Fr. Barron’s The New Evangelization, a companion to the mini-series Catholicism, focuses on the core of the Church’s mission which is evangelization. The six session documentary and study program is a tool to inspire every Catholic to express their faith with joy and zeal as we encounter the love of Jesus Christ. The New Evangelization offers new and compelling expressions and methods for us to Be the Light of Christ while living in our secular society.

Sessions will be offered three times each week on Tuesdays at 1pm and 7pm and Saturdays at 9am during the six weeks of Lent. Sessions will begin the day before Ash Wednesday and will end the day before Palm Sunday. Go to our parish website or stop in the parish center to register and purchase the class study guide for $15. Use the registration form on page 4 of today’s bulletin.
March, 2014

Dear Parishioners,

Last Saturday was the winter meeting of our Parish Advisory Council (PAC). To keep you informed of our work, highlights from our meeting are detailed below. More in-depth minutes are posted on our parish website. Also on the website are meeting pre-read materials that were sent to PAC members to keep each other informed of what each parish Consultative Body, Ministry Advisory Group, and PAC Goal Committee has been working on this year.

Last year the PAC established a Stewardship Committee to help the parish “faithfully steward our time, talent and treasure,” through our prayer, service and sharing. Our fall meeting focused on prayer in our lives and how to pray The Examen, a prayer style developed by St. Ignatius as a way to recognize and invite God into our daily lives.

The goal of our winter meeting, which focused on the service and sharing dimensions of Stewardship was two-fold: to understand the role and work of our parish Outreach Advisory Group and to become more aware of the ministry and challenges and successes of each sharing parish. To this end, PAC members boarded a bus and traveled to St. Mark Parish, Kolbe House at Assumption Parish and Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Chicago.

As we toured and talked, our eyes and hearts were opened to those who live with less, the isolation experienced by inmates and the effects of incarceration on their families, the value of receiving clothes to wear and finding a job upon release from jail, the importance of getting your name on the list of inmates allowed to attend Mass, and the size of the small cell window from which an inmate can reach out and touch Fr. Arturo’s hand. Seeing the presence and strength of gangs, the lack of available jobs for youth, the lack of grocery stores and basic retail, fences and more fences and boarded up windows and doors, the powerlessness that poverty and lack of education renders, and the heartbeat felt by mothers of both youthful victims as well as their offenders. Seeing it was quite moving.

Seeing the small food pantry building without any windows and the buildings and houses where people live, the park where innocent victims were gunned down last summer, the endless jail with its multiple layers of curled barbed wire, the artwork of inmates and at-risk youth that tells their stories of reality, of gangs, drugs, violence, prison, and the tears of the family that must carry on. And at the end, the hope that comes from raised garden beds that grow vegetables above unsafe soil, a safe place for young people to gather and do homework and be fed food that tastes good. Hope that comes from people who care, who are committed to changing the lives of the vulnerable in our city.

Pictures from our trip can be viewed on our parish website under the Serving tab.

We finished our trip as we began, in prayer asking our loving Father to make visible to our eyes what is invisible: the call to love all people, the summons to live our faith daily and to engage in love inspired action that transforms our world.

After 4 years as PAC Chair, I will serve as Past Chairperson on the Executive Committee helping with strategy and planning. Ann Marie Calistro will serve as Chair and and Brian King as Vice-Chair for the coming year. Both possess excellent leadership and executive skills to guide the work of the Council.

At our spring meeting in May, the PAC will discuss our experience further as well as dive deeper into the theology and spirituality of social mission and how it should be woven throughout parish life. As disciples of Jesus we are challenged to pray, be formed, and walk with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness and living peaceably among all people. We are called to be holy, to be the Body of Christ in the ordinary tasks of everyday life. This is who we are.

Peace,
Karin Teglia, PAC Chairperson

www.stjohnofthecross.org 3-2-14 page 2 praying ~ serving ~ sharing
What is this way of life, this putting God first in all things, this proportionate giving of everything unto the Lord, this refusal to take more than we need? Yesterday I met a flock of them, these stewards, gathered to thank God for his providential love and tell again and again the joy, the peace of giving. It wasn’t the words that touched me, rather the quiet assurance that things were ordered, time, talent, treasure aligned with Transcendence, all coming from Love, lived in Love, directed toward Love. What touched me was the rightness of this way of life, this joyful giving, this sacrificial attitude, this sublime joy.

~Bishop Robert Morneau, Green Bay

This weekend is our follow-up weekend for the Annual Catholic Appeal which gives parishioners who have not had an opportunity to donate a chance to do so. Please know that the Annual Catholic Appeal is important both to the archdiocese and to our parish.

Most people understand why the archdiocese needs this appeal. It has become a source of critical support for many of the formation programs for priests, deacons and the laity. It helps the cash flow for the Pastoral Center which provides much needed support to parishes and schools. It supports marriage ministry, religious education, youth ministry and inner city schools.

The rebate from the Annual Catholic Appeal has also become a critical source for the financial reality of our parish. Last year we were able to benefit from the Annual Appeal to the tune of over $150,000.00. You have responded generously and faithfully. 91% of pledges are paid in full to the Annual Appeal, a phenomenal success rate. Without that source of income we would be in dire financial straits.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Fr. David

P.S. As I mentioned last weekend, here is the parish where Fr. Filbert has been assigned to:

St. Celestine Parish
3020 N 76th Court
Elmwood Park
708-453-2555

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods, and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?” (1Jn 3:17)
Fr. Barron’s The New Evangelization, a companion to the mini-series Catholicism, focuses on the core of the Church’s mission which is evangelization. The six session documentary and study program is a tool to inspire every Catholic to express their faith with joy and zeal as we encounter the love of Jesus Christ. The New Evangelization offers new and compelling expressions and methods for us to Be the Light of Christ while living in our secular society.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Check the day / time you wish to register for:
Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, and 8
_____ 1-3pm
_____ 7-9pm

Saturdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12
_____ 9-11am

YES, I would like to purchase the participant study guide-workbook for $15.
_____ Cash
_____ Check

Mail this form or drop it off at the parish center. Registrations and purchase of the study guide can also be completed on our parish website.
Lent 2014: filled with the joy of Christ

Ash Wednesday, March 5th Schedule
Masses are at 6:30am, 7:45am, 9:15 All School Mass and 6:30pm; Word & Ash Service 4pm
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

10 Things to Remember for Lent

1. **Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

2. **It’s a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him. See the next page of today’s bulletin for prayer opportunities at our parish.

3. **It’s a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that’s why it gets all the attention. “What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?” It’s almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

4. **It’s a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. “I’m going to exercise more. I’m going to pray more. I’m going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers.”

5. **It’s about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it’s about more than self-control—it’s about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6. **Don’t do too much.** It’s tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it’s best to keep it simple and focused. There’s a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don’t try to cram it all in one Lent. That’s a recipe for failure.

7. **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we’re all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God’s help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

8. **Be patient with yourself.** When we’re confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. “What a bad person I am!” But that’s the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

9. **Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It’s about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it’s about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God’s unconditional love. Participate in Operation Rice Bowl to fast, pray and give alms to the poor. Learn more on the next page of the bulletin.

10. **Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin
Daily Prayer
Prayerfully journey through Lent with Bishop Robert Morneau's deeply meaningful, day-by-day reflections on the Mass readings. In just minutes per day, the insightful meditations of *Daily Reflections for Lent: Not by Bread Alone* can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer and penance and prepare you to participate more fully in the joy of the great Easter mystery.

*Daily Reflections for Lent* will be after all Masses this weekend and on Ash Wednesday. A free will offering of $1 is suggested. You can also download the Lit Press App free on your phone or tablet and purchase the book for $0.99.

Through *Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl*, we fast, pray and give alms during Lent, following Jesus’ call to live in solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS Rice Bowl boxes will be distributed the first Sunday of Lent at all Masses (March 8-9). Families are encouraged to fill the box with spare change in a spirit of generosity to empower and transform the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. The boxes can be dropped off at Mass on Palm Sunday. Go to our website for Operation Rice Bowl daily reflections, weekly prayers, meatless recipes and stories of hope from around the world will inspire you through the 40 days of Lent.

### 6 Week Introduction Series to Christian Meditation during Lent
Christian Meditation is prayer of silence, stillness, and simplicity. It gives us a simple way to spend the silent time in which nothing is needed except ourselves and our attention. This 6-Week Introduction to Christian Meditation is an opportunity for you to come and try it, especially if you are longing for “something more.”

The Introductory Lenten series will be held during the regular weekly meditation times in the parish center:
- Mondays—10:30am, beginning March 10 (CM as an 11th step practice—open to all)
- Wednesdays—2pm and 7:30pm beginning March 12
- Saturdays—7am, beginning March 15

Registration requested but not required: mary105105@gmail.com or 708-246-5108

Encouragement in Your Meditation Practice: Lenten Morning and Evening of Meditation
Saturday, March 8th, 9 - 11:30AM, hospitality at 8:30am and
Friday, March 28th, 7 - 9:30pm, hospitality at 6:45pm

Overview of Other Lenten & Ongoing Prayer Opportunities
- **Stations of the Cross:** Fridays during Lent at 6:00pm in church begins on March 7th. Praying the Stations of the Cross is a Lenten devotion that offers witness to Jesus’ Passion and Death. At each station we reflect prayerfully upon Jesus’ suffering, Death, and Resurrection, and Christ’s love for us.
- **Weekly Eucharistic Adoration** on Mondays from 2:30-8:45pm in the Mary Chapel
- **Pray the Rosary** before and after daily Mass and on Tuesdays at 9:05am in the Mary Chapel
- **Family Lenten Calendar** filled with prayers and activities to make Lent come alive for families will be available on our parish website.

“No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord’s boundless and unfailing love and tenderness which never disappoints; an immense love that makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and start anew for whenever we take a step toward Jesus he is already there waiting for us with open arms; a love that has restored meaning to our lives; a love so great, how can we not share it?” (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*)
Lifelong Catechesis  Living Lent

Telling humans not to worry about tomorrow is like telling them not to be the center of their own lives. And that is exactly the point of this gospel! The two masters are God or ourselves. Yes, we ourselves are the mammon. And it is much harder to detect serving ourselves as mammon than mammon as money or material things (its usual meaning). When we become fixated on material things—the latest electronic gadget, a certain TV show that controls our time schedule, any kind of addiction—we have something specific “out there” to examine, judge, change. But when we worry and become fixated on ourselves, the behavior is much more difficult to detect, face, and overcome. If we choose ourselves, put ourselves first, we worry. If we choose God, the center of our lives shifts from ourselves to God then to others. Worrying draws us into ourselves; caring for others draws us out of ourselves. If we choose God, we will feed on God’s generosity, be clothed in God’s gift of life, and be made rich in faith. This choice is sufficient not only for a day, but for a whole lifetime—even for all eternity. This choice changes our perspective—changes our life—and helps open us to the vast array of God’s gifts and goodness all around us. Most of us don’t consciously choose ourselves as our master; we are much more subtle about it. We couch our mammon choice in thinking we are making ourselves and those around us better. The measure is our worrying. Obsessive worry about things, future plans, success, money, security, looks, etc., is a clue that we have chosen ourselves as master. It is a clue that we need to change the master we serve and choose instead the most compassionate, most generous, and most dependable Master: God.

Closing Prayers: May we choose God as our Master and no longer worry unduly about tomorrow. May we choose God as our Master and grow richer in our faith. Our Father . . .

For Reflection: I worry about . . . when . . . My worry consumes me by . . . Choosing God has gifted me with . . .

Q. I understand that all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat, but I’m not sure what is classified as meat. Does meat include chicken and dairy products?

A. We abstain from meat that comes from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs --- all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Foods like chicken broth, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are technically not forbidden. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-derived products (except foods such as gelatin, butter, cheese and eggs, which do not have any meat taste). Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

Q. I’ve noticed that restaurants and grocery stores advertise specials on expensive types of fish and seafood on Fridays during Lent. Some of my Catholic friends take advantage of these deals, but somehow I don’t feel right treating myself to the lobster special on Fridays during Lent.

A. While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

Q. I understand that Catholics ages 18 to 59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts?

A. Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

Q. Are there exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

A. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill and individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Readings for the Week

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 111:1-2, 6</td>
<td>Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4</td>
<td>Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14</td>
<td>Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19</td>
<td>Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6</td>
<td>Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-17, 19</td>
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Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community!

Emilee and Victor DeMartino and Family
Kelly and Terry Gallaher and Family
Colleen and Ken Nash and Family
Colleen and Peter de Kerarty and Family

If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erusselljones@stjohnofthecross.org.

Gluten-Free Hosts
Our parish offers gluten-free hosts to address the needs of those affected by Celiac disease or other conditions. If you wish to receive a gluten-free host, before mass begins go to the sacristy and tell the high school sacristan that you need a gluten-free host. It is important that you tell only the sacristan, and not the priest or an usher as that causes confusion for how many may be needed. (If you are unsure who the sacristan is, by all means ask the priest or an usher to help you identify them.) The unconsecrated hosts will be brought up during the gifts procession and consecrated during the Mass. When it is time to receive communion, we ask that you go to the presiding priest and say "gluten-free" clearly and audibly for the priest to hear. Please do this every time, even when you think the priest knows who you are. If you have a child who will be receiving gluten-free please make sure that they also speak clearly as well.

What are the steps of RCIA?
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Each week watch for more on RCIA and the individuals who will receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil at SJC.

Prior to beginning the RCIA process, an individual comes to some knowledge of Jesus Christ and is usually attracted in some way to the Catholic Church. This period is known as the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate. Often, contact with people of faith and a personal faith experience lead people to inquire about the Catholic Church. After a conversation with a priest, or RCIA director, the person, known as an "inquirer," may seek acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, through the Rite of Acceptance. During this Rite, the inquirer stands amidst the parish community and states that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church. The parish assembly affirms this desire and the inquirer becomes a "catechumen."

The period of the catechumenate can last for as long as several years or for a shorter time. It depends on how the person is growing in faith, what questions they encounter along the way, and how God leads them on this journey. During this time, the catechumens consider what God is saying to them in the Scriptures, what changes in their life they need to make to respond to God's inspiration, and what Baptism in the Catholic Church means.

The Rite of Election includes the enrollment of names of all those seeking baptism at the coming Easter Vigil. Typically, on the first Sunday of Lent, the catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the cathedral church. The catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the diocesan bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called "the elect." Our RCIA group will travel to the cathedral on March 16th.

The days of Lent are the final period of purification and enlightenment leading up to the Easter Vigil. Lent is a period of preparation marked by prayer, study, and spiritual direction for the elect, and prayers for them by the parish communities. The Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation takes place during the Easter Vigil Liturgy on Holy Saturday when the catechumen receives the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Now the person is fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

After the person is initiated, formation and education continue in the period of the post baptismal catechesis, which is called "mystagogy." This period continues at least until Pentecost. During the period the newly baptized members reflect on their experiences at the Easter Vigil and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Catholic Church. In addition they reflect on how they will serve Christ and help in the Church's mission and outreach activities.

Excerpts from the USCCB
Sunday Connection

In our families we learn about caring. We learn to care for our own needs and the needs of others, and we learn to take responsibility for the needs of our household. Sometimes caring for these needs means that we are unable to do other things that we would enjoy more. At times, we can be tempted not to take responsibility for what we are given to care for.

Talk about the different ways your family cares for one another and the needs of your household. Remember times when you’ve been tempted to put your own needs ahead of others. Talk about the personal and familial consequences of making that choice.

Point out how God cares for us every day and will never forget us. Read aloud this Sunday’s Gospel, Matthew 6:24–34. Talk about how God looks after the birds in the sky and the flowers in the field. Point out how Jesus reminds his disciples that they are worth much more than these things. Take turns sharing times in which you have experienced God’s care for yourself and your family. Conclude this time together by offering one another a sign of peace.

Planning Ahead for Lent

Given the many challenges facing today’s families, now is the perfect time and home is the perfect place to experience Lent. After all, home is where we rush and rest, where we hope and worry, where we love and forgive. It is home where we most often experience day-to-day salvation. Lenten experiences can take place in nearly every room of the house. Here are some ideas to try to enrich your celebration of Lent at home:

**Lenten Family Mealtime:** In addition to “Friday fish day,” designate one evening a week to prepare a meal together. Assign a different dish or task to each family member. Before starting, discuss how each family member is giving to the others—giving time, effort, and care to nourish the entire family to go out and do God’s will. Begin with a prayer of thanks and petition.

**Family Lenten Reading:** Prominently display the Bible and other books that feature topics such as the following: Lent, forgiveness, prayer, Scripture, generosity, social justice and service for others. You might wish to display Praying Lent: Renewing Our Lives on the Lenten Journey, a small booklet by Andy Alexander, SJ, or A Prayer Book of Catholic Devotions by William G. Storey, which offers a special section dedicated to Lenten reflection in addition to prayers for other seasons and normal time. Invite family members to choose books and discuss what you read.

**Family Kindness and Sharing:** On slips of paper, write random acts of kindness, such as give a compliment, say hi to an old friend, carry someone’s heavy load. Present each family member with a slip of paper as he or she leaves in the morning. Invite each family member to perform the kindness without seeking recognition. Afterward, talk together about what happened. Pray with one another that your kindnesses will be passed on throughout Lent and beyond.

**Giving to Charities:** Ask each family member to find three to five high-quality, useful items that would be appreciated by those who are less fortunate. Donate the items to a favorite charity. Pray together for those who will receive them. Participate in Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl each week in Lent. See page 6 of today’s bulletin.
Parish News

You are invited
Sunday, March 16, 2014
at 6:00 pm
at St. John of the Cross in the Parish Center for…

“Catholic for a Reason”

Michael Coren,
the bestselling author of Why Catholics are Right,
examines our faith with wit, rigor, insight, astuteness,
and understanding of Catholic teaching and history.

Please join us for a wonderful, engaging speaker,
a glass of wine and fellowship. Grab a neighbor and
have an enjoyable evening at St. John of the Cross!

Babysitting available too! Contact 708-246-6760 for details.

Micheal Coren is the bestselling author of fifteen books, including
Tolkien, and C.S. Lewis. He is the host of the talk show “The Arena” on
the Sun News Network. He also writes a syndicated column for ten daily
newspapers, and was recently named the columnist of the year by the
Catholic Press Association. His book Why Catholics are Right was a
national bestseller. His latest book is The Future of Catholicism.

Sponsored by the St. John of the Cross Youth Catechesis Council:
Michelle Snorewicz, John Amico, Sharon Gardner, Lisa Geneser, Mary Hays, Katie Larmon, Tony
Liotta, Angie Matysik, Nancy Montana, Laurel Schumm, April Sullivan, Lauren Trifilio

Richard Rohr Daily Meditation: Original Innocence

Jesus said, “I will not leave you orphanded” (John 14:18). Faith is to trust that an intrinsic union exists between us
and God. Contemplation is to experience this union. The path of fall and return is how we experience this union as
pure grace and free gift.

There is a necessary movement between the two ends of the divine/human axis, between one’s core and the
core of God. The only real sin is to doubt, deny, or fail to experience this basic axial connection. If you don’t have
some small mirrors (partners, friends, and lovers) that are telling you you’re good, it’s very hard to believe in the
Big Goodness.

The word “innocent” from its Latin root means “not wounded.” That’s how we all start life. We’re all innocent. It
doesn’t have anything to do with moral right or wrong. It has to do with not being wounded yet. We start
unwounded. We start innocent, but the killing of our holy innocence by power and abuse (as in the killing of the
Holy Innocents by Herod [Matthew 2:1-23]) is an archetypal image of what eventually happens to all of us.
Probably it has to happen for us to grow up.

We can’t stay unwounded. We have to leave the garden, so to speak. It is this movement out and back between
the loneliness and desperation of the false self and the fullness of the True Self that is the process of
transformation. That’s how we move to consciousness and inner freedom.

www.stjohnofthecross.org 3-2-14 page 10 praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Dear families,

With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization”. Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.

This important meeting will involve all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world – all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task. As you know, this Extraordinary Synodal Assembly will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.

I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, and that an elderly man and woman, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to meet them and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Lk 2:22-38). Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally “seen” salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey.

Dear families, your prayer for the Synod of Bishops will be a precious treasure which enriches the Church. I thank you, and I ask you to pray also for me, so that I may serve the People of God in truth and in love. May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another. I willingly invoke on every family the blessing of the Lord.

From the Vatican, 2 February 2014

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

FRANCIS
SJC Saintly Seniors
St. Patrick-St. Joseph Party
Go RED or go GREEN and be part of the FUN!
Friday, March 14 11:30-2:30
Enjoy a corned beef luncheon with all the trimmings and lively entertainment.
Members $15 ~ Guests $20
RSVP by March 10th. Drop this form and your check to the SJC Saintly Senior Club at the parish center.

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________
Number of Members __________                  Number of Guests __________
Total Enclosed: $_____________
Questions to Senior Club Chair: Trudy Schmitt at 246-1619.

SJC Saintly Seniors Holy Hill Basilica Bus Trip
Wednesday, April 2, 2014
A Deluxe Motor Coach will leave the Parish Center promptly at 8am and return by 5pm. We will arrive at Holy Hill in time to celebrate Mass and, immediately following, watch a presentation. There will be time to walk the grounds and visit the many spiritual and interesting areas. There is also a gift shop. Lunch will be at the Holy Hill Café. The cost of the trip is $45 which includes the cost of the motor coach, luncheon, all gratuities and a donation to Holy Hill.

Reservations with your check payable to SJC Saintly Seniors need to be sent to the Parish Center by March 19. Space is limited. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Koehler at 708-246-2978.

Name _____________________________________________
Phone ____________________Cell_____________________
Number of People__________ Total Enclosed___________
**Crossroads News**

**Crossroads-Men’s Club Fish Fry 1st Friday in Lent: March 7th in the Parish Center**

Pre-purchase tickets by dropping this form off at the parish center & we'll save your tickets at the door OR stop by our table in the parish center before & after Masses **THIS WEEKEND!**

Name: __________________________
Phone: __________________________

5pm seating _____ OR 6:30pm seating _____

Number of tickets:

Kids _____ @ $6 = _______
Adults _____ @ $12 = _______
Senior _____ @ $9 = _______
TOTAL: $ __________

Proceeds from this annual fundraiser are used to reduce costs for parish teens participating in Work Tour Trips this summer. Help those who want to help others!!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

March 1 Service trip to Port Ministries
March 7 Fish Fry 5pm or 6:30pm
March 9 Home Group Meetings

For a complete calendar of Crossroad events:

[www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events)

Our formation meeting with our work tour & conference teens was terrific! Joe & Elizabeth presented details, parents & teens got to know each other & preparations are underway for our fish fry next week. **IF YOUR TEEN WANTS TO JOIN A SUMMER CONFERENCE OR WORK TOUR EXPERIENCE SIGN UP NOW**—packet is online! Only the Habitat trip is full, all others have a few spaces. Adults needed for YLC & OLPH trips!

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**Women’s Club Outreach: Spring Clothing Drive March 6-16**

Spray Clean to Build Esteem!

Clean out your closets and join SJC Women’s Club to help women get back on their feet!

We are teaming up with The House of the Good Shepherd to help women in need return to the workforce and rebuild their lives. All items **must be** clean, in good condition and suitable for the business casual environment. Spring and Summer women’s items only please.

- Blouses
- Skirts
- Shorts/Skorts
- Slacks
- Capri pants
- Sun /Summer dresses
- Suits/Blazers
- Light summer sweaters
- Tops
- Flats/Sandals/Summer Dress Shoes
- Accessories (purses, scarves, etc.)

**Donations accepted at Drop Boxes located at:**

Church Narthex, Parish Center & School

Questions? Please contact Amanda Collins at amandacollins4@gmail.com or Colleen Pabst at mahoney5674@yahoo.com

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Our third grade spent the last few weeks studying changes in weather during their science classes. In the science lab, the students reviewed important parts of the globe, particularly the equator, Tropic of Cancer, and Tropic of Capricorn. The children learned how the seasons change and how seasons are different between the hemispheres.

Not only did the students study this in the science lab, but also during their library time when they performed a Readers’ Theatre acting out the weather cycle by portraying rain and snow.

Our youth in 7th and 8th grade meet in small groups, like the early church, to build community, strengthen faith and service others. They were treated to a presentation by nationally known speaker, John Grossman during February. They learned about the importance of serving others and the choices we make in life.

**Third Grade Meteorologists**

This Week at SJC

**All Week**

Grades 3-7 Terra Nova Testing

**Wednesday, March 5**

Ash Wednesday Liturgy, 9:15am

**March 7, 2014**

Grade 8 Fortnightly, 7:30pm

**Small Groups**

Youth Catechesis Office

yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760

www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc

Monday thru Thursday 8:30am- 4:00pm (Sun & Mon eve during class)
This Week at SJC

Monday, March 3
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, March 4
8:30 a.m. Art and Environment
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. YC Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. Spiritual Advisory Committee
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Kairos 16 Team Meetings

Thursday, March 6
9:00 a.m. Flourish
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Friday, March 7
9:30 p.m. Mom’s Club
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
5:00 p.m. Fish Fry
6:30 p.m. Fish Fry

Saturday, March 8
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 a.m. Christian Meditation, Morning Reflection
9:00 a.m. New Evangelization Lenten Meeting
6:00 p.m. Beloved

Sunday, March 9
9:00 a.m. Welcome New Parishioners
9:30 a.m. YC Home Groups
10:00 a.m. Crossroads Teen Advisory Meeting
4:00 p.m. BEDS

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Gloria Tepavchevich, mother of Jane Reeder,
Nick, Jr., Nancy Libby, Thomas and Joan
Jon Wilson, relative of Laura Ozark
Ronald Opyd, husband of Felicia father of Brian and
grandfather of Madeline
Phillip Piazza, cousin of Dean & Joel Teglia

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 3, St. Katharine Drexel
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Bob McGee

Tuesday, March 4, St. Casimir
7:45 O’Malley and Madigan Families; Carmela McGuire

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday
6:30 James Purcell
7:45 Robert Maliszewski; Dr. Edward Montgomery
6:30 Claire Leahy; Patrick Murtaugh

Thursday, March 6
7:45 Raymond Kraul; Michael LaPolla

Friday, March 7, St. Perpetua and Felicity
7:45 Steve Gongol; Rosemary Supple

Saturday, March 8, St. John of God
8:00 Bob Moore; Lisa Masterson
5:00 Gaetano Canino; Rose King

Sunday, March 9, First Sunday of Lent
7:30 Gene Figliulo; Taimer Dusan
9:00 Rosemary Supple; Bob McNulty
10:45 Dr. Norbert Mann; Social Steffen
12:15 Tom Fitzsimmons; John Napier Hill
5:00 Ronald Scott Williams; William Plourde

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

Frank Accardi        Lee Lepinski        James Reilly
Mitch Allen          Josephine          Rick Reimer
Paul Cervony         McNamara           Teresa Schaefer
William Dwyer        Fr. William        John Shea
Melissa Morrissey    Mannion            Guy Thomas
Eldredge             Pat Martin          Mary Catherine
Audra Frolik         Mary Ann Matysik    Warren
Mark Giangrande      Vickie McNally      Pam Wilson
Maria Hanson         Jay Meehan          Eleanor
Karen Hult           John Munch          Zarnowiecki
Barbara Jacob        Nancy Olin          
Dee Kennedy          Susan Olson          
Rosie King           Marion Pascale       
Frank Kranz          Bob Pietras         

Trying to get in touch with us? More info is on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org
Thursday, March 6, 2014

**drury lane**

Sponsored by:
St. John of the Cross Women’s Club

There is still time to reserve your seat at the Women’s Club Fashion Show! Can’t make it that night, but you still want a chance at our three wonderful grand raffle prizes?

Tickets are $5 each or six (6) for $25.

**first prize**
Two-Night Kohler, WI Get Away with Golf

**second prize**
Spring Fashion Makeover for Two at Nordstrom

**third prize**
Picture Perfect Photo Shoot

Tickets for our grand raffle can be found in baskets near the church exits. Please fill them out and return them with payment to the parish center or mail to Carrie Frech, 4134 Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL 60558

(Raffle will be held during dinner. Winner need not be present.) Event tickets are $70 per person. Cash bar.

Don’t miss this fabulous night celebrating fashion, friendship and fundraising. Giving looks great on you!

Questions?
Please call Katie Pruitt at 708.784.0065 or Lee Rosenberg at 708.269.6046

For more information about this wonderful night, please visit www.stjohnofthecross.com/womens-club-fashion-show