Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.

August 10, 2014
19 Sunday in Ordinary Time
...our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News.
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 praying 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

August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel Reading

Background on the Gospel Reading
Today’s feast celebrates Mary’s Assumption into heaven. It is one of three feasts of Mary that are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics in the United States. January 1 is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief. The belief was not defined as dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary’s actions after the announcement of Jesus’ birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God’s plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth’s greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God’s history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary’s Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

The Gospel for this day reminds us that Mary’s Assumption into heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—could give birth to Christ, who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary’s role in God’s plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.

Today’s Gospel highlights Mary’s faith. Mary’s faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people’s history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God’s plan of salvation.

Richard Rohr Mediation
Open Heart ~ Open Mind ~ Open Body
Mary Model of Openness

The soul needs living models to grow and, quite precisely, we need exemplars with the expansive energies of love. People who are eager to love change us at the deeper levels; they alone seem able to open the field of both mind and heart at the same time. When we are in this different state, and that is what it is, we find ourselves open to directions or possibilities we would never allow or imagine before or after.

When you are fully there, you will know. When you are fully present, the banquet will begin. When all three inner spaces (heart, mind, and body) are open and listening together, you are present. To be present is to know what you need to know in the moment. To be present to something is to allow the moment, the person, the idea, or the situation to influence you and even change you.

Jesus’ mother, Mary, is a model of such presence. Her kind of yes (Luke 1:38) does not come easily to us. It always requires that we let down some of our boundaries, and none of us like to do that. What I mean by Mary’s kind of yes is an assent that comes from the deep self. (Note that no preconditions or worthiness are required.) Mary somehow is able to calmly, wonderfully trust that Someone Else is in charge. All she asks is one simple clarifying question (Luke 1:34). Not if but how, and then she trusts the how even though it would seem quite unlikely. Her yes is pure and simple in its motivation, open-ended in intent, and calm in confidence. Only grace and calm presence can achieve such perfect freedom in the body, heart, and mind at the same time.

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A man said, “I thought when I got older I’d have fewer temptations. Instead I have more.”
A woman said, “I thought when the kids grew up, I’d have more patience. Instead I have less.”
A teen said, “I used to find it easy to obey God’s law. Now I find it harder and harder.”

Do any of these statements describe you? Do you find yourself tempted frequently? Do you find yourself impatient with loved ones? Do you find it harder and harder to obey God’s law? If you do, then today’s gospel may have an important message for you.

Here is a short story.
One night Keith was seriously hurt in a car accident. He lay on the side of the road for hours waiting for an ambulance. Fully conscious, he began to pray. As he prayed there in the darkness, a remarkable feeling of peace engulfed him.

Keith realized at that moment that even if he died, he would die knowing that he had made contact with something personal and real. Whatever it was, it was the most important thing he had discovered up to now in his life.

Keith recovered from the accident, returned to college and was elected president of his fraternity. Soon he got caught up again in college. In short, he turned away from Jesus whom he had met on the roadside.

After graduation he married and went to work for a large firm, but he did not find the happiness he dreamed of. One day he became so depressed he got into his company car and drove off. After driving a while he pulled over by the side of the road, shut off his car and just sat there.

Keith always believed that there was one more bounce in the ball. But now he had reached the end of his rope. He looked to the sky and shouted to God, “If there is anything you want from me, take it. I really mean it.”

That was years ago. But something came into Keith’s life that day that never left. There were no flashing lights or claps of thunder or voices from above. There was only the realization of what it is that God wants from us.

God wants our will. If we give him our will he’ll show us life as we’ve never seen it before. Keith had once been more focused on Jesus. At that moment, he rediscovered the same deep peace that he had found years before lying by the side of the road.

We can all relate to Keith’s experience. There were times in our lives when we experienced the powerful presence of Jesus. But then, like Keith, we took our eyes off Jesus. We turned away from Jesus to other things. And like Keith, we lost our balance. Today’s gospel invites us to take an honest look at our lives.

If we do not experience the spiritual peace and joy we once did, maybe it’s because we have taken our eyes off Jesus. If we find ourselves in danger of being swallowed up by the storm waves of life, maybe it’s because we have turned away from Jesus. Today’s gospel invites us to turn our eyes back to Jesus. It invites us to say with Peter, “Lord save me.” If we accept the gospel’s invitation, we can experience what Peter did. We will experience the hand of Jesus reaching out in love to us. We may not experience it instantly and miraculously, but if we keep calling we will indeed experience it. And we will say with Peter, “Lord you are indeed the Son of God.”

Lord help us find you again. Help us reach out to you. Help us experience again, your saving presence in our lives.

Lord, our Light and Our Hope, hear the cries of our poor hearts.
Give us the gift of faith that we may hear you in the quiet of loving compassion, see you in the kindnesses performed unnoticed around us, and know your presence in times of anguish and turmoil.
We call out to you, you who live and reign with the Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

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Lifelong Learning

Join us
Saturday, August 23rd
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 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 Today’s Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son. Used with permission. Loyola Press.

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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 2 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.

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**Preparing 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: Ryan and Sheila McNaughton with baby Patrick Ryan, Laura and Brian Rycyna with baby Kelly Kathleen, and Kelly and Jeffrey Ziffra with baby Hannah Rose and Fr. David.
Family Connection: 19th Sunday OT

The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Jesus. The family, the domestic church, participates in this mission too.

Talk about how your family participates in the mission of the Church. Discuss ways in which you seek to reach out to your neighbors and people in need through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. Then read together today’s Gospel, Matthew 14:22-33. Talk about how Peter wanted to be like Jesus, to walk on water like Jesus did. Note that Peter was successful for a time, but then he doubted Jesus, and he began to sink into the water. Talk about how your family’s acts of mercy and justice are rooted in your faith in Jesus. Pray together that Jesus will continue to work through your family to prepare the kingdom of heaven. Pray together the Morning Offering or the Lord’s Prayer.

Family Connection: Assumption

In today’s Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary recognize the work that God is doing through them. With eyes of faith they see the power and salvation of God breaking through into their lives and into the world.

Gather as a family and talk about what you know about Mary and her being a model of faith. Recall that we are celebrating a holy day, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we remember that God took Mary to heaven, body and soul. Read together today’s Gospel, Luke 1:39-56. In this reading we hear Mary’s song of praise to God, the Magnificat. Invite each person in the family to write or draw one or more ways in which they see God working in your family life and in our world today. Use these prayers of thanksgiving to create your family’s song of praise to God. Conclude by praying together this song of praise.

Sacrament Word of the Week

Mark

The sacraments mark us. Somehow, they make us different and never leave us the same as we were. Certain sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders—mark and shape our identity forever. We receive these sacraments only once, and that is once and forever. They impart what is called a “sacramental character” marking us off as belonging to Jesus Christ in Baptism, sealed by the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, and conformed to Jesus Christ, the head and shepherd of the Church, in Holy Orders.

The other sacraments mark us on our ongoing journey of Christian discipleship as sustained by the sacrifice of Jesus and our union with him (Eucharist), as forgiven sinners (Penance), as healed (Anointing of the Sick), and as effective signs of God’s love and life-giving power in the world (Matrimony).

Whether clearly obvious or subtly present, whether intensely felt or quietly present, the sacraments do mark us as disciples of Jesus Christ. And we are enriched.

Helping Children Develop Their Gifts

Watching our children grow in their gifts and talents is one of our great joys as parents.

Here are four things you can do to help your child discover and develop his or her special, God-given gifts:

1. **Exposure to a range of stimuli and experiences**. Read books, play music, provide art supplies, and surround them with toys that combine fun with a challenge.

2. **Be alert for special interests**. Most child-development experts say that the “globally gifted” child is largely a myth. Some children will show an intense interest in one or two areas—music, art, math, writing, or other fields. This can indicate a special talent.

3. **Challenge—but be realistic**. Children develop their skills when adults set high standards, but they can be demoralized by unrealistic expectations. It’s important to strike a balance.

4. **Pray for your child’s development**. Prayer helps keep things in perspective. God is present in your family and in your child’s life. It’s not all up to you.

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As many are well aware, the end of summer is right around the corner and with it the beginning of another school year. Fall is more of a time of transition than the beginning of a new calendar year as schedules change and activities start up again. Right now, before the last restful weeks of summer are gone, spend some time reflecting on personal goals, interests, and fall schedules and decide how you want to spend your time outside of work and school productively. If you are a parent, talk with your child about what they’d like to participate in and encourage them to try new activities to identify their gifts and talents.

How can God inspire our plans? Spend time in prayer reflecting on what will help you grow, new habits you can include in your routine, how you can serve others...

Becoming involved in our parish Music Ministry is a wonderful way to participate more fully in the Mass, deepening our connection to our gracious God, and importantly, helping others at Mass to pray and grow in their faith. There is an opportunity for every parishioner to participate as a choir member, instrumentalist, or cantor. Programs begin in a few short weeks so plan ahead as to how you might become involved. Prior experience and professional quality talent not required! New members are welcomed and encouraged!

For Grade School Children:
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.

For 8th Graders and High School Teens:
5 Alive - The Sunday 5:00 Liturgy
This choir is open to anyone 8th grade and older. No regular commitment is necessary - you just come when it works for you. Choir for the Sunday 5:00 mass will start on Sunday, September 7th. Rehearsal is at 4pm in church directly before Mass. Check out the Facebook page, 5 Alive St. John's Sunday Mass, or contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney to get on an email list or for more information at bourjman@sbcglobal.net.

For Adults:
Contemporary Choir: This group of singers, drums, guitars, and other instruments sings the best in contemporary worship music weekly at the Saturday 5pm Mass. The group rehearses on Thursday evenings, beginning Thursday, September 11th.

Traditional Ensemble: This choir rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings and sings choral classics along with traditional hymns, spirituals and gospel style music each Sunday at the 10:45 Mass. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 10th.

Questions? Need more info? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at 708-246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net about the children and teen choirs and Jessica Koch at the parish center (X136) or jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org about the adult choirs.
RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the way that those interested in the Catholic Church learn about the faith and join our community. The process traces its roots back to the earliest days of Christian communities.

The process is for . . .

- Those never baptized who would like to become a Catholic,
- Those baptized in another Christian Church who would like to become Catholic, or
- Those already baptized as a Catholic but who have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation.

The RCIA gives people on a faith journey an opportunity to “Come and See” not only what the Catholic Church and a life of faith in it is all about, but also an opportunity to explore how Jesus Christ may be calling them into his life in a deeper way. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about becoming Catholic invite them to attend the Evening of Inquiry on September 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Community Room.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION CONTACT FR. BILL VOLLMER AT 708 246 4404
In 1991 Hollywood produced a comedy entitled, City Slickers, starring Billy Crystal. In a quirky way it was a wonderfully moral film, focusing on three, middle-aged men from New York City who were dealing with midlife crisis.

As a present from their wives, who are frustrated enough with them to attempt anything, the three are given the gift of participating in a cattle drive through New Mexico and Colorado. And so these three urbanites set off to ride horses through the wilderness. The comedy part of the film focuses on their inept horsemanship and their naiveté about cattle and the wilderness. The more serious part of the movie tracks their conversations as they try to sort through both their own struggles with aging and the larger mysteries of life.

And one day as they are discussing sex, one of the three, Ed, the character with the least amount of moral scruples, asks the other two whether they would be unfaithful to their wives and have an affair if they were sure that they would never be caught. Billy Crystal's character, Mitch, initially engages the question jokingly, protesting its impossibility: You always get caught! All affairs get exposed in the end. But Ed persists with his question: "But suppose you wouldn't get caught. Suppose you could get away with it. Would you cheat on your wife and have an affair, if no one would ever know?" Mitch's answer: "No, I still wouldn't do it!" "Why not?" asks Ed, "nobody would know." "But I'd know," Mitch replied, "and I'd hate myself for it!"

There are volumes of moral wisdom in that answer. Ultimately nobody gets away with anything. We always get caught, not least by ourselves and by the moral energy inside the air we breathe. Moreover whether we get caught or not, there will always be consequences. This is a deep, inalienable moral principle written into the very fabric of the universe itself. Universal human experience attests to this. Nobody ultimately gets away with anything, despite every protest to the contrary.

We see this articulated, for example, in the very heart of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and virtually all Easter religions in a concept that is popularly called the Law of Karma. Karma is a Sanskrit word which means action or deed, but it carries with it the implication that every action or deed we do generates a force of energy that returns to us in kind, namely, what we sow is what we will reap. Hence, bad intent and bad actions will ricochet back on us and cause unhappiness, just as good intent and good actions will ricochet back on us and bring us happiness, irrespective of what is seen or known by anyone else. The universe has its own laws that assure this.

Jesus was no stranger to the idea. It is everywhere present in his teachings and at times explicitly stated: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6, 38)

In essence, Jesus is telling us that the air we breathe out is the air that we will re-inhale and that this is true at every level of our existence: Simply put, if we are emitting too much carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide into the air we will eventually find ourselves suffocating on them. And this is true at every level of our lives: If I breathe out bitterness, I will eventually find myself breathing in bitterness. If I breathe out dishonesty, I will eventually find myself gasping for a generosity in a world suffocating on greed and stinginess. Conversely, if I breathe out generosity, love, honesty, and forgiveness, I will eventually, no matter how mean and dishonest the world around me, find life inside a world of generosity, love, honesty, and forgiveness.

What we breathe out is what we will eventually re-inhale. This is a nonnegotiable truth written into the very structure of the universe, written into life itself, written into every religion worthy of the name, written into the teachings of Jesus, and written into every conscience that is still in good faith.

Where does this principle ground itself and why can it never be violated without consequence? The principle is alienable because the universe protects itself, because Mother Earth protects herself, because human nature protects itself, because the laws of love protect themselves, because the laws of justice protect themselves, because the laws of conscience protect themselves, because God has created a universe that is moral in its very structure.

Being moral or not is not something we can choose or not choose. We don't have that prerogative because God created a morally-contoured universe, one that has deep, inalienable moral grooves which need to be honored and respected, irrespective of whether we get caught or not when we cheat.

Ron Rolheiser

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
Volunteer Opportunities In Our Area:

SJC Saintly Senior Club Luncheons
Our parish Senior Club is looking for a volunteer or two 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.

Dominican Literacy Center
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.

Donations that Make a Difference

Furniture
Sharing Connections Furniture Bank is in need of kitchen / dining room tables and chairs and dressers. You may call for a pick-up at 630-971-0565.

Freezer Chest & Refrigerator
Our Sharing Parish, St. Mark, which operates a food pantry, is in need of an upright freezer chest and a refrigerator, either new or used. Call Rosie at 773-772-2271 to donate.

To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign
The To Teach Who Christ Is campaign is an effort to support parishes, Catholic education and Faith Formation. The campaign is being undertaken in all parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago in the 2013 to 2016 time frame. The campaign has raised more than $121 million of its $350 million goal. Thus far, the efforts of 107 parishes account for $36 million of the funds raised, with major gifts totaling $85 million.

In an effort to be more supportive of parishes during the campaign process and to improve the level of participation and financial success of the campaign, the Archdiocese has retained a new Chicago-based firm to manage the campaign, CCS Fundraising. The Archdiocese is working with CCS Fundraising to revise the campaign plan in order to provide more planning and organizational support to individual parish communities like ours.

The To Teach Who Christ Is campaign is providing critical funding for parishes and other ministries in the Archdiocese. More than $6 million in cash payments have already been returned to parishes that participated in early stages of the campaign. These parishes are using campaign funds for religious education programs, facility improvements, parish schools, endowments and many other needs.

For more information on the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign, please visit www.toteachwhochristis.org.

May we constantly look to Jesus stretching out his hand to us with life and salvation. May we acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God by the faithfulness of our daily living.
Going Electronic
Change the way your donation arrives to our parish. Use the form on the next page to make your Sunday Offertory donation via your checking account or credit card. Just drop your completed form in an envelope to the parish center, attention MJ. Or visit our parish website and fill out the form electronically. You can donate weekly, monthly, quarterly or once a year. It’s safe, convenient and provides the parish with a consistent revenue flow and increased efficiency in record keeping. (It is recommended that you donate from your checking account as it is less costly for the parish which absorbs the fees associated with e-giving.) Donations can be stopped with the click of a mouse or a phone call to MJ at the parish center (708-246-4404 x123). Parishioners enrolled in the “old” ACH donation program through the Community Bank of Western Springs are asked to call MJ to switch to our newer version.

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.

Annual Benefit Dinner
Bishop Abramowicz Seminary
On Sunday, September 7, 2014, the annual benefit dinner for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will take place at the Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont. The evening will start with cocktails and silent auction at 5:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. Tickets are $175 per person.

Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program is unique. Since September, 1999 it has annually recruited seminarians in Poland who, with the approval of their respective bishops there, have each freely elected to leave their native Poland with the idea of completing their seminary training here, first at Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program in Chicago, then at Mundelein Seminary.

Among those attending will be His Eminence Cardinal Francis George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago along with the auxiliary bishops of Chicago. During the dinner Camille Kopielski will be honored with the Caritas Christi Award. For tickets and reservations please call Joan Trandel 708-484-6513. For further information call also Very Rev. Jacek Wrona or Dorothy Lin 312-915-0598.

Prayer Shawl Meeting
The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Wednesday, August 13 from 1 until 2:30pm in the parish center. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to participate. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a prayer shawl, it can be dropped off at the parish center. For further information or to request a shawl, call Sheila at 708-246-7836 or Mary at 708-246-5108.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
If you were married in 1964 and have not yet registered for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass, there's still time! The Mass will be held on Sunday, September 14 at 2:45 p.m. at Holy Name Cathedral, State and Superior Streets in Chicago. To register, call the Marriage and Family Ministries Office at 312-534-8351 or go online at www.familyministries.org.
Authorization for Electronic Donation to St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs, Illinois

Name: ___________________________________________   ___ New Authorization
Address: ___________________________________________   ___ Change Contribution Amount
City, State, Zip: _______________________________________   ___ Change Contribution Frequency
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☐ Checking Account (please attached a voided check)
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I would like to schedule my donation to occur:
☐ Weekly  starting ___/___/_____ mm/dd/yyyy
☐ Monthly on the ___ 10th or ___ 25th of each month
☐ Annually on the ___ 10th or ___ 25th of _________ (month) each year
☐ One-time/Single on the ___ 10th or ___ 25th of _________ (month)

$_____  Sunday Offertory
$_____  Parish Maintenance/Landscaping
$_____  Sharing Parish

Annual Holy Day & Special Collections  Transfer on the ___ 10th or ___ 25th of the month of the collection each year

or  Transfer on the ___ 10th or ___ 25th of the month of the collection one-time

$_____  Solemnity of Mary, January 1
$_____  Latin America, January
$_____  SJC Support a Student, January
$_____  Easter Flowers, March
$_____  Central/Eastern Europe, March
$_____  Holy Thursday Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund
$_____  Good Friday Holy Land
$_____  Easter Sunday
$_____  Catholic Charities, May
$_____  Retirement Fund for Priests, June
$_____  Peter’s Pence, June
$_____  Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

$_____  Seminaries, September
$_____  World Mission Sunday, October
$_____  All Saints, November 1
$_____  All Souls, November 2
$_____  Thanksgiving Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund
$_____  Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Nov.
$_____  Christmas Flowers, December
$_____  Immaculate Conception, December 8
$_____  Religious Retirement, December
$_____  Share Christmas, December
$_____  Christmas Day

Please transfer my gift from my checking acct., savings acct. or credit card. I understand my future gifts will be transferred directly from my account. I understand that I may increase, decrease, or suspend my gift at any time through the online donation form at www.stjohnofthecross.org, or by contacting the church by phone or mail. All gifts provided to St. John of the Cross Parish as electronic transactions comply with U.S. Law.

Signature  (required) ___________________________________________ Date __________

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 even, need to HEAR the Good News
7. Children and teens, more than even, 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!!

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc

May each family rediscover family prayer, which helps to bring about mutual understanding and forgiveness.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jul 31
**Pray for our Sick**

Bette Barron  
Morgan Finley  
Michael Janowiak  
Steven LaVoie  

Ann Maliszewski  
Mary Catherine Warren  
Gary Ziemba

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**Pray for our Beloved Dead**

Maureen Scanlon-Shaughnessy, sister-in-law of Betty Scanlon  
Evelyn Spitkovsky, mother of John (Kris), grandmother of Caroline and John  
Roger Doherty, nephew of Frank and Joan  
Rose Canino, mother of Joanne Kuksta

May you live in peace this day. May your home be with God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph and all the angels and saints... May you return to your Creator, who formed you from the dust of the earth... May you see your Redeemer face to face.

- Prayer of Commendation, Order of Christian Funerals

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**Marriage Banns**

Richard C. Savitt & Gail A. Trapp

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**Summer Work at the Parish**

During the coming week we will be sealcoating our parking lot. Parishioners will be directed to enter either on Caroline Avenue or Wolf Road depending on where the work is being done. Frank will be on hand to help morning Mass attendees needing to reach the handicap lot. Thanks for your patience.

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**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, August 11, St. Clare**  
7:45am John Ohanesian & John “Russ” Quillman; Gloria Oechsel

**Tuesday, August 12, St. Jane Frances de Chantel**  
7:45am Robert McNulty; Dr. Edward Montgomery

**Wednesday, August 13, Ss. Pontian & Hippolytus**  
7:45am Lorraine Janda; Eugene Klimek

**Thursday, August 14, St. Maximilian Kolbe**  
7:45am Vincent Domagal; John Piszczor

**Friday, August 15, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
6:30am James Purtell; John Hogan  
7:45am Thomas Baer; Sylvester Kwit  
6:30pm Eleanor Godlewski; Maier & Gora Families

**Saturday, August 16, St. Stephen of Hungary**  
8:00am John Joseph; Ann Tolan  
5:00pm Margaret Ellen Hipskind; Michael Cardamone

**Sunday, August 17, 20 Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
7:30am Charlotte & Edward Fidelus; Jim Munch  
9:00am Rosemary Johnson; Thomas Dobry  
10:45am Dr. Norbert and Barbara Mann; Abe & Georgia Tamer  
5:00pm Eileen Carlson; Marion Koerner

*Italics—Living*

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**This Week at SJC**

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

**Tuesday, August 12**  
9:00 a.m. School Uniform Sale  
6:00 p.m. Chicago Catholic Scripture School Preview Night  
7:00 p.m. Moran Prayer Group

**Wednesday, August 13**  
10:30 a.m. Broderick Bridges Group  
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry  
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation  
7:00 p.m. RCIA Planning Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

**Thursday, August 14**  
9:00 a.m. Archdiocesan Meeting

**Friday, August 15 Feast of the Assumption**  
6:30 a.m. Mass, 7:45 a.m. Mass 6:30 p.m. Mass  
6:00 p.m. Crossroads Parent BBQ

**Saturday, August 16**  
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
    Saint John of the Cross   #9239

ADDRESS —
    5005 S. Wolf Road
    Western Springs, IL 60558

PHONE —
    708-246-4404

CONTACT PERSON —
    Shirley is out of the office. Contact MJ Martin 708-246-4404 x 123 or Frank 708-769-2353

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
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.