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

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30, 2014
Journey with us during Lent

Lenten Programs and Prayer Opportunities at a Glance

Word on Fire’s New Evangelization: Sessions meet on Tuesdays at 1pm and 7pm and Saturdays at 9am in the parish center. Sessions last 90 minutes and include prayer, a dvd presentation and small group discussion. Call the parish center for registration information.

CRS Rice Bowls: Weekly interactive website and bulletin information help us to give alms and pray for the poor around the world. Extra rice bowls can be found at each exit of church. Return your rice bowl at Mass on Palm Sunday or to the parish center.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 6pm in church except for Good Friday. Families welcome.

Pray the Rosary: Before and after daily Mass and on Tuesdays at 9:05am in the Mary Chapel

Adoration: Mondays from 2:30-9pm in the Mary Chapel.

RCIA: 2nd Scrutiny on March 30 at 9am Mass, 3rd Scrutiny on April 6 at 10:45 Mass.

Lenten Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, April 8 at 7pm. Families welcome.

Confession: each Saturday following the 8am Mass. Additional priests will be available to hear confessions on Saturday, April 12th.

Mass Schedule for Palm Sunday and Holy Week

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<tr>
<th>Palm Sunday</th>
<th>Holy Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>April 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil</td>
<td>Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello &amp; Trumpet)</td>
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<th>Holy Thursday</th>
<th>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>April 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute &amp; Cello)</td>
<td>(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello)</td>
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<td>(Cantor, Flute &amp; Cello)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Combined Children’s Choirs, Flute &amp; Cello)</td>
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<td>(Cantor, Flute, &amp; Trumpet)</td>
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<td>(Parish Choir, Flute, Trumpet, &amp; Cello)</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School</td>
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<td>(Teen Choir, Flute, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, &amp; Drums)</td>
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<th>Good Friday</th>
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<td>April 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living Stations of the Cross Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passion of the Lord 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello &amp; Trumpet)</td>
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No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday
There will be no babysitting on Easter Sunday.
Our elect, Kristie Kenny and Christopher Ing, who will be baptized and receive the sacraments of initiation are seated holding their white alb at the Rite of Sending/Election. Kristie and Christopher will wear this garment after they are baptized at the Easter Vigil. Our elect who will be received into full communion and complete the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil are wearing white albs in church.

Pictured in the first pew with their sponsors from the center aisle is Christopher Ing, Christie Kenny, Keith Knight, Brett Padgett, and Robert Peterson. In the second pew from the center is Christopher Walters and Katie Broderick.

Today at the 9am Mass the elect will celebrate the Second Scrutiny. The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays in Lent, are rites for self-searching and repentance. They are meant to uncover and heal all that is weak and strengthen all that is strong and good. They are celebrated to help the elect turn away from sin and to give them strength in and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. At the Second Scrutiny, the elect are presented with the Our Father which they will commit to memory.

At the exits of church you will find prayer cards. Please take one or two and pray for our elect as they prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Together we pray that they receive new strength in the midst of their spiritual journey and that they open their hearts to receive the gifts of the Savior.

We pray that God may dispel the darkness and be the light that shines in the hearts of our elect. May they open their hearts to God and acknowledge him as the source of unfailing light and witness of truth.

Amen.
Thank you for your generosity to the recent Annual Catholic Appeal which supports programs that uphold the dignity of human life, serving those who live on the margins of society. Through your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal we are able to reach out to those in need and be the presence of God in our world. Your generosity to the Appeal surpassed our parish goal, allowing our parish to receive a rebate on the amount donated over the goal—which has an important positive impact on our parish budget.

We also thank those parishioners who give monthly through our parish Gold Sharing Parish envelope. Your support through the Gold Envelope provides financial assistance to 6 Sharing Parishes, including Assumption Parish-Kolbe House & Precious Blood mentioned in the Cardinal’s column below.

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**The Cardinal’s Column by Francis Cardinal George OMI**

**Lent 2014: Going to the margins of the archdiocese**

Pope Francis has often encouraged us to look at things from the perspective of the “margins,” so that no one is overlooked or ignored. For many, perhaps most Catholics, the center of their lives as Catholics is their parish. This is where we hear the Gospel preached each Sunday, where we receive the Lord himself in Holy Communion, where we encounter believers we know best. This is the common base for outreach through works of mercy. The parish, along with the family, is the experience of church that forms us most effectively. It is the center.

But the Archdiocese of Chicago is more than a collection of parishes. This is expressed in the generosity demonstrated in the Annual Catholic Appeal, which funds some parishes and also nonparochial ministries. It is evident most clearly and persuasively, however, when we see things from the margins, from places easily overlooked when we think of the church here. Taking up Pope Francis’ invitation, I would like to mention five of them.

I’m not sure how many Catholics know of Kolbe House, named after St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish Franciscan imprisoned in Auschwitz, who exchanged his life for a condemned husband and father who pleaded for his life for the sake of his family. This ministry to the imprisoned is located at Assumption Parish at 2434 S. California, down the street from the Cook County Jail. It is directed by Father Arturo Perez Rodriguez, helped by Precious Blood Father David Kelly, and Deacon Pablo Perez. Its reach extends to prisoners and their families elsewhere, even outside the archdiocese. Its counterpart in Lake County, supervised by Deacon Jack Harrington, serves prisoners in the County Jail in Waukegan. Those in prison live on the margins of society.

Kateri Center, located in the former convent of St. Benedict Parish on Irving Park Road, is one of the very few ministries to urban American Indian Catholics in this country. When the peoples indigenous to this continent move, even temporarily, from the lands now reserved for them, their lives change. Their relationship to God is connected to their relationship to the land, and their religious lives need particular attention in the city. Kateri Center, named after the Mohawk virgin recently canonized, is supervised by Georgina Roy. It provides catechesis, worship, a research library and a place for Indians to be themselves. American mythology has often marginalized them.

Zacchaeus House, named after the tax collector who offered Jesus hospitality in the Gospel according to St. Luke, is in the former convent of Assumption B.V.M Parish in West Pullman. It is a ministry of the deacons of the archdiocese, one of whom, Deacon Alfred Coleman, is its director. Not a treatment center, Zacchaeus House provides a safe, supportive and spiritual home for up to two years to homeless men in transition. A man’s first 30 days in the house are structured to provide a perspective fostering life skills, spirituality, prayer and church attendance. The purpose is to help men, who would otherwise live permanently on the margins of life, transform themselves, with the help of God’s grace, into persons aware of their human dignity.

These are places, along with many others in the archdiocese, to visit at least spiritually in Lent, which is a liturgical season given us to change our perspective and get back to basics. Basics are often best discovered at the periphery, on the margins, as the pope continually reminds us. Jesus was safer in the desert, at the periphery. God bless you and those he has given you to love.

Reprinted with permission from the Catholic New World 2014
This week, CRS Rice Bowl invites us to enter into solidarity with the people of Malawi, a landlocked country in southeast Africa. It is bordered by Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. The country is separated from Tanzania and Mozambique by Lake Malawi.

We are encouraged to reflect on the Catholic social teaching principle, Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers, and are reminded that, just as He labored to create the universe, God sanctifies and calls us to work. Let us pray this week for our brothers and sisters in Malawi and all around the world, that we work with joy for God’s greater glory.

- Malawi is one of the world’s least developed and densely populated countries. Slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, it is home to over 16 million people, with almost 45 percent of the population between the ages of 0 and 14 years old.
- Farming is the main activity in Malawi, with 80 percent of the rural population relying on food that they grow for a large part of their diet. But when drought occurs, their food supply dries up. A majority of farmers must undertake day labor jobs at some point during the year to ensure a year-round food supply. Day labor jobs are unpredictable and low-paying. The majority of Malawians do not have any steady source of income.
- Learn more about Malawi on our parish website.

Solidarity is a virtue, a commitment of the heart expressed in action. That action is helping others live with human dignity. Using CRS Rice Bowls we pray, fast, and give in solidarity with our whole human family throughout Lent. Knowing Christ is present to them and in them, we pray with our brothers and sisters, especially those in need. At least once a week, we are encouraged to eat a simple meal to be in solidarity with the poor and to fast from the abundance that we have, but which they do not share. Serving Christ in them, we give so that they might live in the manner they deserve as human persons.

Additional Rice Bowls with Lenten calendars, prayers, recipes and reflections can be found at each exit of church and in the parish center. Your Rice Bowl can be returned at any Mass on Palm Sunday, April 13th or dropped off at the parish center.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

The opportunity to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves and to work in good conditions.
How do you define success as a parent? As Catholics we look to Jesus as the one whose birth, life, death, and Resurrection most completely and reliably reveal God’s dream for us. God wants a relationship with each of us. God wants to be part of all our struggles and our joys, our emptiness and our fullness. God wants us to be free so we can be fully alive. As parents our task is to lead our children to know God, love him, and follow his ways. We know that despite our attempts to protect them, our children will experience the full range of human experiences, emotions, and temptations. We succeed when we pass on to them the conviction that no matter what happens, they can always turn to God who is at their side. —Tom McGrath

Choose one of the following activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- The Gospel reading for Sunday is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. Read with your family the story of the return of the prodigal son, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. After the reading, list the steps of reconciliation identified in the story.

- Prepare your family’s favorite meal. Before the meal, ask family members to share stories about a time when they were grateful for the gift of forgiveness that someone in your family offered them.

- Talk about your experiences of forgiveness and reconciliation in the family. Discuss: What does a falling out between family members do to our home environment? What signs do we use to ask forgiveness? What signs do we use to tell one another that we forgive them?

- Agree, as a family, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation together with the Parish family during Lent. Check to see that everyone is comfortable and remembers how to participate in the sacrament. Plan a family treat after the celebration.

Family Connection

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person’s relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today’s Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer.

Come to Me…

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the easiest person in the world to be with. Even if you cannot pray very well, or even if you do not say anything at all, the mere fact that you come to Him in the Blessed Sacrament is, in itself, a prayer of faith that will greatly benefit your soul. This Lent, bring your family and spend some time with Jesus at Eucharistic Adoration. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce or reinforce our belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Body of Christ.

Mondays from 2:30-9pm in the Mary Chapel. The rosary is prayed at 8:45pm.
Reflections on Scripture

In making clay from his own saliva and smearing it on the blind man’s eyes, Jesus re-creates the man by transferring something of his own being to the man. The man is anointed by Jesus as “I am” and comes to be a stalwart, believing disciple. Not even the powerful Pharisees can sway him from his testimony to the work of Jesus in him. In baptism we, too, encounter Jesus and become a new creation in him. Our entire lives of faithful discipleship are a matter of allowing God to touch us with something of the divine Self, opening ourselves to God’s healing anointing, becoming ever more perfectly who God desires us to be: faithful followers of the divine Son.

Like the man born blind, we are sent to bear the Good News and through our encounters with Jesus come to believe. Our being sent and witnessing to the Good News of Christ doesn’t have to be in such extraordinary, controversial circumstances as the man born blind. Our witness unfolds in the everyday actions of our lives, when we live the Gospel. We must meet life’s obstacles not as daunting, but as challenging us to deeper faith and willingness to follow Jesus ever more stalwartly. Every encounter brings a deeper believing, a deeper commitment to following Jesus wherever that might lead. The blind man’s story is the story of every Christian: we grope for faith in the midst of adversities, and Jesus comes to find us. This is our work during Lent: to be open to Jesus who comes to us and helps us to see, brings us to deeper faith. Are we as stalwart and believing as the blind man?

Closing Prayers:

May we encounter Jesus during Lent in such a way as to be re-created into even more committed disciples. May we open ourselves to receive the Jesus whom we encounter through others. Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

· Who and what pull me away from who God intends me to become . . . My daily living is different when I see it through the eyes of faith in that . . .

Living Liturgy 2014.

Excerpts from a Homily by Pope Francis on April 29, 2013

Confession is not like dry cleaners, but is encounter with Jesus

"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all," the pope said, quoting from the First Letter of John. While everyone experiences moments of darkness in life, the verse refers to the darkness of living in error, “being satisfied with oneself, being convinced of not needing salvation,” he said. As John continues, the pope said, “If we say, ‘We are without sin,’ we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” People have to start out with the humility of realizing “we are all sinners, all of us,” he said.

Even though it is embarrassing to admit to and tell the truth about one’s thoughts and deeds, embarrassment or “shame is a true Christian and human virtue” linked to the traditional virtue of humility. “Humility and kindness are the framework of a Christian life,” the way a Christian must walk in life, he said.

“Oftentimes we think that going to confession is like going to the dry cleaners” to get out a stain, but it isn’t, Pope Francis said. “It’s an encounter with Jesus” who “waits for us to forgive us” and offer salvation, he said.

The pope said confession isn’t like “going to a torture session” where Jesus “is waiting to lambast me.” Confession “is going to praise God, because I — the sinner — have been saved by him,” who always waits and always forgives “with tenderness.” When the Lord forgives, he is performing an act of justice, the pope said, “because he came to save and forgive us,” welcoming us with the affection of a father toward his children. People need to believe that when they sin, Jesus will defend them because he is just and wants people to have “that peace that only he can give.” However, people must go before the Lord with courage, even joy, “with our truth of being sinners,” he said. “We must never disguise ourselves before God,” who “asks us to be humble and kind” and truthful.

The Lord is patiently waiting. He takes us as we are and offers us his tender mercy and forgiveness.

Come receive the grace to live a renewed life in him. Our Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, April 8th will begin at 7pm in church. Song, scripture, prayer and an examination of conscience ready our hearts and minds for this sacrament. There will be 10 priests available in church to hear individual confessions and offer absolution. The penitent then prays a healing penance prayer silently in the pew and may depart. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults and children alike to receive the sacrament.
Mary Mother of Jesus Statue

Our parish is home to a special prayer garden called the Garden of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Dedicated in 2007 on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), the focal point of the garden is a beautiful statue of a young Mary at the Annunciation. Mary has one hand over her heart and the other over her womb, physically symbolizing where she had to accept the will of God.

Last summer, working with DaPrato Rigali and a team of parishioners, our parish commissioned sculptor, Noel Winn, to create a replica of our Mother of Jesus statue. Handmade by Noel in his studio in Wisconsin, each cold cast statue is made from Carrara marble and other materials. Mary stands 18 inches tall and can be placed inside or outside your home.

A limited number of statues will be available for sale for $150. To order, drop off an envelope with your contact information at the parish center with a check to SJC or order on our parish website. Each statue will come in a box with a prayer card.

PROMISE

On the day when your promise of commitment weighs heavily on your shoulders and you stoop beneath its burden, may the promise dance within you to strengthen you.

And when your embraces lose their warmth and become like rituals of duty, and the ghost of romance disappears behind a long day’s toil, may the promise wrap around you and hold you close and surround you with love from its Source.

When the bitter winds of change transform your early loveliness into roughened hands and smile lines, may there come across your faces an easy knowing, a comfortable peace, a deep rooted-ness that connects you to the eternal promise of Love Beyond All Imagining.

May the new life of creation be yours. May the comfort of the sunshine be yours. May the soft earth nourish you and make you strong for one another and for your children and restore your resolve for promising.

And so may a soaking rain work these words of promise and peace into you, protecting you from harm and harboring you in the presence of one another for eternity.

by Mary Jo Pedersen, USCCB

Prayer is the glue that holds a marriage and a family together.

This blessing is an adaptation of a beannacht, an ancient Hebrew form of blessing used to communicate the power of the Divine within families and later within believing communities. This beannacht is dedicated to married couples.

May the promise dance within you to strengthen you.

Stop in the parish center office to see Mary. She is truly beautiful.

Remember all those who nurture and love you!

Plan ahead and order for Mother’s Day.

Mary Jo Pedersen, USCCB

Prayer is the glue that holds a marriage and a family together.
Holy Week:
A Child Shall Lead Them
Come and share
a wonder-filled morning with
scripture, singing, games and
crafts with your child.
A family faith program designed for our
Littlest Angels;
Preschool children Ages 2-5.
Parents or grandparents come too!

Saturday, April 5
10-11:30am Parish Center
Dress comfortably—we’ll be sitting on the floor.
This is the third of four preschool sessions for the Year of Strong Catholic Parents.
Call YC office (708-246-6760) to register by April 2nd.
This helps us prepare craft bags. Walk-ins also welcome.

Parish Boy Scout–Men’s Club
Annual Pancake Breakfast
next Sunday, April 6th
after the morning Masses
Stop in the parish center for an
award winning pancake breakfast.
Visit with fellow parishioners!

Training and Formation for
Liturgical Ministers
The Archdiocese of Chicago Office
for Divine Worship and Liturgy
Training Publications invite you to
join other liturgical ministers for an
opportunity to gather for prayer,
training, and formation. The Ministry
Enrichment Gathering will be held
Saturday, April 26, 2014
9:15am-2:30pm
SJC Parish Center

The gathering will utilize a blend of lecture, story-telling, art, and
music as it explores the role of liturgy in a Catholic Christian’s life.
The theme of this gathering, “Liturgy as Source and Summit,” will
be reinforced by a variety of breakout interest sessions, midday
prayer, fellowship, and dialogue with other liturgical ministers
throughout the Archdiocese. For more details and a registration
form, visit www.MinistryEnrichmentGathering.org [click Local
Events] or contact Todd Williamson in the Office for Divine
Worship at twilliamson@odw.org or 312-534-8008. The fee is $25
per person made payable to Office of Divine Worship. Financial
assistance is available for active SJC liturgical ministers. Contact
Jessica Koch or Jim Clauer for more information.
What do we do when facing an upcoming big event or celebration in our lives? We prepare for it. Holy Week and Easter are the “biggest events and celebrations” in the liturgical year of the Church. It’s not too late to use your remaining Lenten days to re-dedicate yourself spiritually through a celebration of prayer.

The following prayer methods are just a few suggestions that may help us prepare our minds, hearts, bodies and spirits for the celebration of Easter.

**Personal Prayer: Reflective Self-renewal**
Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. One easy step is to use the many free online resources to jumpstart or reinvigorate our prayer life. A few resources are Loyola Press’ popular “3-Minute Retreats” and “Seven Last Words of Christ” guided meditation, or try the prayer reflections offered by the Irish Jesuit website Sacred Space.

**Prayer as Giving: Focus on Christ**
As Catholics we are normally called to give up something for Lent: chocolate, coffee, that extra helping of dinner, one less hour of video games or watching DVDs. How about starting a new tradition? “What will we add?” not “What will we give up?” Consider adding stillness or silence in our lives, or more giving to those in need such as tutoring a child who needs help in school, giving food to our parish food pantry collection in the narthex or adding more prayer, more intentional time with God. The hope is that, if we prayerfully practice giving to others, it will lead God to add even more to our lives which will benefit others and keep our focus on Christ, not on our selves.

**Lectio Divina: Holy Scripture Meditation**
Perhaps the oldest method of scriptural prayer known to Christians is lectio divina or “holy reading.” This method of prayer is characterized by the slow reading and consideration of a text from Scripture, with repetition and meditation on key words or phrases. Lectio divina is rooted in the belief that the scriptural word speaks in the human heart as the word of God and can reveal the thoughts of our hearts in response to God. In this way, lectio divina leads to a deeper communion with the divine.

**Stations of the Cross: Redemptive Prayer**
One of the most common traditions of Lent is to pray the Stations of the Cross. This prayer helps us reflect on the Passion and death of Christ in preparation for Good Friday observance and the Easter celebration. Stations of the Cross is offered on Fridays at 6pm during Lent, or try one of the many online resources available.

**Liturical prayer: the Mass**
When we attend Mass during Lent, be conscious of and meditate on the words we pray with our priest in all parts of the liturgy. For example, after receiving Communion, you may want to sit and reflect more deeply on the words of the Opening Prayer (Collect) or the Eucharistic Prayer.

**Pray always and incessantly**
Finally, perhaps the best prayer advice is to use Lent as a time to implant and nurture the habit of daily prayer which will last a lifetime and bring us ever-closer to the unconditional love of our creator God. Excerpt from an article written by Deacon John Ingala

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**Richard Rohr Meditation on Intimacy**

Which comes first? Does feeling safe and held by God allow you to deal with others in the same way? Or does human tenderness allow you to imagine that God must be the same, but infinitely so? I do not suppose it really matters where you start; the important thing is that you get in on the big secret from one side or the other.

The big and hidden secret is this: an infinite God seeks and desires intimacy with the human soul. Once you experience such intimacy, only the intimate language of lovers describes what is going on for you: mystery, tenderness, singularity, specialties, changing the rules “for me,” nakedness, risk, ecstasy, incessant longing, and, of course, also suffering. This is the mystical vocabulary of the saints.

**Prayer:**
Loving God, allow me to experience intimacy with you.

Everything is possible for one who has faith...

Pope Francis noted that often those who love Jesus don't risk much on believing in him nor entrust themselves completely to Him. "But why this disbelief? I believe that it is when the heart will not open, when the heart is closed, when the heart wants to have everything under control...We need to pray with our hearts. A courageous prayer, that struggles to achieve a miracle, not prayers of courtesy, 'Ah, I will pray for you,' I say an Our Father, a Hail Mary and then I forget. No: a courageous prayer, like that of Abraham, who struggled with the Lord to save the city, like that of Moses who held his hands high and tired himself out, praying to the Lord, like that of many people, so many people who have faith and pray with faith.

"Prayer works wonders, but we have to believe!... and tell Him today, all day long, 'Lord, I believe, help my unbelief' ... and when people ask us to pray for the many people who suffer in wars, all refugees, all of these dramas that exist right now, pray, but with your heart to the Lord: 'Do it!', but tell Him: 'Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief' that is also in my prayers. Let us do this today."

~Pope Francis 5-20-13 Homily
It’s Time to Register for Next Year!

Registration Fair for YC is coming up!

Stop in on April 6 & 7

Sunday, April 6th from 9:00 am-Noon;
Monday, April 7th from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
in the School Multi-Purpose Room
You are invited to register your children, grades Kindergarten through 8th for our wonderful YC Religious Education Program.

YC Schedule

| NO CLASSES: March 23, 24, 30 or 31st for Spring Break |
| Classes K-6 | 10:15-11:30am | Sunday, April 6, 27, May 4 |
| Home Groups and Special Needs | 6:15-7:30pm | Monday, April 7, 28, May 5 |

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Sunday during class ~ Monday 8:30am-7pm ~Tues thru Thurs 8:30am-4pm

Each spring our students participate in Spring Safety Week. Last week, the students received visitors from the Western Springs police station and many teachers. Grades 1 and 6 discussed Stranger Danger and Summer Safety, while 2nd and 4th graders discussed railroad and bicycle safety. The Kindergarten, 3rd, 5th and 7th grades discussed internet safety. Our 8th graders had the opportunity to not only discuss bicycle and railroad safety, but curfew and cell phones as well.

As our eighth graders enter their final trimester at SJC, they are keeping busy in their classes and many other activities. In science, the students began the study of the animal kingdom. Topics include what an animal is, sponges, worms, mollusks, arthropods, and echinoderms. With the goal to cover the amphibian section and begin the frog unit. This week our students really enjoyed their time in the science lab dissecting frogs.

The fourth grade presented their annual Regional Fair this week. Each fourth grade student is assigned a state to research as a culmination of their study of the different regions of the United States of America. The kids really look forward to this activity as they even can dress up as a famous figure head from their chosen state.

VBS – are you looking to get involved this summer? Do you love to work with children? SJC’s Vacation Bible School is hoping that you will answer the call to help coordinate this summer’s VBS one week program. The curriculum is all laid out for you to run with! It is a fun filled week with lots of energy and rewarding moments with children. Please contact Janet Caschetta at 708-246-6760 if you are interested!

This Week at SJC
April 2, 7th grade prayer service 2 p.m. School
April 4-5, School Play - Cinderella 7 p.m. Gym
April 6, School Play - Cinderella 2 p.m. Gym
Calendar of Events
April 2 First Girls Church League Bball practice 7:30pm
April 6 Trip to Vicariate Youth Rally, depart 1:30pm
Home Groups
April 13 Easter Basket Service Project 3-4:30pm
April 18 Living Stations Noon

Last weekend ten of our teens were honored at the Vicariate Youth Leadership Banquet. Their outstanding service in the component of Leadership Development this year has begun an amazing start for our Crossroads Youth Ministry. Our new Leadership Board, lead by these teens & their adult mentors, allows our teens hand-on training, leading and development of their faith. This new structure of our ministry is exciting and allows us to connect to more of our teenagers. If you’d like to learn more or find out how you can get involved check us out at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/crossroads-youth-ministry-strategic-plan-2013-2016

SUNDAY APRIL 6 we’ll take a bus full of teens to join our Vicariate Youth Rally. If your teen’s home group is not going, but your teen wants to join us for the fun THEY CAN! EMAIL Katie by April 1st at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org. We’ll depart at 1:30pm and return by 6:45pm.

Pray for our awesome bunch of teens who will present a new, Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at Noon. Join us in church.

EASTER BASKET SERVICE PROJECT
Sunday April 13
3pm—teens arrive 3:30pm—3rd & 4th graders arrive We’ll finish by 4:30pm. Please bring small toys, candy & toiletries to fill our baskets for kids who otherwise won’t get any! An awesome afternoon to serve—we do this in place of home groups for as a Lenten service!

The SJC Men’s Club Speaker
All the men of the parish are invited on Saturday, April 12, 9am-10:30 am. to an engaging morning with Deacon John Lucas, Executive Director of Amate House as he presents his versions of two talks: “The Demise of Guys” and “The Defining Decade.” Both topics were presented by others as “TED” talks* and deal with current cultural norms and their impact on men, women and the marital relationship, and, parents and their “twenty-somethings.” (Parish Center, Light Morning Refreshments) For more information on the speaker, go to our parish website. *http://www.ted.com/talks/zimchallenge; http://www.ted.com/talks/meg_jay_why_30_is_not_the_new_20

Journey to Lourdes
Deacon Rich Voytas is sponsoring a Magical Journey to LOURDES. The trip will include the sights of Paris, the “City of Lights”. In the heart of the city, visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal and pray at the tomb of St. Vincent de Paul. Travel to Lourdes, the sight of the Marian apparition and experience the moving candle-lit processions of each night. End your journey with a relaxing time in the French Riviera. When: April 17-26, 2015. For a complete itinerary and pricing information, please pick up a brochure at St. Daniel the Prophet Rectory office or contact Deacon Rich at 773-537-8834. A trip meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2015 at 7pm in St. Daniel School Hall (5537 S. Natoma). All are invited.

Women’s Club Fundraiser
HomeMade Helps!
Let’s raise some dough!

HomeMade Pizza Co. want to give us a big check. How big is up to you! Here’s how: Simply order dinner on our designated day, use the code HomeMadeHelps, and we’ll receive a donation for every qualifying item! You can order online, over the phone, or in the store, for pickup only. Where: 9 W 1st Street, Hinsdale (630) 794-0004 When: Tuesday, April 8, 1-8 p.m. HomeMade will donate: $5 for every Large Pizza sold, $2 for every Gluten Free Pizza sold, $10 percent of every Gift Card sold Don’t miss this chance to help our organization and enjoy great pizza. Order online at www.homemadeppizza.com in advance!
Outreach

Collections on Holy Thursday & Good Friday

On Holy Thursday (and again on Thanksgiving) our offertory collection will be put into our parish Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund. Using the Latin word for “charity” as its name, this fund provides emergency financial support to our parishioners, who through unplanned circumstances face difficulty meeting a critical financial obligation. If you are unable to attend the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, but still wish to donate to this important collection, you may drop it at the parish center marked for the Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund or go to Sharing Tab (Picture) on our parish website and click on the Caritas link on the left side.

Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called on to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives. As a pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace and to help protect the Holy Places. When you donate on Good Friday, you are supporting Christians in the Holy Land. Franciscans and others in the Holy Land are housing and feeding the poor, providing religious formation and education, maintaining shrines and parishes, and conducting pastoral ministry. For more information, visit www.MyFranciscan.org.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Cicero Catholic Schools 5K
This year's CCS 5K will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The race will begin at 8am near the intersection of 16th and 54th Ave. Parking will be available at the Morton Freshman Center at 1801 S. 55th Ave. Online registration is now live and available at www.CiceroCatholicSchools.org. Online registration ends on 4/19. Registration fees are $25 for single registrants and $50 per family. Fees will increase $5 on race day! Race day registration and check-in will begin at 7am. Visit our website for more information or contact us as development@sfrschool.org or (708) 652-2277 x327. Hope to see you there!

Volunteer at Misericordia
Misericordia Candy Days are April 25-26. Call Tessa to volunteer at 773-273-2768. Your time will make a difference for more than 600 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

Call for Members

The Parish Advisory Council seeks new members for the coming year.

Qualifications:
energetic ~ supportive ~ active in the parish ~ excited to be involved ~ able to commit 10 hours per quarter ~ works well on a team ~ has a good understanding of the parish ~ represents the diversity of our parish community

Share your talent with the parish!
Membership is a wonderful opportunity to work side by side with fellow parishioners, our Pastor, staff, and deacons to envision the future of St. John of the Cross Parish.

It's easy to show an interest:
- Complete a short application form online and send it with your picture (may be pictured with family) to our Election Chairman, Harry Kannry at harkan@sbcglobal.net by April 5th.
- Email Harry with any questions too.
- Elections are held the third weekend in May.

Parish Advisory Council Mission:
The Parish Advisory Council (PAC) meets three times a year to support implementation of the Parish Vision and Mission Statement. The Council serves to assist, represent and discern parish needs as an advisor to the Pastor. The PAC also fosters communication and collaboration among Parish Staff, volunteer leaders and parishioners. Council members include the Pastor, Parish Deacons, Pastoral Staff, Representatives from active Ministerial Committees, the Archdiocesan Parish Council Representative and Parishioner Apostles.

Applications for membership on the School Advisory Board and Youth Catechesis Advisory Council are also welcome. Information on these consultative bodies can be found on our parish website under Parish Leadership. Applications can be directed to Harry Kannry (contact info above). The deadline is April 5th.
Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their children baptized in March.

A life of happiness, holiness and faith

Nicholas James, son of James and Gina (Jamieson) Avergis
William Graham, son of Paul and Elizabeth (Ford) Bertin
Lucille Fitzgerald, daughter of Ryan and Kieran (Fitzgerald) Caraher
Kieran Michael, son of Michael Jennifer (Sapper) Finerty
Ryan Christopher, son of Daniel and Jennifer (Pieszko) Forrer
Eamon Michael, son of Garrett and Jennifer (DeCola) Fitzgerald
Karina Lynne, daughter of Jason and Laura (Scolaro) Friesema
Sloane Elizabeth, daughter of Terence and Kelly (Finerty) Gallaher
Lillian Janina, daughter of Andrew and Joanna (Pustulka) Hanson
Sofia Marie, daughter of Frank and Carolina (Govea) Monroy
James Patrick, son of Kenneth and Colleen (Kelley) Nash
Aven Elizabeth, daughter of Craig and Sarah (Vlasek) Squillace
Brendan Edward, son of David and Erin (Heidkamp) Trier

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.

Welcome!

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

Michelle and Todd Hamilton and Family
Nikki and Todd Muentzer and Family
Sarah and Griffin Keenan and Family
Bradlee and Chad Roffers and Family
Amy and Patrick Forebaugh and Family
Eileen and Alex Mahler and Family
Beth and Daniel Edmonds and Family
Rebecca and Ron Uribe

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.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 2:45pm at Holy Name Cathedral downtown. Couples married in 1964 who are interested in attending should contact the parish center office. More information is available online at www.marriageandfamilyministries.org or by calling 312.534.8351.

Happy Anniversary to YOU!

Moms’ Club

Mothers of young children, 6 and under, are invited to join us at our next get together at the parish center on Friday, April 4th at 9:30am. No need to register just come with your kids.
The Week Ahead...

**Monday, March 31**
- 10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
- 1:00pm Little Rock Scripture Study
- 2:00pm Spiritual Journaling
- 2:30pm Eucharistic Adoration
- 5:30 pm Finance Council Meeting

**Tuesday, April 1**
- 9:05am Rosary
- 9:30am Focus on Sunday Scripture Study
- 1:00pm New Evangelization
- 7:00pm New Evangelization
- 7:00pm RCIA

**Wednesday, April 2**
- 9:30am Bible Study 3
- 2:00pm Christian Meditation
- 7:00pm Archdiocese CRHP Dir. Training
- 7:30pm Christian Meditation
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Thursday, April 3**
- 9:00am Flourish
- 3:30pm Brownies
- 7:00pm Faith Sharing Group

**Friday, April 4**
- 9:30am Moms’ Club
- 9:30am Rainbow Group
- 3:30pm Brownies

**Saturday, April 5**
- 7:00am Christian Meditation
- 9:00am New Evangelization
- 10:00am Preschool Program

**Sunday, April 6**
- Pancake Breakfast after all morning Masses
- 4:00pm Blanket Service Project

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**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, March 31**
- 7:45am Bob Cosgrove, Adele Zurowski

**Tuesday April 1**
- 7:45am Parris Szot, Robert McNulty

**Wednesday, April 2, St. Francis of Paola**
- 7:45am Mike Cronk, Our Beloved Dead

**Thursday, April 3**
- 7:45am Joanna Misantoni Visher, Harry Milani

**Friday, April 4, St. Isidore**
- 7:45am Moore Family, Rose King

**Saturday, April 5, St. Vincent Ferrer**
- 8:00am Helen Ratini, Nancy Leslie
- 5:00pm Robert Plechaty, Barbara Ann Rovtar

**Sunday, April 6, Fifth Sunday of Lent**
- 7:30am Greg La Valle, Demetrio Maguigad, Sr.
- 9:00am Robert Cosgrove, Rose King
- 10:45am Walter Dziuba, Al Samborski
- 12:15pm Lillian Rockwell, Bob Floch
- 5:00pm Libby Chapman, Donna O’Connor

*Italics—Living*

Pray for Our Sick

- Frank Accardi, Mrs. William Mannion
- Mitch Allen, Pat Martin
- Paul Cervony, Mary Ann Matysik
- Terry Cosgrove, Vicki McNally
- John Cozza, Jay Meehan
- Jack Doyle, John Munch
- William Dwyer, Nancy Olin
- Melissa Morrissey Eldredge, Marion Pascale
- Audra Frolik, Bob Pieters
- Mark Giangrande, James Reilly
- Maria Hanson, Rick Reimer
- Karen Hult, Teresa Schaefer
- Barbara Jacob, John Shea
- Dee Kennedy, Guy Thomas
- Rosie King, Mary Catherine Warren
- Frank Kranz, Donna Webster
- Lee Lepinske, Sharon Wildman

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Remember Our Beloved Dead

**Josephine McNamara**, wife of Michael, mother of Jennifer McGinn, grandmother of Clare, Julia, Maeve and John McGinn

**Rosemary Schick**, mother of Dan and grandmother of Lauren, Kevin and Katelyn

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**Staff Directory**

- Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
- Rev. Joe McDonnell, Pastor Emeritus
jmc donnell @stjohnofthecross.org
- Deacon John Schopp
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
- Bill Bright, Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
- Janet Caschetta, YC
jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
- Jim Clauer, Worship
jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
- Laura Dragich, Reservations
ldragich@stjohnofthecross.org
- Kathleen Gorman, Principal
mgorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
- Katie Hayes, Crossroads
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
- Jessica Koch, Music
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
- MJ Martin, Operations
jmjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
- Elizabeth Russell-Jones, Welcome
erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Calling all Gardeners!
Our Gardening Angels Group Needs Your Help!

Spring is on the way and we are actively looking for new volunteers to join our group. Come help keep our parish grounds beautiful, well-manicured, weed-free and watered. There are several “levels” of volunteerism – choose what works best for your schedule. Confirmation candidates and high school 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)
Once each month – for a two hour shift during the months of May – August

**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 we have and schedule availability, we may be able to spread this out to once 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 is really all we need!!*