Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build Up the Kingdom of God.
The Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2014
Dear Parishioners,

Record breaking, life threatening below zero and dangerously cold temperatures. Ice packed roads, snow drifts, and wind chill. Cancelled flights, stranded Amtrak trains, cars needing jump starts. Layers of clothing, boots and scarves, hats and gloves, frostbite. Frozen pipes, ice jams, huge icicles. School closings, meetings cancelled, traffic lighter than usual. (So it hasn’t been all bad!) Our lives have been dominated by this vocabulary for the past week in a way I certainly don’t remember having occurred in neither recent past nor distant past. It started with news coverage of kids playing in the snow, sledding and building forts. By the beginning of last week there was nothing fun or playful about the weather at all.

A wise spiritual director gave me this bit of wisdom a long time ago: God asks of us many things, but he never asks of us to give up our common sense. That includes coming to church. The way I put that issue is: If God wants you to come to church he has to give you two things and they have to be at the same time: good health and good weather. If the icy sidewalks, extreme temperatures or difficult travel conditions put your life in jeopardy, please stay home. Always use your common sense. If your immune system is compromised and being in crowds threatens your health, please stay home. If it requires a heroic effort and an inordinate amount of time and energy, please stay home. (But as a pastor with tongue firmly planted in my cheek: stay home, but send in your envelope!). This is as true in the winter as it is in the summer, by the way.

Having said that, I have to admit I was inspired by some of the people coming to church last weekend. It became more difficult to navigate the snow and cold as the morning progressed. All morning long I saw senior citizens, families with small children, and all kinds of faithful parishioners making their way to church. Some folks commented, 'What's the big deal? It's winter in Chicago!' At the 12:15pm Mass, I saw two people in motorized chairs coming in the back of church. And I thought to myself, 'That's a big deal!' The determination on the part of these two people, whom I can't say I remember seeing before and since they came in together, seemed to be part of the same family, simply stopped me in my tracks. I began replaying in my mind all that they had to do to get here; from dressing warmly (putting on extra layers isn't exactly the easiest thing to do when you are confined to a wheelchair), navigating the snow perhaps both getting into a vehicle and certainly getting out of the vehicle, maneuvering their chairs through semi-shoveled parking lots and sidewalks, etc., etc. I silently wondered if I would have made the same effort were I confined to a wheelchair. I honestly don't know the answer.

Strange how we appreciate in a different way things we so easily take for granted, like safety, comfort, ease of movement, the freedom to choose. When they are taken from us their importance is glaringly clarified.

By the time you read this the temperatures are supposed to have become more moderate, at least for January in Chicago. Give God the praise for 'normal' winter! Not so bad, now, is it?

Happy New Year,

Fr. David

"If you begin to live life looking for the God that is all around you, every moment becomes a prayer.”

Frank Bianco

Exploring Priesthood Weekend: January 24-26
Exploring Priesthood Weekend is a retreat designed to help men, college age and older, to discern God’s call to priesthood through prayer, discussion and group interaction. For more information contact: Rev. Francis Bitterman at 312-534-8298 or fbitterman@archchicago.org
Is God Calling You to Serve?
Do You Want to Make a Difference in our World?
We have an immediate important volunteer opportunity right in our parish community.

Crossroads Ministry is looking for 2 couples willing to lead a Home Group for freshmen students. Home group leaders usually stay with the students throughout their high school years, mentoring and fostering their faith development.

Leading a home group does not require any special skills or experience—just a willingness to share your faith and inspire our young people to grow in their relationship to God. Whether you are a young parent, a senior or an aunt or uncle, please consider this important role. Our need is real, and it is here at SJC.

Contact our Director of Crossroads Youth Ministry: Katie Hayes at 246-4404 x140 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org if you would like to help.
Strong Catholic Parents

Family Connection
At Jesus’ baptism, God affirms his Son’s mission for salvation. God announces his pleasure with Jesus and, in Matthew’s Gospel, announces to all that, “This is my beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17). With this affirmation, Jesus is able to resist the temptations described next in Matthew’s Gospel and to begin his public ministry. As family members, we can support one another in our Christian living by affirming the importance of each person in our eyes and in God’s. Confident that through our Baptism we too were made children of God, we can resist temptation and share in Christ’s mission.

Gather as a family to read today’s Gospel, Matthew 3:13-17. Recall that God’s message about Jesus was meant for us, “This is my beloved Son.” It was also an affirmation for Jesus about his role in God’s plan.

Place each family member’s name on a slip of paper and put the names in a bowl. Invite each person in the family to choose another family member’s name and to prepare a message for that person, affirming their importance in God’s eyes and in your family life.

Pray together that your family will continue to support one another in your baptismal promises to be disciples of Jesus and then invite each person to read aloud the message they prepared. Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer.

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Breaking Open the Word
Suggested text for faith sharing: Today’s Gospel

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?

Catholic Basics: Baptism
Baptism is a sacrament of initiation, cleansing, strengthening, and welcoming. Baptism welcomes us into the community of Christian believers. It offers us a new life in which we become the adopted children of God, followers of Christ, and temples in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Baptism leaves a permanent spiritual mark on our soul that makes us holy and opens us to salvation and eternal life with God. Like any sacrament, Baptism makes visible an invisible reality, using physical signs and rituals to express our experience of God and his grace in our lives.

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Preparing for Infant Baptism at SJC

A life of happiness, holiness and faith

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 children baptized last Sunday!

- Jacob Tyler Jordan, baby
  - Joseph and Jennifer, parents
  - Michael Jordan and Rebecca Sylve, godparents

- Charlotte Jean Rehor, baby
  - Mark and Julie, parents
  - Dan Brewer and Amy Brewer, godparents

- Madeline Anne Sykora, baby
  - Christopher and Christine, parents
  - James Klein and Stephanie Klein, godparents

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.
St. John of the Cross Parish School:
Community of Faith, Knowledge, and Service

Our annual celebration of National Catholic Schools Week begins in two weeks. This year we celebrate our role as a community of faith, knowledge, and service where today's students become tomorrow's leaders. We invite you to join in celebrating our week with us beginning on Sunday, January 26, after the 9 and 10:45 a.m. Masses in the Parish Center for a reception and also on Thursday, January 30, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3 p.m. for our annual Open House.

This Week at SJC
Monday, January 13, All School Liturgy at 9:15 a.m.

Help at Children’s Liturgy of the Word
at the 10:45am Mass!
We are looking for volunteers. Training provided. We are schedule-friendly. Contact Megan at obrien.megan1@gmail.com
Singing the Psalms

At St. John of the Cross Parish we recently introduced a new collection of modern-sounding psalms written by the Canadian composer Michel Guimont. The refrains do not match the ones provided by the Word & Song missalette because they are from a different publisher; however, they can all be found in the very back of the Gather hymnal, and cantors will announce the number for those who like to follow along with the music. I hope that the contemporary nature and accessibility of these new psalm settings will help preserve the relevance of psalms in our lives, inspiring authentic prayer in our community.

The florid language and vivid imagery of the Old Testament world that are prevalent in the psalms can at times make them feel outdated and irrelevant to our modern lives. And yet, they are timeless. They praise God for unspecified triumphs in ages past while offering praise for the victories God has worked in our own lives. They call upon God in the face of unnamed fears and shed light on the distress we hold in our hearts. They give voice to our innermost hopes and desires. They help us express our deepest emotions. In short, they teach us how to pray. The psalm response plays an important role in liturgy today “because it fosters meditation on the word of God” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 61). The psalm serves as a response to the first reading, allowing meditation on God’s word to sink into our hearts and become prayer.

The Book of Psalms, a book of the Old Testament of the Bible, is a collection of poetic texts most likely written for use in ancient Jewish worship. The 150 individual psalms were written during the course of several centuries, some dating even earlier than 1000 B.C. Many of the psalms are attributed to King David. The original Hebrew texts follow metric patterns and literary forms. The word psalm, from the Greek psalmoi indicates that these poems are meant to be sung. They are hymns of praise, thanksgiving, and lament, royal anthems, and songs of wisdom and of the law.

In an effort to closely link each psalm response to the readings of the day, the Lectionary consists of 900 separate refrains derived from the 150 biblical psalms. To set all of the Lectionary psalms with their 900 different refrains to music is a big task, to say the least. It would be a challenge for an assembly – and for music ministers – to learn so many different psalm settings. In response to this reality, the Lectionary offers common psalms, psalms that complement the inherent themes of particular seasons of the liturgical year.

A common psalm may be used multiple times throughout a particular season in place of the proper psalm, the psalm prescribed by the Lectionary that corresponds more directly to the readings of the day. In the post-Vatican II church, common psalms have been used frequently to encourage the “full, conscious, and active” participation of the faithful (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 14). During Advent, we might use Psalm 25, “To you, O Lord, I lift my soul;” during Lent, Psalm 51, “Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned;” during Ordinary Time, Psalm 27, “The Lord is my light and my salvation;” or Psalm 95, “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” These short, memorable refrains make excellent prayers. I often use them as a mantra throughout the day. They are a source of inspiration, and they keep me rooted in faith.

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.
John is pointing to a baptism greater than his and to a person greater than he. Jesus asks John to baptize him in order to "fulfill all righteousness" and thus show forth his continuity with the tradition in which John stands. But more happens. When the heavens open, the Spirit descends and Jesus is announced as the "beloved Son," a new tradition is born, and humanity's relationship with God is changed forever.

Plunged into the baptismal waters, we die to our old self; rising from the waters, we enter into the new Life baptism promises. Baptism inaugurates us into the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ. It inaugurates us into his way of life, one totally taken up with bringing healing and freedom to all those we meet in our daily living. This dying and rising is the “stuff” of our Gospel living. The pattern of Jesus’ life is the pattern of our own lives. Gospel living is as concrete as Jesus’ life and mission. For example, like Jesus, we are living justly when we die to selfishness and rise to the needs of others. Like Jesus, we respect the dignity of others when we die to judgments and categorizing or labeling others and rise to seeing all people as beloved children of God. Like Jesus, we do good when we forgive; we heal others when we offer kind words instead of words that tear down, or help another without being asked. Our baptism is ongoing in our lives when we live the greatness John recognized in Jesus. If John were alive today, would he see that same greatness in us?

Closing Prayers:
May we work for the victory of justice and the blessing of dignity and peace for all people. May we always and everywhere live in a manner worthy of our great dignity as baptized members of the Body of Christ.

For Reflection:
· Baptized into Christ, I am God’s “beloved,” and the difference this makes in how I live is . . .
· Baptism has changed me in that . . . It makes a concrete difference in my life in that

The Third Week of Christmas
An epiphany is a discovery - an insight, a revelation. When the curtain opens on a stage, the story is presented to the audience. Matthew's telling of the journey of the sages from the East to discover and be shown the birth of Jesus is about an epiphany. It symbolically tells us that Jesus will be a light, a Savior, not only for the people of the promise, but for everyone - just as Isaiah foretold.

The Baptism of the Lord is also an epiphany. As Jesus enters into the waters muddied by the sins of us all, to become one with us, the sky is opened and he is revealed to be the beloved Son of God, our Savior.

During the week, as the story of Jesus’ presence among us rolls out, we can rejoice and embrace the love he offers us. We are those who are in need of healing. We are at sea. We are the outcasts. We are hungry. We are poor, captives, oppressed and blind.

He has come and we have celebrated his coming. This week we can grow in our ability to live more aware of and grateful for his presence among as light in our darkness, as the one who loves us because we need his love.

We can find time each day to let these stories - and their rich images - into the background of our daily life. There will be moments this week when we will need courage, in the face of a feeling that a storm is too much for us. We can hear him assure us, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!" We might come face to face with an obstacle, perhaps our own ability to communicate well or our inability to be humble or transparent. We can pause - walking from one place to another - and ask for healing. We might be given the grace to say, "Lord, I've been blind. I haven't seen how my behavior has hurt my spouse or my children. Let me see your love for me. Forgive me, and heal me, so I can be freed from my aggressive ways and be more sensitive, more attentive, more tender." The Lord will answer those kinds of prayers. Creighton University

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Monday    | 1 Sam 1:1-8  
Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19  
Mark 1:14-20 |
| Tuesday   | 1 Sam 1:9-20  
1 Sam 2:1, 4:5, 6-7, 8abcd  
Mark 1:21-28 |
| Wednesday | 1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20  
Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10  
Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25  
Mark 1:29-39 |
| Thursday  | 1 Sam 4:11-11  
Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 Mark 2:1-12 |
| Friday    | 1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22a  
Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
Mark 2:13-17 |
| Saturday  | 1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a  
Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10  
1 Cor 1:1-3  
John 1:29-34 |
| Sunday    | Isa 49:3, 5-6  
Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10  
1 Cor 1:1-3  
John 1:29-34 |

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Everyone, no matter who they are—single, married, vowed, ordained—participates in the "universal call to holiness" in their own way. Part of God's plan is diversity, with everyone building up the community in ways that others cannot do. Where would we be if everyone were a priest or a sister? Or if everyone were married and there were no religious orders?

OK, so I have a unique vocation. What is it?

Identifying your desires are an important way to discover your vocation. Your desires—not your surface needs, but your heartfelt desires—are one indication of the way that God is drawing you to happiness.

On the most basic level, a man and woman come together in desire to discover their vocations as a married couple. Doctors or lawyers or artists find that they desire a particular kind of life and so find their vocations. Desire works the same in the lives of the saints, drawing each of them to different brands of holiness and service in the church. St. Thérèse of Lisieux was very different, and did very different things, than St. Teresa of Ávila.

In this way, God's desires for the world are fulfilled, since ultimately our deepest desires are those that God has planted within us. So the notion of vocation (from the Latin word vocare, meaning "to call") is less about finding one and more about having it revealed to us, as we continually pray to understand your "governing" desires.

The primary difficulty in all this is the false belief that to become useful, or happy, or holy, we have to become someone else. The young mother says sadly, "I'll never be Mother Teresa," when in fact her vocation is to be a mother. Or the lawyer, who reads about the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, says, "I'll never be like him." But you're not meant to be Mother Teresa or Thomas Merton, estimable as they were. You're meant to be yourself. As Merton himself wrote, "For me to be a saint means to be myself."

Part of that means letting go of the wish to lead someone else's life, and remembering that our own vocations—not somebody else's—are what will finally lead us to happiness. You don't need to use anyone else's map to heaven, because God has already placed within your soul all the directions you'll ever need. When people visited Mother Teresa in Calcutta, hoping to work with her, she used to tell many, "Find your own Calcutta." Discover your own vocation. And remember that every vocation is equally valuable and beautiful in God's eyes.

Excerpts from article by James Martin, S.J. Used with permission Ignatian Spirituality

Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, Jesus. Stay with me so that I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you. None of it will be mine. It will be you shining on others through me. Let me thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around me. Let me preach you without preaching, not by words, but by my example; by the catching force—the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you. Amen.

Richard Rohr Meditation:
My Religion is Kindness

I think the genius of the Dalai Lama and of Buddhism is that they do not get lost in metaphysics and argumentation about dogmas and doctrines. They stay at a different level and thus avoid much of the endless disagreement that we find within Christianity. They do not argue about "what" but spend all of their time on "how"—which we have tended to neglect while we argue about "what." As the Dalai Lama says, "My religion is kindness." We could dismiss that as lightweight theology, until we remember that Jesus said, "This is my commandment: you must love one another" (John 13:34). Kindness is supposed to be the religion of Christians too!

As we continue to mature, we come to a sure sense that there is a deep okayness to life. "All will be well, all will be well, and every manner of things will be well," as Julian of Norwich put it. We can live more and more within unitive consciousness and know the Divine Life itself is flowing through us. Your life is not about you; you are about Life! Life, your life, all life, the one life that we all share, is going somewhere and somewhere good. You do not need to navigate the river, for you are already flowing within it. For some reason, it takes a long time to get where we already are. Our goal is to intentionally participate in this mystery of what has always been our True Self. The Great Ones all agree on this: This one life, this True Self that lasts forever, is Love (1 Corinthians 13:8, 13). And we practice for it by being kind to everyone now.
2013 in Review

Our Parish Year in Review in Pictures can be found in Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 bulletins and will continue each week! Go to our parish website to see all the pictures.

Back to School, Fall 2013

Women’s Club Annual Coat Drive

Saintly Senior Octoberfest
YC classes resume
Sunday, January 12th & Monday, January 13th!
This week completes the meetings with all parish 8th graders in preparation for their upcoming Confirmation. The students gathered in small groups with a staff member or a high school member of the Day of the Spirit Team. They discussed which experiences have been most meaningful to them in the past year and a half that they have spent preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. They shared the name they chose for Confirmation and which saint inspired them. The students also talked about the importance of the service experiences they were involved in and described the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they recognize in themselves and others. Confirmation invites these young people to become more deeply committed to their faith and more involved in our parish community.

Join us in prayer for all our parish youth who will receive the sacrament in February. Please consider taking a prayer dove from the Prayer Trees in the church narthex this weekend. Each dove has the name of an 8th grade student. Please pray for the student as they complete their Confirmation journey—that they embrace the gifts that will become boldly alive within their hearts and that they live faithful lives.

YC Schedule
Classes K-6 10:15-11:30am Sunday, Jan 12, 26
6:15-7:30pm Monday, Jan 13, 27
FFC Noon-1:30 pm Sunday, February 2
Jr Hi Groups On campus Sunday, Jan 12, 26
Special Needs Sunday, Jan 12, 26
The YC Office is CLOSED January 20 for Martin Luther King Day.

Identity Retreat
We had another successful Fresh/Soph retreat last weekend. Below are some pictures. Everyone had a blast with tubing, scavenger hunt, and broomball!

Cooke’s Manor Volunteer Opportunity
Jan 18 Cooke’s Manor: Preparing dinner for the residents of Cooke’s Manor who are veterans recovering from alcohol and drug abuse. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lis Williams at lisbethwill@sbcglobal.net.

Calendar of Events
Jan 12 Home Group meetings
Jan 18 Cooke’s Manor 3-6 pm
For a complete calendar of Crossroad events for the year go to:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

Pictures from the 8th Grade Day of the Spirit Retreat in October, 2013.
After the holidays, it’s time to wind down, so grab your friends and treat yourself to an evening with Chef Mary Gail Bennett of Deliciously Yours in Burr Ridge who is returning for another mouthwatering evening of easily prepared dishes along with a special "wine pairing" with Hillgrove Wine Cellars of Western Springs.

After the event, stop in Hillgrove Wine Cellars, mention "SJC Women’s Club Cooking Night" and stock up! SJC Women’s Club will receive a percentage back from all sales to help further our mission to support women’s and children's charities.

SPACE IS LIMITED!
RSVP by January 20th
$10 per person (payable by cash or check made out to SJC Women’s Club)
Return your Registration to the Parish Center

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Number of guests: _______________________
Amount enclosed $__________________
Questions?
Contact: Denise Schullo [deec7@hotmail.com] or Jeanne Conkin [jeanneconkin@yahoo.com]
Outreach

Lovin’ Life in Chicago
Sunday, January 19, 1-3 p.m.
MarchForLifeChicago.com
marchforlifechicago@gmail.com

Where:  Start: Federal Plaza (50 W. Adams) - Rally &
Speakers: State of Illinois Building (100 W. Randolph)

Speakers: Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Congress-
man Dan Lipinski, Relevant Radio’s Sheila Liaugminas,
WLS-AM’s Dan Proft and many more.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Thanks to your generosity, the St. John of the
Cross Parish community had another successful
Livestock for Life holiday campaign. The following is
a thank you from Fr. Serapio Wamara, pastor of Holy
Cross Parish, our sharing parish in Jinja, Uganda.

Maureen Boor, Livestock for Life Coordinator

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. John of the Cross,

Greetings of peace and love from Holy Cross
Parish—Bugembe. I hope all is well with you. In the
Parish we are doing well, we gathered on Saturday,
December 14th, to celebrate the feast of St. John of
the Cross and during Mass we prayed for you and in
thanksgiving to the Lord for the relationship
between the two parishes.  We also prayed in
thanksgiving for your love, generosity and support
that you continue to offer to us and we also prayed
that the Lord continue to bless you abundantly.

As regards to the livestock project: I sent the
members of the parish development committee to
do some evaluation and they came up with some
good report that a good number of families are
performing very well from the initial animals they
received; some have multiplied and one family sold
the goats and bought cows and that is good
development. Some have improved their livelihood
by even paying school fees for the children. The
Christians are very grateful to you for this project
and talking to the members of parish development
committee, they said that the project is worthy and
we better continue with it. We are so grateful to our
brothers and sisters from St. John of the Cross for
this initiative and for your generosity. Thank you so
much.

God bless, Rev. Fr. Serapio Wamara, CSC, Pastor

BEDS Plus 2nd Annual Soup & Bread Event
Second annual Soup & Bread fundraising event
benefitting BEDS Plus on Sunday, January 26,
from 4 – 7 pm at the Village Club of Western
Springs. More details on our parish website.

Men’s Club

SJC Trivia Night III
Saturday, January 25th
SJC Parish School Gym
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Games begin at 6:45 p.m.

All are invited to come to Trivia Night! It’s fun and it’s
a great way to meet fellow parishioners. Here’s how
it works:
1. Organize a group of up to 10 people (ages 21
and over only) to form your team. Name your
team.
2. Brush up on your trivia knowledge.
3. Send in your table reservation with a check(s)
totaling $200 for each table of ten; (note: cost per
table is $200 even if there are less than ten
participants on your team). Make all checks
payable to St. John of the Cross. Seating is
limited, so RSVP soon.
4. Drop an envelope at the parish center with the
name of your team, captain and team member
names with your check(s) to SJC Parish attention
Men’s Club.
5. That night, bring your own appetizers, food, and
your favorite beverages. Alcoholic beverages are
permitted.
6. Winning Team to receive fabulous prizes and
many accolades.

More info is on the parish website.

I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict
XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel:
“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical
choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an
event, a person, which gives life a new horizon
and a decisive direction.”

Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed
encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into
an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our
narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully
human when we become more than human, when
we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to
attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find
the source and inspiration of all our efforts at
evangelization. For if we have received the love
which restores meaning to our lives, how can we
fail to share that love with others? ~Pope Francis
3 Simple Steps

1. When processing your securities donations via ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

Provide your bank or broker the following transfer instructions:

**William Blair & Company – DTC # 771**
Account Number – 156-16135-1-2
Catholic Bishop of Chicago Account
For the Benefit of: St. John of the Cross Parish,
Western Springs, IL

Additional information your bank or broker may need:
Archdiocese of Chicago Tax ID No. – 36-2170826
William Blair & Company – 222 W. Adams St. –
Chicago, IL 60606
William Blair Representative, Suzanne Schiff,
Phone: 312-364-8898 Fax: 312-577-0774 or e-mail:
schiff@williamblair.com

2. STOCK DONATION - LETTER OF INTENTION For the Archdiocese of Chicago Parishes, Schools, and Agencies

Please complete this form for ALL STOCK/MUTUAL FUND Donations. For further assistance, please call the Archdiocese of Chicago Stock transfer representative, Greg Salm, 312/534-5399.

I (we) plan to transfer the securities electronically: **Donation Date:** ________________

**From:** (Please Print)

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<th>Donor Name(s):</th>
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Please accept our donation of ________ Shares of _________________________________
(# of shares)                          (Name of Security)

to be credited to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago for the benefit of: **St. John of the Cross Parish, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL 60558** (If you are donating various stocks/securities and/or to various locations simply print VARIOUS above and attach a separate page with a list detailing the various gifts and locations that are to receive the gift/s)

3. **Send this form To:** (send via one method listed below)

Regular U.S. Mail - Archdiocese of Chicago, Parish Operations – Stock Donations 835 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611 or
Send to Greg Salm, 312-534-5399 Fax Number: 312/534-5272 gdsalm@archchicago.org or
Send to St. John of the Cross: Marguerite Chrusciel, phone # 708-246-4404, fax # 708-246-4566 mchrusciel@stjohnofthecross.org

...Every person has two great “books” which provide the signs to guide this pilgrimage (our life journey): the book of creation and the book of sacred Scripture. What is important is that we be attentive, alert, and listen to God who speaks to us, who always speaks to us. As the Psalm says in referring to the Law of the Lord: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105). Listening to the Gospel, reading it, meditating on it and making it our spiritual nourishment especially allows us to encounter the living Jesus, to experience him and his love. ~Pope Francis

. . he first loved us.
—1 JOHN 4:19

The original impulse always moves in our direction. We may rest in knowing that God never gets stuck, is never static, never falters, rescinds, nor retreats. He cannot fail to love us; it’s simply not possible.
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Terry O’Brien, father of Christine Casella
Tom Dobry, father of Tom and grandfather of Tommy and Mary
Joan Kipp, mother of Matthew, grandfather of Johnny, Peter, Katherine and James
Teresa Cullen, wife of Terrance, mother of Katie and Jimmy
Charles Sugrue, husband of Mary, father of Mary, Patrick, Michael, Susanne and Kerry
Don Love, son of Agnes uncle of Gene Ognibene
Julius G. Alberico, husband of Pam
Kathleen Conforti, wife of Victor, mother of Robert & Renee

This Week at SJC
Monday, January 13
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
Tuesday, January 14
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. Teacher Recognition Trust
Wednesday, January 15
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3, Angel Study
11:30 a.m. Ladies Bridge
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation
Thursday, January 16
9:30 a.m. Flourish
7:00 p.m. Career Networking
7:00 p.m. Women’s Club Meeting
Friday, January 17
9:30 a.m. Mom’s Club
3:30 p.m. 3rd Gr. Brownies
Saturday, January 18
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
6:00 p.m. Beloved

Mass Intentions
Monday, January 13, St. Hilary
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Patricia Cebula
Tuesday, January 14
7:45 Bill Alberts; William J. Collins
Wednesday, January 15
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Mitzi Patricia Rau
Thursday, January 16
7:45 Suzanne Walsh; Pete Capellani
Friday, January 17, St. Anthony
7:45 Mildred Domagal; Liz Wojtowicz
Saturday, January 18
8:00 Irene McGill; Wence Prikazsky
5:00 Liz Wojtowicz; John Fash

Sunday, January 19, Second Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Amilia Karamakaich; Teresa Reidy
9:00 Robert J. Harazin, Sr.; Harry & Bridget Morgan
10:45 Leonard Mancione; Lawrence Szot
12:15 Jack Gocke; Barbara Mann
5:00 Jackie Travis; William Mulcahy

Pray for our Sick
Frank Accardi  Lee Lepinske  Jim Ryan
Mitch Allen  Fr. William  Teresa Schaefer
Paul Cervony  Mannion  John Shea
William Dwyer  Mary Ann Matysik  Guy Thomas
Melissa Morrissey  Vickie McNally  Baby Kameron
Eldredge  Jay Meehan  Walters
Mark Giangrande  John Munch  Mary Catherine
Karen Hult  Nancy Olin  Pam Wilson
Barbara Jacob  Susan Olson  Ron Ziembka
Dee Kennedy  Marion Pascale
Rosie King  Bob Pietras
Helen Klimek  James Reilly
Kay Knowles  Rick Reimer

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

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and
the voice of the Father thundered: this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Entrance Antiphon

Italics—Living

Rev. David P. Dowdle  Pastor  ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell  Pastor Emeritus  Contact Fr. Joe through the Parish Office
Rev. Filbert F. Ngwila  Associate Pastor  fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
Deacon John Schopp  Deacon  john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright  Outreach  bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta  Youth Catechesis  jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer  Worship  jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman  School Principal  gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.ill.us
Katie Hayes  Crossroads  khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch  Music  jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin  Operations  mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones  Welcome  erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Come and share a morning of discovery through scripture, singing, games and crafts with your child. Baptism marks the beginning of our lives as Christians. We celebrate this moment with water, oil, candles, and a special white garment. Our families celebrate with us. Let’s learn about Baptism together!

Saturday, January 25th
10-11:30am
Parish Center

Parents or grandparents should accompany the child for the activities. Wear comfortable clothing—we will be sitting on the floor.

Call the YC office at (708) 246-6760 to register by January 22nd. Registration helps us prepare craft bags. Walk-ins welcome too. This is the second of four preschool sessions for the year of Strong Catholic Parents.