Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build up the Kingdom of God.

Sunday, February 23, 2014
From the Desk of Fr. David

Dear Parishioners,

This is the weekend for the Annual Catholic Appeal. This will be my 7th time asking you to donate to this archdiocesan appeal. While there was some uncertainty on both our parts (if not yours, then definitely on mine) when we first did this, at this point it seems 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. Importantly, proceeds from the Appeal are not a part of any financial settlements resulting from the misbehavior that has been in the news lately. (The archdiocese has funded settlements through the sale of real estate.)

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.

There is an illusion that our parish has endless resources. We are in a stronger financial position than some parishes because our buildings are paid for, we are not repaying any loans and we have (modest) savings that allow us to keep up with major maintenance issues in a timely fashion. Our Plant Manager, Frank DiPompeo has done an excellent job of staying on top of routine maintenance that extends the life of our buildings and equipment. He cannot however, stop the march of time. The Parish Center mechanicals have out lasted their life expectancy and we are always aware of the age of the different roofs. In addition, with the hard winter we are experiencing this year we expect to go over budget on snow removal. Cement, asphalt and roof repair from the extreme temperatures (freeze-thaw cycles) are items we had not anticipated in the budget process. The Annual Catholic Appeal rebate will help us cover these unexpected items and plan ahead for the bigger ticket expenses.

The Sunday offertory is the most stable and dependable source of budgeted income. Many of you have quietly increased your Sunday offering and it helps a lot. Thank you. The Sunday offertory has not been able to maintain the growth it had before the economic turndown. When ordinary operating expenses are not covered by the income generated from the Sunday offertory, the parish financial health has to rely on wills and bequests and additional sources of revenue. The Annual Appeal is such an additional source of parish revenue.

The archdiocese schedules the Appeal before Lent so that it does not detract from that important season. Please know that the Annual Catholic Appeal is important both to the archdiocese and to our parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Peace,
Fr. David
“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

Lent 2014: filled with the joy of Christ

“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. Use the registration form on the next page. Facilitator: Deacon John Schopp and his Parish Evangelization Team.

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.

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.

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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.
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

Lent—a time to deepen or renew our prayer and relationship with God. Matthew Kelly, in his book The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, says we need to develop the habit of daily silence, and that our prayer needs “routine” and has the “absolute need for simplicity and focus.”

Do you feel drawn to silence, to just being with God?

Jesus says, “Whenever you pray, go to your room, close your door, and pray to your Father in private…do not rattle on like the pagans…Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Mt.6:6-8. St. Paul tells us, “the Spirit too helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought..”  Rom.8:26.

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 free 6-Week Introduction to Christian Meditation is an opportunity for you to come and try it, especially if you are longing for “something more.”

Meditation is an ancient form of prayer. Its aim is to bring the distracted mind to silence and stillness, and to rest in the presence of God. Even in our modern, busy lives this is possible. This introductory series provides an opportunity to experience the practice of Christian Meditation in a small group, to learn about its origins, and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for today.

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:
Special 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.

Lent 2014: filled with the joy of Christ
Strong Catholic Parent

Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

Believe

You’re probably familiar with the phrase, “Seeing is believing.” It conveys a “doubting Thomas” brand of suspicion as in “I won’t believe it until I see the proof.” But Jesus had a different take. He tells us, “Believing is seeing!” The act of believing—that is, opening our hearts and losing our fears—can help us see that something better is possible in our present situation, no matter how dire it may seem. The very act of putting our trust and belief in the power of God opens our eyes to all sorts of possibilities, and that is certainly true in our families. With the eyes of faith, we parents can better see that God is at work in our home, helping us to be faithful, loving, generous, and, sometimes, even wise. —Tom McGrath

Family Connection

Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God’s family. Read aloud this Sunday’s Gospel, Matthew 5:38–48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God’s family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. Loyola Press

God’s Commandments are a Way of Life.

Step One: Listen to the Gospel

When you hear the word commandment, what do you feel? What did Jesus mean when he said he did not come to abolish but to fulfill the law of the prophets?

Step Two: Look into your Life

Question for Children: Which rules cause you the most difficulty? Why?

Question for Youth: In your own words, describe what the spirit of God’s law is.

Question for Adults: Have you considered that laws are made with love? Do you accept God’s love through his laws?

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

SJC Parish Moms’ Club Meeting

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 on Friday 2/28 at 9:30-11:00am in the Parish Center. Contacts: Ellen Twomey and Jen Van Wyck.

“Let us learn from Christ how to pray, to forgive, to sow peace, and to be near those in need.”

Pope Francis via Twitter - February 18 - 2014

You are invited

Sunday, March 16, 6pm

in the Parish Center for

“Catholic for a Reason” with 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.

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.

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 Parish. Babysitting is available. Please call 708-246-6760.

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Readings for the Week

### Monday
- Jas 3:13-18
- Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15
- Mark 9:14-29

### Tuesday
- Jas 4:1-10
- Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23
- Mark 9:30-37

### Wednesday
- Jas 4:13-17
- Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11
- Mark 9:38-40

### Thursday
- Jas 5:1-6
- Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-
- Mark 9:41-50

### Friday
- Jas 5:9-12
- Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12
- Mark 10:1-12

### Saturday
- Jas 5:13-20
- Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8
- Mark 10:13-16

### Sunday
- Isa 49:14-15
- Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
- 1 Cor 4:1-5
- Mark 6:24-34

#### Lifelong Catechesis

**Reflecting on Living the Gospel**

In this gospel, Jesus challenges us to go beyond our expected responses to human interactions. But, challenging as they are, his examples of this “beyond” are nonetheless still finite human actions and limited love. Jesus’ examples are shocking—but not nearly so shocking as what he really expects of us: “be perfect” as our “heavenly Father,” who gives life (“sun rise” and “rain”) to “the just and the unjust” alike. Infinite actions. Limitless love. What a challenge!

We see in Jesus’ life-giving actions a model of the heavenly Father’s perfection: his gift of compassion and healing to the sick and suffering; his gift of prophetic teaching for those hungering for the truth; his gift of love to disciples, friends, and persecutors alike; his gift of forgiveness to sinners; his total gift of self on the cross and in the Eucharist. This is a model for being perfect as the heavenly Father because all of Jesus’ life and ministry was directed toward unbounded love for others. To “be perfect” becomes the measure of our human responses, just as it is the measure of God’s responses to us. When we fall short of this kind of perfection-love (and we will!), God does not forsake us. God shows us the limitlessness of forgiveness and reconciliation, love and care, inclusiveness and generosity. The measure of our Gospel living is not “how much” but “how fulfilling.” Like Jesus, we are perfect as our heavenly Father when we steadily journey in our life toward the eternal perfection that is God’s ultimate gift to the faithful: fullness of Life.

**Closing Prayers:**
May we grow in a way of life reflecting the self-giving love of Jesus. May we grow in being perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Our Father . . .

**For Reflection:**
I experience God’s limitless love when . . . through . . . I am challenged to go beyond my finite human actions and limited love when . . .

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**Richard Rohr Meditation on Love**

**Love As the “Secret” & Best Way of Knowing**

The mystics, and those like Moses (Exodus 33:12-23), Jesus (John 5:19-20), and John the Divine (1 John 1:1-3) who personally claim to know God, are always aware that they have been let in on a big and wondrous love secret. Anyone not privy to an inner dialogue, that is, some kind of I-Thou relationship, would call such people presumptuous, emotional, foolish, or even arrogant.

How could they presume to claim an actual union with the divine? But this is without doubt “God’s secret, in which all the jewels of wisdom and knowledge are hidden” (Colossians 2:3). The insiders know that “anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8). Such an amazing, but seldom-quoted line lets you in on the big secret and also makes it universal and available to all.

**Hey, what’s with the ashes?**

Many of us have heard this question when we arrive at school, work, or home with the blackened cross on our forehead on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. During the celebration, children and adults process to the altar to receive ashes on their forehead in the shape of a cross, a sign of humility and contrition. The minister says, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" or “Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.”

**Ash Wednesday, March 5 Schedule at SJC**
- 6:30am Mass
- 7:45am Mass
- 9:15am School Mass
- 4:00pm Word & Ash Service
- 6:30pm Mass

You will find the 4pm service perfect for your family after school or great for those who can break away from work a little early that day. The Word Service lasts about 40 minutes.

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Grief Support

**Grief Support for Kids/Parent**
Tommy's Kids and Teens for Teens is a 6 week grief support group for children ages 4 to 17 who have experienced a significant loss due to death. Children/teens meet in age appropriate groups to participate in art and expressive activities. A support group for parents/caregivers meets at the same time the children/teens are meeting. Adults have the opportunity, through group interaction, to understand a child's grief and to experience support and encouragement for themselves.

*When:* 6 consecutive Thursdays, March 6th through April 10th  
*Time:* 6-7:30pm  
*Where:* Adventist St. Thomas Hospice 119 E Ogden, Suite 111, Hinsdale  

Group size is limited and registration is required. There is no cost to attend the groups. To register go to www.asthospice.org and click on Bereavement Services in the left margin or call for registration. Questions to Rosie Cohen Coordinator, rosemarie.cohen@ahss.org or 630-856-6993.

**Grief Programs at Loyola**
Call Nancy Kiel at 708-216-1646 to register. Loyola U Medical Center in Maywood

**Group Grief Support for Young Widow/Widower**
For adults 50 years of age and younger who are grieving the loss of a spouse. Wednesdays, March 5-April 9 from 6:30-8:00pm

**Adult Loss of a Parent Group**
For adult men and women who are grieving the loss of a parent. Mondays, March 10-April 14 from 6:30-8pm

**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.

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.

Parish News

**Post Abortion Retreat**

A weekend retreat for post-abortion healing is scheduled for April 4-6, 2014 at the Bishop Lane Retreat Center, located 10 miles SW of Rockford. Rachael's Peace is the interdenominational version of Rachel's Vineyard which is offered in Northern Illinois. The retreat offers hope and healing to any woman or man who has experienced an abortion. Visit: www.rachelspeace.com or www.facebook.com/Rachel's Peace for more information. A donation of $150 includes room, meals and retreat materials. Partial scholarships are available and participation is strictly confidential. For more information contact: Catherine Rennert 815-968-1157 or cathy.rennert@gmail.com

**Growing in Consciousness of our Connectedness in the Body of Christ**

*Saturday, March 1 from 9am-3pm*
*Facilitator: Michael Crosby*

Human beings have been called “creation-becoming-conscious-of-self.” This insight becomes even more awesome when people of faith discover the Christ that is at the heart of everything in creation. Michael Crosby will develop this theme that is discussed seminally in his book, Repair My House: Becoming a ‘Kindom’ Catholic.

**Cost:** FREE to SJC parishioners, includes lunch.

Register by calling the parish center by Wed. Feb. 26th

**The Well 1515 W Ogden Avenue**
LaGrange Park 708.482.5048

Michael Crosby is a Capuchin Franciscan with degrees in economics and New Testament spirituality. He is the author of many award-winning books.
Due to a very generous grant from the Jane McMillen Crowe Foundation, donated specifically for iPad usage in the classroom, we are piloting a one-to-one iPad program with our fourth graders. The parents met with Mrs. Gorman last week to discuss this exciting opportunity for our children. This week, they started with the iPad’s in many classes including their Learning Resource Center (LRC) time. Students wrote their own books using an app entitled Book Creator. This is just another way that SJC is up to date with many of the current trends in technology.

Parish School Families – Do you take advantage of Manna? This is a great fundraising program which earns money for SJC and provides tuition credits to participating families who purchase gift cards to be used at local and national retailers. Scan the QR code for more information.

**Confirmation**

February 7th and 8th. Bishop Rassas confirmed 243 students—please continue to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be ignited in all our youth!

**YC Schedule**

| Classes K-6 | 10:15-11:30am | Sunday, Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16 |
| FFC | 6:15-7:30pm | Mon, Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17 |
| 7th Grade | Noon-1:30 pm | Sunday, March 2 |
| 8th Grade | In small groups | Sunday Feb 23 |
| Special Needs | at Parish Center | Sun, Feb 23- speaker 6:30-8:30 pm |

**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)
Crossroads Calendar
Feb. 22 First Work Tour Formation Meeting
Feb. 23 Home Group Meetings
March 1 Service trip to Port Ministries
March 7 Fish Fry
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/events

Hey there Charlie! Lent is coming! Let’s go to the SJC Fish Fry. I hear they have the best tasting fish fry in town!

Crossroads-Men’s Club Fish Fry
First Friday in Lent: March 7th Parish Center
Pre-purchase tickets: Drop this form and money in an envelope marked Fish Fry to the parish center. Your tickets will be at the door.

Name: __________________________
Phone: __________________________
Check: 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!!

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

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Outreach

Interfaith Career Network
On Tuesday, February 25 at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Jim Peterson will coach on the fundamentals of networking and will provide job search tips for people over 50 or those re-entering the workforce. This workshop is designed for the employed, under-employed, and the unemployed. Join us for one or both of the remaining two consecutive Tuesday sessions. All sessions are free and open to all. Contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com.

Women’s Care Center of La Grange
Volunteers are needed to help women facing unexpected pregnancies. There are many ways to help: Volunteer: office and computer assistance, and lay counselors (training provided). Donate: new or gently used winter and spring maternity clothing, especially large and extra large sizes, diapers (sizes one, two, four and five) wipes, strollers in very good condition, and a three-drawer lateral filing cabinet. Provide Storage Space: Do you have an empty space in your basement? We need storage space for clothing and car seats. Contact Laura or Arlene at (708) 352-5000.

Support Misericordia:
Fundraiser on March 8 at Casino Night at Drury Lane Go to www.events.org/ misqueenofhearts for more information and to register online. Misericordia is home to 600 children and adults with mild to severe developmental disabilities.

St. John of the Cross Parish Outreach Quarterly Report
Sharing With and Serving Others: December-February, 2014
Outlined below are some of the many ways our parishioners have lived their faith as disciples of Jesus. The pursuit of justice is an essential part of the Catholic call to holiness, which is our true vocation: to live “in Christ,” and let Christ live and work in us in our world today. Look for updates each quarter from the Outreach Advisory Group.

Our Sharing Parishes received financial help totaling $13,800.00 during this quarter. Outreach efforts to our Sharing Parishes also included:

1 Assumption Parish: Kolbe House Jail Ministry: Donations of postage stamps, toiletries, clothing, and food donations were delivered to Kolbe House and clerical assistance was provided to their office.

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR): An SJC parishioner attended PBMR Seminar and a follow up meeting; Fr. Kelly and Sr. Donna worked with our 8th grade Confirmation candidates helping them to understand the mission of PBMR.

2 St. Thaddeus: Received Share Christmas donations, along with turkeys and hams for the holidays; SJC parishioners will join in the Black History month celebration at in February.

3 Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kentucky: SJC is building a relationship with their new pastor; a summer work tour for our teens and chaperones is scheduled for July 26 to Aug. 2.

4 Our Lady of Charity (OLC): Each week three SJC volunteers tutor several OLC school children; 2 of our parishioners serve on their School Board; 10 SJC Parishioners attended their major fundraiser, Snow Ball, where Bill Bright, received the first Catholic Education Award presented by the OLC Parish/School Community.

5 St. Mark: Teens from St. Mark Parish participated in our Harvest Saturday; 100 St. Mark families received gifts thru Share Christmas; SJC donated over 100 turkeys and hams over the holidays.

6 Holy Cross: Proceeds of $6,100.00 from our parish Livestock for Life Program were sent to Holy Cross to purchase chickens, goats, and pigs for selected families in Holy Cross Parish, Jinja.

Other Parish Outreach Efforts:
Annual Coat Drive: Each fall the Women’s Club sponsors a parish-wide collection. This year 443 coats were donated to St. Vincent DePaul and Ella Flagg School in Chicago.

Food Pantry in Church Narthex: 300 bags of nonperishable food items were delivered to 4 organizations during the months of Dec., Jan., and Feb.

Teen Volunteers: Crossroads teens offered friendship and hands-on help at Helping Hand Programs. A large group of Crossroads teens and parents hand-packed 100+ meals specifically formulated for malnourished children at the Feed My Starving Children site in Aurora.

YC Program: Dozens of homemade cookies were collected and distributed to Helping Hand, the La Grange Nurses Association, and Off the Street Club Circle of Friendship Party. Volunteers collected, sorted and delivered food for the annual Souper Bowl Sunday food collection and gave gifts for Share Christmas.

Parish School: Students in all grades learned about people with disabilities and how Helping Hand Center supports this population. Christmas parties focuses on service projects to help those in need. Families contributed to Share Christmas.

Share Christmas: Gifts were given to over 300 families and 1450 individuals at 7 parishes and 5 non-church organizations.

What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8
Thank You Fred Hesse
At the young age of 19 Fr. Bennett asked Fred to help by ushering...and 46 years later he is still faithfully ushering! Soon Fred and his family will be moving to Colorado to be closer to family. We wish Fred all the best, and thank him for his many years of dedicated service. On Sunday, February 16th, Fr. Dave presented a plaque to Fred and a small luncheon was enjoyed by the ushers. Thanks again Fred.

SJC Men’s Club Trivia Night Thank You!
Thank you to Kevin Cooney, Greg Koerner, Joe Durkin and Frank Sullivan for all of their efforts in organizing the event. Thank you to our prize donors:
Horton's     Q BBQ
Elite Fitness     L J Shaw & Co.
Hillgrove Wine               The Hot Dog Company

Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Scholarship Contest
The deadline for the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's scholarship contest is March 1st. Contestants must write a 300 word essay entitled “What it means to be a Catholic Woman Today.” The winner will receive a $1,000 scholarship a year for four years to the college or university of her choice. An application form is available on the ACCW website, www.accwchicago.org.

Fr. McDonnell Scholarship for High School Students: Applications are available in school, the Parish Center and online in the Women’s Club Section. The final due date is February 24.

WE INTERRUPT THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED WINTER SEASON FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR !!!
SPRING IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY!
The GARDENING ANGELS NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Please consider joining this well-established group to come and help with keeping our parish grounds well-manicured, weed-free, and watered. There are several “levels” of volunteerism – choose what works best for your schedule! Confirmation candidates and Crossroad Teens are invited to participate as well.

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP: This group helps at one or all of the following, weather permitting:
Spring Clean Up (anticipating April 12)
Planting Days (anticipating May 24 and June 7)
Mulching Day (anticipating June 21)
Autumn Clean Up (October-November)
Once a month (for a 2 hour shift during May-Aug.)

REGULAR WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS: These volunteers come to garden once each week for about two hours during the months of May - August. (Based on the number of volunteers and schedule availability we may be able to garden every other week.)

If you would like to be a part of this dedicated and energetic group or have additional questions, kindly contact: Jan Grabacki - 708/246-4610 (Home) or 630/204-5264 (Cell) or beaconjan@aol.com.

It doesn’t matter if you don’t know a flower from a weed. Your energy and enthusiasm are really all we need!!

Baking Cookies Service Project:
Off the Street Club formed a relationship that brings together Western Springs families and OTSC kids through a number of activities, including the annual Circle of Friendship Party. About 200 children are expected to attend this year’s party on March 1, at the Lyons Township High School Corral.
As part of the festivities, we hope to provide cookies. Please drop off your baked cookies or bars at the Parish Center February 26 through the 28th on the designated table in the foyer. Package your cookies 1/2 dozen (6) per paper plate. Questions? Contact Debbie Pusinelli at 708-246-6760 x 251, or pusinelli@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us.
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.

Logan Avery, daughter of Nicholas and Ann (Franklin) Zostautas
Samuel John, son of Jeffrey and Lindsay (Cochrane) Dulla
Nathan Peterson, son of Neil and Kristen (Peterson) Davies
William Leo, son of Grant and Katherine (Bright) Christenson

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

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.
Parish School Benefit
Join us for an exclusive benefit family performance for our parish school at the Theatre of Western Springs.

March 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
Reserve your spot now—only 400 seats available.
All seats are general admission.
Doors open at 7pm.
Please return this form with payment
Tickets: $15.00 per person

Name:______________________________
Number of Tickets ________ Total: ____________

Host Families Needed
Drake University Choir is touring through our area Thursday, March 13th. They need families to host 2 college students for 1 night. Contact fellow parishioner and SJC Choral alumni Tom Florian at thomas.florian@drake.edu

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

Maureen and Todd Powell and Family
Jamie and James Wideikis and Family
Joanna and Andrew Hanson and Family
Lisa and Scott Thyer
Kathryn and David Ninesling and Family
Vanessa and Michael Stanley 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.

Parish Advisory Council Meeting
Yesterday morning our PAC met for its winter meeting. Look for an update from Karin Teglia, our chairperson in next week’s bulletin!

The Tower Chorale Presents
Brahms Ein deutsches Requiem

March 2, at 3 pm Divine Infant Church
March 9, at 3pm
St. Gregory the Great Church, Chicago

Tickets are $20 Adult, $17 Senior/Students, Children 10 and under free. Tickets are available from singers, at the door, or call 708-505-9570 or see: www.towerchorale.org.
This Week at SJC

Monday, February 24
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
12:00 p.m. Archdiocese Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
3:15 p.m. Peacebuilder Interviews
3:30 p.m. Daisy Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 25
9:00 a.m. Parent Association
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, February 26
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Wolves Scouts
7:00 p.m. Archdiocese CRHP Director Training
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, February 27
9:30 a.m. Flourish
2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick up
6:30 p.m. Fostering Faith

Friday, February 28
9:30 a.m. Mom’s Club

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

Sunday, March 2
12:00 p.m. Kairos 16 Team Meetings

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Robert Casey, brother of Jane Flynn
Anne Marciniak, mother of Tom
Nazareno Marconi, father of Kathy Marconi Kane, grandfather of Brendan & Adam Kane
William McMahon, father of Deirdre Sullivan, grandfather of Mary, Erin & Robert
Dr. Bob Sullivan, father of Brian and Sean, grandfather of Clare, Shannon, Brigid, Mary, Erin & Robert
Betty Tobin, mother of Ann Hoglund, grandmother of Peter, Mary & Grace Hoglund

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 24
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Robert Cosgrove

Tuesday, February 25
7:45 Dorothy Bergl; Lisa Bailey

Wednesday, February 26
7:45 Alexander Sobey; Thomas B. McCarthy, Jr.

Thursday, February 27
7:45 Jean & Stanley Oczkowski, Dr. Lomax

Friday, February 28
7:45 Alice Sobey; Michael LaPolla

Saturday, March 1
8:00 Courtney McGregor; Helen Middleton
5:00 Michael Turlek; John DenBesten

Sunday, March 2, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 Catherine Pozen; Warren Biang
9:00 Judi Urban; Larry Hanson
10:45 Michael Nolan; Dolores Grimaldi
12:15 Adele Vizgirda; Henry Lazzarini
5:00 Margo Hermes; James Purcell

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

Frank Accardi    Lee Lepinske    James Reilly
Mitch Allen     Josephine     Rick Reimer
Paul Cervony    McNamara     Teresa Schaefer
William Dwyer   Fr. William   John Shea
Melissa Morrissey Mannon      Guy Thomas
Eldredge        Pat Martin    Mary Catherine
Audra Frolik    Mary Ann Matysik  Warren
Mark Giangrande Vickie McNally  Pam Wilson
Maria Hanson    Jay Meehan     Eleanore
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
You Are the Temple of God
1 Corinthians 3:16

The earliest disciples heard the words of Jesus, and so do we. Centered on Jesus and bonded by His word, we ourselves make up the Catholic Church - the Body of Christ - in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

We have known the gifts of God in our lives, beginning with God’s call and love given generously to each one of us. God’s generosity to us prompts us to support those in need and to support the Church herself, for she connects us to Christ and has been a rich source of blessing for us and so many others.

Each year, the Archdiocese of Chicago reaches out to the Catholic Faith Community and asks for support for the schools, programs, agencies and ministries that serve the educational, physical and spiritual needs of our people. Your donation provides the much needed financial resources that help us advance the mission of the Church in Chicago.