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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2014
Journey with our elect

Today we celebrate the 3rd Scrutiny at 10:45am Mass. 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.

Together we pray that our elect may be given the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life. May be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and prepare themselves thoroughly for their birth to new life.

Amen.

You are cordially invited to a Reception
after the Easter Vigil
on Saturday, April 19th
in the Parish Center

Parishioners are invited to a reception to welcome our elect and their families to our parish faith community after the Easter Vigil. Please stop by the Parish Center to meet and congratulate Christopher, Kristie, Keith, Robert, Brett, Christopher and Katie.

Bakers Needed
As has been our tradition, parishioners are asked to bake homemade desserts for the Vigil reception. Please bring your favorite baked goods to the Parish Center on Good Friday or Holy Saturday until 2pm. Put the desserts in non-returnable containers, i.e., wrapped on paper plates or in ziplock bags etc. Any questions can be directed to Ginny Grecco at 708-246-7371. Thank you.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, will never die.
**Journey with us during Lent**

**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.

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday, April 11 at 6pm in church. Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18 at noon. Families welcome.

**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 (April 13) or to the parish center.

**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.

**Christian Meditation:** Mondays at 10:30, Wednesdays at 2 and 7:30pm and Saturdays at 7am in the parish center.

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### Mass Schedule for Palm Sunday and Holy Week

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Palm Sunday</th>
<th>Holy Saturday</th>
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<td><strong>April 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 19</strong></td>
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| Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil | Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello & Trumpet)  |
| Sunday 7:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
12:30 p.m.  
(Note this Mass starts 15 minutes later than usual.)  
5:00 p.m. |  
9:00 a.m.  
(Combined Children’s Choirs, Flute & Cello)  |
|  |  
9:15 a.m. First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School  
(Cantor, Flute, Trumpet)  |
|  |  
10:45 a.m.  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Trumpet, & Cello)  |
| **Holy Thursday** |  |
| **April 17** | **April 20**  |
| Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00 p.m.  
(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute & Cello) |  
7:30 a.m.  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello & Trumpet)  |
|  |  
9:15 a.m. First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School  
(Teen Choir, Flute, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, & Drums)  |
| **Good Friday** |  |
| **April 18** | **Holy Saturday**  |
| Living Stations of the Cross Noon  
(Crossroads teens and children’s choirs lead the Stations of the Cross) | **April 19**  
Blessing of Easter Baskets 11:00 a.m.  
in the Parish Center  |
|  |  
11:00 a.m. First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Trumpet, & Cello)  |
|  |  
12:30 p.m.  
(Note this Mass starts 15 minutes later than usual.)  
(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute, Trumpet, & Cello)  |
| **Holy Saturday** |  |
| **April 19** |  |
| Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello & Trumpet) |  |
Hearing the cry of the poor starts with desire and a few choices. If we recognize a desire to be more attentive to the poor and to grow in solidarity with them, then it is likely that this is a grace we have received. Many things may have happened to open us to this grace, but it is important to name it and welcome it. God has been offering us this grace for some time and perhaps is preparing us to receive it this Lent. If we don’t feel this desire, we can ask for it. We can ask our Lord to help us grow in a desire to better hear the cry of those most in need.

Who are the poor? Who are most in need? Who are pushed to the margins of neglect and powerlessness? It doesn’t take a great social analysis to come up with some immediate answers, locally in our own world and across the globe. Listening to the news is a beginning. Who is suffering? Who is tremendously burdened? Poverty doesn’t always make the news, but being sensitive to the stories we do hear is a place to start.

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.

Your Rice Bowl can be returned at any Mass on Palm Sunday, April 13th or dropped off at the parish center.

In Haiti’s rural areas, a shortage of health care centers and doctors are a fact of life. CRS is working with a network of community volunteers to provide better health services for women and young children.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Haiti is located in the Caribbean Sea on the island of Hispaniola. Haiti is the western side of the island, and the Dominican Republic is the eastern side.
- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with 80 percent of Haitians living on less than two dollars per day.
- Poor living conditions in Haiti were worsened by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake in January, 2010. Nearly 2 million Haitians were displaced, leaving many without food or clean water. CRS and local partners in Haiti help those who are already sick by ensuring hospitals have properly trained staff and equipment. But they also work to prevent disease by training community volunteers who can provide basic health services and advice.
- The healthcare program in Les Cayes is now run almost entirely by Haitian resident volunteers like Louisma. Volunteers have contributed more than 175,000 hours per year and have reached out to more than 29,000 children and 12,000 mothers. In target communities, the malnutrition rate has decreased from 14%-8%.
How to go to Confession

Our Parish 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 both adults and children alive to receive the sacrament.

Here is an overview of the sacrament. Don’t worry if you cannot remember the flow or the Act of Contrition when you go to Confession. Just tell your priest and he will help you along.

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all
the saints,
whatever good you do and suffering you endure,
heal your sins,
help you grow in holiness,
and reward you with eternal life.
Go in peace.

—Rite of Penance, no. 93

1 PREPARATION: Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ’s commands to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37, 39)? As a help with this “examination of conscience,” you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).

2 GREETING: The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.

3 THE SIGN OF THE CROSS: Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give days, months, or years] since my last confession.”

4 CONFESSION: Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”

5 PENANCE: The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.

6 ACT OF CONTRITION: After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more. A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.
(Rite of Penance, no. 45)

7 ABSOLUTION: The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, “Amen.”

8 PRAISE: The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.” And your response would be, “His mercy endures for ever” (Rite of Penance, no. 47).

9 DISMISSAL: The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, “Go in peace.”

If it has been a while since your last confession, remember, “Do not fear” (Is 41:10). The priest will help guide you. And feel free to take this how-to guide with you! (For more information, visit www.usccb.org/confession.)

www.stjohnofthecross.org 4-6-2014 page 5 praying ~ serving ~ sharing

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Reflection on Living the Gospel

Both Martha and Mary are deeply agitated when Jesus does not arrive until after Lazarus is dead and buried. What could Jesus do for the dead? They express great conviction in Jesus’ healing power: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Their conviction, however, was tied to their human experience of the fragility of sickness and the finality of death. Believing that Jesus could perform miracles did not prepare them for the astonishing revelation that he had power over death itself. Jesus’ action surmounts human experience and reveals something entirely new: “everyone who lives and believes in [him] will never die.” Belief in Jesus unites us from the limits of human experience and frees us for the eternity of risen Life.

Jesus promises Martha (and us) that whoever “lives and believes in me will never die.” The amazing fact of our living the Gospel is that we already share in this eternal life. Its fullness will be known only after we die, to be sure; the grace and glory of it, however, is already with us now. This is so because we already live in the Spirit. We readily see death in our everyday lives—pain, sickness, suffering, death, sinfulness, self-emptying, discipline, giving up our wills. This gospel challenges us to believe in the grace of new Life—glory, joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy, trust, kindness. Living the Gospel draws us to see dying to self and receiving new life as two aspects of the same mystery. The “now” of eternal Life is God’s grace already working in our lives. This is why dying to self isn’t all there is. This is why in the very dying to self is the rising to an eternity of risen Life.

Closing Prayers:
May we faithfully witness to our belief in Jesus’ power to give new Life.
May we see the signs of Jesus’ Presence and power drawing us to new Life.
Our Father . . .

For Reflection:
- The human experiences that hinder my freedom to grow in knowing Jesus better are . . .
- My belief in Jesus looks like . . . To never die means to me . . .

An examination of conscience is the act of looking prayerfully into our hearts to ask how we have hurt our relationships with God and other people through our thoughts, words, and actions. We reflect on the Ten Commandments and the teachings of the Church. The questions below help us in our examination of conscience.

My Relationship With God
- What steps am I taking to help me grow closer to God and to others? Do I turn to God often during the day, especially when I am tempted?
- Do I participate at Mass with attention and devotion on Sundays and holy days? Do I pray often and read the Bible?
- Do I use God’s name and the names of Jesus, Mary, and the saints with love and reverence?

My Relationships With Family, Friends, and Neighbors
- Have I set a bad example through my words or actions? Do I treat others fairly? Do I spread stories that hurt other people?
- Am I loving of those in my family? Am I respectful of my neighbors, my friends, and those in authority?
- Do I show respect for my body and for the bodies of others? Do I keep away from forms of entertainment that do not respect God’s gift of sexuality?
- Have I taken or damaged anything that did not belong to me? Have I cheated, copied homework, or lied?
- Do I quarrel with others just so I can get my own way? Do I insult others to try to make them think they are less than I am? Do I hold grudges and try to hurt people who I think have hurt me?

The Ten Commandments guide us in making choices that help us to live as God wants us to live. The first three commandments tell us how to love God; the other seven tell us how to love our neighbor.

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

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Managing Ourselves

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. Psalm 138:8

From an early age, we get the message that in order to succeed we must be good managers. Whatever the task, it should be done to perfection. Whatever the event, it should go without a glitch. Whether we are making sure our children are well-fed and arriving at school every day in clean clothes, or we are leading a company through a much-needed organization, it is crucial that we juggle all the responsibilities and tend to every detail, while monitoring how everyone is doing.

Of course, life rarely works that way. And it doesn’t take long to become overwhelmed with the impossible task of managing life as it is rather than how we expected it to be. Before long, real life is overflowing and unmanageable.

We often cope by finding containers for the overflow, developing habits that might temporarily relieve our sense of being overwhelmed. Maybe we work longer hours or develop addictions. Or we redirect our attention to distractions and entertainment, or we begin unloading emotionally on the people around us.

Maybe it’s time to ask yourself just how you’re managing. You’re probably doing well much of the time. But you will live out holy purpose only with the help of holy love.

Return to Me with Your Whole Heart

From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings make God’s call to us clear: "Return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12 NAB). It is an extraordinary invitation from God to each one of us - to me in a personal, individual way. God invites me to drop the defenses that I hold up between myself and God.

God wants us to realize that our standards, our ways of judging and loving, are very different from God’s way, and so much smaller. God loves each one of us. For an entire Lenten season, for an entire lifetime, God loves each one of us.

"A clean heart create for me, God," Psalm 51:12 NAB offers. "Give me back the joy of your salvation." That is exactly what our loving God wants to give us, the joy of salvation.

This is the invitation of each day of Lent. Today is the day to accept it. *Praying Lent by Andy Alexander, SJ, and Maureen McCann Waldron.*

Richard Rohr Meditation: God Chooses the Little Ones

From the very beginning, God is able to use unlikely figures, and in one way or another, they are always unable, inept, unprepared, and incapable. The biblical text often shows them to be “powerless” in various ways: Sarah and Abraham, Moses, Rachel and Rebecca, David, Jeremiah, Job, and Jesus himself are some of the clearest examples. God didn’t pick the Egyptians; God picked the Israelites, an enslaved people in Egypt. In each case, *there needs to be a discovery of a new kind of power by people who do not have power.*

The bottom, the edge, the outsider, as we see in the Bible, is the privileged spiritual position. In a word, that is why the biblical revelation is revolutionary and even subversive. It is clearly disestablishment literature, yet has largely been used by establishments, which is at the heart of our interpretative problem.

The so-called “little ones” (Matthew 18:6) or the “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3), as Jesus calls them, are the only teachable and “growable” ones according to him. It seems to be God’s starting place, as it is in the Twelve-Step program, because until we admit “that we are powerless,” the Real Power will not be recognized, accepted or even sought.
Family Connection

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

Stations of the Cross Diorama

Here is a great project for the kids when they are home for spring break and are ready for some quality time with you.

You will need a shoe box for each child and art supplies like glue, colored paper, scraps of fabric, cotton balls, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, crayons, markers, and clay to create the people and buildings of the scene. Be creative.

Take the kids on a field trip to church and walk the stations of the cross. When you get home, take out your family Bible or go online and find the story of Jesus' Passion (Matthew 26:14-27:66). Read it to them.

Invite the children to pick one particular station and have them recreate the event in a diorama. Display them somewhere in your home. Perhaps a spot where you can have night prayers this week.

Also consider taking your children to the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at noon. Our parish high school teens and children's choirs will lead us in the stations through scripture and song. It will last about one hour or less.

Why Does Easter Fall on a Different Day Each Year

In the early days of our Church, just as today, there were many different beliefs. The society was very agricultural, and many religions used the seasons to celebrate special feasts. It was important, in teaching about Jesus, to have people connect the Gospel message to their daily lives. Since Jesus' resurrection was the beginning of a whole new life and occurred so near the spring feasts, it was determined that Easter would always be calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (that is, the first day of spring). Loyola Press 2014.
**Calendar of Events**

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
May 4  Update Mtg & Leader End of the year Brunch 10am 
Last Home Groups
May 18 End of the Year activities 6pm

**EASTER BASKET SERVICE PROJECT**

Sunday April 13
3pm—teens arrive
3:30pm—3rd & 4th graders arrive
We all 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 our Lenten service project! Please join us!

Contact Lis Williams with questions or to help with advance preparations: lisbethwill@sbcglobal.net

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 at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org. We’ll depart at 1:30pm and return by 6:45pm . A great way to help teens to STAY CALM & FINISH (Lent) STRONG!

Pray for our awesome bunch of teens who will present a new, living stations of the cross on Good Friday at noon!

FYIs: this month I will be meeting with our leadership board members to evaluate, discuss and discern for next year how and where our teens & adults will serve. For some it will be growing the area they have focused on. For a few it will be accepting a new challenge. And others, who are graduating, it will be with gratitude that we part. We will need new adults & teens to fill leadership roles so if you or your teen would be interested please contact Katie Hayes for a leadership application! Read more about it at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/descriptions

Peace, Katie Hayes
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
708-246-4404

**School News**

The seventh grade culminated their unit in particle physics by taking field trip to the Fermi Lab in Batavia, IL on Monday. This proved to be an awesome experience for the students as they had the opportunity to tour the main building and science education center. They also attended a question and answer session with a physicist from the lab. Because of the demands for field trips at the Fermi Lab, they only allow middle school students who have completed a particle physics unit to schedule field trips with them. Our seventh grade students were able to take part in this unique experience.

The third grade begins the study of living things this week. Last week, as an introduction to the unit, the students took a trip to the Shedd Aquarium. The children not only attended the dolphin show to learn about animals being rescued, but, also attended a special session on the animals of the Amazon.

**This Week at SJC**

Monday, April 7  
All School Liturgy, 9:15am
Anti Bullying Presentation,11:30am
Manna Orders Due
Tuesday, April 8
Thursday, April 10
Friday, April 11
State of the School 10-11:00 a.m.
School in Session – Make Up Snow Day
Our Offertory Collections on Holy Thursday & Good Friday

On Holy Thursday (and as on Thanksgiving) the offertory collection will support our parish Caritas Needy Family Fund. Using the Latin word for “charity” as its name, this fund provides 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.

Once a year on Good Friday, we are called to support Christians in the Holy Land as requested by Pope Francis. Our Good Friday donations support the work of the Franciscans in the Holy Land, 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.

First Communion Children’s Choir

All children of the parish from 1st – 8th grade, are invited to sing at any of the 1st Communion liturgies. The Communions are on May 3rd and May 10th at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Anyone interested is asked to come to a rehearsal on either Wednesday, April 30th or Thursday, May 1st from 3:45 – 4:30 pm in the church. Questions? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

Emergency Preparedness Program

Are you and your family prepared to be evacuated from your home as the result of a disaster that might strike our community? Instances such as a flood, a chemical spill, tornado, and explosions already have occurred. Come to a community information program from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, April 19 at Robert Coulter Post, American Legion, 900 S. LaGrange Road. Admission is free. Various local, state and special agencies will present information for all members of the family. It also will explain resources that are available for local families to utilize in case there is such a need. For information: 708-246-5556.

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.

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.

It’s a great gift idea for Mother’s Day. Stop in the parish center to see the beautiful statue.
Parish News

Pray for our First Communicants
In the Narthex of the church are two prayer trees for those receiving their First Holy Communion. Please take a chalice to pray for a First Communicant as they prepare to receive Jesus on May 3rd and 10th. Thank you.

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.


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.

SJC Parish 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.

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!

Calling all Gardeners!
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. Confirmation candidates and high school teens are invited to participate as well. There is a Special Projects Group—Spring Clean Up, April 12, Planting Days, May 24 and June 7, and Mulching Day, June 21 and Regular Weekly Volunteers. Choose what works best for you.

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!
When we no longer know how to pray, the Spirit, in groans too deep for words, prays through us.

Saint Paul wrote those words and they contain both a stunning revelation and a wonderful consolation, namely, there is deep prayer happening inside us beyond our conscious awareness and independent of our deliberate efforts. What is this unconscious prayer? It is our deep innate desire, relentlessly on fire, forever somewhat frustrated, making itself felt through the groaning of our bodies and souls, silently begging the very energies of the universe, not least God Himself, to let it come to consummation.

Allow me an analogy: Some years ago, a friend of mine bought a house that had sat empty and abandoned for a number of years. The surface of the driveway was cracked and a bamboo plant, now several feet high, had grown up through the pavement. My friend cut down the bamboo tree, chopped down several feet into its roots to try to destroy them, poured a chemical poison into the root system in hopes of killing whatever was left, packed some gravel over the spot, and paved over the top with a thick layer of concrete. But the little tree was not so easily thwarted. Two years later, the pavement began to heave as the bamboo plant again began to assert itself. Its powerful life force was still blindly pushing outward and upward, cement blockage notwithstanding.

Life, all life, has powerful inner pressures and is not easily thwarted. It pushes relentlessly and blindly towards its own ends, irrespective of resistance. Sometimes resistance does kill it. There are, as the saying goes, storms we cannot weather. But we do weather most of what life throws at us and our deep life-principle remains strong and robust, even as on the surface the frustrations we have experienced and the dreams in us that have been shamed slowly muzzle us into a mute despair so that our prayer-lives begin to express less and less of what we are actually feeling.

But it is through that very frustration that the Spirit prays, darkly, silently, in groans too deep for words. In our striving, our yearning, our broken dreams, our tears, in the daydreams we escape into, and even in our sexual desire, the Spirit of God prays through us, as does our soul, our life-principle. Like the life forces innate in that bamboo plant, powerful forces are blindly working inside us too, pushing us outward and upward to eventually throw off whatever cement lies on top of us. This is true, of course, also of our joys. The Spirit also prays through our gratitude, both when we express consciously it and even when we only sense it unconsciously.

Our deepest prayers are mostly not those we express in our churches and private oratories. Our deepest prayers are spoken in our silent gratitude and silent tears. The person praising God's name ecstatically and the person bitterly cursing God's name in anger are, in different ways, in radically different ways of groaning, both praying.

There are many lessons to be drawn from this. First, from this we can learn to forgive life a little more for its frustrations and we can learn to give ourselves permission to be more patient with life and with ourselves. Who of us does not lament that the pressures and frustrations of life keep us from fully enjoying life's pleasures, from smelling the flowers, from being more present to family, from celebrating with friends, from peaceful solitude, and from deeper prayer? So we are forever making resolutions to slow down, to find a quiet space inside our pressured lives in which to pray. But, after failing over and over again, we eventually despair of finding a quiet, contemplative space for prayer in our lives. Although we need to continue to search for that, we can already live with the consolation that, deep down, our very frustration in not being able to find that quiet space is already a prayer. In the groans of our inadequacy the Spirit is already praying through our bodies and souls in a way deeper than words.

One of the oldest, classical definitions of prayer defines it this way: Prayer is lifting mind and heart to God. Too often in our efforts to pray formally, both communally and privately, we fail to do that, namely, to actually lift our hearts and minds to God. Why? Because what is really in our hearts and minds, alongside our gratitude and more gracious thoughts, is not something we generally connect with prayer at all. Our frustrations, bitterness, jealousies, lusts, curses, sloth, and quiet despair are usually understood to be the very antithesis of prayer, something to be overcome in order to pray.

But a deeper thing is happening under the surface: Our frustration, longing, lust, jealousy, and escapist daydreams, things we are ashamed to take to prayer, are in fact already lifting our hearts and minds to God in more honest ways that we ever do consciously.

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
Go to our parish website for a better look at all the beautiful flowers you can order or look at the kiosk in the church narthex or the parish center lobby.

Women’s Club
Annual Flower Sale

19TH ANNUAL FLOWER SALE
Landscape Quality Flowers & Baskets at a Great Price!

Color photos, plant descriptions & care instructions for all plants at the parish website: www.stjohnofthecross.org

Order by Thursday, May 1
Order Online OR return this order form to the school or parish office OR mail to: Katie Pruitt, 3921 Central Ave., Western Springs IL 60558
LIMITED QUANTITY of extras will be available for purchase the day of the sale. Come early for best selection!

Pick-up flowers Wednesday, May 7th from 1:00 to 5:00
Handicapped parking lot north of the church. Orders not picked up by 5:00 will be donated. Please make other arrangements if you are unavailable. Sun ☀ Partial Shade ☑ Shade ☑

HERBS & VEGETABLES - 3”-Pots ☑
- Italian parsley
- basil
- thyme
- cilantro
- rosemary
- oregano
- sage
- 3-pack big boy tomatoes
- 3-pack green bell peppers
- total # of herbs/veg x 2.00 =

GERANIUMS - 7” Pots ☑
- white
- red
- fuchsia
- total # of 7” pots x 11.00 =

MARSHA WASHINGTON - 6.5” Pots ☑
- royal lavender
- merlot
- total # of 6.5” pots x 10.00 =

GERANIUMS - 12” Deco-Pots ☑
- coral
- fuchsia
- red
- melody blue
- total # of 12” pots x 32.00 =

6” POTS
- Fountain Grass (purple) ☑
- Caladium (white) ☑
- total # of 6” pots x 9.00 =

HYDRANGEAS 7” Pots ☑
- blue
- pink
- total # of hydrangeas x 22.00 =

4½” Pots
- Lantana (yellow) ☑
- Helichrysum (licorice plant) ☑
- Helichrysum (licorice-lemon) ☑
- Scaevola Blue ☑
- Bacopa Snowstorm (white) ☑
- Vinca vine ☑
- English Ivy ☑
- English Ivy - variegated ☑
- Spikes ☑

Million Bells ☑
- white
- red
- blue (purple)
- yellow

Double Impatiens ☑
- pink
- white

Verbena ☑
- burgundy
- pink
- purple

Sweet Potato Vine ☑
- blackie (dark burgundy)
- marguerite (lime)

Coleus (Vegetative) ☑
- red ruffles ☑
- rustc orange ☑
- perilla magilla ☑
- electric lime ☑

Zonal Geraniums ☑
- white
- fuchsia
- red
- salmon
- total # of 4 ½ pots x 4.00 =

Bedding Flats

Colesus ☑
- watermelon ☑
- wizard mix ☑
- pink green foliage ☑
- pink bronze foliage ☑
- red green foliage ☑
- red bronze foliage ☑
- white green foliage ☑

Impatiens ☑
- mixed
- light pink
- white
- blue pearl

Petunia ☑
- mixed
- yellow
- red
- violet/midnight blue
- white

Marigold ☑
- yellow
- orange
- Alyssum (white) ☑
- total # of flats x 16.00 =

TOTAL $ Due:
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SJC WOMEN’S CLUB

Name:
Phone:
Email:
Address:

We appreciate your support! The flower sale helps to support our parish community as well as local non-profit organizations providing assistance to women, children and families.

www.stjohnofthecross.org

4-6-2014

praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Baptized into New Life in Christ

Last weekend the St. John of the Cross Parish community welcomed the following infants as adopted children of God through the sacrament of baptism. Congratulations to the proud parents and godparents.

Karina Lynne Friesema  
Parents: Jason and Laura Friesema  
Godparents: Jeffrey Scolaro and Jill Nelson

Lucille Fitzgerald Caraher  
Parents: Ryan and Kieran Caraher  
Godparents: Patrick and Bridget Fitzgerald

Eamon Michael Fitzgerald  
Parents: Garrett and Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Godparents: Brian DeCola and Kieran Caraher

Often new or expecting parents wonder what should they consider when choosing godparents.

The role of a godparent is to represent the Christian Catholic community, the Church, and assist the child’s parents in raising their child in our Catholic faith, so that the child may profess and live it as an adult. The Godfather and/or Godmother... must be an active and committed Catholic, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life. Being a godparent is truly a ministry in the Church, not simply an honor.

As much as a couple might appreciate all the help that a non-practicing special friend has given them during a pregnancy, this is not a good motive for having them be a godparent. Rather, a couple should choose a firm believer, someone who is truly committed to the Catholic faith in which their new baby will be baptized. A person who is not Catholic but is baptized in a different faith would be referred to as a witness. Usually parents choose 2 godparents, but only 1 godparent is needed. More than 2 godparents are allowed on occasion, but only 2 names are recorded.

To ensure that a godparent is capable of this important role, Church law requires that this person be at least 16 years old (for maturity’s sake), fully initiated (having received Confirmation and Eucharist), be someone other than the legal parents and one who leads a life in harmony with the Church. You may choose 2 godmothers or 2 godfathers or one of each.

All this may seem like quite a bit, but the purpose is to ensure that the rich and beautiful faith of the Church is passed on to your child in the most loving and authentic way possible. Choosing godparents is one which should be performed with much prayer, careful thought and with the greatest concern for the precious spiritual life of your child.

If you are asked to be a godparent and would like suggestions on how to be the best you can be, stop by the parish center office and pick up our Guide for Godparents.
**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, April 7**
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Robert Pickell

**Tuesday, April 8**
7:45 Lawrence Hickey; Joe Levato

**Wednesday, April 9**
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Donna O’Connor

**Thursday, April 10**
7:45 Robert Joslyn; Christopher Delia

**Friday, April 11, St. Stanislaus**
7:45 Amedeo & Adina Misantoni; Christian Bylund

**Saturday, April 12**
8:00 Bernard Lahart; Philip McGuire
5:00 Lukowsky/DenBesten Family; Richard Sprague

**Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday**
7:30 Thomas B. McCarthy, Jr.; Rita O’Carroll
9:00 Raymond Cochran; Jack Shellar
10:45 Sally Gage; Donna O’Connor
12:30 Sue Shannon; Bill Heinzen
5:00 Kay Roupas; Michael Powers

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**This Week at SJC**

**Monday, April 7**
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Eucharistic Adoration
2:30pm Spiritual Journaling
7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, April 8**
9:05am Rosary
9:30am Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:00pm New Evangelization

**7:00pm Parish Reconciliation Service**
7:00pm RCIA
8:00pm New Evangelization

**Wednesday, April 9**
8:00am Archdiocese Education Meeting
9:30am Bible Study
9:30am Bridges
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00pm Christian Meditation
7:00pm Boy Scouts
7:00pm Nurse’s Talk
7:00pm Archdiocese CRHP Dir. Training
7:30pm Christian Meditation

**Thursday, April 10**
10:00am State of the School
9:30am Moms Club
9:30am Flourish Plus
7:00pm Faith Sharing Group
7:00pm Women’s Club Meeting
7:00pm State of the School

**Friday, April 11**
6:00pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, April 12**
7:00am Christian Meditation

**8:00am Morning Mass & Confessions**
9:00am New Evangelization
9:00am Men’s Club, Speaker
6:00pm Beloved Team Meeting

**Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday**
Palm Sunday Mass Schedule on page 3

**9:00am Welcome Meeting**
1:30pm Altar Service Practice
3:30pm Easter Basket Project
4:30pm BEDS Cooking

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**Father of endless love and compassion,**
**hear the prayers of your family gathered**
**around your altar. May we imitate your Son by**
**taking up our crosses with joyful obedience,**
**seeking your justice in all things; may we**
**embrace his example of loving humility, loving**
**and praising you in the compassion and care**
**we extend to one another. We ask these**
**things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,**
**our Lord and Redeemer.**

**Amen.**

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**Remember Our Beloved Dead**

**Adeline Anderson,** mother of Gail Swaback and Alan

**James Sikes,** husband of Julie, father of Victoria, Caroline, Rebecca and Olivia

**Wilma Rae Vedok,** mother of John, Karen, Vicki, Joe, Jim and Sherry

**Edwin Bunyea,** husband of Marion father of Sandra Ritt and Edwin
CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
    Saint John of the Cross   #9239

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    Western Springs, IL 60558

PHONE —
    708-246-4404

CONTACT PERSON —
    Shirley

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
All youth Kindergarten through 8th grade!!
Please stop at the School Multi-Purpose Room on
Sun, April 6th ~ 9:00 am until Noon
Mon, April 7th ~ 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm
to register your child in YC for the fall.

New families, please bring a copy of each child’s baptismal certificate if not baptized at SJC.
Youth Catechesis is SJC’s religious education program for children.
Our volunteer Catechist and Catechist Aides are engaging and inspiring as they lead your children to a closer relationship with Our Lord, Jesus.

“Catechists discover with their witness of life, the joy of helping others meet and fall in love with Christ.”
Pope Francis