Please join us after the 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. Mass for hospitality in the Parish Center.
Dear Parishioners,

Conversation I had with a parishioner recently:

Pastor: Boy, this winter is really something.
Parishioner: Oh, this was what winter was always like when we were kids.
Pastor: Yes, but that was about 50 years ago.
Parishioner: Oh, shut up.

So it is always a matter of perspective, I guess. The little children of today will remember this winter as a kind of benchmark against which all future winters will be measured. Those of us of a certain age do that with the snow fall of ’67 or ’79.

For most of my life I lived with a grandparent. Before I was 8, we lived with my mother’s father in his two flat on the west side in Resurrection parish. My aunt, uncle and 3 cousins lived downstairs. My grandfather, my parents and my siblings (six at that time) lived upstairs. From age 8 until I was a deacon, my father’s mother lived with us in Forest Park. How you get 12 children and a grandmother in a four bedroom home, with a converted back porch for bunk beds, is another story for another day.

My grandmother worked at the Austin Avenue Post Office for many of those years until she retired. So most nights, when she would come home, my mother would be standing at the stove in the kitchen that was right off the back porch (with the bunk beds). My memory has at least five hungry kids hanging off of my mother asking ‘What’s for dinner?’ two thousand times when my grandmother would walk in the house, stomp the snow off her boots and announce to no one in particular, ‘The wind chill is 18 degrees below zero;’ or something similar.

My mother had a difficult time adjusting to the ‘new’ way of reporting weather temperatures that included wind chill. So having been cooped up in the house all day with little kids, to her winter was winter and ‘wind chill’ meant nothing and why did my grandmother (did I mention she was my father’s mother?) have to make such a big deal out of it by announcing the precise degree of cold every night and go wash your hands or you’re not going to get anything to eat for supper.

Funny what can get a person ticked off. Winter just makes everything harder to do and shortens people’s fuses and tolerance levels. It’s summer time when the living is easy, not winter.

Pray for people who are exposed to the elements because they have to work outside to make a living or because they have no other place to go. Lower your expectations of the way others handle the challenges of winter and be more deliberate about being considerate in helping others. Give thanks for a roof over your head, hot food and a warm place to sleep.

Peace,
Fr. David

PS This weekend the second collection benefits those families struggling to pay school tuition. Every little bit helps. Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intentions: An important part of our Catholic tradition is to pray for those who have died. Requests that a particular loved one be remembered at Mass can be arranged at the Parish Center Office. Sympathy cards are available if you wish to notify the family that a Mass will be offered at our parish. Occasionally people will request that a Mass be said for the living on an anniversary or birthday. A Mass intention stipend of $10 is requested. The 2015 Mass Book will be open for intentions on Monday, February 3rd at 9am. Stop in, have a cup of coffee and visit us! We are looking forward to seeing you!
Parish News

Winter Gala

Saturday, February 1, 2014
at Butterfield Country Club

* * *
Live music performed by spoken four dinner and drinks live and silent auctions

* * *

“No Giveback” Raffle
Two grand cash prizes:
$15,000 and $5,000

Raffle ticket price:
$50 each
or
Six for $200 (receive two free)

Only 2,500 raffle tickets will be sold.
(Prize drawings will be made after the party. Winner need not be present)

* * *

Register for the Winter gala online at:
www.clickbidonline.com/winter/tickets

For raffle tickets, contact Jackie McDonnell:
jmcdonnell51@hotmail.com or 708.784.9561.

Welcome!

Our Parish welcomed 175 new families in 2013. Please help us in welcoming some of our new members:

Courtney and Benjamin Johnson and Family
Nicole and Michael Drai and Family
Lucia Sartori and Esteban Lopez and Family
Maureen and Thomas Marks and Family
Leilani and Bonifacio Rodrigo and Family
Kelly and Brian Lannon and Family
Jennifer and Daniel Forrer and Family
Sherry and Karl Kulhanek and Family
Elizabeth and Paul Bertin and Family
Sister Joyce Hajdukovic
Geoffrey Arata
Tressa and Joseph Masterson and Family
Claudia and Luis Osorio and Family
Michele and Scott Suedbeck and Family
Dan McGinn and Family
Liz and Charles Andel and Family
Frances Wall
Sandra and Richard Munizzo and Family
Sarah and Craig Squillace and Family
Emily and Christopher Kenna and Family
Pamela and Richard Ristau and Family
Jennifer and Damon Ortega and Family
Catherine Kruger

If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center at 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

Great Tweets from Pope Francis

The Lord is knocking at the door of our hearts. Have we put a sign on the door saying: “Do not disturb”? 

Like Mary, may we nurture the light born within us at Christmas. May we carry it everywhere in our daily lives.
John’s ministry is finished; with his arrest the tradition of Old Testament prophets dies. Enter Jesus, inaugurating a new reality. Jesus calls Peter and Andrew, James and John to leave their life as they knew it, and become disciples who now proclaim the “gospel of the kingdom.” Humanity moves now from darkness into “a great light.” New teaching happens now. New healing comes now. New life is given now. Now, a new Presence.

Every encounter with Jesus provokes a response; our own call to discipleship comes at our baptism, but unlike the disciples in the gospel our response isn’t usually so quick and decisive. We spend our whole life trying to see the great Light that is the Savior of the world. We spend our whole life passing from death (darkness and gloom) to living in the Light. We spend our whole life encountering Jesus, hearing his call, and working to be faithful in continuing his saving ministry. We practice following Jesus in the simple, everyday things that come our way: the friend who needs a listening ear, the elderly parent who needs a comforting phone call, the sick child who interrupts our sleep. Jesus invites us to turn from ourselves toward those in need, to turn from darkness to Light. Jesus invites us to continue his ministry of making “the kingdom of heaven . . . at hand.” The kingdom of God is not a place, but is the recognition of God’s just and rightful rule over all creation. This is the same saving ministry to which Jesus’ disciples were called; it is our own ministry. It is fulfilled every time we bring Jesus’ Presence to those we meet in the ordinary circumstances of our daily living.

**Closing Prayer:**
May we leave any nets of confinement and enter the freedom of faithful discipleship. May we deepen our encounter with the Presence of Jesus and minister to others as he did.

**Our Father . . .**

**For Reflection:**
· Simon, Andrew, James, and John all “left their nets” to follow Jesus. At this point in my life, what I have to leave in order to follow Jesus more fully is . . .
· Encountering Jesus’ Presence, the new teaching I hear is . . . the new healing I experience is . . . the new life I receive is . . .

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**Step One: Listen to the Word**
As you listen to the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, what one word or thought strikes you? What image or insight do you take away from this?

**Step Two: Look into Your Life**
Question for Children: How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what he wants you to?

**Question for Youth:** As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow him?

**Question for Adults:** How does Jesus call you to assist in his ministry: the building up of the Reign of God? How do you know what God wants of you in this regard?

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**Catholic Basics**
The Gospels refer to Jesus as rabbi, or teacher, and those who learned from him were his disciples. The first characteristic of discipleship, then, is learning, and the English word *disciple* comes from the Latin *discipulus*, meaning student. However, from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood discipleship as involving not just learning from Jesus but also following Jesus. Specifically, one had to die and rise with Jesus. For many centuries Catholics used the term disciple only in connection with people like monks, who literally gave up everything to follow Christ, or martyrs, who gave up their lives for Christ. The Second Vatican Council restored discipleship as a challenge to all Christians, teaching that we must all, within our own particular circumstances, be disciples of Christ, learning from his teaching and following in his ways.

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Lifelong Catechesis

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**Step One: Listen to the Word**
As you listen to the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, what one word or thought strikes you? What image or insight do you take away from this?

**Step Two: Look into Your Life**
Question for Children: How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what he wants you to?

**Question for Youth:** As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow him?

**Question for Adults:** How does Jesus call you to assist in his ministry: the building up of the Reign of God? How do you know what God wants of you in this regard?

http://lifelongcatechesis.osv.com/questions_of_the_week/

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**Catholic Basics**
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**Readings for the Week**

**Monday**
2 Sam 5:1-7, 10
Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26
Mark 3:22-30

**Tuesday**
2 Sam 6:12b-15, 17-19
Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Mark 3:31-35

**Wednesday**
2 Sam 7:4-1
Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26
Mark 4:1-20

**Thursday**
2 Sam 7:18-19, 24-29
Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30
Mark 4:21-25

**Friday**
2 Sam 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-
Mark 4:1-20

**Saturday**
2 Sam 12:1-7a, 10-17
Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Mark 4:26-34

**Sunday**
Mal 3:1-4Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Heb 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-32

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www.stjohnofthecross.org 1-26-14 page 4 praying ~ serving ~ sharing
There's an old story about a traveler who approached two stone masons and asked each one what he was doing. The first mason grumbled, "All day long I have to take these big stones and break them into smaller stones." The second one smiled and said, "I get to build a cathedral!" Work can sometimes seem like a curse, but our Catholic faith tells us work is a blessing. Our attitude plays a big part in whether we experience work—whether on our jobs or in our homes—as drudgery or joy. Instead of saying, "I have to...," practice saying, "I get to..." Rather than "I have to take my kids to soccer practice," say, "I get to take my kids to soccer practice." This trick can turn dreary days into wonderful opportunities for you and your family. —Tom McGrath

Saint Thomas Aquinas: Feast day January 28

Inspire Your Kids with Strong Catholic Role Models

Thomas Aquinas came from a wealthy Italian ruling family in the 13th century. At age five, he was sent to a Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in hopes that someday he would be abbot. But King Frederick III sent his troops to occupy the monastery as a fortress. Thomas then transferred to the University of Naples, where he came into contact with the Dominicans. Their life of prayer and study fascinated him, and he was determined to join them. His family was shocked that Thomas would join a group of poor friars. His mother sent his brothers after him. They kidnapped and imprisoned him for more than a year at a family castle. Nothing would shake his resolution to enter the Dominicans. Finally, Thomas's family gave up on discouraging him from becoming a priest, and in 1244, he joined the order.

Thomas studied under Albert the Great. In class, his silence during discussions and his large size earned him the nickname “the dumb ox.” Thomas became well known for his writings in philosophy and theology. His most famous work, the Summa Theologica, contains five volumes of thought on all the Christian mysteries. It is said that no one has equaled the depth of understanding and clear reasoning that Thomas showed. His love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament led him to write prayers and hymns that are still used to honor the Eucharist.

But this brilliant man was very humble. He knew that all his gifts came from God. While celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273, he received a revelation from God. After that, he stopped writing. He said that all he had written was so much straw after what he had seen in the revelation. Thomas died at age 49 on his way to the Council of Lyons, France. Pope Gregory X had asked him to come. Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Doctor of the Church and patron of Catholic schools.

Family Connection

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus.

Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In Matthew 8:14-15 for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. Matthew 20:20-28 relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships.

Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life.

As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Together read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23. Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority?

Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

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As part of collaborative efforts across the parish that are focused on strengthening and supporting the vocation of all Catholic parents, we have developed new resources for parents bringing their infant for baptism.

What do I need to do to have my baby baptized?
Pre-baptism sessions are now offered for all parents whether it is your first child being baptized or a subsequent child. The sessions are offered on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30pm (noon during the summer). It is our expectation that both parents will attend this session. Feel free to bring your new baby and invite the godparents too. The session which runs 2 hours is designed with input from parents like you who are eager to provide an environment that will foster faith in Jesus Christ. Parents are asked to register to attend a pre-baptism session.

Simply call the parish center front office during regular business hours (9am-4pm). One of our full-time staff members will take all the necessary information and answer any questions you may have.

Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday!

Dean Charles, son of Adam and Nichole (Hanson) Copack
Godparents: Donald Mateyack and Nicole Novosel

Brady Smith, son of Ryan and Crystal (Wulfekuhl) McMurray
Godparents: Casey McMurray and Jennifer O'Donnell

God of all creation, we are made in your image and are signs of your love. Bless these children who were given new life as your adopted sons and daughters through the waters of Baptism. May they grow up to know your name and give you praise. Bless the mothers and fathers of these children. Fill them with your strength so that they will be models of faith for their children, nurturing and teaching by word and example to know you and walk in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
This is a week where Jesus speaks of seeds being planted and of growing. We are still at the beginning of a new year, and this is a good time to answer the call in our hearts to spend more time with Jesus, in prayer. "I'm not very good at prayer," we might say. "I don't have the time to pray." Jesus is not waiting for us to be perfect before we talk to him - he is simply waiting, right now, for us to come to him in our own humanity. This week we are invited to uncover the light of our faith, the light that warms the longing we feel in our souls for something different or deeper in our relationship with God. At this beginning of the year, we might step back and examine the ways we talk with Jesus - and the ways we hold him at arm's length. We are being called into a relationship, a friendship, with someone who delights in us and waits for us to release our fears and come out of hiding. Where do we start? With the desire. It can be so simple to take the empty moments of our day and just tell the same Jesus who healed and loved on earth, what is in our hearts. In the early morning moments before we get out of bed, while in the shower or traveling to work, cooking or walking the dog - we can stop and open our hearts. "Jesus, you know what is in my heart. You know what my needs are. Help me to be more open to the way you are calling me in my life."

Our prayer can be as simple as opening our hands on our lap for a moment and saying in our own words, "Show me how to come out of hiding. Give me the courage to let go of my fears and bring myself to you in honesty. Let me drop the many defenses I carry that keep me from feeling how deeply you love and accept me."

There is no right or wrong way to approach Jesus - the only right thing is that we come with an open heart and our own desire for something deeper. Our prayer can be as simple as opening our hands on our lap for a moment and saying in our own words, "Show me how to come out of hiding. Give me the courage to let go of my fears and bring myself to you in honesty. Let me drop the many defenses I carry that keep me from feeling how deeply you love and accept me."

Every evening as we end our day, we can sit at the edge of our bed with our hands open and say, "Thank you." We can reflect on the many ways we felt the love of God in our lives that day. What tiny seed was planted in my life to bloom? Where did I shine the light of my own faith on someone?

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How Can My Work Become a Prayer?
A man’s work may be to collect the trash, but if he does it well, and hour by hour turns to God in his heart and says, Father, I offer you this hour of work as a prayer for my neighbor Karen, who is struggling with cancer ... or in thanksgiving for my wife and children, then he has truly discovered and is living the words “pray constantly.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) He has transformed an hour of work into an hour of prayer. Through his work he has grown in intimacy with God and neighbor, and he has become a-better-version-of-himself. The attitude with which we approach our work is crucial.

The transformation of ordinary activities into prayer is the very essence of the inner life. Every activity of our day can lead us to experience God. Learn to foster the interior life in this way and you will live a life uncommon in the midst of common circumstances.

Offer the actions of your life to God as a prayer, whether you are washing the dishes, repairing a car, or studying for an exam, and by your inner intention, you will transform ordinary daily activities into the noblest tasks. By doing so, you will elevate tedious tasks to spiritual exercises that draw you nearer to God. This is how modern men and women in the midst of busy lives can seek and find intimacy with God.

The Center
Prayer is not one occupation among many, but is at the center of our life in Christ. It turns our attention away from ourselves and directs it to the Lord. Prayer fills the mind with truth and gives hope to the heart. ~Pope John Paul II

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Catholic Schools Week: Celebrating Catholic Education

Join us as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, January 27</td>
<td>All School Liturgy</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Reception</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Parish Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 28</td>
<td>Invention Convention</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 30</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>9:30-11:30 a.m. and</td>
<td>All Day School</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1:30-3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 31</td>
<td>Spirit Day</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 1</td>
<td>Teachers Recognition Trust Fund Gala</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Butterfield Club</td>
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</table>

See page 3 of today’s bulletin for ticket information!

“My greatest memory of SJC was our trip to the Holocaust Museum. It really helped me understand more about World War II and our history. Thank you to my parents for giving me the opportunity to attend SJC and learn about religion. I am surrounded by nice and friendly people.”

Mackenzie Cronin, 8th Grade

“My greatest memory of SJC was my First Communion. It helped me participate more in Mass and grow closer to God.”

Melissa Grimes, 8th Grade

“I like going to SJC because every day we learn about our religion in a way that I can understand.”

Gigi Kinsella, 7th Grade

“I like how we are able to go to mass together as one school. It makes me feel like I am closer to God and the people I go to school with.”

Delaney Gibbons, 4th Grade

“What I like about going to a Catholic school is that everyone around me cares about me and loves me.”

Michael Mohler, 7th Grade

From our Third Graders, Top Ten Reasons to Go To SJC:

Our school is very clean in the hallways and classrooms.
The classrooms are inviting and a happy place to be.
I get excited about using the iPads because they help me learn hard things in a fun way.
I enjoy having older buddies because they are really nice and good role models.
I get to see my friends who respect me and care about me.
We have great priests and teachers at SJC.
I love going to SJC because I am experiencing the same Catholic education as my parents did.
We learn to help people in need.
I enjoy that we get to participate in and help plan all school liturgies.
Learning about Jesus and hearing stories about Him is something I love about this school.

www.stjohnofthecross.org  1-26-14  page 8  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
“I like how the teachers consider your thoughts and opinions in everything you do.”

Mac Shannon, 7th Grade

“I like having a safe environment to learn about my religion and strengthen my faith.”

Shannon Sullivan, 7th Grade

“I am thankful to go to SJC because I learn so much. Many students at other schools are not fortunate to have the full learning ability that we have at SJC. I am thankful for a great education.”

Katherine Gibbons, 6th Grade

“Our teachers are part of our families. They always teach us new things!”

Sarah Hoch, 6th Grade

“Everyone is included in after school activities, I love art and music and that I can grow in a safe environment.”

Marla Winters, 6th Grade

“I like to learn about Jesus. This allows me to be a better person because I understand what love really is, I know I can rely on God.”

Mariana Pinto, 4th Grade

“I like all of my friends and teachers. I get lots of help on questions if I don’t know the answer. My friends are all very nice and have good sportsmanship behavior. I am very happy and proud to go to a great school.”

Brendan Doyle, 4th Grade

“I like going to a Catholic School because I have a wonderful teacher. I have such a safe school. We also can talk about God. My teacher is very kind and understanding.”

Grace Broderick, 1st Grade
SJC Saintly Senior Club cordially invites you to their Valentine Luncheon & Program
Friday, February 14th at 11:30am
William Tell Terrace Room
6201 Joliet Road in Countryside

Convenient parking is available in the southwest corner of the lot. Use the west entrance. Please rsvp by Monday, Feb. 10th. No refunds after this date. Tickets are $25 per person for lunch, glass of wine and program. Entrée Choice: Butt Steak, Chicken Marsala or Tilapia. Please indicate entrée choice and name of guest below. Any questions can be directed to Trudy Schmidt at 246-4696.

Name:______________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________
Number of Guests: ___________
Total Enclosed: $_____________

Guest Name     Circle Entrée Choice
______________________________     Butt Steak   Chicken   Tilapia
______________________________     Butt Steak   Chicken   Tilapia
______________________________     Butt Steak   Chicken   Tilapia
______________________________     Butt Steak   Chicken   Tilapia

Have you ever asked your friends to “Pray for me…..”
We’ve come up with a simple way to pray for each other. Go to our parish website. Click on Praying. Add your Prayer Intention. For privacy, do not include names. All intentions are reviewed before they are posted. When you have a free moment to pray, go to the site and pray for fellow parishioners.

Studying the Psalms:
Psalms I on Mondays at 1pm beginning February 3rd

To study Psalms is to study prayer, ultimately to enter into prayer. Through video and discussion our study will challenge participants to reflect on their own prayer and life experiences. Psalms I focuses on a selection of twenty-eight psalms divided into three categories: psalms of descriptive praise, psalms of trust or confidence, and wisdom psalms. Psalms of descriptive praise, also known as hymns, praise God for his ongoing, regular care of the world and humanity. Psalms of trust or confidence reinforce the belief that the God who made and loves us will protect us in difficult situations. Wisdom psalms are an acknowledgment of God’s justice in the right ordering of human affairs.

To register for this study please drop off an envelope to the parish center with your contact information on the front, including email and phone, and a check for $15 to cover study materials by January 28th.
Contact Roberta Gilbert at bertageorge@gmail.com with any questions.

www.stjohnofthecross.org 1-26-14  page 10  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

Join YC students during Super Bowl by placing an “O” in Super for Souper Bowl Sunday

More than 22 years ago, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created Souper Bowl of Caring, and have rallied youth across the US to raise over $90 million for people in need. On Sunday February 2nd, millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join the young people of our Youth Catechesis Program as they demonstrate God’s love by caring for their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It is a simple, yet significant act. Drop off a can of soup, non-perishable food items or a monetary donation at the signs: “SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” at YC classes and church narthex on February 2nd and 2nd. Our youth are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Everything collected will be donated to area food pantries chosen by YC Council, Please give generously.

YC Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
<th>Sunday, Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFC</td>
<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
<td>Monday, Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Groups and Special Needs</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30</td>
<td>Sunday, Feb 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*7th grade only for evening presentation Feb 9th

Youth Catechesis Office

yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc

Sunday during class ~ Monday 8:30am-7:00pm
Tues thru Thurs 8:30am- 4:00pm

Crossroads Family News

MANY THANKS FOR PRAYERS & SUPPORT! Our final home group leaders have been confirmed! If you’ve wanted to know more about this awesome ministry, please consider contacting Mary Stadler for details and information so when the need comes again you have all the facts & details to say YES! 708-246-3838

Drake University Choir is touring through the Western Springs/LaGrange area Thursday, March 13th. They are in need of 40 families to open their homes to these students for one evening. Both students and host families rave about the homestay experience. If you have housed students before, you know how wonderful it is to meet them and get to know them. For criteria as well as any questions contact fellow Parishioner and SJC Choral alumni Tom Florian at thomas.florian@drake.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 26 Home Group meetings
Feb. 9 Home Group Meetings
Feb. 17 FMSC service outing

For a complete calendar: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

Our teens enjoyed cooking, serving and eating with the resident’s at Cooke’s Manor last Saturday evening. More service opportunities are coming soon: Feed My Starving Children on your day off of school 2/17! Sign up will be shared in our next e-blust!
Outreach

Community Nurse Health Center Volunteers
Community Nurse Health Center of La Grange is looking for teen and adult volunteers to sort donations and cashier in the resale shops and to help with various office tasks in their business offices as well as to help plan fundraising events. Proceeds from the resale shops go to support the medical and dental centers in La Grange that serve low income or uninsured families in the western suburban communities.
Contact Michelle Grand at 708-352-0081 or mgrand@communitynurse.org

Kolbe House Collection
SJC is collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, soap, and shampoo for male inmates. Collection boxes are located in the parish center and church narthex.

Upcoming Interfaith Career Network Programs
New Year—New Job: A 5-week Career Transition Workshop offered on 5 Tuesday evenings beginning February 4 from 7-9 at First Presbyterian Church (Westminster Hall) in La Grange. Learn how to mentally prepare for your job search, how to access your skills and quantify your accomplishments, how to craft your elevator speech, the keys to successful Networking, how to prepare for phone and onsite interviews and how to get the job if you are over 50 or re-entering the workforce.

From College to Career: A Job Search Workshop for college students and recent grads. Thursday, February 6 from 7-9 pm at SJC Parish Center. Learn how to attract hiring managers, recruiters and executive search firms. Learn how to develop a strategy and market yourself for success in today's challenging job market. Our speaker, Bob Podgorski, is founder of St. Hubert’s Career Ministry. His insight and experience is certain to help you increase employer interest in your background and enable you to creatively pursue a meaningful career opportunity.

Parish News

The SJC Men's Club invites all men of the parish to a morning with Attorney, Author, Blogger

Michael Lotus

“America 3.0 and the American Family”
A talk based on his recent book: America 3.0: Rebooting American Prosperity in the 21st Century - Why America's Greatest Days Are Yet to Come

Saturday, February 8th
9:00am-10:30am
School Learning Resource Center
(Come to the LRC door on the northeast side of the school building. Watch for signs.)
Light morning refreshments will be served.

Michael Lotus, co-author of America 3.0, presents a refreshingly hopeful vision for our country at a time when many of us are far from hopeful. America 3.0 will be of interest to Catholic readers because of its unique and new insights about the American family. Michael writes as “Lexington Green” for the Chicago Boyz blog on history, politics and books. He is the editor and lead contributor to The Clausewitz Roundtable and the 2012 winner of the Explorer’s Foundation Cobden-Bright award for his contribution to the Anglosphere. Mr. Lotus has a B.A. in economics from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from Indiana University. He practices law in Chicago. Read more on our parish website.

Mom's Club
Attention mother's of young children (6 and under)!
Meetings are fun for both moms and kids! 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. Contacts: Ellen Twomey and Jen Van Wyck

Thursday 1/30  9:30-11:00am Parish Center
Thursday 2/6    9:30-11:00am Parish Center

The Legacy Guild—March 8th Spring Gala Event at Fitzgerald’s Nightclub in Berwyn
Help us raise funds to provide college scholarships for local students. Sponsor the event, purchase tickets to attend, donate auction prizes! Tell someone you know about the event. Space is limited. Tickets are $125 each person until Feb. 22. Ticket prices go up to $150 per person after Feb. 22 and are $175 at the door. For more information see “TheLegacyGuild.com.”

Do you know a student in LT High School District 204 who has lost a parent and is in need of college scholarship help? The Legacy Guild, a La Grange-area not-for-profit that was formed in 2012, is now accepting applications. See“TheLegacyGuild.com” and select Application for more details. Deadline is March 20th for the 2014-15 school year.

The Legacy Guild—March 8th Spring Gala Event at Fitzgerald’s Nightclub in Berwyn
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For more than a thousand years, Christians have not had the joy of being one family around Christ. Although there were already tensions within the earliest Christian communities, it was not until the year 1054 that there was a formal split so as to, in effect, establish two formal Christian communities, the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church in the West. Then, with the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century, there was a further split within the Western Church and Christianity fragmented still further. Today there are more than a hundred Christian denominations, many of them, sadly, not on friendly terms with each other.

Division and misunderstanding are understandable, inevitable, the price of being human. There are no communities without tension and so it's no great scandal that Christians sometimes cannot get along with each other. The scandal is rather that we have become comfortable, even smug, about not getting along with each other. The scandal is that we no longer hunger for wholeness and that we no longer miss each other inside our separate churches. In virtually all of our churches today there is too little anxiety about those who are not worshipping with us, whether these separated brothers and sisters belong to other denominations or whether they belong to our own. For instance, teaching Roman Catholic seminarians today, I sense a certain indifference to the issue of ecumenism. For many seminarians today this is not an issue that is of particular concern to them. Sad to say, this holds true for most Christians in all denominations.

But this kind of indifference is inherently unchristian. Oneness was close to the heart of Jesus. He wants all his children at the same table, as we see in this parable in the Gospels:

A woman had ten coins and lost one. She became extremely anxious and agitated and began to search frantically and relentlessly for the lost coin, lighting lamps, looking under tables, and sweeping all the floors in her house. Eventually she found the coin. She was delirious with joy, called together her neighbors and threw a lavish party to celebrate that finding of a coin whose value was that of a dime? The answer lies in the symbolism: In her culture, nine was not a whole number; ten was. Both the woman's anxiety on losing the coin and her joy in finding it had little to do with the value of the coin but with the value of wholeness; an important wholeness in her life had been fractured, a precious set of things was no longer complete. Hence the parable might recast this way:

A woman had ten children. With nine of them, she had a good relationship, but one of her daughters was alienated. Her nine other children came regularly to the family table, but this daughter did not. The woman could not rest in that situation; she needed her alienated daughter to rejoin them. She tried every means to reconcile with her daughter and, one day, miracle of miracles, it worked. Her daughter came back to the family. Her family was whole again, everyone was back at table. The woman was overjoyed, withdrew her modest savings from the bank, and threw a lavish party to celebrate that wholeness.

Christian faith demands that, like that woman, we need to be anxious, dis-eased, lighting lamps and searching, until the Church is whole again. Nine is not a whole number. Neither is the number of those who are normally inside our respective churches. Roman Catholicism isn't a whole number. Protestantism isn't a whole number. The Evangelical Churches aren't a whole number. The Orthodox Churches aren't a whole number. No one Christian denomination is a whole number. Together we make up a whole number.

Thus we are meant to ask ourselves uncomfortable questions: Who no longer goes to church with us? Who feels uncomfortable worshipping with us? Are we comfortable that so many people can no longer join us in our church?

Sadly, today, too many of us are comfortable in churches that are far, far from whole. Sometimes, in our less reflective moments, we even rejoice in it: "Those others aren't real Christians in any case! We're better off without their kind! There's more peace this way! We are a purer, more faithful, church because of their absence! We're the one true remnant!"

But this lack of a healthy solicitude for wholeness compromises both our maturity and our following of Jesus. We are mature loving people and true followers of Jesus, only when, like Jesus, we remain in tears over those "other sheep that are not of this fold" and when, like the woman who lost one of her coins and would not sleep until every corner of the house was turned upside down in a frantic search for what was lost, we too set out solicitously in search of that lost wholeness.

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. Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser
Advent by Candlelight

2013 in Review

Our Parish Year in Review in Pictures can be found in the last several bulletins and will continue each week! Go to our parish website to see all the pictures.
This Week at SJC

Monday, January 27
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 28
9:00 a.m. Parent Association Meeting
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, January 29
9:30 a.m. Angels Bible Study
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, January 30
9:30 a.m. Moms Club
9:30 a.m. Flourish Plus
2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick-up

Friday, January 31
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Saturday, February 1
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, February 2
9:30 a.m. Kairos Parent Meeting
9:30 a.m. YC Classes

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

James Kerber, brother of Carol Ferrer, uncle of Michelle Grilli & Teresa Ryan
John Callahan, husband of Nancy, father of Colleen Koerner and Jack Callahan, grandfather of Molly, Patrick Megan, Grace, Kevin and Mary Kate.

Clarise Martorelli, mother of Jamie Robinson and Kenneth, grandmother of Christopher, Nicole and Jaclyn

Dolores Walsh, mother of Chris (Beth) Walsh and grandmother of Ceci, Katie, Maddie & Michael

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 27, St. Angela Merici
7:45 John Paul Morrissey; Don Winkel

Tuesday, January 28, St. Thomas Aquinas
7:45 Anthony Jacyno; Thomas Baer

Wednesday, January 29
7:45 Andrew White; Thomas Baer

Thursday, January 30
7:45 Ted and Leona Rompala; Markey Foley Ringwood

Friday, January 31, St. John Bosco
7:45 Mike Craven; Edward Flanagan

Saturday, February 1
8:00 Mike Craven; Alan Deibert
5:00 Elizabeth Wojtowicz; Willis McKinney

Sunday, February 2, The Presentation of the Lord
7:30 Patricia Brennan; Dolores (Dutchie) Adamenas
9:00 Jean Oczkowski; Barbara Mann
10:45 Eleanor & Victor Godlewski, Marilyn Loomis
12:15 Msgr. Ignatius McDermott; Larry Hanson
5:00 Judi Urban; John A. Pussinelli, Jr.

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Accardi</td>
<td>Lee Lepinske, Bob Pietras</td>
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<td>Mitch Allen</td>
<td>Josephine, James Reilly</td>
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<td>McNamara, Rick Reimer</td>
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<td>William Dwyer</td>
<td>Fr. William, Teresa Schaefer</td>
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<td>Melissa Morrissey</td>
<td>Mannion, John Shea</td>
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<td>Eldredge</td>
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<td>Vickie McNally, Baby Kameron</td>
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<td>Mark Giangrande</td>
<td>Jay Meehan, Walters</td>
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<td>Karen Hult</td>
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<td>Nancy Olin, Warren</td>
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<td>Dee Kennedy</td>
<td>Susan Olson, Pam Wilson</td>
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<td>Rosie King</td>
<td>Marion Pascale, Elizabeth Russell-Jones</td>
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The Lord is my light and salvation.

Trying to get in touch with us? More info is on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org
St. John of the Cross Parish is proud to be co-sponsoring this program with The Well. The fee is waived for our parishioners. Just call the Parish Center to register.

Terry Nelson Johnson who has spoken at our parish before is a SJC favorite. He holds a Masters from Loyola University Institute of Pastoral Studies and a Doctorate of Ministry from University of St. Mary of the Lake. Dr. Nelson Johnson is the author and leader of the acclaimed Beloved Retreat.

PROGRAM AT THE WELL

"OH COME ON! - COME OUT AND PLAY!"
(The Spirituality of Fun)
Saturday, February 8: 9am-Noon
at The Well, LaGrange Park
Facilitator: Terry Nelson Johnson

We tend to relegate play to the realms of childhood or those with too much time on their hands. Nothing could be further from the truth!
To play is to explore, tease and challenge our perceived limits.
To play is to access energy and take intentional risks.
To play is to remember that participation trumps production.
To play is to remember that laughter is healing and courageous and liberating.
To play is to be free to perceive ourselves, someone else or some reality from an alternative perspective—to be free to re-imagine.
To play is to enter into Holy Communion with Jesus - Player Par Excellence.
So with respect to your marriage; your health, body, sexuality; your job, vocation or lack of employment; with respect to your divorce; your retirement, your parents, siblings, children; your soul, your church, your world, your God. . .

Terry Nelson Johnson invites us to Come Out and Play!

Cost $30

The Well Spirituality Center is a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph
1515 West Ogden Avenue • La Grange Park, IL 60526-1721 • Phone: 708-482-5048
E-Mail Address: thewell@csjoseph.org