August 31, 2014
22 Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

from our Parish Mission Statement
Labor Day
This year Labor Day is tomorrow, Monday, September 1st. Only one Mass is scheduled that day at 9:00am. Please join us as we thank God for the blessings of labor and seek his continued blessings upon us. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Labor Day.

Summer Mass Schedule Ends
The 12:15pm Mass returns the Sunday after Labor Day, next Sunday, September 7th. Weekend Masses during the school year are Saturday 5pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm and 5pm.

Sharing Your Gifts with St. John of the Cross
Change the way your donation arrives to our parish. Giving through our E-Giving Program on our parish website is safe, convenient, and provides the parish with a consistent revenue flow and increased efficiency in record keeping. You can donate via your bank account or credit card on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis. (It is recommended that you donate from your bank account as it is less costly for the parish which absorbs the fees associated with E-Giving.) And donations can be changed or stopped with the click of your mouse. A hard copy form can be downloaded and sent to the parish center. Our staff is also ready to assist you in any way. Call MJ at the Parish Center. Parishioners enrolled in our “old” ACH Program through the Community Bank are asked to call MJ to switch to our newer version.

Please support our parish by leaving a gift in your will. Thank you.

Archdiocese of Chicago
Office of the Archbishop

We all have been witnessing the ongoing tragedy and violence erupting in the Middle East. Millions in Iraq, Syria, and Gaza are continually displaced, murdered, and attacked, and the situation is increasingly becoming more violent. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, President of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has now called on us to consider taking up a special collection “to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in the Middle East.”

Consequently, I am asking the faithful of the Archdiocese of Chicago to please pray for peace and contribute to the Special Collection for the Middle East on the weekend of September 6-7 at your parish. The urgency for this emergency appeal is evident, as we must together show our “great concern for the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity,” as Archbishop Kurtz explained in the letter. “Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Iraq, Syria and Gaza who are struggling to survive, protect their children and live with dignity in dire conditions.”

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and other Catholic agencies are working tirelessly to provide for the immediate humanitarian needs for the most vulnerable in need in these conflict areas in Iraq, Gaza, Syria and other surrounding countries. Monies received from this collection will go directly to aid persecuted Christians and other innocent victims and rebuild the needs of the Catholic dioceses in these areas.

To that end, I urge all of you to respond with generosity in both prayer and by providing monetary support for our brothers and sisters in this crisis situation. Please also continue to include these victims in your general intercessions during Mass. You and those whom God has called you to serve are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Dear Parishioners,

So we opened school for one day, then we closed it the next day. Or we could blame the weather for closing it a week ago Friday. The school bathrooms nearest the LRC and in the multi-purpose room flooded and the basement had two inches of water as well. Had it just been rain water we might have been fine, but as it was the need to sanitize everything in addition to the tremendous amount of work necessary in mopping and drying the floors was too much to take a chance on opening. Actually, many students were disappointed as they were happy to be in school and were excited about the new year.

The Parish Center did not escape either. In fact Andy Mola says it was the most water in the PC basement in its history, easily reaching 10 inches. There was extensive damage requiring much of what was stored to be thrown out, once it was documented for insurance purposes. Just in sheet music alone we are estimating over $7,200.00 in losses.

That damage is nothing compared to what some of the residents in Springdale and Ridgewood suffered. I heard stories of houses that had completely filled basements. We reported everything to the Village and will follow up to see what can be done to improve the infrastructure, but I have to admit I am not real hopeful, at least for anything very quickly.

And this weekend we celebrate Labor Day. The country pauses in honor of the working man and woman this weekend. The last weekend of summer, supposedly, overlaps with Labor Day observance and comes this year with very important issues regarding the economic recovery, immigration, living wage issues, long term unemployment, health care benefits, etc. The Pastoral Letter from the USCCB has this reflection, connecting with the first reading for today:

Jeremiah speaks of God’s word as fire burning in our hearts. Is the dignity of work burning within us? Is there a passion for how workers are treated? Is there a living wage? Are health care and pension benefits adequate? Enough work hours to support a family. Catholic Social Teaching tells us that these are rights of workers. Since 1891 the Church has been telling us about the centrality of work for human dignity. Is there a fire in us on the morality of work issues?

At the conclusion of their letter (which you can find at www.USCCB.org/issues, Labor Day 2014 statement), they add:

Supporting policies and institutions that create decent jobs, pay just wages, and support family formation and stability will also honor the dignity of workers. Raising the minimum wage, more and better workforce training programs, and smarter regulations that minimize negative unintended consequences would be good places to start.

In doing this we follow the lead of Pope Francis in rejecting an economy of exclusion and embracing an authentic culture of encounter. Our younger generations are counting on us to leave them a world better than the one we inherited.

That’s a lot between hamburgers and swimming or a beer and a bike ride this weekend, but it must also be part of our prayer. Our lives depend on it.

Peace,
Fr. David

Remembering is now embedded into our consciousness on September 11th of any year. Join in as we honor the great story of Theology South and its decades of bringing a bounty of theology and spirituality to so many lives. A moment of closure for Theology South will form a bridge into our continued journey of living spiritually rich and conscious lives. The biblical drama of Isaac and Rebekah and Jacob and Esau will guide our way into knowing again that there is always a blessing and the sacred wrestle marks our journey into God.

Avis Clendenen, professor emerita of religious studies at Saint Xavier University, will lead the reflection. Thursday, September 11, 2014, 9 am – 11:30 am, Mercy Circle, parking at Mercy Convent 10100 S. Central Park. This event is free and open to the public. rsvp by 9/1 to dmy4889@msn.com, or kfkato@aol.com.
COMING TO THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN:

A WOMAN FOR HER TIME AND FOR ALL CENTURIES

COME CELEBRATE HILDEGARD’S FEAST DAY

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Presenter: Avis Clendenen

We will be invited into the fascinating world of a multitasking artist, public intellectual, and woman of substance who created some of the most gorgeous and enduring theology, music and art the world has ever known.

Avis Clendenen, D.Min., Ph.D. is Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, IL. She currently serves as Special Assistant to the President of Saint Xavier University and as Co-Director of Pastoral Care at Mercy Circle in Chicago. Avis represented the Church of Chicago in Rome at the elevation of St. Hildegard of Bingen to Doctor of the Church in October 2012. She is the author of Experiencing Hildegard: Jungian Perspectives, co-author with Sister Irene Dugan, RC of Love Is All Around in Disguise: Meditations for Spiritual Seekers, editor of Spirituality in Depth, and co-author with Tory Marin of Forgiveness: Finding Freedom through Reconciliation.

SJC Parishioners attend for free as this event is sponsored by our parish. Call the Parish Center to register.

The Well Spirituality Center / 1515 West Ogden Avenue / LaGrange Park 60526
708.482.5084 / thewell@csjoseph.org
COMING TO THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

The Well Spirituality Center presents

An evening of music, video and storytelling to celebrate our community, our collective strength and our creativity with artist/activist

JAN PHILLIPS

Friday, September 19th
7-9pm

SJC Parishioners attend for free as this event is sponsored by our parish. Call the Parish Center to register.

The fee to attend the Saturday, Sept. 20 event is $80. To register, drop your check off in an envelope with your contact information. Make your check out to The Well.

NO TIME FOR ORDINARY
Saturday, September 20th - 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
$80 includes Lunch

These times and our own interior voices are calling for a shift from ordinary to extraordinary. Our global mind is undergoing an evolutionary leap and we are feeling its push and pull. We know it is a time to step up, to step out and be the force we came here to be. Time to shed our fear and express our potential. Time to remove the bushel that’s been hiding our light and become conscious creators of our lives, our families, our communities. In order to do this, we need to reconnect our heart and brain, re-examine our cultural and spiritual myths, and release our attachment to the past. The future is waiting to enter into us.

Using music, poetry, images and stories, this program will help you:
- discover how the future is expressing itself through you
- expand the boundaries of your spiritual intelligence
- experience the flow of your creative energy and the impact of its power
- feel the vitality that emerges when your brain and heart are linked

Jan is a visionary thought leader, award-winning author and dynamic speaker. She creates a unique multi-sensory experience, weaving humor, storytelling, captivating imagery, and music to inspire and ignite insights for life-changing action. Jan shows people how to access their wisdom, activate their own creative energy and communicate with passion and power.
Pastoral Care

The Latin word, *con-solatio*, consolation, suggests being with another in his solitude so that it ceases to be solitude. To accept another who suffers, means that I take up his suffering in such a way that it becomes mine also, a shared suffering in which my presence, understanding and hope shine as Christ’s light of love on it.

**Parish Grief Support**
**Begins Thursday, September 4th**
6 sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8pm beginning Thursday, September 4th in the parish center. Fellow parishioners and educators, Kathleen Broderick and Carmel Ryan, team up to lead this intimate grief support group for adults who have experienced loss of any kind. There is no fee to attend. To register and learn more contact Kathleen Broderick at 708-246-1165.

**Divorce & Beyond**
Open to adults experiencing or having completed divorce. Journey with fellow parishioners who have gone through the same things as you. Journey through stress, anger, and guilt to forgiveness, happiness and growth. Know that you are loved and welcomed as part of our faith community. Every other Friday evening from 7-9pm in the parish center beginning Friday, September 12th. Materials $10. Drop off an envelope with your name, phone and fee to the parish center. Questions can be directed to facilitator, Ann Marie Calistro at 708-784-9311.

**Mental Illness & Faith Formation**
Faith and Fellowship is a faith formation program for adults with mental illness. As part of the Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness, this new outreach program provides small group faith sharing as well as recreational activities and inclusion in the church community. All are invited to an introductory meeting on Thursday, September 11th at 1:00 pm (and repeated at 7:00 pm) at St. Catherine -St. Lucy Parish Ministry Center at 25 W. Washington Blvd in Oak Park. Learn how you can share our faith with those who have mental illness. For information, contact Connie Rakitan at faith_fellowship@hotmail.com or 708/383-9276.

**Minister of Care Training Dates for Fall**
Our parish Ministry of Care gives the sick, the elderly and the homebound an opportunity to receive Christ in the Eucharist, to pray and experience the love and care from our parish and feel connected to our community of faith. Ministers of Care make a weekly visit to a parishioner’s home or a monthly visit to an area hospital depending on your schedule. Oftentimes the friendship that grows from time spent together in prayer and talking is greatly treasured by both. Dates for upcoming training sessions at the Carmelite Center are:

- September 23-25-30, Oct. 2
  Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9:30pm
  OR
- October 14-16-21-23
  Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11:30am

If you are interested in becoming a Minister of Care contact Fr. Bill Vollmer in the parish center. Preregistration is necessary. SJC covers the cost of your training.

O Lord, hear our prayers for the human family. Give us eyes to see your face in the midst of suffering and anguish; give us ears to hear your voice in the midst of ridicule and confusion; give us hearts that sense your presence in times of turmoil and despair. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Living the Gospel

No wonder Peter rebukes Jesus! Jesus “began to show his disciples” what faithful discipleship demands: denying self, losing self, letting self die. Jesus teaches his disciples to let go of self so that a new self can be given. What we relinquish is ourselves as we are now; what we are given is a new self born from identifying completely with Jesus. It takes a lifetime of discipleship to turn from wanting to rebuke Jesus’ way of living through the cross to embracing it. It takes a lifetime of discipleship to let Jesus transform our life into his Life.

Sometimes our response to living the Gospel is enthusiastic because things are going well and we don’t realize the demands. Then, when the going gets rough, we bog down. The challenge is to let go so God can lead us. We need to surrender ourselves. We need to tell ourselves time and again that we must let go of the old self and life so that God can call us to growth, new Life, new possibilities for sharing in his glory. When we have truly committed ourselves to the dying and rising living the Gospel call entails, we may grow weary of the demands. Gospel living demands turning our heart toward God’s love working in us, and this is not without its cost to us. Even sharing in Jesus’ divine glory means that we must share in his sufferings and death. This is ultimately the challenge of living the Gospel: to suffer and die willingly because that is the way to eternal glory. If we only think of the denying and dying and losing, we will recoil as does Peter; if we look through the cross to the glory that awaits us, we will embrace Life with open arms—no matter what comes our way. ©Living Liturgy 2014.

May we continually let go of self in order to become a new self in Christ.
May we faithfully take up the cross and follow Jesus into glory.

Taking Up Our Cross

Sorrowful events also contain calls, though with a different content. They can be invitations to faith, to hope, to patience, to courage, to acts of forgiveness, to acceptance of our limits. . . The list is endless. But there is always some particular point, and it does not necessarily become clear to us all at once.

When someone is in a difficult situation, the most important thing to do, and the most liberating, is not to resolve the situation—something often beyond the person’s capacity—but to understand and follow the call present in the situation. It is not always readily discernible at first, but it will be revealed little by little to one who consents to the situation and sincerely asks what God wants of us.

When the Gospel says that Jesus is the way, it speaks beautiful words of hope. There are no circumstances in which the living presence of Jesus, hidden though it may be, cannot guide us, remove the obstacles blocking us, give us the strength to move ahead each day. Psalm 16 says: You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. But the Lord’s assistance is no magic want—an intervention that makes everything go better without our active cooperation. God acts for us, but never without us—never without inviting our intellects to see things in a new light and giving us freedom to choose as we ought. Every divine intervention in one’s life comes with a call to conversion. “I created you without you,” the Lord said to Saint Catherine of Siena, but I will not save you without you.”

Rev. Jacques Philippe
The Breaking of the Bread

“Christ’s gesture of breaking bread at the Last Supper . . . gave the entire Eucharistic Action its name in apostolic times” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM] #83). The breaking of bread was central to St. Paul’s understanding of the church itself: “Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Corinthians 10:17). As the bread is broken, we pray a litany: “Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. . . . Grant us peace.” This litany has a different function from the Kyrie with which the Mass began, and that it echoes. “The word ‘mercy’ means more than our customary English ‘forgiveness’ or ‘compassion.’ ” It would be a mistake to hear this as a plea to a just judge, a plea not to be punished. Rather, in asking Jesus the Lamb to “have mercy on us,” we are imploring “all of God’s blessings” (Champlin, pp. 107–108).

The bread is broken, the wine is poured. The priest takes the broken host and raises it, with the chalice, for all to see. Then he invites the people to Communion in words that echo the litany just prayed and the words of the angel to St. John: “Happy are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Revelation 19:9). At this moment, as we wait to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are also, in a sense, waiting for the culmination of all things, the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Communion Procession

From the Gospels, we know that the Last Supper was anything but a passive event. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples; they prayed together as he broke the bread; and when he foretold his betrayal, “they began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, ‘Surely it is not I?’ ” (Mark 14:19).

For us, too, Communion is a moment of decision and action, a moment when we let Jesus serve us, when we are challenged to declare our faith in him. Communion is not brought to us where we are; we do not pass a plate along each row. No, we move, we stand up, we go forward to the altar. We make a choice. We do not receive the Body and Blood of Christ in silence, but with song and with dialogue. “The Body of Christ.” “Amen.” “The Blood of Christ.” “Amen.” The procession is an expression of community. Even as the Body of Christ is given and received, the procession itself expresses the unity of the gathered assembly. But at the same time, Communion is a private moment, when each Christian individually approaches and, one by one, receives God’s own gift of self. St. Cyril, in his fourth-century instructions to the neophytes of Jerusalem, captures the wonderful mystery and intimacy of this moment: “When you approach, do not come with your hands outstretched or with your fingers open, but make your left hand a throne for the right one, which is to receive the King” (quoted in Champlin, p. 115).
10 More Ways to Pray with Family
Continued from last week, here are another 10 of the 40 ideas. Add your own to the list.
11. Visit the cemetery and pray for your dearly departed loved one.
12. Have everyone in the family take turns praying for one of the other family members during the day for a whole week. Rotate prayer partners every week.
13. Pray for the president, your congressional representatives, your mayor, and other civic officials.
14. Pray for church leaders and your parish clergy and ministers.
15. Imitate the saintly Dorothy Day, who spent time praying for those who were so forlorn that they were about to commit suicide at that moment.
16. Find out when a family member’s important meeting or test is and remember to pray at that time.
17. Turn every worry that drifts into your thoughts into a prayer for serenity.
18. Pray for every person who is a source of resentment for you.
19. Pray for the person who cuts you off in traffic.
20. Pray for the person who is the subject of a juicy rumor (instead of passing on the gossip). Watch this space next week for 10 more ideas.

From Raising Faith-Filled Kids by Tom McGrath

Sunday in the Park
“An opportunity for families with young children to meet”
All families with young children are invited to meet at Springdale Park on Sunday, September 14, after the 9:00 Mass. It’s a great way to make new friends and connect with old ones. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Francis at cnjfrancis@comcast.net

THANK YOU!!
JESUS was CALLING YOU and YOU ANSWERED!!
17 wonderful adults answered our call for volunteers last week at all the masses. Our YC classes will be filled with the spirituality and love from our family of parishioners. Thank you for your generous offering your gifts. We are truly a blessed community, living our baptismal call!

Volunteer Meetings for K-5 and any 6, 7, or 8 grade volunteer that were not able to make last week’s meeting will be:
Thursday, September 4th
6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Center OR
Monday, September 8th
6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Center
Please contact the YC office to register to join us at 708-246-6760

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, September 26th, 2014 - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
The St. John of the Cross Parish Women’s Club invites you to The Mother and Son Campout. Bring your tent and gear for a night of fun! We will supply the food, drink, and games. Watch for details next week.
**Crossroads News**

**Calendar of Events:**
REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!!!!

- ONLINE: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
- September 7: Kick-off Events
- September 14: Update Meeting
- Sept 21: First Home Group Meetings & Freshmen Experience

**AS OUR YEAR BEGINS WE ARE IN NEED OF ADULTS & TEENS to JOIN OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS:**

- Our Freshmen Experience Team needs **1 more adult** to welcome, listen and encourage our freshmen in their faith journey, commitment Sept-Dec 2 hours, twice a month!
- Our Day of the Spirit Retreat Team **needs 1 more male adult & 2 more male teens** to lead our 8th graders as they prepare for their confirmation, commitment is 3 meetings Sunday afternoons and all day Oct. 25.
- Our Leadership Board needs adults to mentor teens who want to lead our energies for Mass & Retreats.
- Our Frosh/Soph Identity Retreat needs 1 female adult for the weekend Jan 2-4, 2015.

Please contact Katie Hayes khayes@stjohnofthecross.org to get the details & join these teams already underway!

**KICK-OFF AGENDA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7th**

- 4-5pm Freshmen & their parents gather in Parish center lower level for introduction to Freshmen Experience
- 5-6pm All teens & families are invited to come together for mass
- 6pm Dodgeball Tournament for teens & Parent info session for all parents...everyone will enjoy pizza!

Crossroads wants to send a team of adults to the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in San Antonio, TX December 4-6, 2014. We'll cover the conference fees & a couple meals together, you get yourself there and cover housing. **LET KATIE HAYES KNOW BY SEPTEMBER 5th** if you are interested so we can obtain early registration discounts. Details found at links: [http://nccym.nfcym.org/](http://nccym.nfcym.org/)

---

**Virtus Training**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>All Parents, Coaches, Room Parents, any Volunteer in the parish who has regular contact with children. Sign up now as seating is limited.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>Protecting God’s Children Workshop includes two thirty minute videos and discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| When | September 11 6:30pm  
September 18 9am  
September 18 6:30pm  
Attendees must be on time and attend the entire session. |
| Where | St. John of the Cross Parish Center |
| How | You will need to register for this training by going on-line to the internet site for Virtus Training at www.virtus.org  
Click on the “registration” on the left side, choose “begin the registration process” and then choose “Chicago, IL” |
| Why | We are all affected by the abuse of children by representatives of the Church and society. In response the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provided guidelines for the safety of our children in their Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. These recommendations have then been translated into an action plan by Cardinal George. Every employee and volunteer who has regular contact with children is required to attend a training session of Protecting God’s Children. These workshops will inform and inspire participants to be part of the solution and to help keep our youth safe from harm. |

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.**
**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

Communion Antiphon

St. John of the Cross Parish  August 31, 2014  www.stjohnofthecross.org  page 10
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

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


Volunteer Opportunity

Our parish Senior Club is looking for a volunteer or two who could help in the kitchen with serving and clean up at the 3 luncheons scheduled on Friday, Oct. 10, Thursday, Feb. 12th and Friday, March 13. Contact: Gerry Mazzone at 708-246-0721 for more information.

LallapalOPERA!!!

Father Harry Bonin will give an introduction to understanding and feeling the greatest and most monumental experience available in classic European-based music. Opera brings together story telling, hearing, seeing, and acting along with costumes, scenery, artistic motion and heart-sensitive orchestra music—-ALL IN ONE! We’ll meet on 8 Wednesdays from September 10 to October 29 at 9:00am till 11:30am. We will also be attending a Lyric Opera performance.

OPERA!!! COME SEE LISTEN FEEL ENJOY!!!

Flourish-Women’s Faith Sharing will be gathering on Thursday, September 11th from 9—11:00 am in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones at 708.246.4404 or erusselljones@stjohnofthecross.org.

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. Tickets are $175 per person. For tickets and reservations please call Joan Trandel 708-484-6513.
We welcomed our youngest members of the St. John of the Cross Parish School community this week as 78 kindergarteners and 83 preschool children began school on Monday and Tuesday. The year began with a parent open house where the parents came to school with the children to make the transition easier for all. Our preschool children began to learn classroom procedures, songs, and prayers. They also painted t-shirts using pompoms to display in our hallways and drew self-portraits. Our kindergarteners dove into writing and reading activities with our fabulous SuperKids reading program.

**Parish School News**

**This Week At SJC**
- September 1, 2014  No School  Labor Day
- September 2, 2014  Parent Association Meeting
  - 9 a.m.  Parish Center

Food & beverages will be provided by the Men’s Club. Please bring a friend, lawn chairs and competitive spirit! The Men’s Club will also host its 6th Annual 2-Man Team Bags Contest

The Bags competition will begin at 6:30 pm and requires a $10.00 Entry Fee. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the BBQ to either Barrett Long longbarrett@hotmail.com or John Cisek johncisek@netscape.net. Also, please let us know if you plan to participate in the Bags Contest.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. Alleluia, Alleluia!
We hear many voices. Outer critics, inner critics. Hear the sacred voice that calls us all Beloved.

The St. John of the Cross Parish Beloved Retreat for men and women has been rescheduled for spring. Mark your calendar to attend on April 24-25-26, 2015.

Music at SJC
If you love music, take advantage of this opportunity to create vibrant music for worship in our parish! Our Music Ministries will provide you with a creative outlet, an invitation to deepen your prayer life, and the opportunity to meet new people. Contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries to find the best match for your musical gifts and your availability.

Children & Young Adult Choirs:
- Cherub Choir (Grades 1-3) 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 (Grades 4-8) 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.
- Sunday 5 Alive! Teen Choir (Sunday 5 p.m.) 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.

Adult Choirs:
Both choirs are fun, supportive, and social groups that pray together and aim to foster prayer in our community through our love of music. No previous experience or music-reading skill required – just a desire to sing praise to the Lord!
- Contemporary Ensemble (Saturday 5 p.m.) Rehearsals resume Thursday, September 11. Refreshment and fellowship at 7:00 pm
- Traditional Choir (Sunday 10:45 a.m.) Rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 10. Refreshment and fellowship at 7:00 pm

If you are interested in attending a rehearsal or want to find out more about music ministry, Contact us to get involved! Visit our website for more information: www.stjohnofthecross.org

Jessica Koch
Director of Music Ministries
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
(708) 246-4404, ext. 136

Ann Bourjaily-Maney
Associate Director of Music Ministries (Teens & Children)
bourjman@sbcglobal.net
(708) 246-4171
Volunteer Tutors Needed
Join the Congregation of St. Joseph in their Adult Literacy/ESL Program, Tutors on Wheels. The program needs volunteers to teach in Naperville, Glendale Heights, Addison, and Bloomingdale. Teaching takes place in churches, businesses, and social service agencies. Volunteers are needed to teach one hour a week, on a one-on-one basis in a nearby location. Tutoring sessions are scheduled weekday mornings, some late afternoons (and/or evenings). One training day will be provided on Saturday, September 13, 2014 from 9:00 am-12:00 p.m. No prior second language skills are needed. For more information call 630-217-0396.

Donations that Make a Difference
Parishioners, Betsy Rogers and her daughter, Amy, are serving on a global medical relief team of 11 medical professionals with “tinypeoplematter.org” to Zambia, Africa on Nov 1-16, 2014. The purpose of their trip is to teach the internationally accepted course “Helping Babies Breathe” to birth attendants. The course is designed for resource limited circumstances with the premise that every baby born deserves simple resuscitation if needed. The team will also be providing a mobile medical clinic at several schools and orphanages.

In preparation for their trip, Betsy and Amy would like to fill four suitcases (50 lbs each) with donations for those in need. Donations may be dropped off at their home from today through September 13th at 4371 Central, Western Springs (drop box on front porch) or call 708-359-2857 for a pick up. Any surplus of donations will be given to Community Nurse Health Association, LaGrange.

Items Needed:
- Infant/Toddler Clothing (new or gently used)
- School Supplies: paper, notebooks, colored pencils, pens, pencils, manual sharpeners, individual chalk boards, chalk, flash cards, stickers

Misericordia Women’s League Seeks New Members
Misericordia provides a caring environment for more than 600 children and adults facing challenges with mental and physical disabilities. Our league, which supports Misericordia through fund raising and service, is looking for new members. Please join us for coffee on Tuesday, September 16th at 9:00am. For more information contact Carolyn Excell at excell9@comcast.net or Lisa Wilder at wilder6@comcast.net.

Seeking Attorney Volunteers
The Pro Bono Network is looking for attorneys, both active and inactive, to join its efforts in providing free legal work to the poor and elderly in Cook and DuPage Counties. The group is involved with many different endeavors, some of which can be done at home and most are scheduled to happen during school hours. In the past year the group has been involved in immigration matters, a Consumer Clinic at the Daley Center, Lawyers in the Classroom, legislative monitoring and trips to the Cook County jail to prepare short-term guardianship documents on behalf of incarcerated women among other projects. You control your level of involvement so that you can volunteer for programs that work with your schedule. The projects are discrete and often can be done in one day. Training is always offered and there are opportunities for free CLE hours. Informal kickoffs to the year (orientations) are scheduled at the Hinsdale library on Thursday, September 4th at 10:00 and at the Oak Park library on Thursday, August 28th at the Oak Park library. For more information, please look at the website: pro-bono-network.org or e-mail kjbprobono@gmail.com.

Legacy Guild Golf Outing
The Legacy Guild, which helps provide college scholarships for local students who have lost a parent was able to help 23 students with just over $50,000 in scholarships last May. Golf foursomes, gaming tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available for The Legacy Guild Fall Golf Outing Sept 26th. More info at http://www.thelegacyguild.com/.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 1, Labor Day
9:00 Bill Moore; Dr. Edward Montgomery

Tuesday, September 2
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Mary Benard

Wednesday, September 3, St. Gregory the Great
7:45 Arlene Bishop; Roman Budzinski

Thursday, September 4
7:45 Frank Snow; Robert Pickell

Friday, September 5, Bl. Teresa of Calcutta
7:45 Helen McDonnell; Chester & Evelyn Kowal

Saturday, September 6
8:00 John Pecis; John Joseph
5:00 Robert Plechaty; Michael Cardamone

Sunday, September 7
7:30 Robert McNulty; Bruno Shukis
9:00 Dr. Robert Strzyz; John Callahan
10:45 Joseph O’Donnell; John Donnelly
12:15 Colette A. Durkin; Barbara Bailey
5:00 Walter & Patricia Cebula; Charlie Fields

Italics—Living

The 12:15 Mass returns on Sunday, September 7th.

Labor Day is Tomorrow
This year Labor Day is tomorrow, Monday, September 1st. Only one Mass is scheduled that day at 9:00am. Please join us as we thank God for the blessings of labor and seek his continued blessings upon us. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Labor Day.

A Look Ahead:
Monday, September 1 Labor Day
9:00 a.m. Labor Day Mass
Parish Office Closed (See page 2 of today’s bulletin)

Tuesday, September 2
9:00 a.m. Parent Association Meeting
7:00 p.m. RCIA Evening of Inquiry in Church
7:00 p.m. Moran Prayer Group
7:00 p.m. YC Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 3
9:30 a.m. Angel Study Continues from Spring
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Chicago Catholic Scripture School
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, September 4
6:30 p.m. Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6:30 p.m. YC Catechist Meeting

Friday, September 5
9:30 a.m. Mom’s Club
6:00 p.m. Men’s Club, BBQ and Bags

Saturday, September 6
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, September 7
10:30 a.m. Crossroads Identity Retreat/DOS
4:00 p.m. Crossroads Kick Off
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. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays beginning September 16th from 7:8:30pm in the Parish Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION
CONTACT FR. BILL VOLLMER AT 708 246 4404