Share your BREAD
Shelter the oppressed and the homeless
CLOTHE the NAKED
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn
and your wound shall be healed quickly

Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build Up the Kingdom of God.
Sunday, February 9, 2014
“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)

Lent begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. This 40 day holy period filled with prayer, fasting and almsgiving invites us to be renewed by God’s love revealed in the crucified and risen Christ and filled with new energy for carrying on the mission of Jesus in our world today.

St. John of the Cross Parish offers many ways to walk with you on your Lenten Journey. Together may we be filled with boldness, courage, and love of God and neighbor so that we may be witnesses and prophets of this true joy.

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. Facilitator: Deacon John Schopp and his Parish Evangelization Team.

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 available the first weekend of March after all Masses 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.
God is in the Overcoming...

We like to identify God with a day that goes well, speaking of God's presence in terms of “blessings.” Sometimes we go so far as to equate God's presence with our success or happiness. There is some truth to this, but such perceptions of God greatly limit our capacity to recognize holy presence every day.

More often than not, God is in the overcoming, the action we take in order to navigate the constant difficulties of life. When we solve a problem, face the truth, wrestle with a decision, suffer through illness, wait for help, learn to pray, lend a hand, or admit our doubt—these are the situations in which holy energy is powerfully at work. God's love is not static; it moves and acts within our real circumstances. Holy life is not some pretty scene to admire; God is in the doing, in the living, and the growing.

So as you overcome today's challenges—in your workplace, in your relationships, and in those problematic regions of the heart—know that God's love is pulsing through your struggle. Holy wisdom informs your soul as you wonder and ponder. And the grace of God walks right along with you, toward the change you need and the joy you desire.  Used with permission Loyola Press 2014.

What is Spiritual Direction?

Our real Spiritual Director is the Holy Spirit, yet sometimes in all the busyness and noise, it is hard for us to hear that voice. When we stop and really listen, we can see that not only is God there, but he's also moving us and calling us over and over in the little things in our lives.

Spiritual Direction, also called Spiritual Companioning, is basically sacred listening to the story of our lives. It can happen in groups or in one-on-one sessions in which the companion helps you to listen to where and how God is present in your day-to-day experiences. Spiritual direction is an ancient ministry of the church that is for all of us, lay and religious, men and women. It was renewed by Vatican Council II.

People may come to Spiritual Direction because of a crisis such as death, divorce or illness. Others are referred to by a priest. You can also choose to come on your own. All you need is a desire to look more deeply at your life.

It allows you the time to be present and reflect on your life, your own sacred story. The result of Spiritual Direction can be an easier ability to recognize God’s Presence and Grace as you develop a closer relationship with God.

“We define Christian spiritual direction as help given by one Christian to another which enables that person to pay attention to God’s personal communication to him or her, to respond to this personally communicating God, to grow in intimacy with this God, and to live out of the consequences of this relationship.”  ~William A Barry, SJ and William Connolly, SJ

Are you interested in learning more about spiritual direction? Marianne Firlit is a spiritual director with an office in the rectory. Contact Marianne at mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org or through the parish center.
Richard Rohr Meditations on Love

To Love Is to Allow Something to Flow Through Us

Jesus commanded us to love; so we know love is not just a feeling, since we cannot command feelings. Love is mostly a decision.

Jesus did not say:
When you get healed, love;
When you grow up, love;
When you feel loving, love;
When you get it together and have dealt with all your mother/father/husband/children wounds, then you must love.

No, the commandment for all of us is to LOVE now, and thus fill the tragic gaps of every moment.

I think we know the love of God when we ourselves can “do love” much more than when people tell us we are loveable (that just feels good!). We can always disbelieve the second, but the first is an unexplainable power from Beyond ourselves. We know we are being used, and the “Living Water” is flowing through us (John 7:38).

Great Love & Great Suffering

We must learn to be able to think and behave like Jesus, who is the archetypal human being. This becomes a journey of great love and great suffering. These are the two normal and primary paths of transformation into God, preceding all organized religion. This journey leads us to a universal love where we don’t love just those who love us. We must learn to participate in a larger love—divine love.

In this, God utterly leveled the playing field and made grace available from the first moment of creation when “God’s Spirit overshadowed the chaos” (Genesis 1:2). Surely the God who created all things was thus available to all creation, starting with the so-called Stone Age people and the natives of all continents, and yes, even the barbarians. I can only assume that they loved and suffered too and thus met God, “who is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

Any journey of great love or great suffering makes us go deeper into our faith and eventually into what can only be called universal truth. Love and suffering are finally the same, because those who love deeply are committing themselves to eventual suffering, as we see in Jesus. And those who suffer often become the greatest lovers.

Our faith is lived in schools and parishes, soup kitchens and counseling centers, on street corners and in churches, where people of all backgrounds in every neighborhood of the Archdiocese of Chicago are served.

Your gift to the Annual Appeal helps to sustain Catholic schools, religious education, ministerial formation, and initiatives for life, peace and justice. Through its support of Catholic Relief Services, the Appeal serves people worldwide, without regard for religious affiliation, whose lives are devastated by natural disasters, illnesses, wars and famines.

Please make a pledge to the 2014 Annual Catholic Appeal. You may respond to your in-home mailing or during our upcoming commitment weekend.

Your contributions are deeply appreciated, very much needed and make a real difference in the lives of many.
Lifelong Catechesis: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading
Matthew 5:13-16
Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Background on the Gospel Reading
Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus’ time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew’s Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus’ call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today’s Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as “a city set on a mountain” that cannot be hidden!

Strengthened by the Spirit, Called to Action
This weekend 245 of our parish 8th graders received the sacrament of Confirmation. Here is a short refresher on Confirmation.

In a nutshell: Confirmation enriches the baptized with the strength of the Holy Spirit so that they can be better witnesses to Christ in word and deed (ccc 1285). Anointed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Christians strengthen their bond with the Church and become better equipped to carry out the Church’s mission of love and service.

In the Gospels, the same Spirit that descended on Jesus during Baptism descends on the Apostles at Pentecost - which is the same Spirit that is shared at Confirmation.

At Confirmation we receive diverse spiritual gifts that work together for the common good and the building up of the Church, to the well-being of humanity and to the needs of the world. The 7 gifts are wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord – to assist us in our mission and witness.

Sealed with the gift of the Spirit at Confirmation, we are strengthened for ongoing service in the Body of Christ in the Church and in the world. It prepares us to be active participants in the Church’s mission and to “bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds” (ccc 1316). Thus, Confirmation is not only an anointing, but also a commissioning to live out our faith in the world.

At Confirmation, we pray not only for our children receiving the sacrament, but also for an increase of the gifts of the Spirit in our own lives in order to serve the cause of justice and peace in the Church and the world.

Reflection Questions: What gifts have you been given? How are you called to use those gifts to benefit others? Who are you called to be? What are you called to do with your life? Source: USCCB

Readings for the Week

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www.stjohnofthecross.org 2-9-14 page 5 praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Be A Great Valentine—Give the Gift of Words
Are you looking for a meaningful Valentine’s Day without spending a dime? Share the gifts below.

Gift of Words #1 – Compliment Your Mate Inside and Out
There are two types of compliments: those that address a person’s outer appearance and those that address a person’s inner character. Surprisingly, our research shows 84% of people prefer to receive a character compliment as in, “You are an incredibly kind person,” over a comment like “Your hair looks great.” Start sharing character comments with your honey today.

Gift of Words #2 – Show You Care
We all experience unique events during our busy days so when our spouse shows interest in our day’s happenings it creates an immediate loving bond with him/her. Find something in your spouse’s schedule on Valentine’s Day (and other days too) such as a special meeting, an important errand, or a doctor’s appointment, and call/text/email mid-day to specifically ask how it went.

Gift of Words #3 – Talk Forward
If you want to have a special Valentine’s Day, it’s important to persuade your spouse that he or she is special to you everyday, not just on Valentine’s Day. Do this by “talking forward.” Take charge and make a thoughtful plan for the future. On Valentine’s Day, say, “I’d like to make a special plan for us next month. Let’s go to __________. [Fill-in with something your spouse enjoys, such as a museum, the theatre, shopping, a road trip, etc.]? What do you think?”

Gift of Words #4 – Make an Offer
If you want to receive instant love and appreciation from your honey, volunteer to do something for your mate before he or she asks you to do it. For example, offer to pick something up at the store, offer to repair something, prepare dinner or offer to put your kids to bed (if you don’t usually). A surefire way to boost your love life is to make an offer. It says to your mate, I care about you and when you’re happy, I’m happy.

Gift of Words #5 – Be Memorable
Do and say memorable things this Valentine’s Day and year round. Instead of dining out, create a candlelit indoor picnic. Sing karaoke together. Arrange for a massage—together. Post love notes in surprising places. Buy a lasting plant instead of flowers. Phone your spouse to give a heartfelt comment during the day like, “I love you because…..”
You will spark love and romance this Valentine’s Day (and the year through) by showering your sweetheart with the priceless gift of words.

by Laurie Puhn, Harvard-educated lawyer, couples mediator and bestselling author of “Fight Less, Love More: 5-Minute Conversations to Change Your Relationship Without Blowing Up or Giving In.” Article adapted from “Fight Less, Love More.”

Are You Searching for a Life Partner?
Loving and wise Father, I pray for the light of Your wisdom and guidance as I search for true friendship that will lead me to find my suitable partner in life. Help me to patiently wait for the right person who will be my companion for all my life.

Bless me Lord, that I may grow in these virtues: deep respect for life and for people, kindness, sincerity and generosity. Teach me to become unselfish and forgiving of others. I ask for the grace to be prepared for the commitment that I will eventually make to the particular person who will be your gift to me.

Lord, accompany me all the days of my life. Draw me closer to you so that I will be able to discern your will for me. Give me the courage to decide not according to what others want, not even according to what I alone want. But may I always place my desires in accord with the designs of your heart so that may experience real peace and joy that can only come from you.

Amen.

The source of joy is that we perfect one another in love and bring that perfection to God to mirror his infinite perfection.
(John Main, Door to Silence)

0 Light of the world, teach us how to love.

The only power we can trust absolutely is the power of Christ who humbled himself. His is the power of pure love.
(John Main, Door to Silence)
Strong Catholic Parents

Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

Open

It’s a painful day when your child comes home from school or play feeling broken-hearted and betrayed by friends. His or her natural reaction—and sometimes ours—is likely to become angry and spiteful. Your child may stop trusting because it’s easy for a heart to harden. But Jesus calls us to live openheartedly, ready to reconcile, trust, and forgive. That’s a tough lesson to master, but one that is at the very heart of being a disciple of Jesus (“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass”). We parents do our children no favors when we encourage resentment or spite. Instead, through our words and especially our example, we can invite them to the deeper satisfaction of living with hearts that are open to trust, forgiveness, and love. —Tom McGrath

Family Connection

The widespread use of electricity in our society may make us less aware of the value and importance of light. To re-engage with the power of the metaphor that Jesus offers, gather your family in a darkened room. Bring only one flashlight.

Sit together for a minute and consider what you are able to do and see in so little light. You might try opening the Bible to see whether you can read today’s Gospel. Turn on the flashlight and experiment to see how one might use it to achieve the greatest amount of light. Then read today’s Gospel by the light of the flashlight. Ask everyone to consider what it means to say that Christians are to be the light of the world. How might your family act in a way that is a light for others, a light that is worthy to put on a lamp stand? Choose one thing that your family will do this week to show that you are the light of the world. You might choose to participate in an activity that your parish sponsors, such as help with a food pantry. Pray together by singing “This Little Light of Mine.”

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St. Valentine: February 14th

There was a priest named Valentine who lived in Rome in the third century. He was put in prison because he helped some Christians who were going to be executed by a cruel emperor named Claudius. While Valentine was in prison, he healed the chief warder’s daughter, who was blind, and the warder and all his family became Christians. When Emperor Claudius heard this, he said that Valentine should be executed. And so, on February 14 in the year 269, Valentine was killed.

In the same year, another man named Valentine, who was the bishop of Terni (about sixty miles from Rome), was also put to death by Emperor Claudius for being a Christian. Neither saint seems to have anything to do with lovers. So where do the traditions come from? Some say it is because on February 14th year (in the northern hemisphere) birds pair up and start mating. Others say the day is special for lovers because at that time of year there had been a pagan Roman festival named Lupercalia, when young men took part in a kind of lottery to find a partner. But Lupercalia has nothing to do with either Saint Valentine! Used with permission Loyola Press 2014

We are all called to be children of the light.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing:

Today’s Gospel Reading

Step One: Listen to the Word

What images do the words Light and Salt create in your mind’s eye? When you hear and imagine those things, do you use your eyes and your taste buds when you hear them?

Step Two: Look into your Life

Question for Children: What can you do to bring the light of Jesus into the lives of your family, friends, and people you meet?

Question for Youth: How do you feel when Jesus says that YOU are the salt of the earth and that YOU are called to be the light for others?

Question for Adults: What specific efforts do you take to maintain your light? Do you let your light dim? Why?

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

www.stjohnofthecross.org  2-9-14  page 7  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
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.

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

Elizabeth Leslie, daughter of Jon and Suzanne (Hardy) VonDruska
Godparents: Jon Wrubel and Lisa Wrubel
Proxies: Mark Hardy and Marjorie Hardy

James Michael, son of Kevin and Brianne (Balluff) Condron
Godparents: Brian Condron and Brittany Balluff Condron

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.
Parish School

Youth Catechesis News

When did I see you hungry?
Jesus calls us to social justice. Dignity of the human person is clearly seen through our eyes when we serve. How do we treat others in need? This year 7th graders have focused a lot on service for Confirmation, but it’s not just for Confirmation. It’s to open your eyes to a larger world and how we react in it.

7th Grade Students
Come ignite your servant heart with the love of Christ!

Sunday 6:30-8:30 pm
February 9

In the Parish Center ~ for all 7th grade students & small group leaders. This presentation replaces your regular group meeting, please check in with your leader for attendance purposes.

Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me Matthew 25: 37-40

YC Schedule

| Classes K-6 | 10:15-11:30am | Sunday, Feb 9 & 23 |
| FFC | 6:15-7:30pm | Monday, Feb 10, 24 |
| 7th Grade | Noon-1:30 pm | Sunday, March 2 |
| 7th Grade at Parish Center | Sun, Feb 9-evening speaker |
| In small groups | Sun, Feb 23 |
| 8th Grade at Parish Center | Sunday, Feb 23-evening speaker |
| Special Needs | Sunday, Feb 23 |

The YC Office is CLOSED February 17th for Presidents Day.

This week our eighth graders participated in the Invention Convention. This is an integral part of our science and language arts curriculum. Each eighth grade student conceives, develops and produces a new invention that challenges their critical thinking skills. They are encouraged to look around their environment for a problem that needs to be solved. Not only do they solve the problem, but they develop a prototype, write a business plan, and contact a business presenting their project. The students take great pride in their projects as they display them for community judges, their parents and friends, along with our school community.

This Week At SJC

Wednesday, Feb. 12, Pre School Tea, 10:45a.m.
Thursday, Feb. 13, All School Liturgy, 9:15 a.m.
Pre School Tea, 10:45 a.m.
Pre School Tea, 2:45 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14, School is in Session—Make up Snow Day Valentine’s Day Parties, School

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Courtney Therese Aldridge
Lianne Cecelia Awah
Louis Jordan Banda
Ryan John Barker
Andrew Andrew Barnicle
Michael John Becker
Emily Clare Best
Kelly Barbara Bidstrup
Emma Brigid Bjeldanes
McKenzie Rose Blaze
Jennifer Julia Blouin
Tara Elizabeth Brankin
Mary Grace Anne Brennan
Richard Francis Brennan
Will Xavier Brodlo
Conor Michael Broeking
Ericka Elizabeth Bruce
Johnathan Francis Brunner
Sean Patrick Brynda
Sidney Catherine Bugaieski
Alanah Clare Buinauskas
Donald Jude Buonavolanto
Megan Margaret Burke
John George Callaghan
Nicolas Ferdinand Camba
Grant Francis Campbell
John Francis Carinato
Griffin Patrick Casey
Kylee Katharine Casey
Alexander Vincent Cefali
Jacob Francis Chinthagada
Yoonie Cecilia Cho
Danielle Ann Chopp
Giovanni Farina Cirone
Thomas Joseph Clancy
Frank David Colonna
Elizabeth Sarah Conboy
John Raymond Cooley

Maeve Elizabeth Cooney
Marc Francis Cordero
Cameron Matthew Cowan
Elizabeth Barbara Craig
Mackenzie Cecilia Cronin
Timothy Huebert Curley
Lindsey Elizabeth Cwik
Marisa Mary Darrus
Samuel Andrew Dillon
Olivia Catherine DiMonte
Michael Joseph Dombkowski
Anabella Lucia Dougherty
Emma Therese Doyle
Jacquelyn Bridget Doyle
Julia Elizabeth Doyle
Mackenzie Catherine Drummond
Kelly Margaret Dunleavy
Nora Bridget Dunleavy
Mary Patricia Durkin
Maximilian Pio Eckardt
Jenna Elizabeth Elliott
Tessa Isabella Elliott
Olivia Bernadette Evans
Alek Andrew Fedyk
Daniel Kevin Feldmeier
Lauren Bridget Ferguson
Emma Teresa Fink
Colleen Elizabeth Finn
Gioacchino Severus Fornaro
Kayla Catherine Frederick
Kaylie Sarah Fiedan
Mitchell Anthony Gardner
Luke Dominic Garrett
James Vincent Gazis
Gillian Elizabeth Geraci
Joseph Paul Gilger
Samantha Francis Gleason
John Patrick Gloor
Kathleen Therese Goldman
John Anthony Gordon
John Joseph Grace
Grace Rose Gremer
Sarah Ann Grier
Sophie Lucy Griffith

Confirmation
Melissa Kateri Grimes
Ryan Isidore Grunsten
Emma Mary Hackett
John Patrick Hangsterfer
Evelyn Francis Hanns
Jenna Margaret Hans
Nora Cecelia Hennessy
Margaret Elizabeth Herr
Ryan Joseph Hiatt
Caroline Genevieve Higney
Patrick Christopher Hincks
Garrett Andre Hinshaw
Jade Alexandria Hofbauer
Nina Cecilia Hoffman
John Peter Hogan
Thomas Francis Hogan
Cheryl Claire Hohi
Kassidy Jude Hollinger
Jacob Sebastian Holous
Madison Catherine Holt
Sophia Horowicz
Daniel Patrick Hudetz
Caroline Therese Hughes
Christopher George Hummel
Dominic Paul Janusek
Emily Rose Johans
Elizabeth Clare Juracic
Lily Maria Kedzuch
Kevin Patrick Keller
Claire Catherine Kelly
Katherine Katherine Kessler
Michael Patrick King
Margaret Lucy Koch
Grace Katherine Koerner
Luka Peter Kosic
Jenna Juliette Kourafas
Jessica Joan Kowalski
Daniel Sebastian Kramer
Joseph Francis Kreikemeier
Maria Rose Krug
Mary Ann Anne Kuffell
Congratulations

Mariah Patricia Kulhanek
Alexander Gerald Kuntz
Karyssa Blaise Labayan
Aaron Anthony Lack
Lily Therese Larmmon
Kaelan Catherine Lee
Maev Anne LeFevour
Bella Juliana Lestina
David Francis Letsinger
MaryClaire Elizabeth Lewis
Cassandra Elizabeth Ann Linares
Natalie Catherine Liotta
Bridget Therese Lockie
Lisa Cecilia Lopez
Madison Therese Lukowski
Max Patrick Madro
Quinn Noel Maloney
Greta Anthony Markey
Andrew Peter Marquardt
Michael Michael Martino
Benjamin Valentine Matschke
Kayla Francis May
Max Leo May
Madeleine Maria Mazur
John Andrew McCarthy
Aidan Francis McCauley
Erin Maria McGarry
Thomas George McHugh
Otto Vladimir Meccia
Gabrielle Elizabeth Meyer
Stella Clare Michalowski
Elaina Angela Milani
Irene Bernadette Minik
Michael Richard Mitchell
Victoria Victoria Molitor
Robert Anthony Montesano
Thomas Paul Moody
James Michael Moore
Katherine Chiara Moore
Christine Mary Moravek
Kathryn Hope Morrissey
Natalie Catherine Mortell
Nicholas George Murphy
Jacqueline Anne Musur
Hannah Noel Niew
Charles Paul O’Connor
Hugh Patrick O’Donnell
Hannah Vitus Olenec
Meaghan Cecilia O’Neill
Katherine Margaret Owens
Allison Joan Ozark
William Joseph Pacella
Bowe Andrew Pearson
Salvatore James Penachio
Kara Joan Pender
Madeleine Mary Pergantis
Matthew George Petromilli
Matthew Paul Piento
Andrew Andre Pierpaoli
Trenton John Powers
Kaitlyn Gemma Quagliano
Charlotte Elizabeth Quinn
Robert Patrick Rafanelli
Joseph Christopher Rafferty
Joie Juliana Reisch
Tate James Riordan
Alexander Lawrence Rivera
Roland Nicholas Rondez
Nora Marie Rooney
Michael John Rotolo
Joseph Ignatius Runnells
Sara Therese Salvino
Jacob Xaviar Santi
Thomas Sebastian Scannell
Lauren Katharine Schissler
Michael Martin Scudder
Emily Bernadette Seyfarth
Connor Nicholas Shannon
Tess Brigid Shannon
Erin Jane Sharkey
Nicholas Nicholas Siciliano
Brandt Pius Siegfried
Michael Michael Smith
Emily Maria Snorewicz
Benjamin Alfonso Sommers
Sophia Faith Sorrentino
Scott Florian Spinazola
Anthony Peter Staiano
Dylan Mark Stark
Griffin Patrick Stark
Lauren Anne Stibich
Jack Sebastian Suedbeck
Erin Lucy Sullivan
Anne Elizabeth Swade
Emilio Ambrose Tamez
William Louis Tarnow
Alisha Angela Ther
Analiese Teresa Tisa
Matthew Matthew Tobin
Brooke Rose Tomsik
Ricardo Francis Torres, Jr.
Lexie Bernadette Totaro
Sebastian Sebastian Tramontana
John Patrick Tuohy
Lauren Rita Turano
Nicoe Francis Turano
Casey Andrew VanSpankeren
Allison Cecilia Vavra
Matthew Sebastian Vear
George Peter Vecchio
Michael Michael Viscariello
Griffin Sebastian Vizgirda
Sophia Veronica Vlahos
Jillian Marie Wallace
Dylan Luke Ward
Owen Sebastian Waunn
Avery Valentine White
Madelyn Veronica Williams
Megan Catherine Wilson
William Nicholas Wojcicki
Christina Maria Wyckoff
Max Mark Zator
Crossroads Family News

It's not quite too late to get in on our summer service & learning adventures! Packets are online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/work-tours and FORMS DUE ASAP so you can join formation!

Teens are able to: * build community with peers & adults * pray & reflect * serve others *live simply without technology
Questions? Contact our work tour team:
Joe Gazdacka gazzyjoe@aol.com
Aaron Bubis aaron.bubis@live.com
Elizabeth Januska elizabethpj@sbcglobal.net

Outreach

Cookies are needed for Western Springs Off the Street Club Circle of Friendship Party

Off the Street Club, the oldest boys and girls club in Chicago, is a home away from home for more than 3,000 children from the city's West Side. The Club offers kids ages 4 to 18 a safe haven from the gangs, drugs and violence that pervade the neighborhood.

We hope to provide cookies for the annual Circle of Friendship Party for 200 children on March 1. Please drop off your baked cookies or bars (1/2 dozen per paper plate) at the Parish Center February 26 through the 28th on the designated table Thank you for your help. Questions? Contact Debbie Pusinelli (708) 246-6760 ext. 251, pusinelli@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Feb. 9 Update Meeting, Laser Tag outing, Home Group Meetings
Feb. 17 FMSC service trip
Feb. 22 First Work Tour Formation Mtg
Feb. 23 Home Group Meetings
March 7 Fish Fry

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

TEENS & ADULTS can still sign up for our afternoon at Feed My Starving Children on February 17th.
Go online to www.fmsc.org
Find Group Registrations & search Crossroads
Adults willing to drive please call Lis Williams, lisbethwill@sbcglobal.net

Drake University Choir is touring through the Western Springs/LaGrange area Thursday, March 13th. They need families to host 2 college students for 1 night. Please consider supporting these young people who are giving their musical gifts to others during their spring break!
For criteria as well as any questions contact fellow Parishioner and SJC Choral alumni Tom Florian at thomas.florian@drake.edu

Contact us at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or crossroads@stjohnofthecross.org

www.stjohnofthecross.org 2-9-14

Plan, now, to celebrate a Black History Month Liturgy with our first sharing parish, St. Thaddeus, at their 10:30am Mass on Sunday, February 23. Their lively celebration will feature a tribute to a special person in the African American Community, as well as, a wonderful meal and fellowship. Our visits are always welcomed and appreciated! If you are interested in attending, contact Bill Bright at the Parish Center, 246-4404, ex. 130.

Interfaith Career Network
Career Transition Workshop
Join us on Tuesday, February 11 from 7-9 pm at First Presbyterian Church of La Grange for the second session of our five-week workshop. Keynote speaker, Dennis Hamilton, will provide a presentation on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments. Come to one or all of the consecutive Tuesday sessions and gain new skills that will help you land a new position. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com.

Resume Revamp
Join us on Thursday, February 20 from 7-9 pm at St. Cletus Education Building in La Grange.

Free Resume Review
Join us on Saturday, February 22 from 9-11 am at St. Cletus Education Building.
Parish News

Please help us in welcoming our new members to the St. John of the Cross faith community:

Anne Dills and Daniel Schovain
Alma and Ricardo Fabara and Family
Cianne and Carlo LaForgia and Family
Melissa and Eddie Hernandez and Family
Darlene Swan
Joanna and Andrew Waterman

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 erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

Moms Club
Attention mothers 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. Please consider joining us for our next meeting. Friday, February 21, 9:30-11:00a.m., Parish Center

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Wednesday, February 12, 1–2:30pm, in the Parish Center. Knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you would like to make your shawl at home, it can then be dropped off at the Parish Center or call one of us to pick it up. For further information, or if you know anyone ill, going through treatment, or other difficulties of life, who would appreciate a prayer shawl or laprobe, call Mary 708-246-5108 or Sheila 708-246-7836. It is a meaningful way of expressing the care and support of the faith community to those in need.

swing into spring
Thursday Evening, March 6, 2014

Grab your fashion forward girlfriends and enjoy an evening of runways, boutique shopping, auction items, fabulous raffle prizes and more, at the 2014 Fashion Show sponsored by SJC Women's Club.

All proceeds go to many worthy local causes including Center for Independence, Helping Hand, Kolbe House, Almost Home Kids, Girl Forward and The LeaderShop, to name a few.

Giving back looks great on you! See you on March 6th.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the SJC Women's Club website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/womens-club-fashion-show/
In our normal, daily lives we are invariably so self-preoccupied that we find it difficult to be able to accord others the same reality and value we give to ourselves. In brief, it's difficult for us to live in true empathy because we are forever consumed with our own heartaches and headaches. From two famous intellectuals, one speaking philosophically and the other psychologically, we get that same insight.

Rene Descartes, as we know, famously suggests that all true thinking must begin with our own reality: I think, therefore I am. His logic works this way: What's the only thing you can know that's real, beyond all doubt? His answer: Your own mind. You know that your own mind is real because you are inside of it. You are real, you can be sure that, but you might be imagining or dreaming everything else. Sigmund Freud, centuries later, coming from another angle, reaches basically the same conclusion. For Freud, we are forever so excessively self-preoccupied that we are unable to see other peoples' lives as being just as real as ours.

If that's true, and certainly there's truth there, then it's not surprising that real empathy and genuine generativity are a struggle for us since both are predicated precisely on being able to accord to other peoples' heartaches and headaches the same reality and importance that we give to our own. But it's hard to do this: It's hard to give to others without some level of self-interest being involved. It's hard to have wholly pure motives in serving others. It's hard to know other people's heartaches in the same way as we know our own. It's hard to be purely altruistic. And ... especially it's hard to overcome this!

Why? Don't sympathy and empathy come naturally to us? Sympathy and empathy do come naturally to us, but, like everything else, they come mixed with a lot of other things. What things?

First, sympathy and empathy come mixed with our more-primal instincts for survival. We aren't born generous and empathic, we're born needy, hungry, and instinctually driven for survival. As newborns, we are so consumed with our own survival that we have to grow into an awareness of the reality of others. Nature brings us into this world this way in order to ensure that we do what it takes to survive and this greatly mitigates our empathy. Moreover, beyond how nature has built us, our early experiences soon do further damage to our empathic capacities. Simply put, none of us gets loved purely and wholly and, long before we reach our adulthood, all of us have lost our wholeness. As adults, we are, all of us, to some degree, wounded, fearful, and given over to habits of self-preservation which weaken our empathy.

It works this way: We come into this world with great adaptability. As babies, every instinct inside us works towards life and because of this, unconsciously, we do whatever it takes to stay alive and we adapt to whatever (food, shelter, clothing, language, environment) we need to adapt to in order to stay alive. The adaptations we make as young children help ensure our survival but then leave us wounded in ways that make genuine empathy difficult later in life.

What can we do about all of this? There aren't any easy answers, psychologically or spiritually, and to suggest that there are isn't helpful. We are dealing with deeply engrained instincts that don't sway just because they are intellectually understood and with wounds that need to be healed through the heart. At the end of the day, what would cure us and open our hearts to empathy and real generativity is the experience of genuine, non-exploitive love. But we can't make others love us in this way and we struggle mightily to feel God's love for us when others don't love us this in way. Moreover we are caught-up in vicious circle: the very wounds that need to be healed through love are the very things that are making it difficult for others to love us. Love is the answer. It would make us whole, but we cannot will this love upon ourselves. So what can we do?

First, we can admit the problem, admit our lack of wholeness, admit our wounds, admit our excessive self-preoccupation, and admit our lack of empathy. That's a start. Second, we can humbly seek help from others, from family, friends, recovery groups, therapists. An honest, request for help, usually brings some help. Coupled with this, we can expose ourselves more regularly to the poor (of every kind) and their needs and this will help baptize us into empathy and generativity. Few things have the power to draw us out beyond our own wounds and help us to be self-forgetful as standing before the needy. Finally, we need to seek God's help by throwing ourselves, in prayer, upon God's wholeness, asking God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, namely, see others as being as real as we are.

Rev. Ron Rolheiser
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
This Week at SJC

Monday, February 10
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation  
1:00 p.m. Little Rock  
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, February 11  
9:05 a.m. Rosary  
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group  
7:00 p.m. School Parent Meeting  
7:00 p.m. RCIA  
7:00 p.m. SJC Teacher Recognition Trust

Wednesday, February 12  
9:30 a.m. Bridges  
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry  
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, February 13  
9:30 a.m. Moms Club  
9:30 a.m. Flourish Plus  
6:30 p.m. Fostering Faith  
7:00 p.m. Faith Sharing Group

Friday, February 14  
7:30 a.m. Staff Development

Saturday, February 15  
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation  
9:00 a.m. Men’s Club, Speaker Michael Lotus  
6:00 p.m. Beloved

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Barbara Bailey, mother of Jim and Brian  
Nellie DiPompeo, mother of Frank DiPompeo  
Larry Dougherty, husband of Susan and father of Gabrielle, Thomas and Anabella

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 10, St. Scholastica  
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Kevin McGuire; Dolores Williams

Tuesday, February 11  
7:45 Marie McBride; Thomas Van Winkle

Wednesday, February 12  
7:45 Gloria Oechsel; Robert & Dorothy Kreikemeier

Thursday, February 13  
7:45 Kathleen O’Flaherty; Ted & Tom Baer

Friday, February 14, Ss. Cyril Monk and Methodius  
7:45 Barbara Mann; Thomas Baer

Saturday, February 15  
8:00 Michael Shafranski; Angela Lidinsky  
5:00 Rose Adducci; Carmilla Cosenza

Sunday, February 16, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
7:30 Lawinger Family; James M. O’Hara  
9:00 Robert McNulty; Mikel Dodd  
10:45 Mary L. Keenan; Mary & Cerillos Trinco  
12:15 Thomas & Kathleen Stack; Ted & Leona Rompala  
5:00 Harry Milani; George Fields

Pray for our Sick

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<td>Frank Accardi</td>
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<td>Paul Cervony</td>
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<td>William Dwyer</td>
<td>McNamara</td>
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<td>Melissa Dwyer</td>
<td>Fr. William</td>
<td>John Shea</td>
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<td>Eldredge</td>
<td>Mannion</td>
<td>Guy Thomas</td>
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<td>Audra Frolik</td>
<td>Mary Ann Matysik</td>
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<td>Mark Giangrande</td>
<td>Vickie McNally</td>
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<td>Maria Hanson</td>
<td>Jay Meehan</td>
<td>Pam Wilson</td>
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<td>Karen Hult</td>
<td>John Munch</td>
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<td>Barbara Jacob</td>
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<td>Dee Kennedy</td>
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<td>Rosie King</td>
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May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, with Mary the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph and all the angels and saints...May you return to your Creator who formed you from the dust of the earth...May you receive your Redeemer face to face.

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

Rev. David P. Dowdle  
Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell  
Rev. Filbert F. Ngwila  
Deacon John Schopp  
Bill Bright  
Janet Caschetta  
Jim Clauer  
Laura Dragich  
Kathleen Gorman  
Katie Hayes  
Jessica Koch  
MJ Martin  
Elizabeth Russell-Jones  
Reverend  
Pastor Emeritus  
Associate Pastor  
Deacon  
Outreach  
Youth Catechesis  
Worship  
Reservations  
School Principal  
Crossroads  
Music  
Operations  
Welcome  
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khayes@stjohnofthecross.org  
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org  
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org  
erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
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 Schmitt at 246-1619.

Name: ________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________
Number of Guests: ___________
Total Enclosed: $_____________

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<tr>
<th>Guest Name</th>
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