St. John of the Cross Parish

5005 S. Wolf Road Western Springs, IL 60558 • Parish Office: 708-246-4404 • stjohnofthecross.org

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

Palm Sunday
April 13, 2014
Today’s Gospel tells the story we celebrate in liturgy during Holy Week. On Holy Thursday at the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper we enter the sacred Triduum, the great continuous three day celebration of Christ’s passage through death into eternal life. However well or poorly we have prepared ourselves during Lent, we enter these sacred days together.

Gathering on Holy Thursday we sing: “We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through him we are saved and made free,” which calls our attention to the cross, our salvation, our freedom and our life. Central to our liturgy is the receiving of the holy oils that will be used at our parish throughout the year, the ritual washing of feet, giving our gifts of bread, wine and alms for the poor, and receiving Jesus as food and drink at the altar. As Mass ends there is no dismissal, but a procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose, a time when we are invited to pray with awe and reverence for the saving presence of Christ under the forms of bread and wine.

With dawn on Good Friday our fasting from eating signals that all is not business as usual. The Good Friday liturgy is not a Mass, but a three-part service consisting of the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion. We begin in silence, kneeling. Our altar is bare, without candles or cross. Through song and scripture we grieve over Jesus’ suffering as his earthly mission is fulfilled on the cross. He hands over his spirit and glorifies God, showing his immense love for us and saving us from our sins. We depart in simple and prayerful silence.

In darkness at the Easter Vigil, the high point of the Triduum celebration, we gather around a blazing fire outside from which we light the Paschal candle. Slowly the light is passed from candle to candle, from person to person. We hear the Easter proclamation that speaks of the night when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious. Setting our candles aside, we listen to seven readings and psalms which tell the story of salvation for the beginning of time. In the Gospel we hear the story of the empty tomb and of the angel of the Lord who announces the Resurrection. We hear the story that has transformed the lives of generations of people. Then with joyous anticipation we surround our catechumens and candidates as they receive the sacraments and rejoice with them, the sign of new life in our parish community. The Eucharist brings our celebration to a climax as we experience the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst.

We invite you to join with us as one community in prayer during Holy Week and Easter, to “put everything else aside, even time itself, and be in the presence of the awesome mystery.” Be inspired, renewed, nourished, and blessed to live out your baptismal call. Be strengthened to live all the dyings and risings that will be part of your life. Let our song be simple and real and sure. Christ is risen. Our life in Christ is here and now. Alleluia.

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.
Mass Schedule for Holy Week & Easter

**Holy Thursday**
April 17
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00 p.m.
*(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute & Cello)*

**Good Friday**
April 18
Living Stations of the Cross Noon
*(Crossroads teens and children’s choirs lead the Stations of the Cross)*

Passion of the Lord 3:00 p.m.
*(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello & Trumpet)*

**Holy Saturday**
April 19
Blessing of Easter Baskets 11:00 a.m.
in the Parish Center

**Holy Saturday**
April 19
Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.
*(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello & Trumpet)*

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**
April 20
7:30 a.m.
*(Cantor, Flute & Cello)*

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)*

11:00 a.m. First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School
*(Teen Choir, Flute, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, & Drums)*

12:30 p.m.
*(Note this Mass starts 15 minutes later than usual.)*
*(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute, Trumpet, & Cello)*

No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday
*There will be no babysitting on Easter Sunday.*

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The season of Lent is a time in which we do penance and prepare ourselves for the wonder of Easter. We pray more. We make a greater effort to financially help those in need. We make special efforts to make amends for our sinfulness (penance), and we curb our physical desires by restricting our intake of food.

Fasting means that we eat only one full meatless meal and two smaller meals with no snacking between meals. This obligation is applied on Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent) and Good Friday. This law applies to Catholics aged 18-59.

Abstinence means that we eat no meat (including poultry) or meat by-products. We observe abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. This regulation applies to all Catholics over the age of 14.

People who are ill or have particular medical conditions, and women who are pregnant, are not obligated to observe these regulations. Of course, people in these circumstances are urged to pray, do penance, and help the less fortunate as a sign of their repentance and sorrow.

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Used with permission. Loyola Press 2014
Pray for our elect during Holy Week

Having completed their spiritual preparation, our elect will receive the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation and Holy Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil.

Christopher Ing: To be baptized and receive the sacraments of initiation
Kristie Kenny: To be baptized and receive the sacraments of initiation
Keith Knight: To be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (Profession of faith, confirmation and First Eucharist)
Brett Padgett: To be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (Profession of faith, confirmation and First Eucharist)
Bob Peterson: To be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (Profession of faith, confirmation and First Eucharist)
Christopher Walters: To be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (Profession of faith, confirmation and First Eucharist)
Katie Broderick: To receive confirmation

Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
Guide our elect in the week ahead:
strengthen them in their vocation,
build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.
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.
Reflecting on Living the Gospel

Jesus warns the disciples at the Last Supper that their faith would be shaken, but the disciples deny that this will ever happen. Nonetheless, faith is greatly threatened when there is great cost and we instinctively protect ourselves: the disciples flee; the Jewish leaders are adamant about destroying Jesus. Jesus alone remains unshaken in his faith: in the Garden he says yes to his Father's will, he is silent before his accusers' false accusations, he willingly gives up his spirit on the cross. Instead of protecting himself, Jesus embraces the cost of his suffering and death—the great sign of his own faithfulness.

Jesus was unshaken in his fidelity to his saving mission. He has shown us that this kind of fidelity, no matter what the cost, brings us to participate in risen Life. Few of us are faced with a choice of persecution and death in acclamation of Jesus as “the Son of God.” No less demanding, however, is the daily choice to live the Gospel's requirement that we die to ourselves for the sake of others. This is how we confess Jesus is the Son of God. This is how, rather than denial and fleeing Jesus' Presence, we come to stand at the cross with Christ. This is how we come to new Life. Like the disciples, we also know who Jesus is. Every Sunday we make our profession of faith: “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God . . .” This Palm Sunday we are invited to reflect on our own knowledge of who Jesus is and how well we confess to knowing him in our daily living. We must embrace the death of daily self-giving if we, too, are to pass through death to new Life. Relying on Jesus, we will remain unshaken in our commitment to him.

Closing Prayers

May we remain faithful to following Jesus no matter what the cost. May we faithfully follow Jesus to the cross and so come to new Life. Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

- Like the disciples, I have betrayed, denied, and fled from Jesus when I . . .
- What helps me to remain faithful to my commitment to Jesus, even when facing great cost, is . . .

In the course of our busy week, we most likely have times set apart for certain things that are important to us—a workout, a few social phone calls, or maybe even a short catnap—so that we can renew ourselves, our energy, and our perspective. Holy Week is a time that is set apart in our Church’s liturgical year for our spiritual renewal. In fact, the word holy refers to anything that is set apart for God’s purposes. Holy Week is holy precisely because it is time that is set apart for us to focus on how we are spiritually renewed through the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

The Symbols of Holy Week

The liturgies of Holy Week are filled with some of the richest and most ancient symbols of the Catholic faith. The waving of palms on Passion (Palm) Sunday reminds us that we are called to be followers of Jesus, not just fans who cheer from a distance. The washing of feet on Holy Thursday speaks to us of the selfless love that we are called to practice in imitation of Jesus. The veneration of the cross on Good Friday reminds us that, as Christians, we believe that Jesus can overcome anything, even death. The lighting of the Easter fire in a darkened church and the celebration of baptisms on Holy Saturday speak to us of the new life that is ours because of Jesus' triumph over the darkness of sin and death through his resurrection.

Make Space to Renew Your Faith

In her book The Holy Way, Paula Huston explains that “a cluttered and overburdened mental space can be one of the biggest obstacles to simple living.” This Holy Week allow yourself time apart, holy time, to spend with Jesus. May it be a time set apart to unclutter your mind, lay down your burdens, and renew your faith in Jesus.

Living Liturgy 2014.

Readings for the Week

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<th>Holy Thursday</th>
<th>Good Friday</th>
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<th>Easter Sunday</th>
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www.stjohnofthecross.org  4-13-2014  page 5  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Loving God, You call us to be good stewards of creation and of all the gifts you have given us. As we continue on our Lenten journey, walking with our brothers and sisters around the world who are hungry and in need, we pray that our Lenten sacrifices, be an offering of solidarity and a promise of continued work on behalf of the poor and vulnerable. As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that wherever we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, or clothe the naked, we are encountering the Risen Christ. Amen.

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 today or dropped off at the parish center.

We are all part of one human family—whatever our national, racial, religious, economic or ideological differences—and in an increasingly interconnected world, loving our neighbor has global dimensions. “Let us remember Paul VI’s words: ‘For the Catholic Church, no one is a stranger, no one is excluded, no one is far.’ Indeed, we are a single human family that is journeying on toward unity, making the most of solidarity and dialogue among peoples in the multiplicity of differences.”

– Pope Francis

It is a privilege to serve the poor. What greater calling can you answer? When you contemplate the meaning of Lent, you realize that it’s a privilege to make these sacrifices. Think of what you are giving up. Now think of the rewards you receive. Is there any comparison?

Our sacrifice reminds us of the sacrifices that gave us the Lenten season, of the Father who sent his Son to Earth knowing the fate that awaited him, and the pain and suffering he would endure as he accepted and embraced that fate which was, of course, the ultimate sacrifice. But then think of the rewards celebrated on Easter Sunday: resurrection, redemption, a hope that was promised and given to all humanity. These rewards gave eternal value to those temporal sacrifices.

Those sacrifices and that redemption placed a responsibility on those of us who follow Jesus in his Church, which is the body of Christ, the word made flesh. It is through us that his hope will become real. Just as we find God in the meaning of our Lenten sacrifices, we find him in the acts of compassion and kindness that help the poor, wherever they may be. We see the grace of God in a seed that will grow in a drought-stricken field in West Africa, in a tarpaulin given to a mother who lost her home to a typhoon, and in a child eating a meal at a school where she is learning skills that will ensure her future. Your acts of sacrifice and solidarity this Lent help make the work of Catholic Relief Services possible. You feed people around the world, spreading the Easter message of hope to those who need it the most. Thank you!!

Excerpt from letter by President of CRS, Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
On Holy Thursday, a special meal can be prepared and the family can remember the meal Jesus had with his disciples, the night before he died for us, and how he gave us his body and blood that night. Perhaps lamb can be prepared, along with pita bread and some wine, so that the whole Passover story can be shared with the children. This connection with Eucharist, can be a great and memorable time for the children. After supper, a family could wash each others’ feet as an important ritual to talk about afterwards. It will certainly seem awkward or uncomfortable. It’s supposed to. We can then talk about what this ritual means for us, linking it to the gift of the Eucharist, as we live out the example Jesus gave for us of self-giving.

On Good Friday, we can plan to observe the day in many special ways. We can plan our meals carefully, to explain fasting and abstinence. Without jeopardizing the children’s health, we ourselves can demonstrate fasting to them, and explain its meaning: to make us more alert and hungry for God’s gifts to us. The time between noon and 3 o’clock should be a particularly quiet and reflective time. We can read the Passion story – from John’s Gospel – and add our own words here and there to fill out the story and let children ask questions. We can pray our petitions for all of God’s people, especially the ten groups we traditionally pray for on Good Friday. It is a wonderful time to do the Stations of the Cross together. It can also be a time to do a veneration of the cross together – embracing or kissing a family crucifix.

On Holy Saturday, we can make the day a time of waiting. We can remember that it is the only day of the church year on which there is no liturgy. We are conscious all day of the memory of Jesus in the tomb. It is a day in which we can help children talk about the reality of death, and then explain to them the anticipation of new life. If we really reflect upon that tomb, which held the body of Jesus, we can really understand the power of our Easter joy – that the tomb is empty forever. Used with permission Creighton 2014

Easter Sunday: Jesus is Alive
When Jesus’ disciples went to his burial place, they found an empty tomb. Through the message the angel gave to them at the tomb, and through Jesus’ appearances to various disciples, God revealed that Christ was risen. Two Scripture stories played an especially significant role in the faith of the early Christians: the account of Thomas demanding proof that it was Jesus who had appeared to them and the story of Paul’s transformation from persecutor to apostle through an encounter with the risen Jesus.

The New Testament makes it clear that new life in Christ is based on the belief that Jesus rose from the dead. It is the risen Jesus who is Lord, and when Christians are baptized, they enter into the experience of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Resurrection of Jesus was a resurrection into divine life. This is different from a renewal of human life as had been experienced by Lazarus when Jesus brought him back from the dead. The fact that a number of Jesus’ closest disciples had difficulty recognizing him demonstrates that Jesus’ Resurrection was more than just a return to life; it was an entry into the full glory of divine life. Used with permission Loyola Press.

Pope Francis asked married couples: “How are things when it comes to joy at home? Is there joy in your family?” How would you answer the Pope? He said that true joy “comes from a profound harmony between persons.” Used with permission. USCCB For Your Marriage
Blessed to be among them. Saints and ourselves, we enter their company, and we're beginning to close the gap between the greatest of these. We can tell a lot about us by the company we keep. In prayer, Ignatius and Ignatius have set before us. It's often said that others know who we are by what we do. Prayer means making the mind attentive to God; prayer includes gratitude for what's been given. This passage is like Paul's mantra: pray always, pay attention, be grateful. This is crucial to understanding how Paul proceeded in the world.

Ignatius of Loyola was greatly inspired by Paul. He is credited with having written "Pray as if everything depended on God. Work as if everything depended on you." The Ignatian form of spirituality involves a mindfulness that calls us to always be aware of where God is in my life. We can do this by seeking God in the moments and activities of my days and nights, by reflecting on how we've experienced God, and learning from experience and moving forward with the trust and understanding that comes from being in relationship with God.

All of us can find great strength in walking the path that Paul and Ignatius have set before us. It's often said that others can tell a lot about us by the company we keep. In prayer, we begin to close the gap between the greatest of these saints and ourselves, we enter their company, and we're blessed to be among them. Used with permission, Loyola Press.

Don't hold back when praying to God — tell him exactly what's wrong and insist on holding him to his promises. Pope Francis said. Prayer should be like speaking face-to-face with a friend: "without fear, freely and also with insistence," the pope said in his homily April 3.

"Prayer changes our hearts. It helps us better understand what our God is like," it helps people grow closer to him, recognize his love and rejuvenate one’s faith. The pope underlined what Jesus said: "In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words."

"No, say what’s what: 'Look, Lord, I have this problem, in my family, with my child, with this, with that … What can you do? Now see here, you can't leave me like this! This is prayer. And does this prayer take a long time? Yes, it takes time."

Pray like Moses did, face-to-face with the Lord, like a friend, freely, with insistence and good arguments, the pope said. "And also scold the Lord a little: 'Hey, you promised me this, and you haven’t done it …' Like that, like you talk with a friend."

Open one’s heart wide to God and get to know him better, he said. Prayer is a grace, and the Holy Spirit is present; it changes and reinvigorates one’s heart so people can strike back out on their life journey.

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service. Used with permission Green Bay Compass.

Richard Rohr Meditations

Jesus and “the Christ” Are Not Exactly the Same

Jesus is the microcosm; Christ is the macrocosm. There is a movement from Jesus to the Christ that you and I have to imitate and walk, as well. A lot of us have so fallen in love with the historical Jesus that we worship him as such and stop right there. We never really follow the same full journey that he made, which is the death and resurrection journey—Jesus died and Christ rose.

Unless we make the same movement that Jesus did—from his one single life to his risen and transformed state (John 12:24)—we probably don't really understand, experientially, what we mean by the Christ—and how we are part of that deal! This is why he said, "Follow me." The Jesus that you and I participate in and are graced by and redeemed by is the risen Jesus who has become the Christ (Acts 2:36), which is an inclusive statement about all of us and all of creation too. Stay with this startling truth in the days ahead, and it will rearrange your mind and heart, and change the way you read the entire New Testament. Paul understood this to an amazing degree, which is why he almost always talks about “Christ” and hardly ever directly quotes “Jesus.” It is rather shocking once you realize it.

Resurrection as the Revelation of What Was Always True

In the Risen Christ, God reveals the final state of all reality. God forbids us to accept “as-it-is” in favor of “what-God’s-love-can-make-it.” To believe in Resurrection means to cross limits and transcend boundaries. Because of the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus we realistically can believe that tomorrow can be better than today. We are not bound by any past. There is a future that is created by God, and much bigger than our own efforts.

We should not just believe in some kind of survival or immortality or just “life after death”—but Resurrection, an utterly new creation, a transformation into Love that is promised as something that can happen in this world and is God’s final chapter for all of history. That is why a true Christian has to be an optimist. In fact, if you are not an optimist, you haven’t got it yet.

4-13-2014 page 8
Music with Fr. Harry Bonin “Bonin-Palooza”
A crash course of sounds in time, places and human hearts. We’ll survey “classic” music as we heard it, hear it, and wonder at it today. Wednesdays from 9-11:30am on April 23, the Wednesday after Easter. No registration. Just come to the parish center.

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

Celebrating 50 Years of Priesthood
On Sunday, May 4th Father Robert Banzin, (former associate at SJC) with family, friends, and parishioners, will give thanks to God for 50 years of priesthood. St. Mary Parish in Riverside at 11:30 am. You are welcome to join in this thanksgiving.

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 on Saturday, April 26, 2014 9:15am-2:30pm SJC Parish Center Contact Jessica Koch or Jim Clauer for more information.

Crossroads Growth
I have begun meeting with our Leadership Board members to evaluate, discuss and discern how and where our teens & adults will serve next year. For some we will focus on growing the area they already lead, for some it might be accepting a new challenge, and for those who are graduating, it will be with gratitude for all their help.

For our ministry to continue to reach our teens we will need new adults & teens to fill leadership roles. Our Board will have openings, and our retreats and Freshmen Experience teams will need faith-filled peers & adult mentors. If you, a teen you know, or someone you think has gifts to serve our ministry please contact Katie Hayes for a leadership application! Read more about it at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/ descriptions.

Peace,
Katie Hayes khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Gardening Angels
Our Gardening Angels group is looking for new volunteers to help this spring and summer. We have volunteer jobs that will fit your interest and availability. Do you like to water? Plant? Weed? Mulch? Prune? Are you available every week or just on occasion? Call Jan Grabacki at 708-246-4610 to learn now you can help.
Interfaith Career Network
Join us on Thursday, April 24, 7-9 pm at St. John of the Cross Parish Center. Job Search Skills and Techniques You Can’t Live Without is our topic this evening. Our speaker, Kevin Crews, has over 20 years of experience training, sourcing and recruiting top talent for Fortune 500 companies. This program is for the employed and under employed as well as the unemployed. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend.

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Consider Ministry in the Church
Are you willing to stay with Jesus and with others through difficult times? Pray for the strength to endure hardships. (Matthew 27: 11-54). If you think God is calling you to be a priest, visit our website at www.ChicagoPriest.com or contact Fr. Francis Bitterman at fbitterman@archchicago.org or at 312-534-8298.

For information on religious life contact Sr. Elyse Ramirez, OP at 312-534-5240 or eramirez@archchicago.org, and for the Permanent Diaconate program contact Deacon Bob Puhala at 847-837-4564 bpuhala@usml.edu

Food Pantry Collection
During the month of April the food we collect in our church narthex will be delivered to our neighboring parish, St. Cletus, to distribute to needy families in our area. Please remember to bring a can or two with you to Mass.

Pope Francis @Pontifex  Mar 31
Lent is a time to change direction, to respond to the reality of evil and poverty.

Pope Francis @Pontifex  Apr 3
May we never get used to the poverty and decay around us. A Christian must act.

Mary Mother of Jesus Statue
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.
Our fifth through eighth graders rehearsed for seven weeks and presented a beautiful production of Cinderella for our spring musical this year. The children performed for sold out houses each night of the show. The spring play is an event that the children look forward to with anticipation each year.

This year, each month a class receives the opportunity to learn and recite the Rosary in either our chapel, church, or Mary Garden. This is a wonderful experience for our children and their parents as they learn the meaning of the Rosary.

During this season of Lent, our children continue to make sandwiches for the Port Ministries, just another way we are able to give back. Our sixth grade students also took a field trip to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. We truly have wonderful children who understand and want to give back to our surrounding communities.

This Week At SJC
Monday, April 14 Stations of the Cross 9:15am, Church
Tuesday, April 15 School Advisory Board Meeting 7pm
Friday, April 18 Good Friday—No School—Easter Break

Pope Francis @Pontifex  Mar 20
May we learn to say “thank you” to God and to one another. We teach children to do it, and then we forget to do it ourselves!
**Women’s Club Flower Sale ~ Orders Due May 1 ~ Shop online too**

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**TOTAL #:**

- **Total # of trees x $6.00 =**

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**Vermilion**

- **Total # of trees x 2.00 =**

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**Million Bells**

- **Total # of trees x 1.00 =**

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**Heichthausia (Blue) Variegated**

- **Total # of trees x 0.75 =**

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<td>Orange</td>
<td>Leaf</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrangeas 7” Pots</th>
<th>30” Candles (white)</th>
<th>6” Pots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Red</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12” Deco Pots</th>
<th>6” Pot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Green</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What You Need</th>
<th>What You Get</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Orange</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>55¢ &amp; 75¢ Specials</th>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21¢ &amp; 35¢ Specials</th>
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<td>White</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>44¢ &amp; 55¢ Specials</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>49¢ &amp; 59¢ Specials</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seeds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chili</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heichthausia (Blue) Variegated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Trees x 2.00 =</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Red</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Trees x 1.00 =</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Trees x 0.75 =</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Trees x 0.50 =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Red</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Trees x 0.10 =</th>
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<tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th># of Trees x 0.05 =</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Trees x 0.01 =</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th># of Trees x 0.005 =</th>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th># of Trees x 0.001 =</th>
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<table>
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<th># of Trees x 0.000000005 =</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Red</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th># of Trees x 0.000000001 =</th>
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<table>
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<th># of Trees x 0.0000000005 =</th>
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<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th># of Trees x 0.0000000001 =</th>
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<td>Red</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Red</td>
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**Order by Thursday, May 1, by 5:00 p.m.**

Pick-up Flowers Wednesday, May 7th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

---

**Landscape Quality Flowers & Edibles at a Great Price!**

**19th Annual Flower Sale**

**St. Women’s Club**
SJC FEST 2014
June 26-29th
51st & Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL - www.SJCFEST.com

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

CARNIVAL RIDES
RAFFLE PRIZES
ENTERTAINMENT

BE A PART OF THE SJC FEST
CALL DAN MADDEN
(708) 417-1999

WE NEED YOU!

www.stjohnofthecross.org  4-13-2014  page 13  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Some day you will have to face your Maker! We've all heard that phrase. The hour will come when we will stand alone before God with no place to hide, no room to rationalize, and no excuses to offer for our weaknesses and sin. We will stand in a searing light, naked and exposed, and all we ever did, good and bad, will stand with us in that light. That prospect, however vaguely felt, makes for a dark corner in every person's mind.

But we can go through our daily lives with that prospect mostly consigned to the back of our minds. We know that someday we will have to face it all, but that day is a long ways off and, for now, we can peacefully accommodate ourselves to our procrastinations and weaknesses. The time to radically face ourselves and our Maker, to stand in the searing light of full judgment, will only come at the time of death.

But, why wait until death? Why live with so much unnecessary fear? Why hide from God's judgment? Why delay throwing ourselves into God's mercy and peace?

Searing judgment of our souls is meant to be a daily occurrence, not a single traumatic moment at the end of our lives. We are meant to bring ourselves, with all our complexities and weaknesses, into God's full light every day. How?

There are many ways to do this, though all of them are predicated on the same thing, namely, on bringing ourselves before God in searing honesty. In essence, we face the light of God's full judgment every time we pray in real honesty. Genuine prayer brings us into that searing light. And, in the great prayer traditions, one particular form of prayer, contemplative prayer, is singled out as being most helpful in doing this, that is, prayer without words, without images, the prayer of quiet, centering prayer.

There are various methods for praying in this way. From the Desert Fathers, through the author of the Cloud of Unknowing, through Thomas Merton, through John Main, through Thomas Keating, through Laurence Freeman, among others, we have been invited to supplement our other methods of prayer with contemplative prayer, that is, prayer without images, without words, without concentrating on holy thoughts, and without looking for affective, faith-filled feelings in our prayer.

How do we pray in this way? We pray in this way by wordlessly bringing ourselves into God's presence in a way that we hide nothing of ourselves. Perhaps a description of how this kind of prayer differs from other kinds of prayer might best serve us here.

Normal, meditative types of prayer essentially work this way: You set off to pray, find a quiet place, sit or kneel down, make a conscious act to center yourself in prayer, focus on an inspiring text or thought, begin to meditate on those words, try to hear what is being said inside you, articulate the challenge or insight that is making itself heard there, and then connect this all to your relationship to God, through gratitude, love, praise, or petition. In this kind of prayer, your focus is on an inspiring word or insight, the response this creates in you, and your own response to God in the light of that. But, and this is its shortcoming, the words, images, and feelings in that kind of prayer, for all their goodness, can still act as a camouflage that protects you from being fully exposed and naked before God, akin to what we can do in a conversation with another person when we can talk about all kinds of things, good things, but avoid talking about what is really at issue.

Contemplative prayer, by way of contrast, is prayer without words or images. It works this way: You set off to pray, find a quiet place, sit or kneel, and make a conscious act to simply place yourself before God. Then you simply stay there, naked and unprotected by any words, images, conversations, rationalizations, or even by any holy feelings about Jesus, his Mother, some saint, some icon, or inspirational idea. All of these, good as they are, can help you avoid having to be there naked before God. Contemplative prayer brings you into God's presence without protection, with no possibility of hiding anything. The silence and absence of prayerful conversation is what leaves you naked and exposed, like a plant sitting in the sun, silently drinking in its rays.

We are meant to face God like this every day of our lives, not just at the moment of our death. So, each day, we should set aside some time to put ourselves into God's presence without words and without images, where, naked, stripped of everything, silent, exposed, hiding nothing, completely vulnerable, we simply sit, full face, before God's judgment and mercy.

By doing this, we will preempt any traumatic encounter at the time of our death and, more importantly, we will begin, already here and now, to enjoy more fully God's empathic embrace.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser
This Week at SJC

Monday, April 14
10:30 am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 pm Spiritual Journaling
3:45 pm Altar Server Practice
6:30 pm YC 6th Grade Parent Meeting
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, April 15
9:05 am Rosary
9:30 am Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
7:00 pm School Board
7:00 pm RCIA

Wednesday, April 16
9:30 am Bible Study 3
11:30 am Ladies Bridge
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
7:00 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm Faith Sharing Group
7:30 pm Christian Meditation

Thursday, April 17, Holy Thursday
9:00 am Flourish
7:00 pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, April 18, Good Friday
12:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross
3:00 pm Good Friday Passion of the Lord

Saturday, April 19, Holy Saturday
7:00 am Christian Meditation
11:00 am Easter Basket Blessing
7:30 pm Easter Vigil

Mass Intenions

Monday, April 14
7:45 Joseph Schmitt; Paul Adducci

Tuesday, April 15
7:45 Rosini & Henry Weber; Our Beloved Dead

Wednesday, April 16
7:45 Patricia Wehner; Mark Bestler; James Piszczor

Holy Thursday, April 17
7:00 Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Good Friday, April 18
3:00 Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 19
7:30 Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 20, Resurrection of the Lord
7:30 Joseph Scelsi; Bob Cosgrove
9:00 Norah Walsh; Steve Gengol
10:45 Ramon Sanchez; Winnie Nuzzo
12:15 Walter & Patricia Cebula; Chester Cebula

Pray for Our Sick

Frank Accardi
Mitch Allen
Paul Cervony
Terry Cosgrove
John Cozza
Margaret Daley
Jack Doyle
William Dwyer
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge
Audra Frolik
Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Mark Giangrande
Karen Hult
Barbara Jacob
Dee Kennedy
Rosie King
Frank Kranz
Lee Lepinske
Pat Martin
Mary Ann Matysik
Vicki McNally
Jay Meehan
John Munch
Nancy Olin
Marion Pascale
Bob Pietras
Ray Principe
James Reilly
Rick Reimer
Teresa Schaefer
John Shea
Guy Thomas
Mary Catherine Warren
Donna Webster
Sharon Wildman

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MJ Martin, Operations
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Elizabeth Russell-Jones, Welcome
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www.stjohnofthecross.org 4-13-2014 page 15 praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Our Village Forming Children in Faith!

Many volunteers give of their time and talents and are delighted to discover their faith grows in the process. 28 parishioners volunteer at YC even though they do not have children in the program; 31 high-school teens bless our youth with their energy and love of the Lord and many, many parents serve. Please take a moment to thank these amazing individuals, parents, and teenagers when you see them this spring. We honor them for their gift of love! Please prayerfully consider joining your neighbors and friends in YC next year, and you will be amazed at how much you receive from giving to our children! All you need is a love for Christ!!

**KINDERGARTEN:**
Kathy Skwara
Olivia Tisa
Leah Torsberg
Kerri Watson
Dianna Whelton
Elizabeth Wyckoff
Susan Wyckoff

**FIRST GRADE:**
Robin Carroll
Michelle Flaws
Daci Forrest
Jean Garner
Jennifer Griffin
Laura Jachim
Timothy Kenny
Colleen Miller
Sara Norgle
Colleen Pabst
Cinda Rokicki
Kristin Ryan
Liz Ryan
Eric Schumm
Laurel Schumm
Kathy Strnic
Laura Timmel
Caroline Tyler
Elizabeth Walsh
Katherine Wojtowicz
Maria Young

**SECOND GRADE:**
Meredith Adler
Kelly Albright
Seamus Brennan
Joan Doyle
Susan Duff
Michael Flynn
Carrie Frech
Meghan Jancewicz
Krystyna Kalata
Christine Kidder
Heather McCarthy
Dawn McKerr
Karen Olenec

**THIRD GRADE:**
Nancy Burke
Kenneth Fiedler
Matthew Henick
Beverly Jensen
Kevin Karpinski
Frances Mahoney
Rebecca Mares
Jaynelen Mikulski
Michael Mikulski
Kelly Mini
Kristen Mologousis
Margaret Musur
Susan Ormsby
Patricia Sheneman
Donna Thornton
Tim Woods

**FOURTH GRADE:**
Peggy Anderson
Patricia Ayala-Rodriguez
Kathleen Broderick
Amy Cannon
Meghan Cannon
Ashley Carlson
Kimberly Carlson
Linda Dolan
Mireya Duffy
Kellie Hollinger
Kristin LaRocco
Kathy Marconi-Kane
Sarah McHugh
Kyle Norbut
Nicole Sommers
Madeline Tisa
Thomas Walsh
Leslie Walters
Robert Wilson

**FIFTH GRADE:**
Glenn Aldridge
Ryan Carlson
Thomas Clasing
Joan Clotpton
Francesca Fierrmonte
Andrew Frech
Susan Kiley
William Kiley
Niamh Kristufek
Jennifer Luna
Kevin McGann
Carol Richards
Julia Stailano
June Taylor
Carolyn Tobin
Grelewicz
Gina Kidder
Patricia Kimble
Ann Legan
Mary Lichtenauer
Heidi Lopez
Carolyn Madigan
Tom Muth
Victoria Rohrscheib
Jeremie Sands
Laurie Smillie
Julie Smith
Thomas Smith
Katherine Weibel
Heidi Wood
Carol Wooding

**SIXTH GRADE:**
Patrick Bailey
Laura Colonna
David DiLoreto
Susan DiLoreto
Michelle Fink
Joseph Haberkorn
Marian Hughes
Molly Hughes
Thomas Kiely
Kathleen Lang
Deborah Lebed
Patricia McHenry
Dawn Minella
Madonna Muscarello
Eri Pergantis
Theresa Reyes
Steven Schell

**SEVENTH GRADE:**
Tami Brodlow
Andrea Burke
Brian Cannon
Linda Caplice
Karen Coffman
Christianne Cone
Maribeth Flaws
Colleen Fritzsch
Meghan Hess
Kirsten Hultman-
Grelewicz
Gina Kidder
Patricia Kimble
Ann Legan
Mary Lichtenauer
Heidi Lopez
Carolyn Madigan
Tom Muth
Victoria Rohrscheib
Jeremie Sands
Laurie Smillie
Julie Smith
Thomas Smith
Katherine Weibel
Heidi Wood
Carol Wooding

**EIGHTH GRADE:**
Julia Barnicle
Rosaria Becker
Susan Bidstrup
Christopher Brynda
Eileen Brynda
Barbara Campbell
Bill Case
Cynthia Conboy
Bernadette Cooley
Julia Doyle
Melissa Hennessy
Sheila Higney
Ann Hoffman
Scott Hoffman
Eileen Koch
Patricia Kretzer-Eckardt
JudithLetsinger
Rebecca Mares
Karina McCauley
JoAnn McGarry
Danielle Montesano
Robert Montesano
Celeste Pearson
Catherine Siciliano
Erika Siegfried
Paul Siegfried
Jaclyn Tisa
Maureen Vear

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Diana Masella
Jane Gill
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Carmen Barc
Valerie Brossard
Kristen Hosey
Ed Jamarzik
Leslie Makovic
Abigail McCormack
Janine Morrissey
Audra O’Connell
Shirley Rice

**SPECIAL NEEDS:**
Emma Baron
Mason Boryzn
Kevin Brennen
Madeline Brennen
Caitlin Bresnahan
Diane Campion
Elyse Campion
Thomas Campion
Jeanne Furlong
Anna Geraghty
Marie Geraghty
Jacki Hincks
James Hogg
Julia Kiely
Cherette Lee-Brennan
Julie McDermott
Katherine McDermott
Maggie McDermott
Ellen Wheelihan
Conor Wiegmann
Griffin Winslow
Mary Yocius

Celebrate ~ Honor ~ Thanks ~ Gratitude