Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build Up the Kingdom of God.
November 10, 2013
Understanding the Gospel with Kids

Children in our culture often know very little about death, dying, and eternal life. Take this opportunity to talk with your children about their thoughts, beliefs, maybe even their fears, about death and dying.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus tells us that after we die, we will not need the same things we did when we were alive, but we will continue to have a relationship with God. You could use the example of a tree to help your children understand what Jesus tells us. When a tree is alive, it needs water, soil, and sunlight. When the tree is used to make a table, a toy, or something else, it has a new purpose. The tree no longer needs water, soil, or sunlight. Read together the short form of the Gospel, Luke 20:27, 34-38. Tell your children about your hope and faith in the resurrection of the body and eternal life with God. Pray together for those in your family who have died and conclude by praying today’s Psalm.

5 Ways to Help Make Prayer a Priority

The hectic pace of family life can often mean that prayer gets lost in the shuffle. Here are five simple, practical tips to encourage families to pray more often:

1. When you rise from bed, get down on your knees. Try this method for morning prayer: Put your bedroom slippers or shoes far under your bed at the end of the day. Each morning, while on your knees retrieving your footwear, say a quick prayer offering the whole day to God.

2. Communicate with God whenever you climb into the car. Many families spend a whole lot of their time in the family vehicle. As you buckle up, say a quick prayer that you will be aware of God’s presence in your day.

3. Place a prayer jar in the kitchen. Keep a jar in the kitchen in which each family member, each day, places a note listing a “special intention” that others in the family can pray for. Before each family member goes to bed, he or she pulls a note from the jar and prays for that need.

4. Fold your hands before you unfold your napkin. Before each meal, take a few moments to thank the One who provides all that you need and blesses you with the lives of those around the table. Try mixing up rote prayers with spontaneous prayers, silent prayers with sung prayers.

5. Pray when people or events upset you. If you want a sure-fire way to pray more each day, make a habit of saying a short prayer whenever someone irritates you. A quick “Help me, God” is sufficient. You’ll never run out of opportunities!

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Strong Catholic Parents

St. Margaret of Scotland: Feast Day Nov. 16

Introduce kids to strong Catholic role models

For Saint Margaret—a wife, a mother, and a queen—giving money was never enough. She was with those who were poor, making sure they had food and clothes. Margaret was born about 1045. She was raised in the Hungarian court, for she was from the line of nobility. When she was 12, she was sent to the English court of Edward the Confessor and further educated. When the Normans conquered England, Margaret, her mother, her brother, and her sister tried to return to Hungary. Their ship was blown off course and landed in Scotland. They were welcomed by King Malcolm III, who fell in love with the beautiful and gentle Margaret. They were married in 1070.

Scotland was a rough country, and although Malcolm was a good man, he was more of a soldier than a scholar or courtly gentleman. But Margaret helped him become a virtuous, gracious leader. They had eight children; all of them grew to love those who were poor and to care for them as their parents had. The youngest, David, was thought of as a saint by the people.

Margaret was prayerful. She gathered women together to study the Scriptures and to embroider vestments and altar cloths. She was always surrounded by beggars, and she gave them money and clothes. She helped ransom the English who had been captured, and she set up homes and hospitals for those in need. She and her husband would go to church during Lent and Advent. On the way home, they would wash the feet of poor people in need and give them money. At home, Margaret fed nine orphans who were brought to her daily. She brought a love of the arts and education to the people, and they loved her in return. Her children are believed to be primarily responsible for two centuries of progress and peace in Scotland.

Margaret died four days after her husband’s death in 1093. In 1250, she was canonized and later declared patroness of Scotland.
Come, Lord Jesus!
Open our minds and hearts and souls
as we wait for you to be born anew
in our lives and in our families.
Help us to experience your love
in our family throughout Advent.

Family Advent Event
Advent Wreath & Chain Workshop

Sunday, November 17, 2013
Parish Center 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Prepare for the Season of Advent as a family.
Create a family treasure and bring home a new tradition!
All ages are welcome at this hands-on workshop.
Learn more about Advent traditions while creating your own wreath
and scripture/family activity chain.
All materials will be supplied
and light refreshments will be served.
Cost is $15 per family.
Space is limited.
Call the YC Office to register by Nov. 12th. 708-246-6760.
Open to all parish families.

Sponsored by the St. John of the Cross Youth Catechesis Council:
Michelle Snorewicz, Mary Hays, John Amico, Sharon Gardner, Lisa Geneser, Katie Larmon, Angie Matysik, Tony Liotta, Nancy Montana, Laurel Schumm, April Sullivan, Lauren Trifilio
First Reading  2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14
Jewish martyrs give witness to their faith, even unto death.

Responsorial Psalm  Psalm 17:1,5-6,8,15
The just person will live in God’s presence.

Second Reading  2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5
Paul encourages the Thessalonians and asks for their prayers.

Jesus answers a question from some Sadducees about the resurrection of the dead. (short form Luke 20:27, 34-38)

Background on the Gospel Reading
In today’s Gospel, we hear about an encounter between Jesus and some Sadducees. The Sadducees were a party of Judaism active in Jesus’ time, descended from the priestly family of Zadok. They were literal interpreters of the written Law of Moses, which means that they were in disagreement with the position of the Pharisees, who offered an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses.

The Sadducees are described in this Gospel as opponents to the belief in resurrection. In the dialogue presented here, we see an example of the means of disputation that was common in first century Judaism. The Sadducees use the example of Levirate marriage, found in the Law of Moses, to disprove belief in the resurrection. According to Deuteronomy 25:5-10, if a man died without producing an heir, the man’s brother should marry his wife and the offspring of this union would inherit the property and carry on the name of the man who had died. The Sadducees use this as an example to challenge belief in the resurrection.

Jesus argues from the same written Law of Moses to show that there is resurrection. Using the texts from the Book of Exodus (Chapter 3) that describe Moses’ encounter with God in the burning bush, Jesus shows that God is the God of the living, not the dead. Here Jesus uses the same method and texts of the Sadducees to counter them. As the Gospel text suggests, he beat them at their own game!

More importantly, in this discourse Jesus shows the limits of our imaginations when it comes to eternal life. The Sadducees argued against resurrection because of the limits of earthly existence. They did not imagine another possibility for existence and relationship with God. Jesus proposes that the possibilities of resurrected life are beyond our imaginations. Jesus’ conclusion suggests something else as well: To spend time worrying about resurrected life is to miss the point. The point is eternal relationship with God is possible, for God is the God of the living, “... for to him all are alive.”

Theme: God knows and sees our hearts.

Step One: Listen to the Word
As you hear the Gospel proclaimed today, what word or phrase strikes you? In this parable, what image comes to mind for you?

Step Two: Look into Your Life
Question for Children: Jesus teaches us to be humble – but what does that mean? How do you show you are humble?

Question for Youth: God knows when we are doing things just for show, and when they come from the goodness of our heart. When have you caught yourself doing something just to be more popular or liked? How does it feel to do something that you know is good and just?

Question for Adults: This Gospel reading suggests that we approach God and each other with humility. What does this mean, in practical terms? How do we “humble” ourselves? What does that mean?

Five (surprising) Places to Find God

Many of us fall into the subtle trap of thinking the only place to find God is at church. If we’re not expecting to find God everywhere, we might just miss great opportunities for help, healing, and spiritual growth. Here are five places where God awaits you:

1. **At Work**: The relationships you have, the results you achieve, the quality and mindfulness with which you do your work can all be the stuff of holiness. Plus, the money you earn to support your family and the esteem you hold as a contributor to the world can either help serve the kingdom or be an impediment to it. Each day we “suit up and show up” at work we get opportunities to learn more about ourselves and to contribute our gifts to the good of the world.

2. **In Difficult Relationships**: It’s easy to love other people when everything’s going well. But when there are hurt feelings, mistrust, or clashing wills, relationships don’t feel very much as though they are of God. Yet it is at just those times, that we can witness the movement of God in our lives, leading us to healing, trust, and cooperation. These can be opportunities to let go of character defects and to exercise virtues.

3. **In Our Failings**: We all like to be heroes. But it’s a given that each of us will fail in our lives. Nevertheless, when we hit our limits or even when we sin, we can turn to God for acceptance, mercy, and the strength to make amends and sin no more. In that turning to God and in our opening ourselves up to God’s grace and forgiveness, we become better people.

4. **In Loneliness**: Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O God. Rather than trying to fill the emptiness with mindless entertainment or indulging our cravings, sit still and find God in the emptiness. It takes patience and courage and humility, but you will hear the “still small voice” of God even in the midst of your emptiness responding to your loneliness and restlessness with the only love that fully satisfies.

5. **In Pleasure**: Many people seem to think that if something’s fun, it must be at least partially wrong. Yet God gives us the world to live in and enjoy. In the words of St. Ireneaus, the “glory of God is a human being fully alive.” Therefore, pleasure is a place to meet God, whether it be the pleasure of nature, of playing, of loving one another, of beauty, or of the occasional overwhelming conviction that we are loved by God.

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For from him and through him and for him are all things.  
—Romans 11:36

Is Jesus truly the center of my life?  
How can I invite him more and more to reside in the place only he can fill?

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Mediation  
Richard Rohr

Without the sign of Jonah—the pattern of new life only through death (“in the belly of the whale”)—Christianity remains largely an impotent ideology, another way to “win” instead of the transformative pain of faith. Or it becomes a language of ascent instead of the treacherous journey of descent that characterizes Jonah, Jeremiah, Job, John the Baptist, and Jesus. After Jesus, Christians used the metaphor “the way of the cross.” Unfortunately, it became “what Jesus did to save us”—or a negative theology of atonement—instead of the necessary pattern that is redemptive for all of us. Yes, love is always the final goal, but faith seems to be the way you get there. It is the only way to keep your mind, heart, and body open—when it wants to close down.

Faith is thus an end in itself. Faith is not what we do in order to get to heaven. Faith is not belonging to a group or believing a set of intellectual truths. Mutual perfect faith would be a bit of heaven now! To have faith is already to have come alive. “Your faith has saved you” (Luke 18:42) is the way Jesus put it to the blind man. Faith is the opposite of resentment, cynicism and negativity. Faith is always, finally, a self-fulfilling prophecy. Faith actually begins to create what it desires. Faith always re-creates the good world. Without faith, we will inevitably sink into various kinds of despair. Faith is a matter of having new eyes, seeing everything, even our most painful suffering, through and with the eyes of God. It is the only way to keep on the path toward love.

Adapted from The Good News According to Luke: Spiritual Reflections.
Programs and Prayer for Adults

Come and explore what it means to receive the road of life that is right before you and understand that this is, in fact, your path. Learn resistance to what is only creates struggle. There are other choices. If you want to live in a different relationship to life, then learn to receive the initiating experiences offered by the Soul.

Paula D’Arcy is a writer, playwright, retreat leader and conference and seminar speaker. In 2001 she established the Red Bird Foundation which supports the growth and spiritual development of those in need throughout the world, including men and women in prison. Among her best selling books are “Gift of the Red Bird,” “Waking Up to This Day,” and “When People Grieve.”

Because this program is sponsored by SJC the $40 cost to attend is waived for our parishioners. Please register by calling the parish center before Dec. 5th.

The Well Spirituality Center is located next to Nazareth Academy at 1515 W Odgen Avenue in LaGrange Park.

Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ with this popular, easy-to-use annual guide. During the especially busy Advent and Christmas seasons, this little treasure offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Through Jay Cormier’s insightful reflections on Scripture readings from the daily Mass, readers will grow in their understanding of the word of God. This book will help busy people achieve their goal of enriching their personal prayer life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Books will be distributed after all Masses on the weekend of November 23-24. A $1 free will offering is suggested.
Or purchase the eBook for $0.99 on your Kindle or Nook. Or download the free Liturgical Press app from itunes and purchase the eBook for any iphone, ipad or android device.

Please join the Sisters of St. Joseph for Coffee & Conversation on Saturday, November 23, 8 a.m.- 9 a.m. in Welcome Hall, 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. The topic is presented by Sister Kathy Sherman, CSJ: Eucharist As a Way of Life: Becoming the Real Presence.

Presentation description: We gather in community each week to break open the Word and to share a meal. We do this in remembrance of Christ Jesus. What difference does this make in our living each day? We will explore this through liturgical documents, story and song.

No RSVP is necessary; this is a drop in event. A free will offering may be made.

Future dialogues planned are: February 1, 2014: Gospel Portraits of Jesus by Mary Jo Curtsinger CSJ; and March 22, 2014: Praying All Ways During Lent by Pat Bergen CSJ. To receive a brochure for all Coffee & Conversation dialogues, please contact Simona: 708-482-5054, sistrate@csjoseph.org.
Seniors and End of Life Medical Choices

When the doctor suggests palliative care for your loved one, what are they trying to tell you? What is hospice and when is it appropriate? What resources are there for taking care of someone in your home and how much will that cost? What are the alternatives? What services are covered by insurance? Come and listen to Dr. Jeff Ziffra explain the medical terminology and Kelly Ziffra explain the financial side of making decisions when you are the caregiver for a spouse, aging parent or anyone needing end of life medical attention. We will meet in the Parish Center on Monday, November 18th at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

They Came and Experienced the Beloved Weekend.

Just some of the things people said:

Nourishing
Remembering that I am Beloved and loved by God, my wife, me and by those that I am graced to come to meet.

Transforming
The retreat was transformational. As a man not accustomed to sharing his feelings, the setup of the retreat made it easy to share and discuss issues. It was truly a gift and I am extremely grateful.

Inspiring
It commissioned me to go out and BE LOVE for others. It helped me remember my focus. It gifted me with folks to share the journey.

Renewing
I have been experiencing a rough road this past year in my spiritual and personal life. The retreat renewed my faith in God’s love for me.

We look forward to you joining us on the next Beloved Weekend. Mark your calendar for October 19-21, 2014. Come to Know Yourself as Beloved.
Parish News & Events

**HomeMade Pizza Co. Fundraiser**
Don't miss this chance to help the Women’s Club and enjoy great pizza. Simply order dinner from the Hinsdale HomeMade Pizza Company on Tuesday, November 19th between 1-8pm. Use the code HomeMadeHelps, and the Women’s Club will receive a donation for every qualifying item! Order online at [www.homemadepizza.com](http://www.homemadepizza.com) in advance!

HomeMade Pizza Co. will donate:
- $5 for every Large Pizza Sold
- $2 for every or Gluten-Free Pizza sold
- 10 percent of every Gift Card sold (great idea for teacher gifts)

**Where:** 9 W 1st Street, Hinsdale; 630-794-0004
**When:** Tuesday, November 19th, 1-8 p.m.

**Calling All Parish Dads & Daughters!**
Come on over to our
**Thanksgiving Hoedown Father-Daughter Dance**
**Friday, Nov. 15**
**Multipurpose Room of School**
**from 7-9pm**
**$25 per family**

Mail your check or drop it off at the YC Office or purchase tickets at the door.
Hosted by the YC Council.

Each family is asked to bring a canned good (fruit, vegetable, or canned meat) to donate to those in need this Thanksgiving.

**Spread your love everywhere you go:** First of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to your next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better or happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile; kindness in your warm greeting.” ~Mother Teresa

**Moms’ Club**
Attention moms of young children 6 & under:
Please email sjcmomsclub@gmail.com to get added to our weekly no-obligation email list so that you can receive the most up-to-date information about our meetings. Our next meeting is:
**Friday, Nov. 22nd Parish Center 9:30-11am**
Contacts: Ellen Twomey & Jennifer Van Wyck

**SJC Cub Scout Membership Drive**
ATTENTION all 1st through 5th Grade Boys and Families: It's not too late to get involved in the SJC Cub Scout Pack this year. For more information, come to the meeting on November 20th or call the Cubmaster Ed Giles at (312) 532-1794. We hope you can join us!

**LUMINARIA KIT FUNDRAISER**
Coming Soon! Online purchase begins November 17!
Each $10 kit contains 5 bags, 5 candles and enough sand to assemble the luminaries.

**Pick-up Date:** Sunday, Dec. 15th from 1-3:00p.m.
Please contact Katie Pruitt at ilboilers@gmail.com or 708-822-9427 with questions.

Sponsored by the Women’s Club in partnership with Village True Value Hardware.

[Image of a turkey and the words LUMINARIA KIT FUNDRAISER]

[Image of a pizza slice and the words HomeMade Pizza Co. Fundraiser]

[Image of a turkey and the words Calling All Parish Dads & Daughters!]

[Image of a turkey and the words Moms’ Club]

[Image of a turkey and the words SJC Cub Scout Membership Drive]
A Day of Spirit indeed!
Crossroads teens led our parish 8th grade Youth Catechesis and SJC School students on their Day of the Spirit Retreat. Their retreat was filled with witness talks by teenagers, faith-filled experiences and games focusing on the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Praise & Worship Music, and snacks. The inspirational day ended with Mass.

This annual retreat helps to prepare our youth to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in February. Please join us in praying for all our Confirmation Candidates!

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<th>YC Schedule</th>
<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
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<td>Classes K-6</td>
<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
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<td>FFC</td>
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Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org  * 708-246-6760
www.stjohnofthecross.org/yec
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am- 4:00pm
School News

Each month, a parent volunteer visits grades 1-4 to teach our students about a famous artist in collaboration with our Art Appreciation in the Classroom program. The parent works in coordination with the classroom teacher to assist in the grade level art presentation and activities in the classroom. Last week Mrs. Judie’s Kindergarten learned about the famous painter, sculptor, and architect, Michelangelo. They spent some time creating their own artwork in Michelangelo’s fashion as they taped papers to the bottom of their tables and painted on their backs.

Our preschool students and teachers hosted a special evening for their fathers or special guests. The preschool children made craft projects for their guests, decorated a pumpkin, sang a song, and took photos. Thank you to our ECC team for putting together such a fun evening.

Crossroads

Harvest Saturday
Flyer Day Thank you to everyone who participated in Saturday’s Flyer Day. Without this day Harvest Saturday could not be the huge success that it always is.
Box Day Nov 15th 6-730pm Parish Center
An incredible number of boxes (even more than last year!) are made in preparation for filling them the following day.
Harvest Saturday Nov 16th 8:30am-2pm Parish Center. This is the day we collect and package the food from the community. Volunteer for a few hours or all day.

Harvest Saturday Timeline
8:30 am Set-up
9:30 am Home Group Leaders arrive to help out.
9:45 am Check-in for drivers and teens
10:00 am Mass (always wonderful!)
10:30-1:00pm Food picked up, dropped off, sorted, and boxed. Dress for the weather if you’re picking up food.
1-2pm or so: Load trucks and eat pizza
2-6 pm or so: Carpool to St. Thomas of Canterbury at 4827 N. Kenmore, Chicago. This is the icing on the cake! However, it is not for little children or those unable to lift boxes. We literally stand shoulder-to-shoulder and pass the boxes to the next person into the food pantry.

To sign up to drive or go downtown, contact Fran Karas at (708) 246-2612 OR franbkaras@gmail.com OR Online http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A9AD28AAFC1-flyer

Crossroads teens: please contact your Home Group Leaders to volunteer!

This Week at SJC
Monday, Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day Prayer Service, 9:15 a.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 12 Eighth Grade Explore Test, All Day,
Wednesday, Nov.13 Speech Contest , 7:00 p.m. School
Thursday, Nov. 14 Out of Uniform Day
Friday, Nov. 15 No School

Nov. 17 Home Group Meetings & Freshmen Experience in the parish center starting at 6pm.
Go to our website for a full event calendar!
Outreach

Little Sisters of the Poor Thank You

Dear Parishioners,
It was such a nice pleasure to meet all of you. With your generous donations totaling $29,413.25, you help us keep the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan alive, making St. Joseph’s Home a place of hope, where life is celebrated and lived to the fullest for as long as possible!

Please be assured that you are all counted among our many blessings. St. Jeanne Jugan knew that prayers of gratitude were a direct way to God’s heart. The Little Sisters and Residents offer our prayerful gratitude for you and your intentions in a Mass offered in our Chapel each month.
Sister Pauline, Isp
Little Sisters of the Poor

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you recently retired and looking for something rewarding to do? Do you have a few extra hours a month to spend with seniors in your community?

Interfaith Community Partners is looking for you!

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. Our next training session will be held Saturday, November 16, from 9-12pm at St. Barbara Parish Center, 4008 Prairie Avenue in Brookfield. 708-579-8929.

What’s Green, Lots of Fun and Guarantees Laughter and Smiles?

Answer: The annual St. Patrick’s Day Party sponsored by Catholic Charities West Regional Office.

If you love “wearing of the green”, being a part of a fun group that plans for a fun evening and brings laughter and smiles not only to the party guests but more importantly, the participants of the Catholic Charities programs that benefit from this popular event - then this is for you! We will have our first committee meeting on Thursday, November 14 at FitzGerald’s, 6615 W. Roosevelt Road, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Esmeralda Zepeda, Regional Service Director for more information at (708) 329-4022 or ezepeda@catholiccharities.net Note: The date of the party is March 6, 2014.

Thank You from Kolbe House

Dear Parishioners,
Gratefully we received the $1,200 Sharing check sent from you. As you know, Kolbe House celebrates on the first Sunday of the month a 3:00 p.m. bilingual Mass for the incarcerated, their families, also for the families hurt by crimes, and for our benefactors. St. John’s is held close in prayer at these times.

One month ago a mother who regularly attends this Mass brought her son who was just released from prison. It was a moment of celebration not only for her but everyone who was present. During the coffee and cake gathering that we regularly have, this man was encouraged to stay positive about his future and to accomplish his goals. He in turn answered questions about prison, its atmosphere, what it is like for the parents whose sons are still incarcerated. He provided them with a sense of relief and perspective as he reassured these parents that their sons, many first timers in prison, would be alright.

I noted that he was giving back to others what he had received so often—hope and encouragement. When asked what kept him going, staying positive, he answered—faith and prayer. This is what keeps us going in this ministry. This is what binds all of us together as the family of God.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez, Director

Want to Get to Yes in Your Job Search?

Go Beyond Your Resume with Another Way to Present Yourself. Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, November 21 from 7-9 pm for a different but very useful approach to your job search. Our speaker, Norris Beren, is an executive “in transition” advisor with 40+ years of working with CEO’s. Are you open to new ideas? Can you effectively answer the question…why should I hire you? Can you respond by making a strong business case? What is your competitive advantage over other candidates? Why is what you want to happen not happening now? Get answers to these and other thought provoking questions…from a CEO’s point of view. This program is open to all and there is no charge to attend. We look forward to welcoming you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center.

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org
Dying into Safe Hands

It's hard to say something consoling in the face of death, even when the person who died lived a full life and died in the best of circumstances. It's especially hard when the one who's died is a young person, still in need of nurturing and care in this life, and when that young person dies in less-than-ideal circumstances.

As a priest, I have, a number of times, had to preside at the funeral of someone who died young, either as the result of illness, accident, or suicide. Such a funeral is always doubly sad. I remember one such funeral in particular: A high-school student had died in a car accident. The church was over-packed with his grieving family, friends, and classmates. His mother, still a young woman herself, was in the front pew, heavy with grief about her loss, but clearly weighed-down too with anxiety for her child. After all, he was still just a boy, partly still in need of someone to take care of him, still needing a mother. She sensed how, dying so young, in effect, orphaned him.

There aren't many words that are helpful in a situation like this, but the few that we have say what needs to be said - even if on that day, when death is still so raw, they don't yet bring much emotional consolation. What's to be said in face of a death like this? Simply that this young boy is now in more-loving, more-tender, gentler, and safer hands than ours, that there's a mother on the other side to receive him and give him the nurturing he still needs, just as there was one on this side when he was born. No one is born, except into a mother's arms. That's an image we need to keep before us in order to more healthily imagine death.

What, more precisely, is the image? Few images are as primal, and as tender, as that of a mother holding and cradling her newborn baby. Indeed the words of the most-renowned Christmas carol of all time, Silent Night, were inspired by precisely this image. Joseph Mohr, a young priest in Germany, had gone out to a cottage in the woods on the afternoon of Christmas Eve to baptize a newborn baby. As he left the cottage, the baby was asleep in its mother's lap. He was so taken with that image, with the depth and peace it incarnated, that, immediately upon returning to his rectory, he penned the famous lines of Silent Night. His choir director, Franz Gruber, put some guitar chords to those words and froze them in our minds forever. The ultimate archetypal image of peace, safety, and security is that of a newborn sleeping in its mother's arms. Moreover, when a baby is born, it's not just the mother who's eager to hold and cradle it. Most everyone else is too.

Perhaps no image then is as apt, as powerful, as consoling, and as accurate in terms of picturing what happens to us when we die and awake to eternal life as is the image of a mother holding and cradling her newborn child. When we die, we die into the arms of God and surely we're received with as much love, gentleness, and tenderness as we were received in the arms of our mothers at birth. Moreover, surely we are even safer there than we were when we were born here on earth. I suspect too that more than a few of the saints will be hovering around, wanting their chance to cuddle the new baby. And so it's okay if we die before we're ready, still in need of nurturing, still needing someone to help take care of us, still needing a mother. We're in safe, nurturing, gentle hands.

That can be deeply consoling because death renders every one of us an orphan and, daily, there are people dying young, unexpectedly, less-than-fully-ready, still in need of care themselves. All of us die, still needing a mother. But we have the assurance of our faith that we will be born into safer and more nurturing hands than our own.

However, consoling as that may be, it doesn't take away the sting of losing a loved one to death. Nothing takes that away because nothing is meant to. Death is meant to indelibly scar our hearts because love is meant to wound us in that way. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it: "Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love. ... It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn't fill it, but on the contrary, God keeps it empty and so helps us keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain. ... The dearer and richer our memories, the more difficult the separation. But gratitude changes the pangs of memory into a tranquil joy. The beauties of the past are borne, not as a thorn in the flesh, but as a precious gift in themselves."

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.
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Greg Lavalle, nephew of Norb Misiora
Gerald Casper, husband of Shirley, father of Guy
Dr. Anthony Sweeney, brother of Phil Sweeney
Paris M. Szot, husband of Josephine, mother of Michael

Pray for our Sick
Frank Accardi
Dale Alm
John Casey
Paul Cervony
Terry Cullen
William Dwyer
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge
Sally Hawkins
Karen Hult
Barbara Jacob
Dee Kennedy
Kelly Kennedy
Rosie King
Kay Knowles
Fr. William Mannion

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.
Entrance Antiphon

This Week at SJC
Monday, November 11
9:00 am Senior Club Planning Meeting
10:30 am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 pm Little Rock
2:00 pm Spiritual Journaling
2:30 pm Adoration

Tuesday, November 12
9:00 am School, Speaker, Sellinger
9:05 am Rosary
9:30 am Focus on Sunday Scriptures
1:00 pm Sacraments Study
7:00 pm Sacraments Study
7:00 pm Tag Night
7:00 pm RCIA
7:00 pm Teacher Recognition Trust

Wednesday, November 13
9:30 am Bible Study 3
9:30 am Bridges Faith Sharing
1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
5:00 pm Athletic Director Meeting
7:00 pm Boy Scout & Cub Scout Meetings
7:30 pm Christian Meditation

Thursday, November 14
6:30 pm Seasons of Hope Grief Support
7:00 pm Faith Sharing Group

Friday, November 15, No School
7:00 pm YC Father Daughter Dance
5:00 pm Crossroads Box Night

Saturday, November 16
7:00 am Christian Meditation
10:00 am Crossroads Harvest Saturday

Sunday, November 17
11:45 am Advent Project Workshop for Families

Mass Intentions
Monday, November 11, St. Martin of Tours
7:45 Helen Curtin; Our Beloved Dead

Tuesday, November 12, St. Josaphat
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Fr. Ed Flannery; Fr. Bill Bennett

Wednesday, November 13
7:45 O’Malley & Madigan Families; John Koczwar

Thursday, November 14
7:45 Raymond & Olga Matusik; Joseph Santagata

Friday, November 15, St. Albert the Great
7:45 Chester Cebula; Sally Gage

Saturday, November 16 St. Margaret of Scotland
8:00 Rita O’Carroll; Pauline Senak
5:00 Julia Esposito; Gene Harris

Sunday, November 17, 33rd Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Patrick D. Kelly; Julianne Clancy
9:00 Bridget McVady; St. Thaddeus & SJC Parishioners
10:45 O'Malley & Madigan Families; John Koczwar
12:15 Vito Parisie; George Hoffman
5:00 Eleanor Doyle; Madeline Lanzendorf

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick
Frank Accardi  Maddie Mayer
Dale Alm  Vickie McNally
John Casey  Jay Meehan
Paul Cervony  Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Terry Cullen  Marion Pascale
William Dwyer  Bob Pieters
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge  James Reilly
Sally Hawkins  Rick Reimer
Karen Hult  Dan Santucci
Barbara Jacob  Teresa Schaefer
Dee Kennedy  Charles Sugrue
Kelly Kennedy  Guy Thomas
Rosie King  Baby Kameron Walters
Kay Knowles  Mary Catherine Warren
Fr. William Mannion  Pam Wilson

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Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.
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Greg Lavalle, nephew of Norb Misiora
Gerald Casper, husband of Shirley, father of Guy
Dr. Anthony Sweeney, brother of Phil Sweeney
Paris M. Szot, husband of Josephine, mother of Michael

Wedding Banns
Caitlin Brase & Steve Sulak
Amy Hochberg & Daniel Brewer

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

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Harvest Saturday is a service opportunity that is led and implemented by our parish teens, their families and adult mentors who support teens. All parishioners can support this outreach effort by:

By **praying** for the poor and hungry that they may be nourished in body and Spirit

By **donating** food, paper products, and personal items

If you live in Western Springs have your bagged food donations on your front porch by 10am. If you live outside of Western Springs bring your donations to the parish center vestibule anytime this week. To avoid the crowds, try to come before Saturday!

By **collecting** the bags of food from the homes or driving

By **sorting and boxing** donations in the parish center

By **loading and unloading** the trucks

The volunteer schedule can be found on page 10 of today’s bulletin.