Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing
to Build Up the Kingdom of God.
November 17, 2013
The Philippines Need You

Just a few days ago, a storm of tremendous size and impact, Typhoon Haiyan, passed over the Philippines, killing nearly 10,000 of our Filipino brothers and sisters and leaving more than 600,000 displaced. Unfortunately, the region is barely recovering from a 7.2 magnitude earthquake just three weeks ago and there is a shortage of supplies.

Typhoon Haiyan is equivalent to a category 5 hurricane and the impact from the storm has left the Philippines and nearby islands with no water, shelter, or electricity. Catholic Relief Services will prioritize emergency shelter, water and sanitation, household relief items (blankets, kitchen items, cookware), potable water, and toilets in this time of emergency. Catholic Relief Services is working with the local government, Caritas and local parishes to maximize response and recovery efforts to reach those most affected by this destructive storm.

To support CRS and respond to this emergency in the Philippines, please appeal to your parishioners to make a donation which can be sent to: ATTN: Typhoon Haiyan Philippines Emergency Appeal Catholic Relief Services, 3525 S. Lake Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60653 You can also donate online!

www.ChicagoPeaceAndJustice.org/PhilippinesRelief

On Thanksgiving Day our morning Mass will be at 9:30am. Please plan to join us!
Join the Choir on Thanksgiving & Christmas

Thanksgiving Day Music
All singers in the parish are invited to join voices with all six of the choirs at St. John of the Cross as together we give thanks for our many blessings! Mass on Thanksgiving Day is at 9:30 a.m. on November 28. Please come for warm-ups and rehearsal at 8:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! I hope the day finds you surrounded by those you love and filled with all good things! Jessica

Christmas Music
This Christmas, all singers are invited to join one of the choirs at St. John of the Cross to help make the music at our Christmas Masses extra special! The commitment is minimal – attendance at only 4 weeknight rehearsals is required (Contemporary Ensemble meets on Thursdays; Traditional Choir meets on Wednesdays). Contact Jessica Koch for details by November 27: jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org or (708) 246-4404.

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.
Programs and Prayer for Adults

Poet David Whyte says, “We may only get one chance in a lifetime to break the spell and break the promise that we will not speak in our own voice.”

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 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.

We look forward to you joining us on the next Beloved Weekend.
Mark your calendar for October 17-19, 2014. (correct date)
Come to Know Yourself as Beloved.

Did You Know...
The most common reasons couples give for long-term marital success are commitment and companionship. They speak of hard work and dedication, both to each other and to the idea of marriage itself. (The Top Ten Myths of Marriage, Popenoe & Whitehead, http://marriage.rutgers.edu)

The password for Adult Formation Resources on the home page of our parish website is sjc (lower case). Read the latest issue of Catholic Today and At Home with the Word.
**Lifelong Catechesis**

The gospel is really filled with hope, not doom or fear. Jesus himself will give each of us the wisdom we need to speak boldly; and, most importantly, Jesus assures us that he will be the victor ("all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute"). Catastrophes, disasters, wars, insurrections, etc. are not signs of the end of the world, but of how far we actually are from the end. We hasten the end not by being fearful of these events, but by being faithful to Jesus’ work of establishing God’s kingdom. Preaching, teaching, and living in Jesus’ name is the one sure way of discipleship that hastens Jesus’ Second Coming and secures for us eternal life. We will know the end is near not by increased terror and hardship, rampant evil and lack of care for each other, constant upset and loss. The end is near when goodness and love are abundant, when caring and sharing mark our daily living, when all people are brothers and sisters. The end is marked by goodness, not by evil. When God’s reign of peace and justice is established throughout our world, the end will be here. There will be no more work of salvation to do.

Times of adversity, whether now or in the future, are opportunities in which the wisdom of Jesus and his teachings embolden his followers to testify to him and strengthen them to persevere. The trials and tribulations we face now in our lives are preparation for the end times. Our faithfulness hastens the end times. As we grow in our readiness to be faithful to the Gospel in this life, we are already choosing our final destiny. Before new life, there must be dying to the old self. We know that Christ is the victor, and those who persevere in their faithfulness will share in the glory of that victory. But the full victory is not yet revealed. We await. We hope.

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**Surviving the Holidays**

Every year most of us have a tendency to fantasize about the delights of the holidays, wanting this year to top all previous years. We spend more, decorate more, bake more and eat more! What a set up for disappointment! Divorce makes the holidays even more difficult: other families are having so much fun and you are not. There’s no money, the kids are at the other parent’s house, and the sweetest holiday memories can bring the deepest sorrow and grief. These top ten tips for “Surviving the Holidays” can help you unload the dread, anxiety, or loneliness for a time of inner peace and hope. *That* is what the birth of Our Lord has always promised. Go to our parish website to read the whole article.

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**Readings for the Week**

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<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Christ the King</th>
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</table>
Lifelong Catechesis

Did you know...

During Mass we assume different postures—standing, kneeling, and sitting and are invited to make a variety of gestures which have profound meaning, and when done with understanding, they can enhance our prayer at Mass.

**Standing** is a sign of respect and honor, so we stand as the celebrant who represents Christ enters and leaves, for the Gospel and various prayers such as the Our Father and when receiving Communion. When we stand for prayer, we assume our full stature before God, not in pride, but in humble gratitude for the marvelous things God has done in creating and redeeming each one of us.

In the early Church, **kneeling** signified penance so much so that early Christians were forbidden to kneel on Sundays. In the Middle Ages kneeling came to signify homage and more recently this posture has come to signify adoration, especially before the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is for this reason that we kneel during the entire Eucharistic Prayer.

**Sitting** is the posture of listening and meditation during the pre-Gospel readings, homily and the period of meditation following Communion.

We make the **Sign of the Cross** at the beginning and end of Mass. At the beginning of the Gospel we trace the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, lips, and hearts, praying that the Word of God may be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. The cross reminds us in a physical way of the Paschal Mystery we celebrate: the death and Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Bowing** signifies reverence, respect, and gratitude. In the Creed we bow at the words that commemorate the Incarnation. We also bow as a sign of reverence before we receive Communion. The priest and other ministers bow to the altar, a symbol of Christ, when entering or leaving the sanctuary.

**Being Silent** during the liturgy allows the community to reflect on what it has heard and experienced and to open its heart to the mystery celebrated. We gather in silence, taking time to separate ourselves from the concerns of the world and enter into the sacred action. We reflect on the readings in silence. After the homily the priest usually sits for a few minutes in silence. We take time for silent reflection and prayer after Communion. These times of silence are opportunities for us to enter more deeply in what God is doing in the Mass.

As a sign of adoration, we **genuflect** by bringing our right knee to the floor. Many times people also make the Sign of the Cross as they bend their knee. Traditionally people genuflect when entering and leaving church if the Blessed Sacrament is present in the sanctuary. The priest and deacon genuflect to the tabernacle on entering and leaving the sanctuary. The priest also genuflects in adoration during the consecration and again before inviting the people to Communion.

**Orans** means praying. The priest uses this ancient prayer posture, extending his hands to his sides, slightly elevated. Standing in this posture with hands uplifted to the Lord is a gesture that echoes Christ’s outstretched arms on the Cross.

**Prostrating**, when an individual lies full-length on the floor, face to the ground, is a posture of deep humility, signifying our willingness to share in Christ’s death so as to share in his Resurrection. It is used on Good Friday and at ordinations of deacons, priests, and bishops who prostrate themselves in prayer and submission to Christ.

Our unity of posture and gesture is an expression of our participation in the one Body formed by the baptized with Christ. When we stand, kneel, sit, bow and sign ourselves in common action, we give witness that we are indeed the Body of Christ, united in body, mind and voice.

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Prayer

How Is Your Prayer Life?
Several weeks ago at Mass parishioners learned how to pray The Examen, a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and to discern his direction for us.

In case you’ve lost your help card or have forgotten the LT3F help, here are the basics of this prayer again. Try to pray it at least once a day.

1. **Become aware of the presence of God.** (Light)
2. **Review the day with gratitude.** (Thankfulness)
   Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights.
3. **Pay attention to your emotions.** (Feelings)
   Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Ask what God is saying through these feelings.
4. **Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.** (Focus)
   Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may be a vivid moment or something that seems insignificant.
5. **Look toward tomorrow.** (Future)
   Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus and say the Our Father. Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask for his protection and help. Ask for his wisdom about the questions you have and the problems you face. Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Need help? Feel free to ask Fr. David, Fr. Filbert or Deacon John.

Richard Rohr Meditation
It is good to remember that a part of you has always loved God. There is a part of you that has always said yes. There is a part of you that is Love itself, and that is what we must fall into. It is already there. Once you move your identity to that level of deep inner contentment, you will realize you are drawing upon a Life that is much larger than your own and from a deeper abundance. Once you learn this, why would you ever again settle for scarcity in your life? “I’m not enough! This is not enough! I do not have enough!” I am afraid this is the way culture trains you to think. It is a kind of learned helplessness. The Gospel message is just the opposite—inherent power.

Thomas Merton said that the way we have structured our lives, we spend our whole life climbing up the ladder of supposed success, and when we get to the top of the ladder we realize it is leaning against the wrong wall—and there is nothing at the top anyway. To get back to the place of inherent abundance, you have to let go of all of the false agendas, unreal goals, and passing self-images. It is all about letting go. The spiritual life is more about unlearning than learning, because the deepest you already knows and already enjoys (1 John 2:21).

Adapted from The Art of Letting Go: Living the Wisdom of Saint Francis (CD)

What Am I Here For?
Ignatian spirituality tells us that God is an active, busy God. Jesus Christ has come on a mission to save and heal the world. St. Ignatius of Loyola depicts him as a king with ambitious plans: “I want to overcome all diseases, all poverty, all ignorance, all oppression and slavery—in short, all the evils which beset humankind.”

Christ calls us to join him in this mission. Responding to this call is the great challenge of our lives. The essence of Christ's call is to be with him as he works. We are to share Christ's mission, to think like him, to do what he does. In the Ignatian perspective, we grow close to God as we do God's work in the world.

This is why those influenced by Ignatian spirituality are often called “contemplatives in action.” They cultivate a habit of regular reflection in order to detect the presence of God in their lives. They employ the tools of Ignatian discernment to make sound decisions. The fruit of this contemplative effort is action.

This is the answer to the question, “What am I here for?” We're here to share in Christ's mission. Our work may be humble in the eyes of the world, but it actually elevates us to something like a partnership with God. Our willingness to do his work allows God to act in our created world.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection is the primary source of funding for the CCHD’s anti-poverty grants and education programs. Committed to addressing the root causes of poverty, the CCHD has provided access to invaluable resources for those who struggle in poverty and has made positive impacts throughout Chicago and the United States. The organizations the CCHD supports coordinate programs that help to change the lives of those less fortunate by creating jobs, providing training for adults and educational opportunities for children, and helping to stabilize neighborhoods. Inspired by Catholic social teachings, the CCHD’s mission is respect for human life from conception to natural death, recognizing that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and are endowed with certain inalienable rights.

Organizations assisted by the CCHD include the Latino Union of Chicago. Started in 2000 by immigrants, the Latino Union has worked to ensure that low-income immigrant workers have the tools to improve economic and social conditions for themselves and their communities by moving legislation and developing leaders in our communities who arise to break the cycle of poverty and injustice. Earlier this year, the Latino Union led the effort to pass the new wage-theft ordinance in Illinois. For their witness to the social teachings of the Church, which embody Christ’s love for the poor, the Latino Union was recognized nationally by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with the 2013 Sister Margaret Cafferty Development of People Award. For more information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the groups it funds, please visit www.chicagopeaceandjustice.org/cchd or visit www.usccb.org and search “CCHD Collection Resources.”

Help us get poverty “off the map,” and support the CCHD in the upcoming collection on November 23 and 24. Please remember that 50 percent of the collection’s proceeds stay here in our archdiocese to fight poverty in our own communities and to defend the dignity of our neighbors.

Thank you for your generous consideration of this important call to help our brothers and sisters in need, especially during this season in which we give thanks to God for our many blessings. You and those you love are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago
Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Nov. 24th

What’s life like at the poverty line?

LEARN

Go to our parish website and click on Serving to watch an informational video to learn about what life is like at the poverty line.

Right now, in the United States, 44 million people are classified by the federal government as living in poverty. That’s one out of every seven Americans, and one out of every five children. It’s a huge number of people. Sometimes people make bad choices. But a lot of other factors can send a family below the poverty line—and keep others there who are already poor: a minimum wage that earns a full-time worker less than $16,000 a year, health insurance that is unaffordable to many, including the 51 million people who lacked coverage in 2009 and a housing market that has become inaccessible to low-income people; 12 million pay more than half their annual income for rent or mortgage payments. Education systems, family environments, and racism, among other factors, also play roles.

PRAY

Millions of people throughout the United States and the world are struggling. Please help us pray for their well-being.

*Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.*  Luke 3:11 “

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts, minds, and souls to your presence.

Grace us with the strength to follow the examples of Jesus.

Like Jesus, may the Spirit provide us with a voice to cry out for justice for the poor.

Remind us that what we do to the least of those among us, we do to you.

ACT

There are lots of ways to take action. You can spread the word about poverty in the United States, advocate for change, find and support organizations in your community, give time or resources or contact local representatives. Learn more at http://www.povertyusa.org/get-involved/#pray

GIVE

Give to our annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development next weekend.

The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

**Life and Dignity of the Human Person.** All human life is sacred, made in the image and likeness of God. Society and its structures should aim to lift up the human person.

**Call to Family, Community, and Participation.** Humans are social and develop in community, starting with family. We should construct our society so all can flourish and participate in the decisions that affect them.

**Rights and Responsibilities.** Every human person has basic rights inherent in his or her very nature. We have a responsibility to organize our society so the rights of all can be fulfilled.

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.** Those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern.

**The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.** Through work, humans participate in God’s ongoing process of creation. Work has dignity and the basic rights of workers must be respected.

**Solidarity.** We are one human family and are called to work for the common good—so that each individual can flourish materially, spiritually, and in all ways.

**Care for God’s Creation.** The earth has been entrusted to us, its stewards. All of creation is interdependent and its gifts are for all to share.
Strong Catholic Parent

Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

Gather

This is the time of year when families begin to gather. Thanksgiving is coming, followed by all the many celebrations of Christmas and New Year. Here are a few tips on how best to gather with your extended family: Be a little more welcoming, a little more understanding. Be a little more forgiving and a lot more compassionate. Ask questions about what others care about and then listen more than you talk. Tell the guests at least one reason you are grateful they are in your life. Before you eat, reflect and pray together. Families are often on their best behavior when guests are present. So remember what Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Honor your guests as you would Jesus. — Tom McGrath

Family Connection

Children, while innocently naïve about most world events, are also profoundly sensitive to the concerns felt by adults. We can help children interpret adult concerns by sharing information about current events in appropriate ways. We can also put these concerns in the light of God’s kingdom and the assurance of God’s care for us.

Discuss with your children one or more current events or a situation in your family which shows difficulties that may challenge our trust in a God who cares for us. Then read today’s Gospel, Luke 21:5-19. Notice how Jesus said that even when his disciples are persecuted, God would be with them.

Together with your children, talk about ways in which God might bring good out of the difficult events you discussed. Talk together about some actions you might take as a family to make better the situations you discussed. Conclude by praying for the needs of the people involved in the events you named. In prayer, place each of these difficult situations into God’s hands.


Share with Your Child the Joy of Giving

Parents can support their children’s spiritual growth by giving them opportunities to put aside their own needs and give to others. Not only will it strengthen personal self-esteem, kids will recognize the true joy of helping those in need. Have you tried these ways to share the joy of giving?

1. Involve your kids in “giving” decisions. Explain to your children what portion of your family budget goes toward charity and helping others. Get them involved in deciding which causes to support.

2. Make giving to others a “given.” Studies show that most generous adults had parents who also showed generosity, so be sure that helping others in need is something that your family simply does as a matter of course.

3. Maintain a balance between giving and receiving. Make sure that your children see examples of giving and receiving within the family. Both sides are important for balanced personal development.

4. Share your own needs with your child. Depending on the age of the child, it’s O.K. to occasionally say, “I need some help today. I would appreciate it if you took on some of my usual chores.” Then be specific about what the child can do and how he or she can do it.

5. Teach them to “offer it up.” The spiritual practice of “offering it up” is simply the exercise of offering one’s difficulties and sufferings for the good of others. For example, your child might offer up their prayer on the stress of a major exam to someone who is sick or needs help. If they turn difficulties of the day into a prayer for others in need instead of themselves, it’s a valuable lesson in giving, solidarity, and love.

6. Exercise your faith in God’s providence. Generosity is an attitude toward life. It presupposes the faith that God will provide and the conviction that as we have been given, so we should give.


www.stjohnofthecross.org  11-17-13  page 10  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Crossroads

Harvest Saturday
A huge thank you to everyone who came to Harvest Saturday and helped out. A very special thank you to Katie McAuliffe, Cara and Anna Rafanelli, Kim Sarros, Fran Karas and Wendy Duquette who coordinated the event. Harvest Saturday ran very smoothly and effectively.

The number of lives that this one event touches is simply amazing. The organizations that received the boxes of food are: St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry, St. Cletus Food Pantry, Midwest Workers / Port Ministry, St. Thomas of Canterbury, LaGrange Transitional Housing and House of Good Shepard.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Nov 17 Home Group meetings Freshmen Experience PC 6-7:30PM
Nov 24 Pizza after 5pm Mass
For a complete calendar of Crossroad events for the year go to:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

Two weeks ago our Freshmen discussed how their faith has been handed on to them. When asked what the blessing of their faith means to them in one word they reflected:

LOVE PROUD EVERYTHING LOVING VITAL IMPORTANT BLESSED CARE GRATENUL

After participating in this discussion (or following the guides provided online) teens can enter the DIGITAL DISCIPLE VIDEO CONTEST. Details available at www.archchicago.org/StrategicPastoralPlan/StrongCatholicParents/ Scholarship Money for the winner to keep & give to favorite Catholic Charity.

There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well. -Walter Reuther

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

A Visit with Fr. Kieran

“...it gives me more prayer time...” His bulletin boards are filled with pictures and notes from his family and friends which are first read to him and then tacked up on the board. Masses, prayers, mail and visits are the gifts that he enjoys the most.

The perfect ending to our visit came when Father Kieran decided to give us a blessing.

Fr. Kieran left a part of his heart here with all of us at SJC, and it would make him happy to have the connection renewed again. Cards or notes can be sent to Fr. Kieran at:
Rev Kieran Kemner OFM
Sunset Home, Room 210
418 Washington St
Quincy, Il 62301

Pictured with Fr. Kieran is Louise and her daughter.

A note from Louise Olson, Parishioner

“I had a warm and heartfelt visit yesterday with our dear friend, Fr. Kieran Kemner. As most of us already know, he lives at the Sunset Home in Quincy, Il. I was most impressed with the facility, including Father’s private room. It was easy to see that he is being well taken care of by the staff as well as by his sister who watches over him for all his needs. He has lost some weight due to a restricted diet, but otherwise looks healthy and happy. The down side is that he has macular degeneration and cannot personally read his mail, but his sister is an efficient secretary and reads it all to him. Reading was always an important part of Father’s life and sad to say, no longer can be enjoyed. He cannot watch television for the same reason. Many people rely on such diversions to pass the time and are lost without it. But not Fr. Kieran! As he himself put it: “It gives me more prayer time...” His bulletin boards are filled with pictures and notes from his family and friends which are first read to him and then tacked up on the board. Masses, prayers, mail and visits are the gifts that he enjoys the most.

The perfect ending to our visit came when Father Kieran decided to give us a blessing.”
Parish School

St. John of the Cross Parish School is now accepting applications for the 2014-15 school year. St. John of the Cross Parish School provides a dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows. We offer unique educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student.

If you are interested in visiting the school, please call Jennifer Jermano Miller, Director of Advancement at 708-246-4454, to set up an appointment. Please scan the code for information and the application.

Youth Catechesis

Sponsor Night

Confirmation Candidates and their sponsors gathering in prayer to share faith experiences and their journey as they grow closer to our Lord Jesus.

Please keep our Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they move towards their February Confirmation Mass!

Look for your Family Home Lesson emailed to every YC family this week. We ask that you take an evening to spend sharing your faith with your children while following the guidelines of the lesson.

YC Schedule

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<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
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<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
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<td>FFC</td>
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<td>Sunday, February 2</td>
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<td>Jr Hi Groups</td>
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<td>Sunday, Nov 17, Dec 8 &amp; 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Needs</td>
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<td>Sunday, Nov 17, Dec 8 &amp; 15</td>
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Youth Catechesis Office

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

This Week at SJC
November 19, 9 a.m. Parent Association Meeting Parish Center

www.stjohnofthecross.org  11-17-13
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

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

SJC Saintly Senior Club Luncheon & Lively Entertainment
Friday, December 6th 11:30am
Get in the Christmas Spirit at our annual Christmas get together. It’s a great way to make new friends and keep the old! Our luncheon will start with a lovely hors d’oeuvre table and be followed by a delicious buffet of 2 meat entrees and all the trimmings, all topped off with homemade dessert. Wine, beer, pop, coffee and tea are included.
RSVP by Monday, December 2. Tickets are $15 for members and $20 for nonmembers or guests.

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
Each Luminaria Kit includes 5 white bags, 5 long-burning candles (10+ hours) and enough sand to assemble your luminaries. Free home delivery for seniors. Order by Sun. Dec. 8th. Pick up Sun. Dec. 15th from 1-3pm in parish center. Order with this form and return with cash or check payment to the parish center or order online at stjohnofthecross.org. Thanks!!

Yes I’d like to join the Saintly Senior Club.
Member dues is $10 each year.

Sponsored by the Women’s Club in partnership with Village True Value Hardware
Questions? Contact Katie Pruitt at 708-822-9427 or ilboilers@gmail.com

Questions? Trudy Schmitt at 246-1619
The universe works in pairs. From the atoms to the human species, generativity is predicated on union with another. Happiness, it would seem, is also predicated on that.

So where does that leave singles and celibates? How can they be normal, generative, and happy?

For many people living single and celibate, life can seem unfair. Everything, it seems, is set up for couples, while they are single. And that isn't the only problem. A further problem is that, too often, neither our churches nor our society give singles and celibates the symbolic-tools to understand their state in a life-giving way.

Consequently, single persons often feel like they're looking in at life from the outside, that they're abnormal, that they're missing something essential within life. Moreover, unlike married persons and vowed religious, few single persons feel that they have positively chosen their state of life. They feel it rather as an unfortunate conscription. Few single persons feel easeful and accepting of their lot. Instead they regard it as something temporary, something still to be overcome. Rarely does a single person, especially a younger person, see himself or herself growing old and dying single - and happy. Invariably the feeling is: This has to change. I didn't choose this! I can't see myself like this for the rest of my life!

There are real dangers in feeling like this. First, there's the danger of never fully and joyfully picking up one's life and seeing it as worthwhile, of never positively accepting what one is, of never accepting the spirit that fits the life that one is actually living. As well, there's the danger of panicking and marrying simply because marriage is seen as a panacea with no real possibility of happiness outside of it.

Partially those fears are well-founded. Being single and celibate does bring with it a real loss. Denial is not a friend here. Pious wishing or platonic spiritualities that deny the power of sexuality don't placate our emotions or erase the fact that God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. The universe works in pairs and to be single is to be different, more different than we dare admit. Thomas Merton, reflecting on his own celibate state, once put it this way: "The refusal of woman is fault in my chastity. ... And all my compensations are a desperate and useless expedient to cover this irreparable loss which I have not fully accepted. ... I can learn to accept it in the spirit and in love and it will no longer be 'irreparable.' The cross repairs and transforms it. The tragic chastity which suddenly realizes itself to be mere loss, and the fear that death has won - that one is sterile, useless, hateful. I do not say this is my lot, but in my vow I can see this as an ever-present possibility."

Celibacy and the single life bring with them real dangers for immaturity and unhappiness.

But, paradoxically, admitting this truth is the first step in beginning to live positively beyond those dangers. Sexuality is a dimension of our self-awareness. We awake to consciousness and feel ourselves, at every level, as cut off, sexed, lonely monads separated and aching for unity. Celibacy is indeed a fault in our humanity.

However, to be celibate and single doesn't necessarily mean that one is asexual or sterile. Today the impression is often given that no happiness exists outside of sexual union. That's superficial and untrue. Sexuality is the drive in us towards connection, community, family, friendship, affection, love, creativity, delight, and generativity. We are happy and whole when these things are in our lives, not on the basis of whether or not we sleep alone. The single celibate life offers its own opportunities for achieving these. God never closes one door without opening countless others. For instance, when our culture recognizes that it's easier to find a lover than a friend, it recognizes too that human sexuality and generativity are more than biological.

There are other ways of being healthily sexual, of getting pregnant and impregnating, of being mother or father, of sexual enjoying intimacy. Sexuality, love, generativity, family, enjoyment, and delight have multiple modalities.

Early on in my ministry, I once served as a spiritual director to a young man who was discerning between marriage and priesthood. His greatest hesitation in moving towards priesthood was one particular fear: "I've always been afraid of being a priest because celibacy will mean dying alone. My father died when I was 15, but he died in my mother's arms. I've always resisted celibacy because I want to die like my father died - in a woman's arms. But, meditating on Christ's life one day, it struck me that Jesus died alone, loved, but in nobody's arms. He was alone, but powerfully linked to everyone in a different way. It struck me that this too could be a good way to die!"

It can be, but only if first, as Merton says, the cross repairs and transforms us.

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.
This Week at SJC
Monday, November 18, 2013
10:30 AM Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 PM Little Rock Bible Study
1:30 PM Mandated Reporter Training
2:00 PM Spiritual Journaling
2:30 PM Adoration
5:30 PM Finance Council
7:00 PM Seniors and Medical Choices

Tuesday, November 19, 2013
9:05 AM Rosary
9:30 AM on Sunday Scriptures
1:00 PM Sacrament Study
7:00 PM Sacrament Study
7:00 PM School Board
7:00 PM RCIA

Wednesday, November 20, 2013
9:30 AM Bible Study 3
11:30 AM Ladies Bridge
2:00 PM Christian Meditation
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop Meeting
7:30 PM Christian Meditation

Thursday, November 21, 2013
9:00 AM Flourish
12:30 PM Market Day
6:30 PM Seasons of Hope
7:00 PM Career Networking
7:00 PM Women's Club Meeting
7:30 PM Men's Club Meeting

Friday, November 22, 2013
9:30 AM Mom's Club
3:30 PM 3rd Grade Brownies
7:00 PM Divorce and Beyond

Saturday, November 23, 2013
7:00 AM Christian Meditation

Sunday, November 24, 2013
6:00 PM Crossroads Pizza Night

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Rose Byrne

Richard Falkenthal, brother of Donna Webster
Jim Leninger, husband of Kathy
Rose Pacocha, mother of John
Bob Patrick, father of Karen Rogers
Mel Joseph Villicana, husband of Janice

Mass Intentions
Monday, November 18 Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul; St. Rose Phillipine
7:45 Genrose Hlavin; William Boyle

Tuesday, November 19
7:45 Frances Albertson; Michael Colando

Wednesday, November 20
7:45 William Albertson; Joseph McDonnell, Sr.

Thursday, November 21, The Presentation of Mary
7:45 Joan Hemzacek; Larry Hanson

Friday, November 22, St. Cecilia
7:45 George Jakicic; Tom Baer

Saturday, November 23, St. Clement
8:00 Marion E. Dowdle; Rita O’Carroll
5:00 William Sturgeon; Jack Polivka

Sunday, November 24, Christ the King
7:30 Joanna Misantoni Vesper; Julianne Clancy
9:00 Maureen O’Malley; Franklin Smith
10:45 Virginia Kuchta; Ann Joyce Dudek
12:15 Armando Varela; Patrick Grogan
5:00 Joseph A. Piszczor;

SJC & Kolbe House Parishioners

Pray for our Sick

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

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Rose Byrne

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MJ Martin                  Operations       erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones    Welcome          erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
The Share Christmas experience at St. John of the Cross Parish is a strong and beautiful tradition that will fill your heart with joy as you make someone else’s Christmas special!

Our gifts are delivered to the following grateful recipients in the Chicago area: Blessed Sacrament Church, Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Santa Maria Addolorata, St. Thaddeus, St. Mark, St. Agatha, as well as families in our own parish community.

Join in on the fun! Sign up for Share Christmas runs for 3 weekends beginning next weekend, November 23-24 after all Masses and continues through the December 7-8 weekend. Sign up will also take place on Thanksgiving Day after the 9:30am Mass. For your convenience our parish Manna reps will be available in the church community room for you to purchase food and gift certificates.

What can I buy?
- An unwrapped gift for a child (infant to 18 years old)
- A food gift card from Jewel or Wal-Mart for a Christmas meal
- Gift cards for families from Sears, Wal-Mart, Kohl’s, Target or JC Penny
- Food and gifts cards for a Christmas meal and presents for a family

Please note, providing gift cards for our recipient families allows them to select the sizes and colors that more closely meet their needs. Similarly, providing food cards lets them choose food based on their ethnicity, family preferences and health/allergy concerns. Whether you choose to provide a store bought individual gift, or a gift or food card, know that your generosity will make all the difference in Christmas for our grateful recipients.

Donations can also be made on our parish website at www.stjohnofthecross.org. Click on the Sharing Box and direct your donation to the Special Collections link to choose Share Christmas. Your gifts will be used to purchase food and gift certificates.

Drop off Days are December 9 & 10 between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Center. The gifts will then be delivered to the parishes on Saturday, December 14th. If you have a van or small truck or if you are free to help load and deliver, please call us. Questions can be directed to Lolly Maloney at 630-261-5675 or lolly_maloney@comcast.net or the Parish Center.

Find us ready Lord...not standing still.
Find us working and loving and doing your will.
Find us ready Lord...faithful in love and building the kingdom that’s here and above!