St. John of the Cross Parish

Teach me your paths
Guide me in your truth
for you are God my Savior

26 Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 28, 2014

“...our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News...”
from our Parish Mission Statement
During my youth, the Vollmer family had a Sunday morning ritual. We would arise early, get cleaned up and dressed for Mass, then pile into my father’s Chevy Caprice and go to the 8:30 a.m. Mass at our home parish St. Agnes in Chicago Heights. Until about 4th grade we sat in the front pew. When my brothers and I grew and blocked the view of those behind us, we moved to the middle of church. When Mass was over and we said goodbyes to friends we headed home where my brothers and I would turn on the kitchen radio, listen to American Top 40 and help Mom prepare and serve breakfast. We each took a role in its preparation. Usually Mass and breakfast went off without a hitch. However there were times on the way home from church or in the kitchen that it seemed like we had been anywhere but church. My brothers and I occasionally got into the back seat punching match or simply creating chaos in the kitchen or at the table. When those times occurred, the words “You boys just came from church” would flow from my Mom’s lips.

As I look back I realize that those simple words, “You boys just came from church,” were Mom’s way of teaching and reminding us that we needed to live out in our daily lives what we celebrated in Mass. Her words taught my brothers and me, the wisdom of St. Augustine who said “You are what you eat.” In eating the body of Christ, we become what we have received. We are called and sent to imitate his life. In other words, believing (in the Body of Christ and that in the celebration of Mass we have been become that body for others) means getting involved in service.

Throughout scripture there has always been a connection between worship and service. Isaiah speaks to the worshipping community about sharing bread with the hungry and Jesus at the Last Supper washes the feet of his disciples. From the earliest days of the Church there has always been a connection between the celebration of the Eucharist and service, going forth from the Eucharist to be Christ for others. Our participation in the Eucharist and our mission to serve others leads to an ever deepening relationship with Jesus. To remind us of our calling to serve we hear those words at the end of Mass, “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

There has been a rich tradition of outreach and service at St. John of the Cross Parish. Through so many ministries and so many people – we bring Christ to others. Part of our parish mission statement reads, “Our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News.” Nourished, strengthened and believing in the transformative power of the Eucharist may we continue our mission of outreach and service. Let us all take time to ponder how we may share our lives in service to others this week, this month, this year. We are blessed in our Parish community that there are many opportunities to be of service to others. What is Christ calling you, indeed all of us, to do? Fr. Bill
Pope Francis has appointed the Bishop of Spokane, Washington, Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich, as the ninth Archbishop of Chicago. Archbishop Cupich will be installed as Archbishop of Chicago on November 18, 2014, at Holy Name Cathedral. Francis Cardinal George, OMI, retains the office of Archbishop until November 18, until Archbishop Cupich is installed.

Archbishop Cupich said, “The Holy Father’s appointment of me to Chicago humbles but also encourages me. I am grateful to God for giving me this blessed opportunity to be his servant in this great city and this great local Church. As Pope Francis began his new pastoral ministry in Rome by asking the people to pray for him, so too now I bow my head in the hope that everyone in Chicago will pray for me in the days ahead.”

Cardinal George remarked, “I am deeply grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for appointing Bishop Blase Cupich as the ninth Archbishop of Chicago. Bishop Cupich is well prepared for his new responsibilities and brings to them a deep faith, a quick intelligence, personal commitment and varied pastoral experiences.”

Archbishop Cupich was born on March 19, 1949, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Blase and Mary (Mayhan) Cupich. He is one of nine children, five sisters and three brothers.

Archbishop Cupich was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Omaha on August 16, 1975, and was ordained and installed as Bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, on September 21, 1998. He was officially installed as Bishop of Spokane on September 3, 2010.

Archbishop Cupich obtained his B.A. in Philosophy from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1971. He attended seminary at the North American College and Gregorian University in Rome where he received his Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology in 1974, and his M.A. in Theology in 1975. Archbishop Cupich is a graduate of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he received his License of Sacred Theology in 1979. He also holds a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree in Sacramental Theology from the Catholic University of America awarded in 1987, with his dissertation entitled: ADVENT IN THE ROMAN TRADITION: An Examination and Comparison of the Lectionary Readings as Hermeneutical Units in Three Periods.

Additionally, Archbishop Cupich was the Secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C. He was pastor of two parishes in Omaha, Nebraska and also served as the Chair for the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People from 2008 until 2011.

Join us for Senior Day: Tuesday, September 30 from 9am-2pm

All adults in the parish are invited to join us for our first Senior Day in the Parish Center. We will gather at 9am for coffee, juice and coffeecake to socialize. The program will begin at 9:30am with our Fr. Joe McDonnell speaking on Spirituality & Aging Well. The rest of the day is 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. A few breaks are added into the day for your convenience. Stay as long as you can. Register by dropping off a check for $15 to the Parish Center office with your contact information. Reservations will be taken through tomorrow morning, Monday, September 29th, to allow us to order enough lunches.
Background on the Gospel Reading

The context for today’s Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers’ tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today’s Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that “actions speak louder than words” and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father’s will.

Jesus’ conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John’s message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God. Used with permission. Loyola Press 2014

Living the Gospel

The first son’s initial answer to his father was honest (he never intended to be obedient), but he “changed his mind” and did what his father asked. By contrast, the second son’s seemingly obedient “Yes, sir” in fact was dishonest—he “did not go.” Jesus condemns the chief priests and elders’ behavior because of their own utter dishonesty. Challenged by the “way of righteousness” of John, the sinful tax collectors and prostitutes (like the first son) change their behavior. Trapped in their self-righteousness, the chief priests and elders (like the second son) refuse to change. Changing one’s mind—choosing conversion of self—is a matter of utter honesty with self, God, and others.

If tax collectors and prostitutes (symbols for great sinners) can enter the kingdom of God, then there’s got to be great hope for all of us! Taking their lead, all we need to do is make change a permanent part of our spiritual life. Spirituality is about growth that can only come from the willingness to let go and change. Gospel living always demands change, always demands dying to self. Learning God’s ways and changing may, indeed, be a slow and practiced way of life for all of us. Dying to self might mean choosing to do what the other asks of us the first time; it’s being faithful about taking time to pray every day; it’s forgiving even when it costs us a little pride; it’s searching for God’s will by being attentive to the legitimate needs of others. The amazing thing is that in being faithful to these little things, change does happen. Faithfulness means our yes is yes, our no is no.

©Living Liturgy.

May we remain faithful to the call to conversion of heart that brings us closer to God and each other. May we grow in our honesty with self, God, and each other and grow in holiness.

Monday
Dan 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rev 12:7-12ab
Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5
John 1:47-51

Tuesday
Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23
Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8
Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday
Job 9:1-12, 14-16
Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15

Thursday
Job 19:21-27
Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
Matt 18:1-5, 10
Luke 10:13-16

Friday
Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5
Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab

Saturday
Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17
Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130

27th Sunday OT
Isa 5:1-7
Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20
Phil 4:6-9
Matt 21:33-43
Richard Rohr Meditation

People who have learned to live from their center in God know which boundaries or edges are worth maintaining and which can be surrendered, although it is this very struggle that often constitutes their deepest “dark nights.” Both maintaining and surrendering boundaries ironically requires an “obedience” (Romans 16:26) because it requires listening to a Voice beyond your own.

I believe that we have no real access to who we really are except in God. Only when we rest in God can we find the safety, the spaciousness, and the scary freedom to be who we are, all that we are, more than we are, and less than we are. Only when we live and see through God can “everything belong.” All other systems exclude, expel, punish, and protect to find identity for their members in ideological perfection or some kind of “purity.” Apart from taking up so much useless time and energy, this effort keeps us from the one and only task of love and union.

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust." (from Prayer to the Holy Family).

Pope Francis has requested the intercession of the Holy Family for the upcoming Extraordinary Synod on the Family, which will discuss issues such as annulment, divorce, and reception of the Eucharist by divorced and remarried Catholics. The synod's ultimate goal is not just temporary reprieve from pain but the splendor of true love as reflected by the Holy Family. Let us all trust that the Holy Family will guide the synod and any changes that result from it. Read more about the synod at http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/2014-2015-synods-of-bishops-on-the-family.cfm#prayer.

Our Prayer for Pope Francis

**Soul of Christ**

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer,
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes,
When with your saints, I may praise you forever. Amen.

David L. Fleming, SJ
Adapted from Animam Christi

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust." (from Prayer to the Holy Family). Pope Francis has requested the intercession of the Holy Family for the upcoming Extraordinary Synod on the Family, which will discuss issues such as annulment, divorce, and reception of the Eucharist by divorced and remarried Catholics. The synod's ultimate goal is not just temporary reprieve from pain but the splendor of true love as reflected by the Holy Family. Let us all trust that the Holy Family will guide the synod and any changes that result from it. Read more about the synod at http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/2014-2015-synods-of-bishops-on-the-family.cfm#prayer.

So great is your love for us, O Lord, that you humbled yourself to become one of us. May we embrace Christ’s attitude of humility and compassion: like him, may we welcome the lost and rejected to our table; like him, may we seek the needs of others before our own; like him, may we rejoice in forgiveness and reconciliation before demanding judgment and condemnation. In Jesus’ name, we pray.
The Power of Family Meals

I have a recurring memory that pops into my head from time to time. I would be hanging out with my friends when I suddenly realized the time—5:09. I'd drop what I was doing (even if I was batting in the bottom of the ninth) and set off at top speed, desperately trying to make it home by 5:15, the appointed dinner hour in our home.

My parents weren't big on having too many rules, but one of the few non-negotiables in our home was that we were all at the dinner table at 5:15 pm. I’m so glad they insisted. Years later as I was writing a family newsletter, At Home with Our Faith, I started paying attention to all the research that was pouring out about the many positive effects of regular family meals at home. Year after year, the encouraging research results have continued to grow exponentially.

According to the mountains of research, children who enjoy regular meals with their family do better in school, exhibit fewer anti-social tendencies, and are more successful with their peers. They are far more likely to graduate high school and far less likely to take up smoking, use alcohol or drugs, or experiment with sex. The list of benefits goes on and on.

And it's no surprise. We bring all our hungers to the table—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual—and all of them can be fed. The meal doesn't have to be like a Norman Rockwell painting—everyone smiling around an orderly table. There may even be teasing and taunting and spilled milk. It doesn't matter. The fact that you are there together, sharing your lives, and being present to one another is how the magic happens.

Family mealtime prepares us to be really present to one another so we can better appreciate the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It can be a school where we learn to pray about what really matters to us, day by day, and the place where we practice forgiveness, both giving and receiving. It's the place to bring our needs and know they will be met. In effect, it becomes a great place to prepare our minds and hearts to move from the family table to the table of the Lord in our parish.

So after all these years I'm glad my parents were so strict about the family meal. My wife and I held fast to this practice with our own daughters. And that memory of me running frantically always ends well—catching my breath and taking my place as my family says together, “Bless us O Lord, and these, thy gifts…”

8 Faith Reasons to Enjoy Regular Family Meals:

1. They foster gratitude.
2. They help you share your family’s values.
3. They become a spiritual anchor echoing the faithfulness of God.
4. They nurture your spiritual self.
5. They are an opportunity to practice virtues such as kindness, respect, forgiveness, tolerance, understanding, and joy.
6. They give you the chance to create lasting memories with your children.
7. They show you who you are and where you belong.
8. They prepare you for fuller participation in the Mass.
Parish News & Notes

Operation Support Our Troops
This is the last weekend to drop your contribution off at church or the parish center for the American soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. For a list of items needed visit our parish website at http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/parishlife/operation-support-our-troops/

Gluten-free Hosts
St. John of the Cross offers gluten-free hosts to address the needs of those affected by Celiac disease or other conditions. If you wish to receive a gluten-free host, before Mass begins go to the sacristy and tell the high school sacristan that you need a gluten-free host. It is important that you speak to the sacristan before Mass begins in order for your request to be accommodated. Please tell only the sacristan, and not the priest or an usher as that causes confusion for how many hosts are needed. (If you are unsure who the sacristan is, by all means ask the priest or an usher to help you identify them.) The unconsecrated hosts will be brought up during the gifts procession and consecrated during the Mass. When it is time to receive communion, we ask that you go to the presiding priest and say "gluten-free" clearly and audibly for the priest to hear. Please do this every time, even when you think the priest knows who you are. If you have a child who will be receiving gluten-free please make sure that they also speak clearly as well.

Receiving Communion at Home
If you, a family member or neighbor would like a home visit and/or to receive Holy Communion, please call Fr. Bill Vollmer to set up a visit. Our parish Ministers of Care pray and bring Eucharist to those at home and in hospitals.

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.

Consider the Priesthood
All high school and college men are invited to join Bishop Manz and Chicago area priests and seminarians for Evening Prayer, Conversation, and Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 19th at 5:30pm at St. Cletus Parish. RSVP to Fr. David or Fr. Bill.

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

Mass of Atonement
Cardinal George will be the main celebrant at a Mass of Atonement and Hope on Saturday, October 4 at 10 a.m., at Holy Family Church, 1080 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago. This Mass is being celebrated for the ongoing healing for child and youth sexual abuse survivors, their families and the Church. For more information on the Mass of Atonement and Hope, visit the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth website, www.archchicago.org/departments/protection/protection.shtm.
Ministers of Care Needed at Hines VA Hospital
Hines VA Hospital located near Loyola University Hospital in Maywood is in need of additional Ministers of Care to bring the Eucharist and pray with veterans. If you would like to volunteer please call Fr. Bill Vollmer at the Parish Center office at x120.

Change the Way Your Donation Arrives at SJC
Our Sunday offertory collection is the main source of income that covers parish operating expenses. By using our EFT electronic giving program on our parish website, your donations arrive automatically and are recorded more efficiently in our parish data base, reducing our expenses and providing a consistent revenue stream. Our safe, convenient program is easy to use and allows you to give on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Parishioners are encouraged to give electronically from your bank account (instead of using a credit card) as this is less costly for the parish which absorbs all program fees. If you are not computer savvy, a simple paper form can be picked up at the Parish Center office. Our staff is ready to help you and answer any questions you may have about your donations. Changes can be made with the click of a mouse or over the phone.

Change to the new online program today: Parishioners enrolled in our old “ACH” program from quite a few years ago are asked to change to our new EFT program. If you are not sure give MJ a call at the Parish Center office at x123.

Plan ahead:
St. John of the Cross Parish would be honored to be remembered in your will or other long-term giving plans. Your generosity will allow our parish to be a vibrant, caring faith community for years to come. To learn how you can add SJC to your estate plan contact Marguerite Chrusciel at the Parish Center or Dan Cochran from the Finance Council at cochradf@comcast.net

Thank you for your generosity to SJC.

Chicago Catholic Scripture School
Year I: All adults are welcome to come to a class to see if CCSS is right for you! Classes are held in the Parish Center on Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm. Parishioners in the class say it is “life changing learning.” Learn more about the program at www.catechesis-chicago.org/ccss.

COMING TO THE WELL
As part of our adult formation efforts 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 next program sponsored by our parish. Register by calling the parish center office.

The Gospel of Storytelling
Fr. Ed Foley, Capuchin
October 1, 2014 7:00–8:30pm
Fr. Ed’s presentation explores the power of storytelling as a form of pastoral care, catechesis and preaching. He will also consider how storytelling is a fundamental religious medium and a central characteristic of the Jesus of the Gospels.

Mayslake Ministries Annual Fall Spirituality Conference
John Allen, Jr., Associate Editor at the Boston Globe, specializes in coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church.
Join us for an exciting day of conversation as we explore timely topics of faith: Pope Francis, the Church and Spiritual life on Saturday, October 4, 9am-3pm at the Abbington Banquet Hall, 35002 Route 53, Glen Ellyn. $55 General admission; $45 Catechist. Includes morning coffee service and a boxed lunch. Register by phone at 630-852-9000 or online at www.mayslakeministries.org.

Counseling
Individual, couple and family counseling is available through Catholic Charities Holbrook Center throughout the Chicago area. Our parish rectory has a Holbrook Center Counseling-LOSS office. To make an appointment call 312-655-7725.
PET BLESSING: SATURDAY, OCT. 4TH AT 3PM EAST LAWN BEHIND PARISH CENTER
Bring your family pet (with everything you need:) for our annual Pet Blessing on the feast of St. Francis, patron saint of animals.

Respect Life Sunday: Oct. 5
All are welcome to take part in the annual Life Chain. It is a spectacular event that annually draws the attention of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

The concept is simple, the effect stunning. People of all ages and faiths stand reverently in silent prayer, for one hour along a major street or highway, holding signs that proclaim the importance of human life. The Life Chain is a visual statement by the Christian community that supports the sanctity of human life. Uniform signs (no graphic depictions) are provided for participants, so the overall impression is one of solidarity in belief and purposes.

In Illinois there are dozens of chains. Our parish will gather at Ogden Ave at Wolf Rd AND Ogden Ave at Grand Ave, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call our parish Respect Life Coordinator, Blanche Heaney at 708-246-7437 with any questions.

Save the Date
The 40 film is coming to St. John of the Cross Parish Center on Monday, October 27th at 6:15pm. 40, one of the most compelling pro-life documentaries ever produced, is a thoughtful, compassionate film for educating adolescents and adults alike on abortion and the sacredness of all human life. Mark this date on your calendar now so that you can join us. Bring your jr. high or high school child with you.

Real freedom, then, is God’s gracious gift, the fruit of conversion to his truth, the truth which makes us free (cf. Jn 8:32). And this freedom in truth brings in its wake a new and liberating way of seeing reality. When we put on the mind of Christ (cf. Phil 2:5), new horizons open before us! In the light of faith, within the communion of the Church, we also find the inspiration and strength to become a leaven of the Gospel in the world. We become the light of the world, the salt of the earth (cf. Mt 5:13-14), entrusted with the apostolate of making our own lives, and the world in which we live, conform ever more fully to God’s saving plan. Benedict XVI - Homily at Yankee Stadium 20 April 2008
Pope Francis has captivated the world with his humility, warmth and compassion for each person. Vivid accounts of his tenderness for “the least of these”—the elderly, the imprisoned, those with disfiguring disabilities, the unborn, and many more—seize our attention. Why?

At the heart of each of these interactions is a truth which resonates in our hearts, revealing to us something essential to understanding ourselves and our purpose. We are loved.

In his 2013 Day for Life Greeting, Pope Francis conveyed that “even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.” We see Pope Francis living out the truth of these words in his actions.

We want to be part of a society that makes affirmation and protection of human rights its primary objective and its boast. Yet to women faced with an unexpected pregnancy, abortion is often presented as their only “choice.” A large percentage of children pre-diagnosed as having Down syndrome are never given the chance to live outside their mothers’ wombs. Elderly members of our families fear they will become burdensome and seek physician assisted suicide. We see these and many more of our brothers and sisters pushed to the periphery.

These tragedies go directly against respect for life, and they represent a direct threat to the entire culture of human rights. Rather than societies of “people living together,” our cities risk becoming societies of people who are marginalized, uprooted and oppressed.

What can be done to prevent this? We must draw close to Jesus in prayer and in the sacraments. We must ask the Lord for the grace to see ourselves and others as he sees us—as masterpieces of his creation. When God created each of us, he did so with precision and purpose, and he looks on each of us with love that cannot be outdone in intensity or tenderness. We must look at ourselves and at others in light of this truth and treat all people with the reverence and respect which is due.

The Church’s antidote to an individualism which threatens the respect for human dignity is community and solidarity. Are we moved by the suffering of those without shelter? Do we seek to alleviate the fear, confusion and panic that women facing unexpected pregnancies may be experiencing? Do our hearts ache for elderly patients in nursing homes who feel abandoned and unwanted, having no one to visit them?

Our mission is to show each person the love of Christ. As uniquely created individuals, we each have unique gifts which we are called to use to share Christ’s love. We are continually given opportunities to do so in our interactions with the cashier at the grocery store, our spouses, children, friends and even the people we encounter in traffic. Each of these moments is valuable beyond our realization. We may never know how much a simple gesture of compassion may affect someone’s life.

As the 2014 Respect Life Program begins, let us take a moment to reflect on the theme, “Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God’s Creation,” and how this truth affects both our understanding of ourselves and others and the way we live.

Although we set aside October to particularly pray for respect for all human life, let us never cease this urgent work. I’m grateful to the many parishes and schools nationwide which participate in the program during October, Respect Life Month, and throughout the year.

Love and justice must motivate each of us to work for a transformation of our own hearts so that we can transform the world around us. This is the message of Pope Francis. May the Risen Lord put the Gospel of joy in our hearts so that we may bear witness to the greatest love story ever told. Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley


We pray that people throughout the world might recognize and treat each person as a masterpiece of God’s creation.

Amen.
Oktoberfest Luncheon
Friday, October 10th

11:30am Parish Center
Cost: Members $15,
Nonmembers $20
R.S.V.P.’s due on
Monday, October 6th

Enjoy a delicious, authentic
German luncheon.
Wine, beer, and soft drinks included.
A lively entertaining program follows lunch!
This is a great opportunity
to connect with other seniors in our parish.
Hope to see you there!
Any questions,
call Trudy Schmitt at 708-246-1619.

RSVP Today!
Name: ______________________________
_______________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Senior Club Dues $10 per person
_____ Number of Members
_____ Amount Enclosed

October 10 Oktoberfest Luncheon
($15 Senior Club Members-$20 Nonmembers)
_____ Number of Guests
_____ Amount Enclosed
_____ Total Enclosed

The mission of the St. John of the Cross Women’s Club is to bring the women of our parish together to foster and celebrate our spiritual and social well-being. Through our fundraisers, retreats, spiritual reflections and social events, we seek to develop a closer relationship with God and one another.

We invite you to attend our various functions and seek your assistance in the planning and coordination of our events.

For more information or to learn more about the Women’s Club, please email us at SJCWomensClub@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events

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<td>Flower Sale</td>
<td>Annual Garage Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>all weekend</td>
<td>7-9pm</td>
<td>10-12am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1-5pm</td>
<td>8am</td>
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We look forward to seeing you at our next event!
Outreach

Keeping you in the Loop...

Last week the Director and staff of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement visited with the staff of our parish to share information about their program and discuss possible ways we can partner to help refugees arriving in Chicago.

The Refugee Resettlement Program in Chicago provides comprehensive resettlement services to refugees from various regions of the world (Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal) during their period of adaptation to a new environment, leading them to greater self-sufficiency. Activities are planned and arranged to address problems specific to individual/family refugees such as linguistic and cultural barriers, housing, financial assistance, interpretation and mediation services, transportation, orientation and case management. Emphasis is placed on early employment for those who are eligible.

Refugees are persons who are forced to leave their home countries because of war, environmental disasters, political persecution and/or religious or ethnic intolerance and violence. Refugees typically stay in a refugee camp where they are provided with basic amenities and healthcare until they can return to their homeland (usually not possible) or resettle in a third country (a process that can take years).

The Director, Elma Kulovic (middle in picture), who came from Bosnia nearly 17 years ago, shared her personal story of fleeing her war torn country with her two babies in the dark of night, arriving eventually in Germany where, without any assistance, she found cleaning work to earn money. Four years later Elma, then joined by her husband, finally arrived in Chicago to live with an aunt in a one bedroom apartment. She spoke about her long and difficult journey here, the eventual arrival of her husband to the US, the necessity of learning many languages, doing manual work to earn money despite having an advanced degree, and the anguish of not being able to ever return to her country and extended family, some of whom were killed or had died.

Although they share much in common, immigrants (economic immigrants) are those who voluntarily come to the U.S. to join family members who already live in this country or to seek work or education and a better life for themselves.

Read more about a related topic - the unaccompanied children fleeing violence in Central America and the work of Catholic Relief Services on our parish website home page.

Interfaith Career Networking
Career Transition Workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 30 from 7-9pm at First Presbyterian Church in LaGrange. Speaker, Dennis Hamilton, will discuss identifying skills and quantifying accomplishments for your resume and “elevator speech.” He will also discuss how to assess your skills and prepare a strategy to make an optimal career change. Call 708-354-0771 for more info.

Free 1-on-1 20 minute resume review with a HR professional on Saturday, October 4 from 9-11 am at St. Cletus. Receive ideas and suggestions to refresh your resume and elevator speech and learn helpful job search strategies.

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. The time commitment would be once a week from 8:30 - 10:30am. Contact Diane Harken 708-246-2383 for further information.

Food Collection
During the month of September your nonperishable food donations brought to the church narthex will be delivered to Catholic Charities in Cicero.
Annual Fund Soars
St. John of the Cross Parish School achieved an all time high dollar amount for the Annual Fund Drive. The 2013-14 Annual fund received over $141,000. As with many private schools, the difference between the true cost of school operations and actual tuition charged falls to the responsibility of the Advancement Office and direct school fundraising initiatives. In 2013-14, The Annual Fund provided many enhancements including one-to-one iPads for 4-8th grade, new lockers in the intermediate and junior high wings, and enough funding to open additional 3rd and 4th grades.

This school year we are pleased to announce that a generous donor has offered to match all donations up to $25,000 from now until December 31, 2014. For more information about The Annual Fund, please contact, Jennifer Miller, Director of Advancement at miller@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us or by phoning the school office at 708-246-4454.

This Week at SJC School
Tuesday, September 30, 2014
7th & 8th Grade Parent Activity Sign Up from 7-8 p.m. in the Parish Center

Thursday, October 2, 2014
2nd Grade Sacramental Parent Meeting 6:30 p.m. in church

Classes began on September 21st with over 250 parents visiting the classrooms, meeting our amazing volunteers and learning of the Year of the Sacrament.

YC was blessed that Fr. Dave and Fr. Bill were able to attend and share their sacramental experiences with the parents.

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
Infant Baptism

Congratulations!
Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday! Pictured with Fr. David from the left are Matthew and Frances Zotti with Jane Elizabeth, Jose and Lorena DeLeon with Maxx Alexander, John and Michelle Szymczak with Andrew John, and Michael and Nicole Drai with Francesca Lucille.

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.

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.
Mass Intentions

Monday, September 29, Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
7:45 Don Parker; Theresa Jurkacek

Tuesday, September 30, St. Jerome
7:45 Chester Cebula; John & Mary Hester

Wednesday, October 1, St. Therese of the Child Jesus
7:45 Marie O’Brien; Wayne Santi

Thursday, October 2, The Holy Guardian Angels
7:45 Rose Irene Corto; Owen McGarel

Friday, October 3
7:45 John Donnelly; David Myers

Saturday, October 4, St. Francis of Assisi
8:00 Elizabeth G. Purcell
5:00 Robert Plechaty; Helen & Reuben Parker

Sunday, October 5, 27th Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Chester Miller; John Pecis
9:00 Eileen Carlson; Robert Pickell
10:45 Ramon Sanchez; Teresa Peterson
12:30 Michael Powers; Dr. Robert Sullivan
5:00 Larry Dougherty; Brian Mitchell

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

Tara Bassi Tom McGorey
Mike Belpedio Linda McMahan
Irene Gutsell Christine Moran
Karen Hult Tom McGorey
Jeanine Jasica Alexander Obi
Lucine Kasis Erika Peterson
Theresa Anne Keanini Mary Catherine Warren
Steven LaVoie

Pray for our Beloved Dead

Jack Kunkle, son of Ellen and John and brother of Emily and Leigh

Daniel McCarthy, cousin of Sue Florian

Marriage Banns

Juliana Lindner and Anthony Huck

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 29,
9:30am Senior Club Planning Meeting
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Meditation
1:00pm Little Rock Psalm II
2:30pm Adoration
6:15pm YC Classes
7:00pm Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, September 30,
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
9:00am Senior Day
7:00pm School 7 & 8 Grade Parent Activity Sign Up
7:00pm RCIA
7:00pm Moran Prayer Group
7:30pm Breaking Bread Wine & Cheese Kick Off

Wednesday, October 01
8:30am Fr. Bonin Opera Study
9:30am Bible Study
2:00pm Christian Meditation
6:00pm SPRED
7:00pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School
7:30pm Christian Meditation

Thursday, October 02
9:00am Flourish Plus
9:15am Resurrection Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6:30pm 2nd Grade Parent Meeting

Friday, October 03
9:30am Mom’s Club

Saturday, October 04
7:00am Christian Meditation
3:00pm Pet Blessing East Lawn
Open to all adults in the parish—20-somethings through 90-somethings!
It’s true—You can never have too many friends, and you can never be too busy to make new friends.
Don’t be shy! Join today. Add some fun to your life.

Breaking Bread Supper Club

"Breaking Bread" is the new St. John of the Cross Supper Club. The club is an expression of Christian fellowship. It is a great way for adults in our parish to meet fellow parishioners for an evening of fun. This ministry is centered on promoting community and getting to know one another.

Breaking Bread participants are divided into groups of 8, 9 or 10 adults and get together to share dinner in one another’s homes every other month (4 to 5) times during the year (October through May). Scheduling of the dinners (day-time) is at the discretion of each group. The host provides the main meal and beverages and assigns others in the group to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert. Each family (single or couple) will host once for the group over the year.

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!

Last Chance to Sign Up—Today!!
Use the form below or register on the parish website. Preregistration is necessary so we can form the groups.

The year kicks off with a Wine & Cheese event this Tuesday:

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

in the Parish Center to meet your group for the upcoming year. You can still sign up if you cannot come to the Wine & Cheese night. 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 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 an empty-nester? Yes No  Are you a grandparent?  Yes No