Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 14, 2014

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

From our Parish Mission Statement
“Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness, and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.” Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name, which is above every name. “

St. Paul reminds us in the early hymn of the Church (Philippians 2:6-11) that Jesus’ entire life was one of sacrifice, the offering of himself – handing over his life in service to God and others. Jesus consecrated his life to God’s service. He did so through all of his words and actions. Touching those who were unclean he not only restored their health but brought them back into the community. Dining with tax collectors, prostitutes and outcasts, he offered forgiveness and a place at the table. All he did was through selfless love, give of himself so that others (we) might have life and have it to the fullest. For us as Catholics, the cross a central symbol in our faith is acknowledged as the greatest of all Jesus’ sacrifices.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. This feast originated when churches being built in Jerusalem on the sites of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. In 335 it was made a major feast by the Church. Christians from all over the world would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to reflect on the crosses meaning – an instrument of torture and death became a sign of honor and triumph. The cross is also for us – a symbol a reminder that we too are called to a life of sacrifice – our own self giving. Such selfless love is the life of a Christian. Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk and author, wrote that “love seeks one thing only, the good of the one loved. It leaves all secondary effects to take care of the other. To possess the life of God is to be open to every possible moment of grace – grace that allows us to give ourselves to God and others.”

In this year of the Sacraments – I believe that we can use the cross as a means of seeing how Eucharist is a sacrifice and how our celebration of it conforms us to the cross and the life of Jesus. The various parts of the Mass (Eucharist) help us enter into this sacrifice and to see our lives lived for God and others.

The Introductory Rites – the purpose of these rites is to gather a people of faith into a community. The opening procession and the singing of the Processional Song signal for us that we are a people on a pilgrimage to God’s Kingdom. As we sign our selves with the sign of the cross, the gesture reminds us of the way in which God loved the human race, from the Incarnation to the Resurrection, of the cross through which our salvation came and of our baptism and the baptismal life of service to which we are called to live. The cross is the sign of Jesus’ love and the way in which we are called to live our lives. In the Penitential Act we acknowledge that on the journey of giving ourselves to God and others we have not always been faithful to that calling and because of sin we are in need of God’s mercy, healing and forgiveness.

In the Liturgy of the Word, we encounter God speaking to us. The word of God may be one of affirmation, challenge, hope, trust, love. God’s word is meant to change us so that we can proclaim what we have heard in scripture with our lives. We sign our selves at the Gospel, that we may keep and live God’s word in our minds, live it in our hearts (service) and speak it from our mouths. The prayers of the faithful, the General Intercessions, are a way in which we as the community of St. John of the Cross live for others, for we pray not only for ourselves but for others.

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist we experience the pattern living the cross in several ways. During the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts we offer and present not only the bread and wine but our very selves. We are invited to bring the different aspects of our lives forward and offer them to God. One may offer God one’s marriage, family, career, friendships, something or someone we are grateful for in our lives. We may present to God our successes or struggles. We may hold up to God a family member or friend who is suffering with an illness. In doing so – we are making a sacrifice. During the Eucharistic Prayer, we come to the heart and soul of Mass. This great prayer of Thanksgiving and praise expresses Jesus’ life of self-giving love. In it we hear of Jesus’ willingness to lay down his life and pour out his blood so that all might be one, so we may be saved from the power of sin and death and live forever with him in the fullness of the Kingdom of God. As we engage in this prayer, we take on the same sacrificial consciousness, that same willingness to give our lives for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

In the Communion Rite – we pray in the Lord’s Prayer for the strength to live the daily life of sacrificial love that God has called us to. We seek nourishment for the challenge to do so. As we process to receive communion, we need to be mindful that we have become and are the Body of Christ – sent in mission to be Christ for others. As we conclude Mass the words of the Prayer after Communion ask that the affects of communion take hold in our lives. We are sent to live for others in selfless sacrifice at home, work, school and in the world.

Jesus, the Cross, and the Eucharist nourish and challenge us to live lives of self-sacrifice – for through this way of living we experience something much greater than ourselves – salvation and new life - the triumph of the Cross.

Fr. Bill Vollmer
Saintly Seniors

Can you believe that summer is over?

It’s time to reconnect with fellow Seniors at our parish. As you may know the mission of our Saintly Senior Group is to support all parish seniors by providing opportunities that foster spiritual growth and fellowship.

Throughout the year we host four luncheons with wonderful food and entertaining music as well as other special programs and trips. We hope you will join us this year. All activities are open to parishioners and their friends.

Now is the time to become a Senior Club member. Your dues helps defray our mailing and other miscellaneous costs incurred during the year. Mark your calendar for the following luncheon dates which have been reserved for you. And be sure to join us for our first Senior Day on Tuesday, September 30th.

Friday, October 10th OktoberFest, Parish Center
Friday, December 5th Christmas, William Tell
Thursday, February 12th Valentine’s Day, Parish Center
Friday, March 13th St. Patrick-St. Joseph Day, Parish Center

Annual Dues for the Saintly Seniors is $10 per person. Each luncheon costs $15 per member and $20 for non-members (except for the Christmas Luncheon at the William Tell). Senior Day is $15 for members and non-members alike. Enclose your check or cash in an envelope with your name, address, and phone and drop it off at the parish center or in the Sunday basket. Include a separate check for dues.

Senior Day:
Tuesday, September 30th

All are invited to come to a special Senior Day that will focus on helping you strengthen your mind, body and spirit. The day will start at 9am in the Parish Center with a continental breakfast, the program, which will run from 9:30-2pm, begins with our keynote speaker, Fr. Joe McDonnell who will speak about spirituality, aging, and health. The agenda is then filled with inspiring speakers covering topics such as tips for keeping your brain healthy as you age, calming your mind with simple breathing techniques, nutrition and safety for the senior, chair yoga, and how to simply look your best. A boxed lunch is included. Register by dropping off a check/cash for $15 to the Parish Center office in an envelope with your contact information by Sept. 23rd. This is a new program you won’t want to miss.

SJC Saintly Senior Club
proudly presents its fall
Oktoberfest Luncheon
Friday, October 10th at 11:30 am
in the Parish Center
Cost: Members $15, Non members $20
R.S.V.P.’s due on Monday, October 6th
Background on the Gospel

In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ death on the cross as well as his resurrection and return to the Father are one event. For him, the cross is a sign of exaltation. The serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert to offer healing to those injured by snake bites prefigures Jesus’ being lifted up on the cross, bringing salvation.

The eternal life God offers through Jesus is not life without end but life lived in the unending presence of God. That is why it can begin now in this life. The world to which God sends the Son is not a place but those people who are at odds with Jesus and God. Jesus is sent to this world as a gift. Only believers accept the gift.

Finally, God’s judgment on the world is not a future cosmic event but a present reality. God sent the Son out of love for the world. However, the world has to decide to accept him. Those who accept him have eternal life at the moment of the decision. Those who reject him don’t. Used with permission. Loyola Press

Live the Gospel

“Up” and “down” are words that capture seeming contradictions in this gospel and on this feast. The space between up and down, heaven and earth, divinity and humanity is closed by the obedience, self-emptying, and fidelity of the Son. This feast day celebrates that on the cross the Son overcomes these contradictions. We ourselves are drawn into the mystery of the cross as exaltation by our belief in the Son. Our believing bridges the space between God and us, between Life and death, between being saved or perishing. How much do we believe?

The human tendency is to flee that which brings pain, suffering, and death. The mystery of the cross challenges us to enter these as the means to Life; This mystery doesn’t make it any easier to accept pain, suffering, and death; it does give these natural human experiences meaning and depth. No one would choose suffering and death as positive elements in their lives. Yet we Christians regularly deny ourselves for the good of others. But, like Jesus, we don’t empty ourselves for the sake of pain and suffering; we accept these for the sake of new Life. Like Jesus, the cross calls us to obedience and belief. Both obedience and belief draw their efficacy by being in relationship with another. Jesus is the model for our embracing the cross as both dying to self and rising to glory. Herein is the mystery: in dying to self, in self-emptying, we are more perfectly conformed to Christ. And this is the whole goal of our Christian life: conformity to Christ. Thus we can rightly say, in the very dying is the rising; in the self-emptying is the new Life; in the suffering is the glory. This is why this day is rightly named the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. ©Living Liturgy

May we embrace the cross as a way to experience new Life for ourselves and for others.

May we grow in our belief in Jesus and embrace the self-giving that leads to a deeper share in his new Life.

Monday
1 Cor 11:17-26, 33
Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 16

Tuesday
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a
Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5
Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday
1 Cor 12:31-13:13
Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22
Luke 7:31-35

Thursday
1 Cor 15:1-11
Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28
Luke 7:36-50

Friday
1 Cor 15:12-20
Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49
Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14
Luke 8:4-15

25th Sunday in Ord.
Time
Isa 55:6-9
Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a
Matt 20:1-16a
Father of endless love and compassion,
hear the prayers of your family
gathered here before you.
May we imitate your Son
by taking up our crosses
with joyful obedience,
seeking your justice in all things;
may we embrace his example of
loving humility, love and praising you
in the compassion and care
we extend to one another.
We ask these things in the name of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.
Amen.

Richard Rohr Meditation

Transformative Suffering

Redemptive Suffering

The “cross,” rightly understood, is precisely and always unto resurrection. It’s as if God were holding up the crucifixion as a cosmic object lesson, saying: “I know this is what you’re experiencing. Don’t run from it. Learn from it, as I did. Hang there for a while, as I did. It will be your teacher. Rather than losing life, it is gaining life. It is the way through.”

The mystery of the cross has the power to teach us that our suffering is not our own and my life is not about “me.” Redemptive suffering is, I believe, a radical call to a deeper life and deeper faith that affects not only the self, but also others. We should pray for the grace to bear our sufferings as Christ bore his for us.

Hopefully, a time will come when the life of Christ will be so triumphant in us that we care more about others than about our own selves, or better, when there is no longer such a sharp distinction between my self and the other self. Remember that conversion is more than anything else a reconstituted sense of the self. As Paul puts it, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

The suffering that we carry is our solidarity with the one, universal longing of all humanity, and thus it can teach us great compassion for and patience with both ourselves and others (see Colossians 1:24).

God is in this with us.

We adore you,
o Christ,
and we bless you, because
by your Cross you have
redeemed the world.
Alleluia, alleluia

Canticle of Peter

Christ suffered for you, and left you an example to have you follow in his footsteps.

He did no wrong; no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was insulted, he returned no insult.

When he was made to suffer he did not counter with threats. Instead he delivered himself up to the One who judges justly.

In his body he brought your sins to the cross, so that all of us, dead to sin, could live in accord with God’s will.

By his wounds, you were healed.
**Pastoral Care**

**Divorce & Beyond**
Join others in our faith community who are divorced. Share your story and grow from this group experience. Establish new friends who understand your journey. The group meets every other Friday evening beginning at 7pm in the Parish Center. The next meeting is September 26. For more information and to register, contact facilitator Ann Marie Calistro at 708-784-9311.

**Grief Support for Children**
Buddy’s Place is registering families for the upcoming fall 8 week session which begins September 30th from 6:15-7:30pm. To register call 708-995-3750 or buddysplace@pillarscommunity.org

**Support for Families of Suicide**
The impact from the suicide of a loved one varies for each individual surviving. The variables are unique for each person. Participants will be invited to discuss their loss in a safe, confidential, non-judgmental environment facilitated by Dr. Barb Jarvis Paul, who is experienced both personally and professionally with suicide. A closing prayer service will be offered. The Program will be on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 1-4:30pm at Mayslake Ministries in Downers Grove. Cost $30. Register at www.mayslakeministries.org or call 630-852-9000.

**Become a Parish Minister of Care**
Is God calling you to bring the Eucharist to those who are elderly or sick at home or in hospitals? Our parish Ministers of Care receive training in the theological, pastoral and practical aspects of ministering to the sick, aging, and dying, listening skills, prayer and Eucharistic ministry. Training is being offered in September or October at the Carmelite Center in Darien. The cost is covered by SJC. Contact Fr. Bill for more information.

Sept 23, 25, 30 and Oct. 2 from 7-9:30pm or October 14, 16, 21 and 23 from 9-11:30am.

**Individual Christian Career Coaching**
Are you dissatisfied with your current job or at a career crossroads? Are you uncertain whether to continue in the same job or make a change? Have you just graduated and are unsure about how to choose a fulfilling career? Are you grappling with knowing what God wants you to do?

Christian Coaching at Mayslake Ministries offers a one on one approach to identify your unique talents and gifts from God to help you make the best career decisions. You will also learn to make short and long term career goals, gain a competitive edge with your resume and be able to utilize best job search strategies for today’s job market. Call to make an appointment with Deborah Sakelaris, a certified professional career coach. Fee $50 per session. 630-852-9000.

**Spiritual Direction**
Marianne Firlit is a certified Spiritual Director who has an office in our parish rectory. Spiritual Direction can help you see God’s presence in loss, grief, anger or fear, can help you make an important decision in light of God’s grace, and grow in gratitude and joy through deeper prayer. Contact Marianne at mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org or call the parish center.

**Lost Child Pilgrimage**
We invite men and women who have lost a child to explore the sacred journey of loss, healing and hope. Speaker Rev. Richard Fragomeni will speak at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Guests may come at 8:30 a.m. to check-in and have coffee.

**Counseling**
Individual, couple and family counseling is available through Catholic Charities Holbrook Center throughout the Chicago area. Our parish rectory has a Holbrook Center-LOSS office. To make an appointment call 312-655-7725.

**LOSS Counseling:**
Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide Catholic Charities provides counseling and programming for adults and children who are grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. Call (312) 655-7283 for an appointment.
Travel to France with Fr. Dees

I am delighted to invite you to join me on a journey to explore the history of France which stands at the crossroads of Europe. Our pilgrimage will take us to the heart of Catholic France as we visit the legacy of our faith present in the cathedrals and shrines of this “older daughter” of the Church. The dates for our pilgrimage are June 14th-26th 2015.

The highlight of our pilgrimage will be our visit to the Shrine of Lourdes with opportunities to bathe in the waters and walk in the candlelight processions. Along the way we will also visit Lisieux, the tomb and shrine of St. Therese, the Little Flower; Rouen, the place where St. Joan of Arc was martyred; and the noted Cathedral of Chartres and its famed stained glass windows.

For the fan of history we will also be visiting the Chateaux of the Loire Valley, the dramatic Normandy Coast and the D-Day Landing Beaches. We will see town and village life and end our trip with a visit to the capital, Paris. Along the way we will celebrate mass and into the life of Catholicism in this renowned country.

This pilgrimage will be in collaboration with my parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview, IL. **Space is limited** and June is coming quickly so please take this into consideration. More information is available for those who are interested; please pick up a trip brochure from the Parish Center. We will be having an information meeting on October 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Rooms 4 and 5. Please feel free to call me with questions at (847) 729-1525. Fr. Elliott Dees

**Congratulations!**

Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday! Pictured are Neal and Sara Rudnik with Austin Cole, Gregory and Sara Simon with Andrew Charles, and Donald and Erin McKenzie with Keira Leigh and big brother, Kenneth who is 2.
As part of our adult formation efforts each year, St. John of the Cross Parish sponsors a number of programs at The Well Spirituality Center located at 1515 West Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. Our sponsorship helps The Well bring many inspiring speakers to our area and allows for our parishioners to attend special programs free of charge. Mark your calendar to attend the following programs sponsored by SJC this year. Register for sponsored programs by calling the parish center office. Watch the bulletin and website for upcoming program and registration dates.

Hildegard of Bingen:
A Woman for Her Time and for All Centuries
Presenter: Avis Clendenen
September 17, 2014 from 7–9pm

No Time for Ordinary:
An Evening of Music, Video and Storytelling
Celebrate our community, collective strength and creativity with artist/activist Jan Phillips
September 19, 2014 from 7-9pm Concert and Storytelling

(The Just a note, on Saturday, September 20th Jan Phillips will also offer a second program from 9am-3pm. The cost to attend this program is $80 as it is not sponsored by the parish. Program details and registration at thewell@csjoseph.org.)

The Gospel of Storytelling
Fr. Ed Foley, Capuchin
October 1, 2014 from 7:00–8:30pm

From Dinosaurs to Star Trek
Pat Bombard BVM
January 24, 2015 from 10:00am–Noon

Terry Nelson Johnson
March 7, 2015 from 9:00am–1:00pm

Jack Shea / Lenten Theme
April 18, 2015 from 9:00am-Noon

Spirituality of Healing
James Finley

Hildegard of Bingen:
A Woman for Her Time and for All Centuries
Come and celebrate Hildegard’s Feast Day on Wednesday, September 17th from 7-9pm at The Well Spirituality Center in LaGrange Park.

Learn about 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 even known.

Our presenter will be Avis Clendenen, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at St. Xavier University 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. Clendenen is the author of Experiencing Hildegard: Jungian Perspectives, Love is All Around in Disguise: Meditations for Spiritual Seekers with Sr. Irene Dugan, and Forgiveness: Finding Freedom through Reconciliation with Tory Marin, and editor of Spirituality in Depth.

Call the Parish Center to register. This program is free for SJC parishioners.
Sing a New Song

Parishioners of all ages are invited to join one of our parish choirs. Call Jessica Koch at the Parish Center at x136 or Ann Bourjaily-Maney at 708-246-4171 for more information.

Children’s Cherub Choir (Grades 1-3): Practices on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:30pm in church. Contact Ann.

Children’s Youth Choir (Grades 4-8): Practices on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30pm in church. Contact Ann.

5 Alive Sunday 5pm Choir (8th Grade and Teens): Practices on Sundays at 4pm in church. Check out our Facebook page at 5 Alive St. John’s Sunday Mass. Contact Ann.

Adult Saturday 5pm Contemporary Choir: Practices on Thursdays at 7pm. Contact Jessica.

Adult Sunday 10:45 Traditional Choir: Practices on Wednesdays at 7pm. Contact Jessica.

Adult Resurrection Choir: Sings at morning parish funeral Masses. Contact Jessica.

Whenever the prophets or the Book of Revelation in the New Testament describe what heaven is like, they paint a picture of joyous worship, and a key part of that worship is singing. Isaiah, for example, describes angelic beings (seraphim) surrounding the heavenly throne and singing in responsorial form: “Holy, holy, holy . . .” (Isaiah 6:2–3). Revelation describes various groups or choirs singing God’s praise, including the “four living creatures” (Revelation 4:6–9) and the “twenty-four elders” (4:9–11), who each have their own song but also join together in harmonic praise of the Lamb as “they sing a new song” (5:9–10). A huge crowd of angels joins in praising the Lamb (5:11–12). They are joined by the choir of believers and a multitude from every nation singing praise (7:9–11), until all creation sings a hymn to God and to the Lamb (5:13).

National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Read the full article “They Sing a New Song” on our parish website at http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/worship/music/Left side under Music Resources
Tips for Today’s Job Seeker
Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, September 18 from 7-9 pm. Our panel of fellow job seekers who have landed jobs successfully will share their tips on what strategies worked for them and their ideas on how they were able to generate job interviews. If you’re looking for some solid advice based on what worked…don’t miss this panel discussion. It could help with your job search. Please join us at the St. Cletus Education Building, 700 West 55th Street in La Grange. Room 201. Look for the ICN sign outside and use the flag pole entrance. This program is open to all and there is no charge to attend.

Career Transition Workshop Begins Tuesday, September 23
Interfaith Career Network invites you join us when the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange will host their five-week Career Transition Workshop beginning Tuesday evening, September 23 from 7-9 pm. Looking for a change in jobs, interested in making a career switch, unemployed, underemployed or a recent grad looking for your first professional position? This workshop will help make it easier by teaching you the necessary job search skills. First Presbyterian Church of La Grange is located at 150 South Ashland Avenue. Meetings will be held in Westminster Hall. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue. This workshop is open to all and there is no fee to attend. For further information, please call the church office at 708.354.0771.

Lord we pray that we may imitate the attitude of the humble and obedient Jesus by emptying ourselves for the sake of the poor, the fallen, and the helpless. Amen.

Operation Support Our Troops Annual Parish-wide Collection: Sept. 14th-26th
Donation Boxes in Church and Parish Center
The mission of Operation Support Our Troops IL is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and overseas. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain.

1. Individual cold drink mix packets of Gatorade or Propel
2. Slim Jims/Jerky
3. Peanut Butter (28 oz or less)
4. Individually wrapped snacks
5. Foot Powder (20oz or less)
6. White or black athletic socks – no visible logos
7. Lotion for men (12 oz or less)
8. Coffee singles or 1 lb bags
9. Non-aerosol shaving cream, razors
10. Deodorant
11. Hand sanitizer (12oz or less)
12. Toilet paper

Please no glass items.

Please contact Laurie Smillie, smillie@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us to answer any questions or phone 708.246.6760 ext.251

Volunteer Opportunity for 8 Adults
Our sharing parish, Our Lady of Charity in Cicero, is in need of volunteer assistance in their grades K—3 classrooms. Absolutely no past education experience is necessary. The classroom teachers provide all materials needed. The time commitment would be once a week from 8:30 – 10:30am. Contact Diane Harken 708-246-2383 for further information.
Welcome Back

**CLASSES BEGIN**
Next Weekend!!

Emails were sent out with room assignments.

**First Day of Classes:**
- **Sunday, September 21st**
- **Monday, September 22nd**

First Day of Classes!

Open House for Parents!

During class attend the classroom for part of the time, then come to a presentation on the year ahead.

Plan to join us!!!

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**YC Schedule**

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<td>Classes K-6</td>
<td>10:15-11:30am</td>
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<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
<td>Monday, Sept 22, 29, Oct 6</td>
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<td>FFC</td>
<td>Noon-1:30pm</td>
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*All 7th graders will meet on Sept 28 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center*

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Youth Catechesis Office

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

Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30am-4:00pm, open Sunday mornings and Monday evenings during class

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**Calendar of Events:**

REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!!!! It’s not to late to join in! GO ONLINE:

www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

- Sept. 14 Update Meeting 10am Parish Center
- Sept 21: Identity Retreat Mtg 10:30am
- Day of the Spirit Team Mtg noon
- First Home Group Meetings
- Freshmen Experience 6-7:30pm

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Our Kick-Off Last Week Was Awesome!

Congrats to the Januska’s Home Group for their great skill at dodgeball! Next year the class of 2018 will be up for the challenge!

KUDOS to our leadership teams for making this night possible:
Ann & Sean lead a fun dodgeball tournament!
Mary, Terry & FE Team met with freshmen & their parents! Eileen, Beth & Lis shared with parents about how they can support you & invite you into our ministry! Madeleine & Maureen shared upcoming retreat & service opportunities!

THANK YOU!

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As our year begins we are in need of adults & teens to join our leadership teams...support our ministry as we assist our teens in growing their faith! Please contact Katie Hayes khayes@stjohnofthecross.org to get the details & join these teams already underway!
Family Connection
As a family, sit down together and brainstorm a list of family highlights, moments in the lives of family members that are to be celebrated, such as achievements, accomplishments, and awards. Spend some time reminiscing about these various events or moments. Remind your children of how proud you are of them. Point out that often achievements and accomplishments are signified by the presentation of trophies, medals, ribbons, or certificates. Show some examples of such awards in your family’s possession. Say, *We have one other symbol in our home that celebrates a victory that we all can share in.* Show a cross or crucifix that you keep on display in your home. Say: *This is a symbol of God’s victory over death. Jesus died on the cross, but because of his Resurrection, the cross has become for us, not a symbol of defeat, but a symbol of victory.* Explain that the following Gospel is from the Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Have a family member read aloud John 3:13–17. Talk about what the word exaltation means—to raise high, to lift up, to sing praise to. Remind your family that whenever they see the cross displayed in your home, it is a reminder to exalt, to praise, God for loving us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross, a prayer that exalts God’s love.

Did Jesus Have to Die?
People have asked many times in the history of Christianity why Jesus had to die. Why did God’s will have to include Jesus’ death? God’s original plan for creation did not include death. The disobedience of Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world. God’s design for repairing that rupture in his plan culminated in the Incarnation. In becoming like us in every way except sin, Jesus accepted death as well. God the Father did not desire his Son’s death but willed that his love would not be separated from us by anything, including death. Jesus’ death was a result of God’s love, our sins, and Jesus’ free acceptance. In John 3:16 we are told, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”  

Extra Resources on Eucharist on our Parish Website for Adults

*Father,*
you are closer to me than my own breathing,
as present and life-giving as my own heart. May each breath I take and each heartbeat I experience deepen my awareness of your presence.

M Buckley  The Catholic Prayer Book, I Believe Digital

Throughout the month of September we are focusing on the Eucharist in the Year of Sacraments. Go to our parish website home page and click on Year of Sacraments to read two additional digital resources on Eucharist: Origins of the Eucharist and The Eucharist Celebrated. Each 4 page publication includes reference points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Questions for Reflection. The password to access these resources is sjc.

**YEAR OF SACRAMENTS • ONE WORD AT A TIME**

Remember

The Eucharist we celebrate is the memorial of the death and the resurrection of the Lord. We remember. We do not just recall his death and resurrection. We remember it in such a way—by the power of the Holy Spirit—that his death and resurrection are really and truly present to us. This great act of memory heals us and gives us life. We carry within ourselves so many memories, and not all of them are good. We know well enough the memories of past sins, of hurts, of deferred dreams, and of damaged relationships. These “broken memories” threaten to subvert our lives and, sometimes, to enslave us.

When we remember in our celebration of the Eucharist the saving death and resurrection of the Lord, we meet the pure and transforming mercy of God. Our memories are healed. Our hearts find rest in the one who is our hope.

POPE FRANCIS’S VISION OF HEALING AND COMMUNION

Saturday, September 27
11am-4pm
SJC Parking Lot
To Support the SJC Athletic Programs
Basketball ~ Cheerleading
Cross Country ~ Football
Track & Field ~ Volleyball
Tickets $75 per Family

Fun day for Families PreK—8th Grade,
Parishioners & Friends of SJC
Enjoy an afternoon of Games, Raffle, Bounce
Houses, Hot Dog Cart, Ice Cream
& Cotton Candy!
Bring your favorite food and
cooler of preferred beverages.

Cars will park in the front parking lot and we will all
celebrate together in the parking lot between the School &
Parish Center. Your tailgate parking pass will be mailed to
your address the week before the event.

Name:  _______________________________________
Email:  _______________________________________

I/We will be attending the Tailgate Party for $75
Names of Guests attending:

___________________________________________________________________________

___ Number of Adults  ___ Number of Children

I would like to make an additional contribution to the
SJC Athletic Assoc in the name of the ________ Family.

I/we cannot attend, but wish to make a tax-
deductible contribution in the amount of $__________.

Enclosed is my check for $__________ made payable to
St. John of the Cross.

In honor of Grandparents’ Day, we celebrated by inviting
Grandparents and Special Friends of our Pre School and
Kindergarten students to our opening school liturgy and then
into our building. Our guests were treated with special treats,
special songs, and a craft project they worked on together.
Each year, this proves to be a beautiful day and our children
and guests look forward to it with great anticipation.

Each Tuesday morning, one of our classes gathers in the Mary
Garden to pray the Rosary. This month our eighth graders
spent the time praying the Rosary as a class.

This Week at SJC
Sept.16  School Advisory Board  7pm Parish Center
Sept. 17  Ice Cream Social  6pm School
Sept. 18  Protecting God’s Children  9am Parish Center
            6:30pm Parish Center
Sept. 18  Curriculum Night Grades 5-8  6:30pm School
Who is willing to welcome new friends?
Are you being called?

Each fall we are faced with the challenge of finding Crossroad Home Group leaders for the incoming freshmen. I often wonder how that makes our high school parishioners feel. Does it make them feel disconnected from the parish? Are we afraid of them? How do we perceive them? Let me tell you a bit about them.

I have found our high school students to be so insightful, caring, and interested in their community and their parish. They have taught me so much and allowed me to share my faith and in return have shared theirs with me. They allowed me to stay connected to the world through their eyes and experiences. What a great gift to receive!

As a senior citizen I feel blessed to be able to call these kids my friends. My husband and I recently were able to get together with our first group who have now graduated from college. It was amazing to see their enthusiasm for coming together as a group once again.

Please call me and let me share what it is like to lead a Home Group and allow yourself to at least consider what a gift it might be for you to have friends who are so interesting and dynamic.

Mary Stadler – 708-567-3838
stadler2@hotmail.com

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
Do you know someone who wants to learn more?
Contact Fr. Bill at the Parish Center for more information.

MOTHER & SON CAMPOUT 2014

Join us for hot dogs, chicken tenders, s’mores and beverages for the boys. Great treats for the moms too.

The St. John of the Cross Women’s Club invites you to CAMPOUT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
6:30-9:30PM

Bring your tent and gear (optional) for a night of fun! We will supply the food, drink and games! $10 per person. RSVP by Sept. 20th. Walk-ins are welcome too!

Don’t Miss...
Laser tag, Raffle, Candy Hunt, Inflatable Fun and a movie on the Big Screen!

TEAR OFF BOTTOM PORTION.
ENCLOSE IT WITH CHECK (PAYABLE TO SJC WOMEN’S CLUB) OR CASH

NAME: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________
PHONE: __________________________
E-MAIL:__________________________
NUMBER OF CHILDREN: _____________
ADULTS: _________________________
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ ______________
(COST $10 PER PERSON)

QUESTIONS? Contact: Denise Schullo at deec7@hotmail.com or Jeanne Conkin at jeanneconkin@yahoo.com

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
Do you know someone who wants to learn more?
Contact Fr. Bill at the Parish Center for more information.
Trying to get in touch with us? More info is on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell, Pastor Emeritus
Contact Fr. Joe through the Parish Office
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Associate Pastor
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org
Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright, Director of Outreach Ministries
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta, Director of Youth Catechesis
jcascetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer, Director of Worship
jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Laura Dragich, Reservations Coordinator
ldragich@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman, School Principal
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes, Director of Crossroads Teen Ministry
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch, Director of Music
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin, Director of Parish Operations
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones, Welcome Coordinator
erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org

Mass Intentions
Monday, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Larry Dougherty

Tuesday, September 16, Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian
7:45 M/M Lowell Reynolds; Stanley Kwit

Wednesday, September 17, St. Robert Bellarmine
7:45 Teresa Peterson; George Stevens

Thursday, September 18
7:45 Robert McNulty; Klein & O’Sullivan Families

Friday, September 19
7:45 Michael Collins; Klein & O’Sullivan Families

Saturday, September 20, Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Ha-sang
8:00 Beth O'Leary; Genrose Hlavin;
5:00 Brian Donovan; Terry Peterson

Sunday, September 21, 25th Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Richard Motoka; Geraldine Golf
9:00 Mark Joyal; Nancy Leslie
10:45 George Jakicic; John Napier Hill
12:15 Lawrence Dougherty; Clayton Olson
5:00 Alyce Semens; Bill McMahon

Italics—Living

This Week at SJC
Monday, September 15,
9:30 a.m. Spiritual Journaling
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation Group
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Group
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, September 16
9:05 a.m. Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
9:00 a.m. Room Parent Meeting
7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. Moran Prayer Group

Wednesday, September 17
8:30 a.m. Fr. Bonin’s Opera Study
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Catholic Services Refugee Relief
11:30 a.m. Ladies Bridge
1:00 p.m. Contemplative Outreach Meeting
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Chicago Catholic Scripture School Year One
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, September 18
9:00 a.m. Flourish Plus
9:00 a.m. Protecting God’s Children Workshop
6:30 p.m. Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6:30 p.m. Protecting God’s Children Workshop
7:00 p.m. Women’s Club Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Men’s Club Board Meeting

Saturday, September 20
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, September 21
10:00 a.m. Jr. High Small Groups
10:15 a.m. YC Classes
10:30 a.m. Crossroads Identity Retreat/DOS
10:30 a.m. YC Junior High Small Groups
6:00 p.m. Freshman Experience

Pray for our Sick
Tara Bassi
Mike Belpedio
Karen Hult
Jeanine Jasica
Lucine Kasis
Steven LaVoie
Christine Moran
Alexander Obi
Mary Catherine Warren
Gary Ziemba

Pray for our Beloved Dead
Mary Doohan, sister of Kevin and aunt of Grace and Jake
Floyd Graham, grandfather of Ella Kelly
Lil Hoffman, mother of Lois Richter, Marybeth and George
Ann Maliszewski, wife of Leonard and mother of Jim, Tom and David
Arnold Sayyeau, uncle of Kathy Marconi and Jack, Brendan, & Adam Kane
Geraldine Vie, grandmother of Paul and Andrea (Tegtmeier) Vie and great grandmother

Marriage Banns
Daniel Donovan and Amanda Beringer
Juliana Lindner & Anthony Huck
ANNA’S CLEANING SERVICES

Experience Polish Girls

Free Estimates
773.502.9369

NOTRE DAME FAMILY CENTER
Rev. James Watzke, Ph.D.
Depression - Anxiety - Stress
Family - Separation - Divorce
Sub Abuse - Medicare - Español
Oakbrook Ter. 630.891.1111

KEEANEN ROOFING & SOLAR
IF YOUR HOME’S EXTERIOR IS UNBECOMING TO YOU
YOU SHOULD BE COMING TO US!

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NOTE: The text seems to be repetitive and could be a result of a formatting issue or a duplicate entry in the database. It appears to be providing cleaning services and other information related to a roofing and solar company.
"Breaking Bread" is the new St. John of the Cross Supper Club. The club is an expression of Christian fellowship. It is also a great way for St. John of the Cross families to meet fellow parishioners for an inexpensive evening of fun. This ministry is centered on promoting community and getting to know one another.

Breaking Bread participants form a group of 8 to 10 and get together to share dinner in one another's homes 4 to 5 times during the year (October through May). Scheduling is at the discretion of group members. The host provides the main meal and beverages, and assigns others in the group to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert.

The club is open to all adult parishioners whether single, married, divorced, or widowed. All adults (20-somethings through 90-somethings) are encouraged to sign up!

Each family (single or couple) will host a meal for the group over the year. Participation of children is at the discretion of the host; however, childcare is typically not available.

Register online or use the form below by September 26.

The year kicks off with a wine & cheese event on:

**Tuesday, September 30 at 7:30 pm**

in the Parish Center to meet your group for the upcoming year. This is not a gourmet cooking club. It's just a great way to meet fellow parishioners! If you have questions about the Supper Club (group assignments, frequently asked questions, etc.), contact club coordinators Colleen or Peter de Keratry at sjcbreakingbread@gmail.com.

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### Breaking Bread Registration

Name: ______________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Age Range:  

- Circle One  
- 21-30  31-45  46-65  Over 65

Do you have young children in grade 6 and below? Yes  No  Are you a parent of a teen? Yes  No

Are you empty-nesters?  Yes  No  Are you grandparents? Yes  No