Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build Up the Kingdom of God. The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
June 22, 2014
You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and you have searched me and know me. You know when I sit and when I stand. From heaven you know my every thought, everything I do, everywhere I go. Even before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say. With your powerful arm you protect me from every side. If I were to climb up to the highest heavens, you would be there. If I were to dig down to the bottom of the world you would also be there. If I had wings like the dawning day and sailed to the farthest limits of the sea, even there your powerful arm would guide and protect me. You are the one who formed me so beautifully inside my mother’s womb. I praise your wonderful works, O Lord, as I am filled with the embrace of your love. Forever I am your beloved child.

God has planted the seed of his belovedness in your soul. Learn to nurture this gift of his love so as to let it shine within you and from you so that filled with his joy and peace you may be his love in our world.

The St. John of the Cross Parish Beloved Retreat for men and women will be held on October 17—19, 2014 at the Carmelite Center in Darien. The weekend will be filled with prayer, listening, reflection, and discussion that invites a greater awareness of God’s great love and encourages us to be more and more like the One who knows us so well. Come and be filled. Come and discover your belovedness.

Retreat Dates: Friday, October 17 at 7pm-Sunday, October 19 at 2pm
Location: Carmelite Center in Darien
Register online or by dropping an envelope at the parish center with your contact information with a check for $100 of the total cost.
Register by July 30 to receive a $30 discount.
Per Person Cost: Private Room $280 or Shared Room $230. Partial Scholarships are available through Fr. David.
June 22, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Easter Sunday 2013, Pope Francis encouraged each person to be a witness of charity. The Holy Father has continued to remind each of us through his words and actions that we must serve our brothers and sisters in order to be true disciples of Christ.

In dioceses where many are dependent on the Church for social and pastoral support, as well as regions where Catholics are persecuted for their faith, His Holiness extends his charity to those most in need.

This year’s Peter’s Pence Collection provides each of us the opportunity to be a witness of charity. In addition, our financial support of this annual collection will assist Pope Francis in strengthening dioceses, religious orders and struggling communities of faith. I thank you for your generosity.

May Our Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones as you share your faith and charity in your parish, the Archdiocese of Chicago and throughout the Universal Church. You and those you love are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Fr. Dennis Koopman, OFM, is celebrating his 50th Jubilee of becoming a Franciscan Friar. Fr. Dennis is a familiar face to many parishioners as he has been helping at our parish for many years, celebrating weekend and weekday Masses, hearing confessions, and presiding at funerals.

All are invited to celebrate his Jubilee Anniversary with Fr. Dennis on Tuesday, July 8 at the 7:45am Mass. A reception will follow in the community room of church.

Did You Know?
The parish offers free babysitting in the Garden Room of the Rectory every Sunday during the 9am and 10:45am Masses. No reservations are needed. Just come to the front glass doors of the rectory and ring the bell to be buzzed into the building. The rectory is located between the church and the parish center by the Mary Garden. The front doors face north.

There is no sitting service on holiday weekends. So there will be no sitting on Sunday, July 6th (July 4th weekend) or Sunday, August 31st (Labor Day weekend). There will be sitting on the Fest Sunday, June 29th.

Jesus, I believe in you.
Jesus, I hope in you
Jesus, I love you.
White bread, rye bread, wheat bread, pita bread, zucchini bread, and pumpernickel! Perhaps no food comes in as many varieties as bread, known as the staff of life. Because bread is so basic to our life, God was wise to nourish us with divine life in the form of bread, the Eucharist.

Jesus foretold this marvel when he claimed, “I am the bread of life….I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world” (John 6:48, 51). This was not just a figure of speech. Jesus meant the words literally. At the Last Supper the night before he died, he held bread in his hands and said to his friends, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24). Ever since then Christians have been celebrating the breaking of the bread. We come together to share a meal and be fed with the bread and wine that is Jesus. The Eucharist is a gift of Jesus' love through which we remember his death and resurrection and share in them.

When Jesus called himself the bread of life, his listeners no doubt thought of Moses. Through Moses God sent down manna, bread from heaven that fed the chosen people for 40 years before they reached the promised land. Jesus explained, “Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die” (John 6:49-51).

God prepared us for the mystery of the Eucharist in several ways. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a town whose name means “House of Bread.” His mother laid him in a manger, a feeding trough, a hint that someday he would be bread for the world. All four Gospels tell the story of the miraculous feeding of crowds, which foreshadows what happens at Mass. Jesus fed thousands of people by having the disciples distribute five barley loaves and two fish. After everyone had enough to eat, there were still 12 baskets of leftovers (and in some accounts seven). Even the time Jesus gave us the Eucharist was a clue to its meaning—the time of Passover. At this feast the Jewish people celebrate their salvation from death in Egypt by a meal that includes unleavened bread and wine.

When we partake of the Eucharist, Jesus feeds us with his body and blood. We enter into communion with him and with one another. Unlike other food, which becomes part of us, Jesus in the sacred bread and wine makes us more like him. Therefore we, too, are to be bread for the world.

The living bread sustains us and prepares us for that day when we will come to the heavenly banquet. It is a pledge of future glory. It is the means by which Christ fulfills his promise, “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Gracious Father, Giver and Nurturer of all life, hear our prayers.
May the bread and wine of the Eucharist make us bread for one another and for all, that we might become ministers of your life and love to our world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.
Amen.
Background on the Gospel Reading

Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This day was once called Corpus Christi, which is Latin for “Body of Christ.” In the revised Lectionary the name for this day is expanded to reflect more completely our Eucharistic theology.

Today’s Gospel is taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading is part of a discourse between Jesus and a crowd of Jews. The discourse comes shortly after the miracle of Jesus’ multiplication of the loaves and fishes. In John’s Gospel, miracles such as this are identified as “signs” through which people come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. These signs are followed by dialogue, or discourse that interprets and explains the miracle. In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ multiplication of the loaves is said to have occurred near Passover, thus linking it to the Exodus and God’s saving action toward the Israelites.

Having seen Jesus multiply the loaves and fishes, the crowd pursues him, perhaps seeking more food but also looking for another sign. Jesus tells the crowd that he is the bread of life. He explains that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give eternal life. It is in this context that Jesus repeats those words in today’s Gospel and tells them again that he is the living bread that came down from heaven.

Jesus’ words are not well understood by the crowd; they argue that Jesus is not from heaven but born of Mary and Joseph. The crowd also has trouble understanding how Jesus could give them his flesh to eat. Jesus tells them that when they eat his flesh and drink his blood, they will remain forever connected to him. These are difficult words, but they are important because they seek to show us our intimate connection with Jesus.

This is the mystery that is at the heart of our Eucharistic theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus’ Body and Blood are truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us eternal life, and sends us forth to be Christ’s Body in the world. © 2013 Loyola Press. Used with permission.

May we, through communion with the risen Christ, strengthen communion with one another.
May we grow in our self-giving, being imitators of Christ who gave himself for us.
Why not turn to God and ask him to inspire your plans?

Looking for a book to read this summer? Read The Joy of the Gospel Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation. Our pastoral staff has been diligently reading and discussing each chapter of The Joy of the Gospel. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt and the desire to do good fades.

Excerpts from The Joy of the Gospel Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation

Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing

Dear Lord,
we want to be an engaged church, a parish motivated by love for you and committed to our mission of living out your gospel.
We ask that you be with us on our spiritual journey.
Help us to be a worshipping community, devoted to Mass, praying with and for one another and lifting our voices joyfully in song.
Help us to be a welcoming community with smiles and outstretched arms as we greet all who enter our doors, be they friends or strangers.
Help us to be a community of good stewards who support our parish and are compassionate to the needs of the poor.
Help us to be a ministering community, cheerfully and tirelessly offering time and talent in service to others.
Help us to be a community of disciples who place you, Lord, at the center of our lives.
Help us to be an engaged community with open hearts and open minds to seek you Lord, share your gifts, and rejoice in your blessings.
Amen.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lifelong Learning

How we live the Eucharist in our daily lives

First, the Eucharist affects the way we see others. In his life, Christ manifested his love by being with people, and by sharing their desires and problems. So too the Eucharist brings us together with others – young and old, poor and affluent, neighbors and visitors. The Eucharist calls us to see all of them as our brothers and sisters, and to see in them the face of Christ.

Second, in the Eucharist we experience the forgiveness of God and the call to forgive. We celebrate the Eucharist not because we are worthy, but because we recognize our need for God’s mercy, incarnate in Jesus Christ. In the Eucharist, we renew the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ for the remission of sins, and our hearts are enlarged to receive and show mercy.

Third, in the Eucharistic celebration, we are nourished as the Christian community by Christ’s Word and Life. It is from the Eucharist that the Church receives continually her identity and mission. It is in our celebration that Christ fills us with his grace, so that our lives may be consonant with our worship of God in the Liturgy. Let us live the Eucharist in a spirit of faith and prayer, with the certainty that the Lord will bring to fulfillment all that he has promised.

Pope Francis 2014-02-12 Vatican Radio English Summary

Why not turn to God and ask him to inspire your plans?

Looking for a book to read this summer? Read The Joy of the Gospel Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation. Our pastoral staff has been diligently reading and discussing each chapter of The Joy of the Gospel.

Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt and the desire to do good fades.

Excerpts from The Joy of the Gospel Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation
Prayer

The feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ holds out to us an invitation and a challenge. This feast invites us to ask ourselves:

What does Holy Communion mean to us?
Do we appreciate it as much as we did the first time we received it?

If our answer is no, then we are faced with a challenge. How can we deepen our appreciation of it? How can we get excited about it again?

One way is to try receiving it as if we were doing so for the first time—or the last time—in our lives.

In the week ahead, add a prayer of thanksgiving to your regular daily prayers for Christ’s gift of his body to us.

Second, as you walk down the aisle at Mass to receive the Body of Christ, focus your thoughts in a special way on who it is you will receive when the priest or communion minister holds up the sacred bread and says, “The Body of Christ.”

You will receive the living Body of Christ. You will receive the same Christ who was born in Bethlehem. You will receive the same Christ who died on the cross for us. You will receive the same Christ who rose from the dead.

When you think about this, it’s so incredible that it’s hard to imagine. Yet we know by faith that it is true. Only a loving God could have given us such an unimaginable gift.

Mythological Vietnamese artist John Henry Cardinal Newman

Dear Jesus,
help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go;
Flood my soul
with your spirit and life;
Penetrate and possess
my whole being so completely
That all my life may be
only a radiance of yours;
Shine through me
and be so in me
That everyone
with whom I come into contact
may feel your presence within me.
Let them look up
and see no longer me—
but only Jesus.

Amen.

John Henry Cardinal Newman

Richard Rohr on Eucharist

Ritual as Knowing

The ritual of Eucharist clarifies and delineates Christianity from the other religions of the world. We have many things in common, but Christianity is the only religion that says that God became a human body, and we are going to continue to promote embodiment as the way of knowing. God became flesh, as John’s Gospel puts it (1:14), and Eucharist continues that mystery in space and time. The theological word for that is Incarnation or enfleshment.

Yet it seems that it is much easier for God to convince bread of what it really is than for God to convince us. We alone balk, rebel, and analyze. Let’s be honest and admit that “eat my body and drink my blood” is scandalous talk (John 6:64-66) that has stopped scandalizing us! And so we miss the point. Eucharist is intentionally shocking. Jesus did not say, “Think about this,” “Fight about this,” “Stare at this.” He just said “Eat this” and “Do this.” Eucharist is a dynamic, interactive event that makes one out of two.

If we did not have the Eucharist, we would have to create it, the ritual is so perfect. Sometimes it seems that outsiders can appreciate this more than Christians. As Gandhi said, “There are so many hungry people in the world that God could only come into the world in the form of food.” It is marvelous, that God would enter our lives not just in the form of sermons or Bibles, but as ingested food and drink. Jesus comes to feed us more than just teach us.

May we enter into true friendship with Jesus, so that following him closely, we may live with and for him.

Pope Francis Tweet May 29

www.stjohnofthecross.org 6-22-14 page 7 praying ~ serving ~ sharing
Marriage is not a test that you either pass or fail. It’s an ongoing process of learning about each other and how to accommodate differences so that both of you can feel satisfied and grow in love for each other. Marriage is also not a competition in which one person wins at the expense of the other. If both spouses are not happy with a decision, then the marriage suffers since one person’s happiness cannot be at the expense of the other’s.

In this spirit, we invite you to assess where you are in your marriage.

- Identify the issues that you agree on and are working smoothly for you.
- Identify the issues that you disagree on and need to work out a compromise.
- Identify the issues that you haven’t gotten around to talking about – but you should.

All this can add up to a blueprint for deepening your marriage and helping you reach your full marriage potential. The following categories can get you started:

On a scale of 1 – 10 rate your satisfaction with your marriage in the areas of:

1. Shared Values ____
2. Commitment to each other ____
3. Communication Skills ____
4. Conflict Resolution Skills ____
5. Intimacy/Sexuality ____
6. Spirituality/Faith ____
7. Money Management ____
8. Appreciation/Affection ____
9. Lifestyle _____
10. Recreation _____
11. Decision Making _____
12. Parenthood _____
13. Household chores / gender differences _____
14. Careers_____ 
15. Balancing Time_____

TOTAL: ____

Since this isn’t a test, but rather a map for you to use for further discussion, your total is not based on 100%. If your self-ratings on a specific topic are:

8-10: You are quite happy with this aspect of your marriage. This could be because you are generally an optimistic person and easy going, or you’ve been very intentional about working on your marriage.

4-7: You are sliding along in your marriage, perhaps not paying much attention to it or avoiding areas of conflict. It’s also possible that you have high expectations and are not an easy grader.

1-3: You are pretty dissatisfied with this aspect of your marriage. Check out the other areas of this website that address this topic.

Another way of assessing whether you need to pay more attention to certain areas of your marriage is by comparing answers with your spouse. If your ratings on any given topic differ by more than three points, you’ll want to discuss why.

Finally, if both you and your spouse have total scores of:

100 + Give yourself an A – but don’t get proud or complacent.

75-99 Give yourself a B – you’re in good shape and can pinpoint those areas you’ll want to discuss further.

50-74 Give yourself a C – You may have much to discuss or one of you may be more dissatisfied than the other. Check it out.

15-49 Consider professional help through counseling or a marriage program. Counseling can be obtained through Catholic Charities at 312.655.7725 or go to www.catholiccharities.net/holbrook. Fees are based on your family size and income. Info on Retrouvaille can be found on the next page of today’s bulletin. foryourmarriage@usccb2014.

Are you sending a card to a new bride and groom?
Include your favorite tip for a happy marriage—it can be serious, humorous or thought-provoking.
Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:
Sarah and Matt Estep and Family
Sheena and Michael Vojta
Estela and Michael Tallarico and Family
Kathryn and Joel Griswold and Family
Jenna and James Yackish
Ashley and Kory Kliebert

Join Us!!

Becoming a Member at St. John of the Cross
Welcome! is the name of our New Member Program at St. John of the Cross. The Welcome! Program is a time for you to get to know all about your new parish and for us to get to know about you and your family. Each of us has a place at the Table at St. John of the Cross Parish. Each of us is called to discover, to grow, to be all God has asked us to be. We are so happy to be on the journey with you.

Become a Member by registering online at http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/welcome/ or by stopping in at our Parish Center office. Our Welcome Coordinator, Elizabeth Russell-Jones will meet with you to introduce you to everything at SJC, take you on a tour of our campus, listen to ways that our parish might help you, inspire you, and become an important part of your life and answer any questions you may have. Elizabeth’s office is located in the Welcome Center in the Parish Center. 708-246-4404 x155 email her at erussell-jones.org.

Summer Sport Camps for All Parish Kids
Running Camp for children in grades 3-8 is held every Wednesday through August 6th from 7:30-8:30am. Kids meet at the flag pole. Fee is $60. Questions: Michelle Fink, 708-784-1599

Basketball Camp for children in grades 2-8 will be offered at 2 sessions: July 28 through August 1 and August 4 through August 18. grade 2-5 attend from 8-10am and grades 6-8 attend from 10am-Noon. Fee is $85 per session or $95 at the door. Register at: stjohnofthecross.org/school/athletics. Questions: Tom Taylor, 312-617-8535.

Retrouvaille…A Lifeline for Marriages
Join the Retrouvaille Program where couples can work on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your life together in a new and positive way. The next program will be on August 1 - 3.

For more information, contact Robin & Phil Kain by calling (773) 544-0498 or emailing: robin.kain@yahoo.com.

The World Community for Christian Meditation invites all parishioners to attend a special event at Elmhurst College, The 2014 John Main Seminar Muslims and Christians: Listeners for the Word July 24-27, 2014. Led by Fr. Daniel Madigan SJ, the seminar will explore what Christians and Muslims have in common and what distinguishes us from each other in the context of esteem that Vatican II expresses for Muslims and their religious practice.

Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB will also lead an optional 3-day silent retreat entitled Changing Patterns: The Power of Stillness and Silence in Meditation, prior to the seminar on July 21-24. More info at www.wccm.org

Boy Scout Religious Emblem Program
Calling all Catholic Boy Scouts ages 13 – 15 who have completed 6th grade! We will be holding an Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblems Program this summer at St. John of the Cross Parish Center on specific Sunday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. This is an exciting opportunity for all the Catholic scouts from any troop in the parish who wish to earn this award! The medal will be presented at a special Religious Awards Assembly at Holy Name Cathedral on Sunday, January 25, 2015. A mandatory parent meeting will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2014 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the Parish Center. All Scout participants should also attend and bring their Ad Altare Dei workbook. If you are interested in this program, you can register by contacting Religious Emblems Counselor Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net.

Are you semi-retired, retired or just ready to serve others? Join the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Members of the Catholic service program volunteer 2 days a week from September to June and also meet to reflect and pray. Volunteers serve as tutors, employment counselors, food pantry volunteers, elderly companions, and hospital and prison ministers. Volunteers must be 50 years old to apply. There is no upper age limit. Register for an information session at 2pm on Thursday, July 10 at Old St. Mary’s on S Michigan Ave. Call Jacqueline Fitzgerald at 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.
Parish News & Notes

SJC Fest News
SJC Fest 2014, the parish annual carnival and fundraiser is almost here. The Fest will run from June 26-29. We hope everyone will join us for great food, fun, and music!!

Regular Summer Mass Schedule
Parishioners should know that Masses will continue to be celebrated in church next week and weekend at regular summer Mass times.

Parking
Fifty parking spots will be available in the main parking lot for weekday Mass. Parking for weekend Masses will be on the grass north of the church. The handicap lot will remain available everyday. All cars will enter on Wolf Road. Here is a picture of our campus. There will be parishioners directing traffic too, so not to worry!!

Baked Goods Needed for Fest Bake Sale
Parish bakers are asked to donate baked goods and cookies for the Fest Bake Sale. Donations can be brought to the parish center on Thursday and Friday, June 26 and 27 until 3pm or in the multi-purpose room anytime during the Fest. Mark your donation with ingredients such as nuts and chocolate for those with allergies.

Individuals with Special Needs Invited
Thursday, June 26 from 2:30-4:30pm
Special needs children and adults and their families are invited to enjoy the Fest rides and games free of charge before the Fest opens to the general public. Call Diane at 708-246-9301 for additional information

Volunteer at the Fest
Go to our parish website and sign up to help! It is sure to be a great way to meet other parishioners and give back to the community.

On Your Mark... Get Set... Go to the 41st Annual SJC 1/2 Price Garage Sale Tomorrow!
Monday, June 23rd 9am-1pm

Half Price Day Volunteer Hours: June 23 8:30-1pm
Volunteer Clean Up Hours: June 23 Noon-6pm
Questions: Call Mary Beth White, Chairperson 708-246-6339
Calendar of Events:
June 26-29th  SJC Service Fest
July 8th Habitat final meeting,  6:30 pm.
July 7-11th Notre Dame Vision Conference

Volunteers are still needed to work at the water and soda pop stands at the SJC Service Fest!! The fest will take place at the parish between June 26-29th. We would be joyed to have new faces and old alike help out! If you’re interested in volunteering, contact Katie Hayes at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Kairos 17 forms are available online on St. John’s website. They are due JUNE 30th!
For more information regarding the once in a lifetime retreat, get the form at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats

Many thanks to our volunteers who represented SJC while serving with the Our Lady of Charity community last week. A teen said, "I thought it was a great week...an easy work tour to start off with for my first service week.”

Wondering how you can get involved?
Share your love for Jesus with others by volunteering in YC!

We are in need of Catechists * Aides
Substitutes

Parents * Grandparents
Parents with children in YC
Parents with no children in YC
High School teens

All are Welcome!!!!

REGISTRATION for 2014-2015 YC
Still open...Remember to please register before June 30th!

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Summer Hours
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am- 4:00pm
Or call for an evening appointment

Which path will you take this summer? Be your own leader and find the curvy, narrow path! “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Genesis 7:1).
Preparation for Infant Baptism at SJC

God of all creation, we are made in your image and are signs of your love. Bless these children who were given new life as your adopted sons and daughters through the waters of Baptism. May they grow up to know your name and give you praise. Bless the mothers and fathers of these children. Fill them with your strength so that they will be models of faith for their children, nurturing and teaching by word and example to know you and walk in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday! Pictured from left to right are: Robert and Olivia So, parents of Victoria Lorraine Rosa So and John and Kimberly Eyen, parents of Katherine Molly Eyen.

As part of collaborative efforts across the parish that are focused on strengthening and supporting the vocation of all Catholic parents, we have developed new resources for parents bringing their infant for baptism.

**What do I need to do to have my baby baptized?**

Pre-baptism sessions are now offered for all parents whether it is your first child being baptized or a subsequent child. The sessions are offered on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30pm (noon during the summer). It is our expectation that both parents will attend this session. Feel free to bring your new baby and invite the godparents too. The session which runs two hours is designed with input from parents like you who are eager to provide an environment that will foster faith in Jesus Christ. Parents are asked to register to attend a pre-baptism session.

Simply call the parish center front office during regular business hours (9am-4pm). One of our full-time staff members will take all the necessary information and answer any questions you may have.
Pray with your morning Cheerios

In ways large and small, parents seek what is best for their children. This desire is expressed in a variety of practical ways every day: preparing healthy foods, ensuring adequate opportunity for sleep, teaching good manners, and sharing enriching activities as a family. Incorporating prayers of blessing into your family’s daily routine is another way to express this desire for the very best for your children. When we pray for God’s blessing, we acknowledge that God is the source of all that is good. In prayer, we ask God to bless us, to bless others, and to bless our activities. We do so with confidence and trust in God, who also seeks what is best for each of us. To pray in blessing for our children is to join our desires for them with God’s own desire for them. Daily life provides parents with many opportunities to offer prayers of blessing with and for their children.

Even in the most organized households, mornings can become a frenzy of activity as family members prepare to leave for work, day care, school, and daily errands. Establishing a morning routine that includes a prayer of blessing for family members as they leave the home can help to strengthen and encourage each person to live faithfully as a follower of Jesus. Ask each family member to name particular challenges or activities he or she may face during the day, and pray together, asking God to bless each person and his or her activities. Parents can trace the Sign of the Cross on each child’s forehead in blessing before leaving the house each day. Loyola Press 2014.
On Not Being Stingy With God's Mercy

Today, for a number of reasons, we struggle to be generous and prodigal with God's mercy.

As the number of people who attend church services continues to decline, the temptation among many of our church leaders and ministers is to see this more as a pruning than as a tragedy and to respond by making God's mercy less, rather than more, accessible. For example, a seminary professor whom I know shares that, after forty years of teaching a course designed to prepare seminarians to administer the sacrament of penance, today sometimes the first question that the seminarians ask is: "When can I refuse absolution?" In effect, how scrupulous must I be in dispensing God's mercy?

To their credit, their motivation is mostly sincere, however misguided. They sincerely fear playing fast and loose with God's grace, fearing that they might end up dispensing cheap grace.

Partly that's a valid motive. Fear of playing fast and loose with God's grace, coupled with concerns for truth, orthodoxy, proper public form, and fear of scandal have their own legitimacy. Mercy needs always to be tempered by truth. But sometimes the motives driving our hesitancy are less noble and our anxiety about handing out cheap grace arises more out of timidity, fear, legalism, and our desire, however unconscious, for power.

But even when mercy is withheld for the nobler of those reasons, we're still misguided, bad shepherds, out of tune with the God whom Jesus proclaimed. God's mercy, as Jesus revealed it, embraces indiscriminately, the bad and the good, the undeserving and the deserving, the initiated and the initiated. One of the truly startling insights that Jesus gave us is that the mercy of God, like the light and warmth of the sun, cannot not go out to everyone. Consequently it's always free, undeserved, unconditional, universal in embrace, and has a reach beyond all religion, custom, rubric, political correctness, mandatory program, ideology, and even sin itself.

For our part then, especially those of us who are parents, ministers, teachers, catechists, and elders, we must risk proclaiming the prodigal character of God's mercy. We must not spend God's mercy, as if it were ours to spend; dole out God's forgiveness, as if it were a limited commodity; put conditions on God's love, as if God were a petty tyrant or a political ideology; or cut off cut access to God, as if we were the keeper of the heavenly gates. We aren't. If we tie God's mercy to our own timidity and fear, we limit it to the size of our own minds.

It is interesting to note in the gospels how the apostles, well-meaning of course, often tried to keep certain people away from Jesus as if they weren't worthy, as if they were an affront to his holiness or would somehow stain his purity. So they perennially tried to prevent children, prostitutes, tax collectors, known sinners, and the uninitiated of all kinds from coming to Jesus. However, always Jesus over-ruled their attempts with words to this effect: "Let them come! I want them to come."

Early on in my ministry, I lived in a rectory with a saintly old priest. He was over eighty, nearly blind, but widely sought out and respected, especially as a confessor. One night, alone with him, I asked him this question: "If you had your priesthood to live over again, would you do anything differently?" From a man so full of integrity, I fully expected that there would be no regrets. So his answer surprised me. Yes, he did have a regret, a major one, he said: "If I had my priesthood to do over again, I would be easier on people the next time. I wouldn't be so stingy with God's mercy, with the sacraments, with forgiveness. I fear I've been too hard on people. They have pain enough without me and the church laying further burdens on them. I should have risked God's mercy more!"

I was struck by this because, less than a year before, as I took my final exams in the seminary, one of the priests who examined me, gave me this warning: "Be careful," he said, "don't be soft. Only the truth sets people free. Risk truth over mercy."

As I age, I am ever more inclined to the old priest's advice: We need more to risk God's mercy. The place of justice and truth should never be ignored, but we must risk letting the infinite, unbounded, unconditional, undeserved mercy of God flow free.

But, like the apostles, we, well-intentioned persons, are forever trying to keep certain individuals and groups away from God's mercy as it is offered in word, sacrament, and community. But God doesn't want our protection. What God does want is for everyone, regardless of morality, orthodoxy, lack of preparation, age, or culture, to come to the unlimited waters of divine mercy.

George Eliot once wrote: "When death, the great reconciler, has come, it is never our tenderness that we repent of, but our severity."

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.
Pray for our Sick

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Our Beloved Dead

Florence Link, parishioner
Mary Polito, mother of Annette Gallagher

This Week at SJC

Monday, June 23, Garage Sale 1/2 Price
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, June 24
7:30 a.m. CMF Leadership Meeting
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
3:00 p.m. New Ministers of Care Orientation
7:00 p.m. Garage Sale Appreciation Dinner

Wednesday, June 25
7:30 p.m. CMF Leadership Meeting
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, June 26 Parish Fest
Parish Center Office Hours 9am-3pm

Friday, June 27 Parish Fest
Parish Center Office Hours 9am-3pm

Saturday, June 28 Parish Fest
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
Parish Center Office Closed

Sunday, June 29 Parish Fest
Parish Center Office Closed

Mass Intentions

Monday, June 23
7:45 Rose Adducci; Ted & Leona Rompala
Deceased members of the Rev. Joseph McDonnell Family

Tuesday, June 24, The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
7:45 Joan Hemzacek; Adeline Callaghan

Wednesday, June 25
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Charles Sugrue

Thursday, June 26
7:45 Patrick Boyle; Amedeo & Adina Misantoni; Harry Richards

Friday, June 27, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
7:45 Andrew Applegate; Mary Sue Donohue

Saturday, June 28, The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 Larry Hanson; Loraine Janda
5:00 Jean Oczkowski; Barbara Mann

Sunday, June 29, St. Peter and Paul
7:30 Nancy Leslie; Thomas Dobry
9:00 Larry Hanson; Jean & Stanley Oczkowski
10:45 Larry Hanson; Kevin Gunnin
5:00 Dorothy Owens; Vivian R. Stephanini

Italics—Living

If you or a loved one are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, call MJ at the parish center. A trained minister of care will visit you weekly to pray and give you Holy Communion.

Confessions are heard on Saturday mornings following the 8am Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays in the Mary Chapel 2:30-9pm, except national holidays.

Rosary: Before and after daily Mass in the Mary Chapel.

Notes for the Fest Weekend:
- Weekday and Sunday Masses will be at the regular times.
- Parking for the weekend Masses will be in the handicap lot and the north lawn.
- The parish center office has shortened hours on Thursday and Friday and will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.
- If you need to contact a priest in an emergency, call the parish center and follow the voice prompts to leave a message.

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

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ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
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Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell, Pastor Emeritus
Contact Fr. Joe through the Parish Office
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
St. John of the Cross Parish presents......

SJC FEST 2014
June 26-29th
51st & Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL - www.SJCFEST.com

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, June 26th
• Safety 2nd • 6 pm
• Red Seven • 7:30 pm

FRIDAY, June 27th
• August Son • 6 pm
• Maggie Speaks • 8:30 pm

SATURDAY, June 28th
• Grand Band • 6 pm
• One Night Band • 8:30 pm

SUNDAY, June 29th
• Raisin Rhyme • Noon
• Radio Rock • 4:00 pm

CARNIVAL HOURS
THURSDAY
5pm-10:30pm
FRIDAY
5pm-Midnight
SATURDAY
1pm - Midnight
SUNDAY
Noon - 7pm

MEGA PASSES
UNLIMITED RIDES FOR ALL 4 DAYS
$50 pre-sale / $65 at door
ON SALE NOW!
@Parish Center

THE OASIS
PRIZE BINGO TIMES
Friday 5-6pm
Saturday 2-4pm
Sunday 2-4pm

SPECIAL NEEDS EVENT
FREE CARNIVAL RIDES AND GAMES
Thursday, June 26th
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Call (708) 292-1100
For more Information

Food & Drinks
Aurelios Pizza
Papa Charlies Italian Beef
Chucks BBQ Pork & Chicken
Isabella’s Gelato Dessert
and much more

St. John of the Cross Fest
Cash Raffle
1st Prize $5,000
2nd Prize $2,500
3rd Prize $1,000
Drawing to be held during the SJC Fest
June 26 – 29, 2014
Winner need not be present
Make checks payable to St. John of the Cross
$5/Ticket or 12 Tickets for $60