August 3, 2014
18 Sunday in Ordinary Time

...our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News.

There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.
Last weekend one of the collection security bags was stolen, as it does not appear to have been misplaced. While we are not exactly sure when this occurred, we do know that it was the regular collection for the 5:00 pm Saturday Mass. The second collection (for the missions) security bag was not involved. I have notified the archdiocese and the police and an investigation is ongoing. For your part, if you were at the Saturday night 5:00 pm Mass and you wrote a check, please watch your bank statement and if your check is cashed, or if your bank notifies you that it was attempted to be cashed by someone other than being deposited by St. John of the Cross, please notify me right away. I will then notify the police.

As you can see from the check in the picture, the Carnival was another financial success, surpassing last years total by over $10,000.00! There were over 400 volunteers who took at least one and often multiple shifts over the course of the four days. While many took responsibility to chair various aspects of the whole event, I want to publicly thank Dan Madden for spearheading the entire effort and for giving the leadership necessary to pull off something as complicated as a carnival. Dan gave several days of his own time in supervising and ensuring myriad details were paid attention to. I also want to publicly acknowledge Mike Francis who not only sold many banners for underwriters, but also took charge of the raffle and the auction that were highly profitable. Every aspect of the carnival, from food to wrist bands, from music groups to beer and soft drinks, took many hours to be as successful as it was. (And a shout out to God for the great weather!)
Thank you, thank you, one and all!
Fr. David
Thank you to the Fest committee, our parish volunteers and sponsors who made our parish fundraiser such a wonderful success! And thank you to each of you for supporting this event! We hope all had a wonderful time! Look for more photos in our Picture Gallery on the home page of our website.

Join us
Saturday, August 23
Morning of Meditation
8:30am Hospitality
9am-11:30am Program
Parish Center

Reflections of a 20 Year Meditator
featuring Sr. Josephine O'Brien, IBVM

Sr. Josephine will reflect on her years with the daily spiritual discipline of Christian Meditation and its effect in her life. There will be 2 periods of meditation and a time of Lectio Divina, as well as time for sharing. The morning begins with hospitality at 8:30 am and our program will run from 9—11:30am. For further information contact at Mary at 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com. Registration is requested but not required.  Free will offering. The morning is sponsored by the Christian Meditation groups at St. John of the Cross Parish.  www.wccm.org, www.wccm-usa.org
**Background on the Gospel**

Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel to Chapter 14. Last week we heard Jesus conclude his discourse with the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew’s narrative, Jesus then leaves the crowds and returns to Nazareth, where he is rejected. Matthew then recounts the story of John the Baptist's arrest and execution at the hands of Herod. Today's Gospel reading begins at this point.

Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to withdraw, but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus again responds with compassion for the crowd. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the meagerness of their own provisions—five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed, and this number does not even include the women and children.

Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meager provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We find the story of Jesus’ multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. The story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.

May we give ourselves over to Jesus completely and wholeheartedly and find true satisfaction. May we open ourselves to Jesus’ transforming power which enables us to reach out to others with his superabundance.

The kingdom of heaven is revealed in a “deserted place” that is filled with abundance through the disciples’ obedience to Jesus and Jesus’ power and blessing. By giving what little food they have to Jesus, the disciples themselves ultimately do procure food for the crowd, just not in the way they expected. Jesus tells the disciples simply to “give them some food yourselves.” But the disciples cannot satisfy the crowds' hunger until they give Jesus all they have—a meager five loaves and two fish. Jesus blesses these gifts and returns them to the disciples who then have enough to feed the crowds, even with “fragments left over.” It is not the meager resources we have which count, but what Jesus can do with these resources when we give all we have to him. With Jesus' power and blessing, the disciples (and we) can do what they cannot do on their own.

What the disciples cannot do alone they can do with Jesus’ blessing. We already share in the kingdom because we have received Life; we already have received abundantly from God. The presence of the kingdom is a presence of life lived fully. Not only that—the abundance points to God’s messianic banquet, everlasting Life. And still even more: that abundance is given to us now.

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Used with permission. Loyola Press.
Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried… But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: “Never again war!”; “With war everything is lost”. Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words “division”, “hatred” and “war” be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be “brother”, and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Richard Rohr Meditation

Historically speaking, in most cultures the role of men has been to create, to make new things, to fix broken things, and to defend us from things which could hurt us. All of these are wonderful and necessary roles for the preservation of the human race.

However, most children saw their mother in a different way. She was not a creator, a fixer, or a defender, but rather a transformer. Once a woman has carried her baby inside of her body for nine months and brought it forth, through the pain of childbirth, into the world, she knows the mystery of transformation at a cellular level. She knows it intuitively, yet she usually cannot verbalize it, nor does she need to. She just holds it at a deeper level of consciousness. She knows something about mystery, about miracles, and about transformation that men will never know (which is why males had to be initiated!). Women who are not mothers often learn it by simply being in the “community of women.”

The feminine body can be seen as a cauldron of transformation. Her body turns things into other things—her body turns a love act into a perfect little child. Yet, in her heart, she knows SHE did not do it. All she had to do was to wait and eat well, to believe and to hope for nine months. This gives a woman a very special access to understanding spirituality as transformation—if she is able to listen to her own experience and her own body. Admittedly, not all women do.
Family Connection

In our family life we can sometimes hear echoes of the disciples’ excuses: “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.” Sometimes this echo is heard from children squabbling about the last piece of cake. Sometimes it is heard in our concern about the limits of the family’s income or possessions. Sometimes this echo is heard in our complaints about the seemingly endless demands for our time and attention. Jesus understood these feelings and taught us to see beyond our limitations. Jesus modeled for us a compassion that reaches out to others, even when we would rather withdraw into ourselves. Jesus taught us that God blesses compassion offered to others with his grace. Today’s Gospel reminds us that with God there is not only enough, there is an abundance!

Talk together about some of the stresses and demands for time and attention that your family members might feel. Acknowledge that we sometimes have to make difficult choices about how to use our time, talents, and treasure. Then read together today’s Gospel, Matthew 14:13-21. Notice how much Jesus cared for the crowds, healing the sick even though he wanted to withdraw to a quiet place. Notice how the disciples responded to Jesus’ instruction to feed the crowd; they noted their limited supply of food. Jesus blessed this limited supply of food, and it was enough to feed the entire crowd, more than 5,000 people, and there were leftovers! Pray together that Jesus will grant us compassion like his so that we will offer whatever we have to others with compassion and generosity. Pray together today’s Psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord’s Prayer.

Dedication of Saint Mary Major: Feast Day August 5

When you hear the word church, what do you think of? Do you think of the priests and people of your own parish? Do you think of a Sunday morning when families of the parish gather to celebrate the Eucharistic liturgy? Do you picture a stately building with a round dome, pointed towers, and stained glass windows? The word church has a variety of meanings.

Today’s feast focuses our attention on a church building, a basilica called St. Mary Major. Tradition says that in August 352 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a wealthy nobleman in Rome. She asked that a church be built on the spot where he would find snow. On that summer day, snow did mysteriously appear and a church was built on the spot and dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows.

Apart from the story, however, we know that a church was built on that spot in the fourth century and was rebuilt in 434. The church was also rededicated to Mary, the Mother of God. This title of Mary was protected by the ecumenical council of Ephesus. Today St. Mary Major is the largest church in the world dedicated to Our Lady. This church is called a patriarchal church, one where the pope officiates on certain occasions. There is a special altar in this church used by the Holy Father and by others with special permission. On a deeper level, this feast reminds us that Mary has been reveredenced throughout the history of the Church as our Mother. As she foretold in her prayer, the Magnificat, “All generations will call me blessed” (Luke 1:48).

4 Marks of the Church:
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

The Church is one; it is holy; it is Catholic; and it is apostolic. Apostolic refers to the 12 Apostles who were chosen by Christ to start the Church. Every member of the Church shares in the mission of the Apostles. Can you name the 12 Apostles?

Here is a trick. The names of the Apostles are all in one place in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 10 beginning with verse 2. Remember Matthew was an Apostle and 10 + 2 equals 12.

Here is a second trick. Think of the word B A P T I S M.
If you think of the letter I as a J all the names of the Apostles can fit into this word.

B Bartholomew
A Andrew
P Peter, Philip
T Thomas, Thaddeus
I James, James, John, Judas
S Simon
M Matthew
Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit (CCC, nos. 1131; cf. no 774).

Sacraments are efficacious or effective as Jesus Christ is at work in them conferring his life and grace. Through the power of the Holy Spirit each sacrament brings with it some particular grace. Jesus instituted the sacraments as his gift of divine life to us to build up the Church, deepen our faith and to sanctify us. When we encounter Jesus, the Spirit heals us and draws us closer to him making us partakers in the life of the Holy Trinity.

Sacraments have both a visible and invisible reality. We see in the sacraments the signs and symbols of each sacrament when they are administered and received. The invisible reality we cannot see is God’s grace, his free and loving gift which gives us a share in his life.

There are 7 sacraments:
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
- Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony

During the coming year, the fourth year of the Archdiocesan Strategic Plan, we will focus on the purpose and meaning of the sacraments. Look for articles, programs and resources throughout the year across our parish ministries that will provide foundational teachings that will refresh your knowledge of our faith, enabling you to grow in holiness and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Source: US Catholic Catechism for Adults

We do not go to God one by one. God has decided to gather us as his holy people in the Church, which is the Body of Christ. When we celebrate the sacraments, we do so as God’s Church. Even though our experience may be deeply, deeply personal, for example, when we confess our sins and receive forgiveness or feel the presence of Jesus in Holy Communion, our experience is never just ours alone. We are all a part of the Body of Christ, joined and built up together.

If God has decided to gather us as his people in the Church, then we are called to join that gathering. When we come together, for example, to celebrate the sacraments and worship God, we do so with generous and willing hearts. We support each other, pray for each other, and encourage each other. We also accept in faith the sacramental rituals and prayers entrusted to the Church.

We congratulate the family of Eliana Grace Bailey who was baptized last weekend. Pictured below is Eliana with her parents Regina (Muscarello) and Paul Bailey and godparents.
**Outreach Opportunities**

**Kolbe House Prison Ministry of Assumption Parish, Chicago**

Kolbe House ministers to the incarcerated and their families. You can help Kolbe by donating the following items to the boxes in the parish center and church narthex:

- **Non-Perishable Food Items**: rice, beans, cereals, canned vegetables, canned meals, pastas, etc.
- **Writing Supplies, Paper, Stamps**: “Write-outs” (stamped envelopes with three sheets of paper inside) used by inmates to write family and friends.
- **Office Depot, OfficeMax or Staples Gift Cards**: Kolbe uses 85 cases of paper each year to produce their publications, *Catholic Servant* and *Making Choices*.
- **CTA Transit Cards**: Transit cards help individuals and families with transportation to/from work, court and jail visits.
- **Men’s Clothing Items**: Men’s underwear (boxers and t-shirts in L, XL), Jeans (sizes 38, 40 or 44 x 30 or 32), Work and dress shirts, gift certificates to Payless Shoes (for work and dress shoes)

**Feed the Hungry**

Bring nonperishable food donations to our church narthex when you come to church. During the month of **August** donations will be brought to our neighboring parish, St. Cletus’s food pantry. Thank you for helping us feed those who are hungry.

**Supply Brown Bag Lunches for BEDS: for 8/15**

Simple lunches are needed for BEDS Daytime Support Center. An ideal lunch would include a sandwich, chips or crackers, fruit (no apples) and one of the following: soft granola bar, pudding or jello cups. The number of lunches needed varies, but the general range is 12-15 lunches. Contact Laurie Smillie at smillie@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us to coordinate your service.

**Host Family & Student Coordinator Needed**

The Council for Educational Travel, USA in Grand Rapids Michigan (www.cetusa.org) is seeking a volunteer family to host a 17 year old male high school student from Ecuador for the coming school year. The student, who would be attending a local public high school, speaks English, is Catholic, and has an excellent academic standing. Arriving in August, he would live with you and be a part of your family life. Students in the program arrive on the J-1 Visa program and have their own medical insurance and money for discretionary expenses.

The Council is also looking for a Coordinator in our community who would be responsible for helping to locate a volunteer host family and then monitoring and supporting the student during his stay. The Coordinator would receive a stipend of $800.

For more details please contact Karen Dake, Regional Director of The Council for Educational Travel, USA at Karen@cetusa.org or 1-888-238-8721.
Volunteer Opportunities In Our Area:

Volunteer at SJC Youth Catechesis Office
Help our YC office prepare supplies for the new school year! Any day: August 6 - 14 Any time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Contact Janet Caschetta at jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org to coordinate your service.

Volunteer at Helping Hand, Countryside
Volunteers are needed at Helping Hand in Countryside to help with assembling furniture, building shelves, cleaning and organizing classrooms, cabinets, and storage and organizing files. If you can help contact Carolyn Kline at 708-352-3580 x280. Volunteer hours are weekdays 8am-4pm, but evening volunteer hours could be arranged.

Volunteer for School on Wheels in LaGrange Park Area
Volunteer as a tutor for School on Wheels Adult Literacy/English as a Second Language program, a ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph of LaGrange Park. Tutors are asked to teach one hour or more per week, during the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., or 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at locations in Brookfield, Cicero, Downers Grove, Hodgkins, Lombard, Villa Park, Summit, or Woodridge. No prior second language skills are needed, however, it is necessary to attend a two-day tutor training session from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays, August 9 and August 16, 2014, at the Congregation of St. Joseph Center in La Grange Park. Further information is available by calling (708) 482-5060 or (708) 482-5077.

Volunteer at Parish Saintly Senior Club Luncheons
Our parish Senior Club is looking for a volunteer who could help in the kitchen with serving and clean up at the three luncheons scheduled on Friday, October 10, Thursday, February 12th and Friday, March 13. Contact: Gerry Mazzone at 708-246-0721 for more information.

Female Volunteer Tutors Needed
The Dominican Literacy Center (1503 Rice St., Melrose Park) is in great need of women volunteers for the 2014-15 session. This program offers tutoring in reading, writing, and speaking of English to women, on a one-to-one basis (one student with one tutor). Classes are once a week for 1.5 hours (from Sept. to June). Volunteers must attend four consecutive and informative training sessions held on the evenings of Tuesday, Aug.19, Thursday, Aug.21, Monday, Aug. 25 and Wednesday, Aug. 27 at the Dominican Literacy Center beginning at 6:30pm. To volunteer and register for the training sessions, please call Sr. Judith or Sr. Martha Marie at 708-338-0659.

The mission of the Dominican Literacy Center is to provide opportunities for women to receive individual tutoring in reading, writing and speaking English by trained volunteers within the neighborhood setting. The Dominican Literacy Center believes in empowerment through education, and in the dignity of each individual person.
Disciples in Action

Working with the Greater Chicago Food Depository Mobile Pantry, volunteers from SJC and St. Cletus unloaded, organized and bagged perishable and nonperishable food that was distributed to over 250 recipients in the Lyons Township area on a recent Saturday. This new outreach endeavor is planned again for the near future.

Catholic Charities Thanks SJC

St. John of the Cross Parish donated $20,730 to the annual Catholic Charities Mother’s Day Collection. Our contributions will help people whose lives are touched by poverty, crisis or despair, bringing hope, strength and new life. With more than 150 programs at more than 160 locations, Catholic Charities serves poor and vulnerable people of all ages, religions and backgrounds—day in and day out. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank You from Kolbe House

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez, Director of Kolbe House, expressed his appreciation for our recent Sharing Parish donation of $1,500 to Kolbe House at Assumption Parish in Chicago. Kolbe and SJC stay connected through personal visits, clothing donations and prayerful support. Recent opportunities to speak to SJC parish school and YC youth and high school teens also help all of us to witness to the faith that connect us to one another. Thank you for sharing!

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

- Debra and Jeff Bruns and Family
- Eva and Christopher Brennan and Family
- Aurelia and Claro Cruz
- Caroline and Brad Durkin and Family
- Jeimy Gonzalez and Family
- Mary and Mark Baemmert and Family
- Erin and Anthony Burba and Family
- Jennifer and Richard Burnson and Family
- Alicia Schnell and Family
- Susie and Travis Alexander and Family
- Roxanne and Sean Walsh and Family
- Amanda and Matt Taglia and Family

If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.
Scheduling Your Kids For Fall Activities? 
Mark Your Calendar for Children’s Choir!

Cherub Choir: Children in grades 1-3 practice after school on Wednesdays in church from 3:45-4:30pm throughout the school year. Practice begins on Wednesday, September 10th with registration and a brief parent meeting at 4:20pm.

Youth Choir: Children in grades 4-8 practice after school on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30pm in church throughout the school year. Practice begins on Thursday, September 11th with registration and a brief parent meeting at 4:20pm.

Questions? Need more info? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at 708-246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net.

RCIA begins in September.
Call today to find out more!

Are you satisfied with your faith? What are you seeking in this life? We all search for deeper meaning in our life; whether we know it or not, every action we take is driven by a desire to find purpose. Jesus Christ calls each one of us in a special way, inviting us into a lifelong relationship with Him that will transform the way we live and who we are at the very deepest level. He wants us to “Come and See.”

This fall we will begin again the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This program is an opportunity for all those interested to explore the Catholic faith and enter into the process of coming into full communion with the Church. If you have ever thought about becoming a Catholic or if you know anyone who might be interested in learning more about our faith, consider this your personal invitation to come and see.

RCIA is about more than just learning the teachings of the Church; it is about prayer, practice, discovery and relationship. Jesus Christ extends the hand of peace to each one of us, calling us into His presence. This fall explore the Catholic Church and learn how transformative a relationship with Jesus Christ in a supportive community of faith can be. Come and see where Jesus Christ is staying. It will change your life.

Sessions begin Wednesday, September 17th in the parish center. Call Fr. Bill Vollmer at x120 for more information on how you can register.

SJC Men’s Club Save the Date

The annual Men’s Club BBQ and Bags Tournament is scheduled for Friday, September 5 at 6pm at the parish center. Mark your calendar now to be part of the gathering.
Sometimes everything can seem right on the surface while, deep down, nothing is right at all. We see this, for example, in the famous parable in the gospels about the Prodigal Son and his Older Brother. By every outward appearance the Older Brother is doing everything right: He's perfectly obedient to his father, is at home, and is doing everything his father asks of him. And, unlike his younger brother, he's not wasting his father's property on prostitutes and partying. He seems a model of generosity and morality.

However, as soon becomes obvious in the story, things are far from right. While his life looks so good on the outside, he is full of resentment and bitter moralizing inside and is, in fact, envious of his brother's amorality. What's happening? In essence, his actions are right, but his energy is wrong.

But, lest we judge him too harshly, we need to have the honesty to acknowledge that we all struggle in this way, at least if we are moral and generous. What is played out in the bitterness of the Older Brother is, in the astute words of Alice Miller, "the drama of the gifted child", namely, the resentment, self-pity, and propensity for bitter moralizing that inevitably besets those of us who don't stray from our duties, who do stay home, and who carry the brunt of the load for our families, churches, and communities. Sadly, often, the feeling we are left with when we give our lives over in sacrifice is not joy and gratitude for having been given the grace, opportunity, and good sense to stay home and serve but rather resentment that the load fell on our shoulders, that so many others dodged it, and that so many in the world are having a fling while we are on the straight and narrow. Too often, among us, good and honest people who are fighting for truth and God's cause, we find a spirit of bitter moralizing that colors and compromises both our generosity and our sacrifice. But I say this with sympathy: It's not easy to give oneself over, to forego one's dreams, ambitions, comfort, and pleasure for the sake of God, truth, duty, family, and community.

How might we do it? How might we imitate the fidelity of the Older Brother without falling into his envy, self-pity, and bitterness? Where can we access the right fuel to live out the Gospel?

As Christians, of course, we need to look at Jesus. He lived a life of radical generosity and self-surrender and yet never fell into the kind of self-pity that emanates from the sense of having missed out on something. He was never disappointed or bitter that he had given his life over. Nor indeed did he, like Hamlet, turn his renunciation into an existential tragedy, that of the lonely, alienated hero who is outwardly intriguing but not generative. Jesus remained always free, warm, forgiving, non-judgmental, and generative. Moreover, throughout his entire life of self-sacrifice, he always radiated a joy that shocked his contemporaries. What was his secret?

The answer, the gospels tell us, lies in the parable of the man who is plowing a field and finds a buried treasure and in the parable of the merchant who after years of searching finds the pearl of great price. In each case, the man gives away everything he owns so that he can buy the treasure or the pearl. And what must be highlighted in each of these parables is that neither man regrets for a second what he had to give up but instead each acts out of the unspeakable joy of what he has discovered and what riches this is now going to bring into his life. Each man is so fuelled by the joy of what he has discovered that he is not focused on what he has given up.

Only in this kind of context can self-sacrifice make sense and be truly generative. If the pain of what is sacrificed overshadows the joy of what is discovered, that is, if the focus is more on what we have lost and given up rather than on what we have found, we will end up doing the right actions but with the wrong energy, carrying other people's crosses and sending them the bill. And we will be unable to stop ourselves from being judgmental, bitter, and secretly envious of the amoral.

To the very extent that we die to ourselves in order to live for others, we run the perennial risk of falling into the kind of bitterness that besets us whenever we feel we have missed out on something. That's an occupational hazard, a very serious one, inside Christian discipleship and the spiritual life in general. And so, our focus must always be on the treasure, the pearl of great price, the rich meaning, the self-authenticating joy that is the natural fruit of any real self-sacrifice. And that joyful energy will take us beyond self-pity and envy of the amoral.

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
Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer at YC

10. GROW – in your own faith and deepen your relationship with Christ
9. Your BAPTISM calls you to share in Jesus’ ministry
8. Children and teens, more than ever, need to HEAR the Good News
7. Children and teens, more than ever, need to ENCOUNTER good role models of faith
6. You have much to SHARE with our youth and other volunteers
5. OUTSTANDING resources at your fingertips to use in class
4. You will have FUN and make new FRIENDS
3. You will help others DEEPEN their relationship with Jesus
2. You will be PASSING ON a 2000 year old tradition
1. JESUS is CALLING YOU!!

All Adults and High School teens are welcome to join our ministry!
Youth Catechesis (YC) has 21 classes:
Sunday, 10:15-11:30 am
Monday 6:15-7:30 pm
And there are small groups that meet in homes 15 Sundays each year during 7th and 8th grade.
Volunteer as a Catechist, Catechist’s Aide, Small Group Leader
Please call the YC office or email jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
The benefits are Out Of This World!!

Dear young people, do not be mediocre; the Christian life challenges us with great ideals.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jul 15
St. John of the Cross Parish School

USED UNIFORM SALE

The new school year is almost here!
Want to get gently used uniform items at a great price?
Come to the Used Uniform Sale!

Monday, August 11th from 2-8pm
and
Tuesday, August 12th from 9am-Noon
in the Parish Center

If you have any questions, please contact Wendi Mulcahy at 312-513-2622 or wendimulcahy@yahoo.com.

*Proceeds from the sale support our Art in the Classroom program.
Mass Intentions

**Monday, August 4, St. John Vianney**
7:45 Lawrence W. Clark; Carmela McGuire

**Tuesday, August 5, Dedication of St. Mary Basilica**
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Lorraine Janda

**Wednesday, August 6, The Transfiguration**
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Anthony Jacyno; Bill Broderick

**Thursday, August 7, St. Sixtus**
7:45 Bruno & Marcella Kwit; Roger Sapp

**Friday, August 8, St. Dominic**
7:45 Marty Tully; Louis Trapp

**Saturday, August 9, St. Teresa Benedictus**
8:00 Mat’O’Toole Family; Josephine McNamara
5:00 Charles Brody; Robert McNulty

**Sunday, August 10, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
7:30 Maxima Wongkee; Eid Zawaideh
9:00 The Gallagher Family; Charles Sugrue
10:45 George Jakicic; Mary Sue Donohue
5:00 Charlie Fields; Nellie DiPompeo

*Italics—Living*

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**This Week at SJC**

**Monday, August 4**
10:30 a.m. Christian Meditation Step 11
2:00 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

**Tuesday, August 5**

**Wednesday, August 6**
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

**Thursday, August 7**
8:00 a.m. Teacher Training Day

**Friday, August 8**

**Saturday, August 9**
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

**Sunday, August 10**

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In the abundance of your kindness, O Lord, hear our prayers. May we give you thanks for what you have given us by giving joyfully to others; may we embrace your Spirit of love by loving one another, with selflessness and compassion. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
    Saint John of the Cross    #9239

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
Chicago Catholic Scripture School

Year I Basic Bible Study
is coming to
St. John of the Cross Parish
this fall on Wednesday evenings
beginning September 3rd.

Learn more about
CCSS Certification
and the
Senior Lecture Series Option
Join Us for
Preview Night
Tuesday, August 12th
Parish Center
6-8pm

The Chicago Catholic Scripture School is a four-year program covering the entire Bible. It consists of two phases: basic (Years 1 & 2) and advanced (Years 3 & 4).

The first two years focus on methods of study and prayer with the Bible, and a comprehensive study of some major books of the Old and New Testaments. **Year 1:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings **Year 2:** Mark, Luke, Acts, Pauline Letters, John, Revelation
