it was the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin that won the victory. Pope Pius V dedicated the day as one of thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory. Pope Gregory XIII later changed the name to the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The story of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary focuses on the intercessory power of Mary. It shows that when Christians are in danger, they can go to Mary. And when an individual is in pain, discouraged, or having trouble accepting God’s will, he or she can also go to Mary. She will pray to her Son for anyone who calls on her. Anyone who prays to Mary no longer feels alone because she prays with them and for them. Mary encouraged praying the Rosary in her apparitions. At Lourdes when she appeared to Saint Bernadette, Mary had a Rosary. As Bernadette prayed it, Mary joined in on the Glory Be prayers. At Fatima Mary exhorted the three children who saw her to pray the Rosary for peace.
**Stewardship of Prayer**

*Richard Rohr Meditation*

**Grace**

Our word for God’s dramatic breaking beyond our ironclad rules is grace. Grace is God’s magnificent release from our self-made prisons, and the only way that God’s economy can triumph over our deeply internalized merit badge system. Grace is the secret key whereby God offers to be the Divine Locksmith for every life and for all of history. Life, when lived fully, tends to tool and retool us until we eventually find some form of grace is necessary for our very survival and sanity. *Without grace, almost everything human declines and devolves into smallness, hurt, and blame.*

Grace humiliates our attempts at private virtue. Grace makes us feel powerless, where before, we knew that if we did *this*, then we would earn *that*. Accepting grace can make us feel poor and empty and even useless. Who wants grace? Only sinners and almost no one else!

We pray that all recognize the sacredness of human life and defend the lives of those who are vulnerable from conception to natural death.

**The Happy Marriage Recipe**

Every relationship’s success depends on one secret ingredient. While I was a newlywed, I asked my mentor Carl Wilson for his best words of advice about marriage. Carl, who had been married for many years and had four children said, “That’s easy. Pray daily together. Every night for twenty-five years we have prayed together as a couple.”

Because I really wanted to succeed as a husband, I immediately applied Carl’s wisdom. I went home that night and instituted a spiritual discipline that we have missed probably less than a dozen times in more than thirty years of marriage. This daily habit has helped us resolve conflicts and keep our communication lines open. Most important, it has demonstrated our dependence on Jesus Christ as the Lord of our family.

God intends for marriage to be a spiritual relationship consisting of three—not just a man and a woman, but the two of them and their God relating spiritually and remaining committed to the other for a lifetime. Wouldn’t it be natural for God, the One who initiated the relationship, to want a couple to bring their troubles, worries, and praises to Him on a regular daily basis? When you pray with your spouse, you bare your soul in front of a person who knows your secrets, your strengths, and your weaknesses. That’s a humbling moment.

The daily prayer habit starts with one person in the marriage taking the initiative to begin. Husband, I encourage you to be this person. Take your wife by the hand and say, “Sweetheart, I’m not exactly sure how to do this, but I want to start praying together with you every day.”

Many people are not comfortable praying aloud, even with a spouse. If you fall in that category, don’t worry about a lack of eloquence. God wants your honesty. Tell him what’s really in your heart. He knows what you want to say anyway, so your verbal ability is not what counts.

You may want to use this simple prayer until you become more comfortable expressing these thoughts in your own words:

*Father, thank you for your kindness and blessings to us this day. Thank you for giving us to each other in marriage. Please help us with our struggles and forgive us of our sins. Bless and care for everyone in our family. Please grant us your peace and strength as we obey and serve you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

Husbands and wives praying together daily is the most important spiritual discipline needed in all Christian marriages.

Excerpt from an article by Dr. Dennis Rainey is the President and the cofounder of Family Life and the senior editor of the Home Builders Couples Series® and the daily host of the nationally syndicated radio program “Family Life Today.” For more go to the archdiocese Family Ministries.

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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 at SJC
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.

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.

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.

Ministry of Care
If you, a family member, or someone you know is 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.

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

“Little Rock Study Lands of the Bible”
Fr. Fil leads this study group on Mondays at 1pm. Materials $10

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

Eucharistic Adoration
Mondays 2:30-9pm in the Mary Chapel

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

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

Spiritual Journaling
Mondays at 2:30pm. This group is reading Celtic Spirituality by J. Philip Newell.

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. Send an email to Mary Beth Drafz at mbdrafz@stjohnofthecross.org to be added to our email list, or visit www.stjohnofthecross.org and click on the 4th icon down in the toolbox on the left side of the screen.

“This Week at SJC” Email Newsletter—
Imagination

Watching a young child at play, we can see how naturally children engage their imaginations. Stuffed animals listen and talk as they are given various roles. Plastic bowls and spoons easily become drums for bands and parades. Empty plates overflow with favorite foods as children play in toy kitchens. Imagination is a key part of how children learn about the world around them and discover their place in that world.

Sometimes we equate the use of imagination with pretending, but imagination offers us much more than fantasy. Imaginative play helps children interpret the world around them as they recreate a variety of roles and situations. Imagination also helps them see things differently and envision new possibilities. In this way, imagination is not just a child’s activity; imagination is what inspires all people to use their creative gifts to surround themselves with beauty, design new technologies that make life easier, and visualize ways to live peacefully with one another. This gift of imagination has been given to us by God, and it can draw us closer to him.

There are many means by which we can engage the imagination to encounter God and respond in prayer. Saint Ignatius of Loyola taught a method of prayer that invites the use of the imagination to make present the events described in Scripture. Using a similar method, storybooks can be used to lead us to pray. Through a variety of art forms, the imagination can become a resource for prayer. Icons, stained-glass windows, and statues are expressions of prayer. As we gaze upon them, they lift our hearts and minds to pray. Similarly, music, movement, and dance engage our imaginations and lead us to express ourselves in prayer.

Young children are naturally filled with wonder about the world and are open to discovering the mystery of God, who gave us our very being and all that we have. Drawing upon the gift of imagination, parents and catechists can nurture this openness to God, guiding children to see the depth-dimensions of our human experience, find God’s hand in the beauty of creation, and experience God’s love reaching out to them through their parents, families, and friends. The desire to be in relationship with our loving God has already been given to them. As parents and catechists, we hope to guide children to learn to respond to this desire through prayer.

Loyola Press

God of love and mercy, open our hearts to your ways and teach us to follow you more closely each day. We want to grow in your love. Amen.
Supplies for Kolbe House
Kolbe House is in need of men's undershirts and boxers. All sizes, S-XXL, new or gently used, will be gratefully received. (Please no boxer briefs or briefs!) Toiletries, travel or regular sized, are also needed: Shampoo, soap, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorant and razors are appreciated. Items can be placed in one of the Kolbe House boxes in the church or at the Parish Center. Thank you for supporting those who have recently been released from prison and are trying to make a fresh start.

Interfaith Career Network
Job Support Workshop
Week #4: Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 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.

Final Week: Tuesday, October 15, 7-9pm: a panel of HR professionals will coach you on the "art of interviewing" and answer your questions about successful phone and in-person interview strategies and techniques as well as provide tips on how to recover from interviewing blunders.

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 www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

St. Thaddeus Visit
Our Sharing Parish, St. Thaddeus, will celebrate with us at our Sunday 5pm Mass on October 27th. Please mark your calendar and join us for this special Mass.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Knows NO Boundaries: The SFX Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry invites you to a Mass of healing and prayer at: St. Francis Xavier Parish in LaGrange on Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00pm. Share the experience of a parishioner who overcame Domestic Violence.
CALENDER OF EVENTS

Oct 6  Home Group meetings
       Freshmen Experience PC 6-7:30pm
Oct 12 Kickball North lawn 3:30pm
For a complete calendar of Crossroad events for the year go to:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

UPCOMING RETREATS

Fresh/Soph
Grow in your faith and meet fellow underclassmen at our Identity Retreat January 3-5.

Junior/Senior Kairos
This year’s retreat is being sponsored by St. Cletus and will be held November 7-10.

Complete info can be found on out website in the retreat section of Crossroads

YC Schedule

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

YC 7th graders Kicking Off their year team building as new small Christian communities!

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go.—Mother Teresa

Steve Foody: crossroads@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Hayes: khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
www.stjohnofthecross.org 10-6-13

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

Youth Catechesis

PIZZA PARTY FUN
This school year not only brought 54 new families to our school, but some new faculty members as well. We welcomed Miss Erin Farrell in our third grade, Mrs. Patti Mannebach in fifth grade, Mrs. Anke Schulte in our CORE program and Mr. Jim O’Keefe as our new Assistant Principal.

Miss Farrell graduated from Northern Illinois University and received a Master’s in Elementary Education. She is enjoying being a part of such an amazing Catholic community. Mrs. Mannebach is not a stranger to SJC. Both of her children graduated from SJC. During that time, she was an active parent volunteer. She knows firsthand all that SJC offers academically, spiritually, and socially. She brings nine years of teaching experience to us and she received her Master’s in Curriculum and Instruction from Regis University. Mrs. Schulte joins us as a CORE teacher. She is thrilled to be part of such a vibrant and dynamic educational community. She brings ten years of teaching experience to SJC and received her Master’s in Reading and Learning Disabilities. Mr. O’Keefe is excited to be part of the community as he begins the next phase of his career in education as an administrator. Mr. O’Keefe received a B.A. in Education from University of Iowa and his Master’s from Lewis University. He looks forward to many years at SJC to help students develop and grow socially, academically, and spiritually.

We also welcomed 4 year old preschool aide, Mrs. Kathy Stillo and new to the office as a receptionist is Mrs. Maureen Felden.

This Week at SJC

Mon., Oct. 7, 9:15-10:15 Living Rosary, Church
Wed., October 9, 8th Grade Holocaust Museum Field Trip, All Day
Thurs., October 10, 9:30-11:30, Grandparents Day, Grades 1-4, School
Friday, October 11, Out of Uniform Day
You Are Invited to our Parish School
Early Childhood & Kindergarten Open House

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
Women’s Club News

Women’s Club Holy Yoga!
Wednesday, October 23rd
7:00 pm Parish Center
This is a free event! Please bring a yoga mat!

Holy Yoga is experiential worship specifically created to deepen your connection to Christ. The sole purpose is to combine world class yoga with a Christ honoring experience that offers an opportunity to authentically connect with God. We do this by integrating God’s Word, prayer, worship and the physical practice of yoga to contemporary and Christian music. Session will be led by Sue Bidstrup, R-HYI. All are welcome!

Thank you to all who participated in the 2013 Garage Sale. We could not have accomplished it without all your efforts and donations. The sale raised $50,000 from which the following groups benefited.

- St John of the Cross Parish
- Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund
- Aging Care Connections
- Almost Home Kids
- Aspire
- BEDS Plus
- Center for Independence
- Comboni Missions
- Community Health Nurse Association of LaGrange
- Companions Journeying Together
- Deborah’s Place
- Girl Forward
- Helping Hand Center
- Holy Cross Mission
- House of the Good Shepherd
- Kolbe House
- The Leadershop
- Our Lady of Charity Parish
- PILLARS-Buddy’s Place
- School and Tutors on Wheels
- Fr. McDonnell Scholarship

Thank you again for all your time and support of the Women’s Club mission. See you at the 2014 sale on June 21!

SJC WOMEN’S CLUB
ANNUAL COAT DRIVE
To benefit St. Vincent De Paul
October 11 - November 1

Drop boxes are located at the Parish Center, school and in the Church narthex

For more information please contact Colleen Pabst at mahoney5674@yahoo.com or Amanda Collins at aj_collins03@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support!
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.

Save the date:
Trivia Night III
Saturday, January 25
6:30pm

SJC Saintly Senior Club

proudly presents its fall Oktoberfest Luncheon
Friday, October 11th at 11:30 am
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: $_____

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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. Membership is only $10 per year. Luncheons are $15 for members and $20 for non-members—a savings of $5 per luncheon. Dates to save:
October 11, Oktoberfest; Dec. 6, Christmas Party; February 14, Valentines Day (luncheon elsewhere) and March 14, St Patrick’s Day

(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.

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A Lesson from the Road

Several years ago, Hollywood produced a movie about the famous Camino walk in Spain. Entitled The Way, it chronicles the story of a father whose son was killed in an accident shortly after beginning this famous five hundred mile pilgrimage. The father, played by Martin Sheen, had been largely estranged from his son, but when he goes to France (where the Camino begins) to collect the ashes of his dead son, he feels a compulsion to complete the walk for his son and sets out with his son's hiking equipment and backpack, carrying his ashes.

He's unsure as to exactly why he is doing this, except that he senses that somehow this is something he must do for his son, that this will somehow address his estrangement from his son, and that this is something he must do to ease his own grief. Despite being in a rather depressed and anti-social state, he is befriended on the trail by three people, each on the trail for different reasons.

The first of these people is a man from the Netherlands who is walking the trail to lose weight, fearing that, if he doesn't, his wife will divorce him. The second of his new friends is a French-Canadian woman, ostensibly walking Camino to give up her addiction to smoking, but clearly also trying to steady her life after the breakup of a relationship. The third person is an Irish writer, hoping to overcome "writer's block". And so the story focuses on four unlikely walking companions, each doing this pilgrimage with a certain goal in mind.

They persevere and complete the pilgrimage, enter the Cathedral of Santiago, observe the customs that have marked the end of the Camino for countless pilgrims for a thousand years, and then realize that what each of them had hoped to achieve hadn't happened. The man from the Netherlands hadn't lost any weight; the French-Canadian realized that she would not give up smoking; the Irish writer realized that his real issue was not writer's block, and the father who was doing this walk vicariously for his son realized that he had done it for other, more personal, reasons. None of them got what they wanted, but each of them got what he or she needed. The roads of life work like that, as the Camino Santiago.

I learned that exact lesson, walking the Camino a year ago. I went there with there with a certain dream in mind. I was six months beyond chemotherapy treatments, refreshed with new energy, on sabbatical, and looking forward to walking this ancient and famed road to stretch myself physically and spiritually. The physical stretch happened and fitted the fantasy I'd had before leaving for the walk. But the spiritual stretch was a long, long ways away from what I'd fantasized.

My dream had been that I would use this walk to do some deeper inner work, to read some classical books on mysticism, blend the depth of the mystics with the mystique of this ancient trail, do some journaling, and return a deeper and more contemplative person. Such was my dream, but the trail had other ideas.

We were many long hours on the trail each day so that there was basically no time to read or to journal. Evenings found me exhausted, without energy for much inner work. A shower and a hot meal were essentially the only thing I was up to. The major book that I'd taken along, The Cloud of Unknowing lay unopened at the bottom of my suitcase. I managed some hours each day, walking alone on the trail, to pray, but it wasn't the kind of inner work I'd fantasized about. I'd had a fantasy about what I'd wanted to achieve, but, just as for the characters in the movie, apparently this wasn't what I needed.

The trail taught me something else, deeper, more needed, and more humbling: What I learned from walking the road in the company of three close friends was how spoiled and immature I'd become. Having lived as a celibate priest, outside of the conscriptive demands of marriage, children, and family for more than forty years, I realized how idiosyncratic and self-centered the patterns and habits of my life had become. I was used to calling the shots for my own life, at least in its day-to-day rhythms. The Camino taught me that I need to address other issues in my life that are more pressing and more deeply needed than understanding The Cloud of Unknowing. The Camino taught me that in a number of important ways, I need to grow up!

Robert Funk once wrote that grace is a sneaking thing: It wounds from behind, where we think we are least vulnerable. It's harder than we think and we moralize in order to take the edge off it. And, it's more indulgent than we think; but it's never indulgent at the point where we think it ought to be indulgent. Such too is the Camino Santiago.

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
This Week at SJC

Monday, October 7
9:30 a.m. Senior Planning Committee
10:30 a.m. Christian Meditation Step 11
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, October 8
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:00 p.m. Sacraments Study
6:30 p.m. Parish Advisory Council
7:00 p.m. Sacraments Study
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. SJC Teacher Recognition Trust

Wednesday, October 9
9:00 a.m. Fr. Bonin Reflection
9:00 a.m. Crossroads Leader’s Meeting
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
9:30 a.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Crossroads Leader’s Meeting

Thursday, October 10
9:00 a.m. Flourish
9:30 a.m. Mom’s Club
7:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Parent Meeting
7:00 p.m. Promise
7:00 p.m. Faith Sharing

Friday, October 11 Beloved Retreat offsite
12:00 p.m. Senior Luncheon
7:00 p.m. Divorce & Beyond

Saturday, October 12
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, October 13, Welcome Weekend
Hospitality after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:45am Masses
2:30 p.m. Communion Minister Training
4:00 p.m. BEDS

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 7, Our Lady of the Rosary
7:45 SCJ & St. Thaddeus Parishioners

Tuesday, October 8
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Steve Ryan; Mary DeVito

Wednesday, October 9, St. Dennis
7:45 Francesco Brotto; Ray & Dorothy Voros

Thursday, October 10
7:45 Coretta Spalo; Joseph Santagata

Friday, October 11, Bl. John XXIII
7:45 Bill Alberts; Florence Devine

Saturday, October 12
8:00 Rita O’Carroll; Tadeusz Beluch
5:00 Dennis Callaghan; Robert Plechaty

Sunday, October 13, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 Thomas Siragusa; Maurice “Bud” McGrath
9:00 SJC & Kolbe House Parishioners
10:45 Carolyn Plunkett;
Deceased members of the Monocchio Family
12:15 Karen McAlleenan; William Remien
5:00 Stephen Ryan; Ray Rotolo

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

Dale Alm       Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Paul Cervony   Marion Pascale
John Casey     Bob Pietras
Terry Cosgrove James Reilly
Terry Cullen   Rick Reimer
William Dwyer  Dan Santucci
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge Teresa Schaefer
Bernadine Gordus Charles Sugre
Sally Hawkins  Guy Thomas
Barbara Jacob  Baby Kameron Walters
Fr. William Mannion Mary Catherine Warren
Olga Theresa Matusik Pam Wilson
Maddie Mayer   Elizabeth Witek
Vickie McNally
Jay Meehan

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

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Elizabeth Russell-Jones Welcome  erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
“Come and see.”

John 1:39

Give yourself the gift of the Beloved Weekend
Or better yet -
How about giving it to someone you care about?
Your spouse? Your friend?
Your adult son or daughter?
You offer to take care of the kids and details and
Give the gift of a renewed spirit!

October 11-13

Reservations are limited.
Reserve your spot now.
Reservations will be taken through Sunday, October 6th.
Scholarships are available.

Inspiring

It is so easy to be lulled into the notion that God is a noun. The Beloved Weekend reminded me that in no uncertain terms God is a verb – moving within, between and among us.

Dr. Terry Nelson—Johnson

Join 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.