September 7, 2014
23 Sunday in Ordinary Time
“...our mission is to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News...”
from our Parish Mission Statement
Dear Parishioners,

One of the greatest gifts we have is our Catholic faith. Faith gives meaning to our individual lives and to the life we share in common with each other. Faith helps anchor our commitments and aids our discernment of life choices. To encounter Jesus in the fullness of his humanity and, simultaneously, the fullness of God is to see deeply into our created world and the world that cannot be seen with human eyes. To pursue a life of holiness, whatever our role in life, is to be engaged in the greatest challenge of being human. And when we fail, and when our own brokenness injures the ones we love the most, we trust we have a place to go to and a way to be healed that is life-giving, healing and transformative.

Do you love your faith enough to invite one other person to come and see if it might be for them? Are you confident enough to hold it out as a gift to a person you may know who could use it? It is not too late to be part of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) for this coming year. Encourage someone to call Fr. Bill and to sit down and find out more about it.

September brings many beginnings on several aspects of parish life. I met with the Youth Catechesis Council as it was the first Tuesday of the month. It is a wonderful group of volunteer parent/catechists who, in addition to the time they spend preparing their lessons and with their students, contribute to the overall YC effort in helping Janet Caschetta throughout the year. The past couple of weekends we asked for people to step up as Catechists, needing 17 and an additional 7 or so aides. Every position is filled but volunteers are always welcome to help out. An extra set of hands can always be put to use helping in a classroom. Thank you for being willing to share your faith with children who are eager to learn.

The School Advisory Board will meet on the third Tuesday of September and each month. Athletic programs are in full swing for the fall.

Grief support, Seasons of Hope, started this week but if you missed the first meeting don’t worry about it. Come for the next 5 Thursdays (or however many you can make) and share your story with people who understand.

We’ve submitted the annual financial report to the archdiocese. Overall we are in good shape. The operating side is very tight, however, coming in around $55,000.00 in the black. We would have been 20k in the hole were it not for the Carnival, or the generosity of the Sunday offertory, or the support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, or any number of other variables. I’m trying to say it wouldn’t take much to push us in the red. While this year we came out positive, it is also very fragile. Thank you, everyone, for however you contribute to make this an outstanding parish. A full report will be given in the beginning of November.

Our high school program, Crossroads, is one of the best in the area and indeed the archdiocese. I am so grateful for the collaborative ministry of the Youth Ministers from our neighboring parishes, St. Cletus and St. Francis Xavier, in offering the KAIROS retreat weekends for high school juniors and seniors. Crossroads is in need of freshman small group leaders. The freshmen meet as an entire group for the first half of the year, which is a great time to get to know the teens as individuals. Then in January they break into small home groups. Get in touch with Katie Hayes for more information. You’ll never regret it.

You knew it would get hot as soon as the kids got back in school, didn’t you? September’s weather is usually among the best of the year so every warm, sunny day is a gift. Take full advantage of them all.

Peace,
Fr. David

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.
Jesus acknowledges inevitable conflicts arising among those living in the community of the church. Rifts in relationships between members of the church are actually rifts in the relationship with Jesus himself. This is why church conflicts cannot be ignored. Too much is at stake: our relationship with Jesus, upon which rests our relationship with each other. Not facing whatever fractures the unity of the church belies its gathering in Jesus' name. Healing fractures ensures that members of the church remain in relationship with Jesus and grow in love for one another. The impulse for resolving conflicts and preserving the unity of the church comes from Jesus himself and his continued Presence in the community. The response to Jesus must come from the members of the church and their work of reconciliation. What is essentially at stake is not merely the healing of personal rifts, but the very life of the church as a community.

The last line of this gospel gives us a clue as to what underlying motivation is really the strongest for seeking reconciliation among ourselves: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” In other words, our strongest motivation urging us to heal conflicts and safeguard the unity of the church is the fact that we share a common identity of being the Body of Christ. We want to preserve the integrity and unity of that Body as well as help others live the Gospel values which are the guiding light of our community behavior. We ourselves are not the reconcilers; it is the power of Christ acting through his Body. Lasting and effective reconciliation, then, demands a radical openness to Christ—which is to say, a radical openness to each other. © Living Liturgy

Richard Rohr Meditation

Contemplation is no fantasy, make-believe, or daydream, but the flowering of patience and steady perseverance. There is a deep relationship between the inner revolution of true prayer and the transformation of social structures and social consciousness. Our hope lies in the fact that meditation is going to change the society that we live in, just as it has changed us. It is that kind of long-term thinking that God seems to be involved in and kindly invites us into the same patient process.

I know the situation in the world can seem quite dark today. The negative forces are very strong, and the progressive development of consciousness and love sometimes feels very weak. But the Great Turning is indeed happening, as people like Joanna Macy, David Korten, Byron Katie, and Thomas Berry believe and describe.

In his Letter to the Romans, Paul has a marvelous line: “Where sin increases, grace abounds all the more” (5:20). In so many places, there are signs of the Holy Spirit working at all levels of society, almost in tandem with the emergence of unbelievable violence, fear, and hatred all over the world.

It seems to me that true progress, or the hope that we have, is not naively optimistic, a straight line, or without regression. Spiritual progress, ironically, develops through tragedy and through falling. As C. G. Jung said, “Where we stumble and fall is where we find pure gold,” the gold of the Gospels, the hidden gold of our own souls, and then the beautiful soul of the whole creation.

Show me your ways; teach me your paths.
Senior Day: Tuesday, Sept. 30
Mark your calendar and plan to spend the day with other seniors from our parish strengthening your mind, body, and spirit. Box lunches will be provided. More details next week.

Club Dues
Every fall each of our parish organizations, the Men’s Club, Women’s Club and Saintly Senior Club collect $10 dues to help offset the cost of programs and mailings during the year. Put your dues for one or more of the clubs in an envelope marked with the group name(s) and your name, address, phone and email and drop it off at the parish office or in the Sunday collection basket.

Chicago Catholic Scripture School
Year 1 Basic Bible Study will meet on Wednesday evenings at the Parish Center. Learn more about CCSS Certification and the Senior Lecture Series Option and register at http://www.catechesis-chicago.org/ccss/enus/overview.aspx.

Flourish Faith Sharing for Women
All women of the parish are invited to the first Flourish gathering of the new year on Thursday, September 11th from 9-11am in the Parish Center. Questions can be directed to Elizabeth Russell-Jones at 708-246-4404 or erusselljones@stjohnofthecross.org.

LallapalOpera
Fr. 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. The group will meet on Wednesdays beginning September 10th from 9am-11:30am. The group will also be attending a Lyric Opera performance. Join this group anytime.

Virtus Training at SJC
Protecting God’s Children Workshops are offered at the Parish Center on September 11th at 6:30pm and September 18th at 9am and 6:30pm. To register go to www.virtus.org. Seating is limited. Preregistration required. Attendees must be on time and attend the entire session.

Little Rock: Psalms II
Little Rock Scripture Study will continue studying the Psalms. Sessions begin Monday, September 15th at 1pm in the Parish Center. Newcomers welcome. Program materials are $15. To register, drop off an envelope with your contact information and fee for materials to the parish center. Call Roberta Gilbert at (630) 986-0021 or Chris Sulak at (708) 246-4784 with questions.

Special Collection for Middle East this Weekend
Millions in Iraq, Syria, and Gaza are continually being displaced, murdered, and attacked, and the situation is increasingly becoming more violent. Christians are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working tirelessly to provide for the immediate humanitarian needs for the most vulnerable in need in these conflict areas. Please pray for peace and unity and donate to the Middle East Collection at all Masses this weekend. To donate online please visit: www.ChicagoPeaceandJustice.org/special-collection-for-the-middle-east/.

Regular Mass Schedule Resumes
Our 12:15 Mass returns today. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm and 5pm.

Sunday in the Park
Parishioner families with young children will gather at Springdale Park after the 9am Mass next Sunday, September 14th. Meet new friends and connect with the old. See you there!

Pray the Rosary
Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 9th pray the Rosary in the Mary Garden. We will meet every Tuesday except: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Nov. 25 and Dec. 16. We will pray in the Mary Chapel in bad weather.
Pastoral Care

Minister of Care Training
Dates for Fall
Become a minister of care serving the sick in hospitals and parishioners who are homebound. There are two choices for training in the coming months: four evenings from 7-9:30pm on September 23, 25, 30 and Oct. 2 or four mornings from 9-11:30am on October 14, 16, 21, and 23. Call or email Fr. Bill for more information.

Group Grief Support
For those who have experienced loss of any kind, our parish offers a 6 week evening grief support program at the parish center called Seasons of Hope. Call Kathleen Broderick for more information at 708-246-1165.

Grief Support through a Blog
Heal from the death of a loved one by understanding grief and sharing your story via a blog facilitated by Patti Fitzpatrick, grief specialist, hospital chaplain and bereavement minister. Go to www.iamsolost.com.

Divorce Support
SJC offers group support over ten evening sessions to those experiencing or having completed divorce beginning next Friday, September 12th. For more information, contact Ann Marie Calistro at 708-784-9311.

Prayer Shawl Meeting
Knitters and crocheters are invited to join us at our monthly meeting where we pray for those who are sick while knitting prayer shawls. Come to the parish center on Wednesday, September 10 from 1-2:30pm. To request a shawl for someone who is ill or experiencing the difficulties of life, or for further information, call Sheila 708-246-7836 or Mary 708-246-5108.

Joyful Again Widowed Retreat
There will be a retreat-workshop on November 15 and 16 at Our Lady of the Angels Prayer House located in Lemont. Being widowed is a special loss and this program is designed to especially help the widowed find hope and joy again. Space is limited. Register early. Call 708-354-7211.

Tommy's Kids Support Group
This grief support group is for children ages 4-12 who have experienced a significant loss due to death. Each session meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays for six weeks in the spring and fall. The fall session begins Thursday, October 16th and runs until November 20th, 2014. An adult/parent support group meets at the same time for those interested in attending. The program is free of charge and is held at Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, 119 E. Ogden Avenue Suite 120 Hinsdale. Call 630-856-6990 to register.

Choir Begins

Parishioners of all ages are invited to join a parish choir. Practices begin this week:

Grades 1-3:
Cherub Choir practice begins Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 3:45-4:30pm. Parent meeting at 4:20pm in church on first day.

Grades 4-8:
Youth Choir practice begins Thursday, Sept. 11 from 3:45-4:30. Parent meeting at 4:20pm in church on first day.

8th Grade & Older:
The 5 Alive Teen Choir practices on Sundays at 4pm. The group sings at the Sunday 5pm Mass. Check out our facebook page at 5 Alive St. John’s Sunday Mass.

Adults:
Our Saturday 5pm Contemporary Choir practice begins Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7pm.

Questions??
Call Jesica Koch, Director of Music Ministry x136 OR Ann Bourjaily-Maney at 708-246-4171

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

(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
May 8-9, 2015

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.
Outreach News

Food Pantry Collection
Each month the nonperishable food we collect in our church narthex is given to an area food pantry to help feed those who are in need and hungry. During the month of September our donations will be taken to Catholic Charities in Cicero.

Donations for Zambia
Parishioner, Betsy Rogers, and her daughter Amy will be traveling to Zambia in November with a medical relief team to teach birth assistants how to resuscitate newborns if needed. They will also provide healthcare at several schools and orphanages with a mobile medical clinic. This mother—daughter team would like your help collecting new and gently used clothing for infants and toddlers and school supplies to bring to Africa with them. You can drop your donation off at their home at 4371 Central in Western Springs. If you need them to pick up your donation call 708-359-2857. Learn more at tinypeoplematter.org.

Misericordia
Misericordia Women’s League is seeking new members. Come to their newcomer coffee on Tuesday, September 16th. RSVP to Carolyn Excell at excell9@comcast.net.

Legacy Guild
Legacy Guild helps provide college scholarships to local students who have lost a parent. Their annual golf fundraiser is September 26th. To donate or participate contact Bob Bock at 708-646-9047. thelegacyguild.com

Help our Parish Seniors
Our parish seniors are in need of kitchen help to assist the caterer at their three luncheons in the parish center. If you can help contact the Parish Center office.

At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.” Mother Teresa

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 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.

Mercy Home
Are you good at reading, science or math? Volunteer as a tutor! Mercy Home for Boys & Girls is in need of tutors at their Girls’ Campus located at Beverly/Morgan Park – 11600 S. Longwood Dr. A volunteer tutor is assigned to one resident of middle school or high school age and provides the youth with consistency, focus, and an appreciation for education. Tutors help kids stay on task with homework and assist in developing good study skills. Study sessions take place Monday through Thursday evenings, and volunteers can select which night is most convenient. Tutors must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma, GED, or be a college graduate. The term of service is one hour per week for the school year. Training and support are provided. For more information contact Dee Atkins at deeatk@mercyhome.org or call (312) 738-7552.
Parish School

Over the summer, one of our school librarians, Mrs. Sue Michalowski, assigned the book, *Almost Home*, to the 4, 5, and 6th grade students. Along with reading the novel, Mrs. Michalowski invited the students to write a report based on the novel with a contest attached. Over thirty students completed the assignment. Seventeen were recognized as finalists. Each finalist received a Student Writer Award certificate and a spiral bound notebook to continue to write thoughtfully. Special congratulations to Nora Winters for winning the contest. She took home a Kindle fire! We are proud of each of these students.

This Week At SJC

**Monday, Sept. 8**
9:15am, All School Liturgy  
Pre K Grandparent’s Day, 10:15am School  
Kindergarten Grandparent’s Day, 10:30am School  
Pre K Grandparent’s Day, 2:15pm School

**Tuesday, Sept. 9**
Pre K Grandparent’s Day, 10:15 am School

**Thursday, Sept. 11**
Games Day All Day School  
Protecting God’s Children 6:30 pm Parish Center

Youth Catechesis

CLASSES BEGIN SOON!!

Emails will be sent next week with room assignments. Please watch for this important email from the YC office!

**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!!!**

*YC Schedule*

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*All 7th graders will meet on Sept 23 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center*

**Protecting God’s Children**

6:30 pm Parish Center

How can we profess faith in God’s Word and then refuse to let it inspire and direct our thinking, our activity, our decisions, and our responsibilities toward one another? Faith is always demanding because faith leads us beyond ourselves. Faith imparts a vision of life’s purpose and stimulates us to action.

St. John Paul II
SJC TAILGATE PARTY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014 • 11:00am – 4:00pm • SJC PARKING LOT

To Support The SJC Athletic Programs
Basketball – Cheerleading – Cross Country – Football – Track & Field – Volleyball

Tickets $75 Per Car/Family

Fun day for Families Pre-K – 8th Grade, Parishioners and Friends of SJC

Enjoy an afternoon of Games, Raffle, Bounce Houses, Hot Dog Cart, Ice Cream And 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 and Parish Center.

Please email SJCTAILGATE@GMAIL.COM with any questions.

Thank you for your continued support of the SJC Athletic Programs!

Please return below form to the school office to Attn: SJC Tailgate Committee. Your official tailgate parking pass will be mailed to your address the week before the event.

Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

☐ I/We will be attending the SJC 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 Association in the name of the __________________________ Family.
   ____ $100  ____ $250  ____ $500

☐ 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
Strong Catholic Parent

After Jesus nourishes us in the Eucharist, we are asked to go out to be “bread for the world.” Eucharist calls us to help feed those around us who are hungry. Some people are hungry for food, others are hungry for love, or care, or friendship.

Pray the following prayer together with your child.

PARENT: Some people in our world are hungry for food. They don’t have enough to eat.
CHILD: Open our hands, God. Help us to share what we have with others.

PARENT: Some people in our world are hungry for care. They are sad or lonely. They need comfort and support.
CHILD: Open our eyes, God. Help us to see the needs of those around us.

PARENT: Some people in our world are hungry for friendship. They are excluded because others think they are “different” in some way.
CHILD: Open our hearts, God. Help us to share your love with others.

Together, make a commitment to bring the love of Jesus to someone in need. Someone we know who is in need of help is... This person is hungry for (food, love, care, friendship, prayers)... We will help bring Jesus’ love and care to this person by...

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Family Connection

Conflict and disagreements are a natural part of family life. Yet, within our family, we have an important opportunity to learn how to resolve disagreements fairly by treating people with love and respect.

As you gather as a family this week, discuss the procedures for resolving disputes in your family. What kinds of things produce disagreements in your family? Do children frequently request the assistance of the adults when a disagreement arises? How do the adults respond? In today’s Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples the way in which they are to handle conflict within the Christian community of the Church. Read together this Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20. Invite family members to summarize the steps that Jesus proposes for resolving conflict. How might today’s Gospel inform your family’s handling of disagreements? If you have time, your family might choose to role play how Jesus’ teaching about conflict resolution might be applied to a disagreement that sometimes occurs in your household.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus also promises that he will help those who pray to him with their needs. Pray together that each member of your family will learn to handle conflict in a Christian manner. Pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

Read the following Gospel story, based on John 6:1-14, with your child. Pause throughout to let your imaginations explore what the people in the story might have been thinking and feeling. Share your reflections with one another.

One day, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. He wanted to be alone, to take time to rest and pray. But a large crowd came searching for him. When the people found Jesus they pleaded, “Jesus, teach us more about the kingdom of heaven.” If you had been part of the crowd, what reasons would you have given for following Jesus?

By the time Jesus had finished teaching, it was late and everyone was very hungry. The disciples were worried. “Jesus,” Philip said, “These people have no food.” “Feed them,” Jesus said. “But Jesus, there’s no food here,” Philip cried. “Shouldn’t we send them all away before darkness? No one could feed this crowd. There are just too many.” Philip seemed worried. If you were Philip, what would you have been thinking? How would you have responded?

One of the disciples, Andrew, said to Jesus, “There is a boy here who has a small basket of food. But what good is one basket of food for so many?” Jesus turned and asked the boy, “What do you have in your basket?” The boy gave his basket to Jesus. Inside were five loaves of bread and two small fish. “It’s my supper, Jesus, but you may have it.”

Imagine that you were the child. Do you think you would have offered to share your food?

Jesus thanked the boy and said, “Have the people prepare for a meal.” The people sat down. There were about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves of bread, lifted them up to heaven and gave thanks. He blessed them and broke them into small pieces. “Here,” he said. “Serve this food until everyone has eaten as much as they want.”

The disciples walked up and down the hillside, feeding everyone until they were full. The disciples ate too. When they had had their fill, Jesus said to his disciples, “Gather the fragments so that nothing will be wasted.” Twelve baskets were filled to overflowing with the left over bread and fish. When the people saw this, they said, “Jesus is truly the One who is to come to save the world.”

How do you think the boy felt when he saw this? What gifts do you have that you can share with others?

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Time for Meditation
We experience different kinds of silence in the course of the Mass—“head” and “heart” silences, you might say. There are praying silences, as at the penitential rite and the collects (opening and closing prayers), and there are thinking silences, after the readings and the homily.

The silence after Holy Communion is a time for adoration and thanksgiving, petition and self-offering. Countless saints have tried to put into words the richness of this silence in which we give thanks to God for the gift of the Son. St. Ignatius prayed: “Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, heal me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. Good Jesus, hear me” (Anima Christi).

Another option we are offered is to sing a psalm, a canticle of praise, or a hymn together. In this way, the entire gathered assembly, the body of Christ that has just received the Body of Christ, expresses its thankfulness and praise in this sung sign of unity.

Prayer after Communion
The Communion rite concludes with another prayer. This time it is not a prayer of thanksgiving; rather, we now ask for the fruits of the Eucharist. We pray that the sacrament may have an effect in our lives, that it will

- Help us bring the Lord’s love to the world
- Give us new purpose as disciples
- Lead us to share Christ’s eternal life
- Have the Lord touch our lives
- Teach us the way to everlasting glory
- Continue the saving work of the Eucharist
- Keep us single-minded in service to God and others

These prayers, together with the prayers over the gifts we heard just before the Eucharistic Prayer, offer a rich and diverse vision of what the Eucharist can do in our lives and in our communities, if we are aware and open to it. They are a marvelous source for prayer and reflection on the gift of Eucharist.

What happens at the consecration in the Mass?
By the consecration, the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is brought about. Under the consecrated species of bread and wine, Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real and substantial manner: His Body and Blood with his soul and divinity (CCC, no. 1413).

The consecrated bread has become Christ’s Body and the consecrated wine his Blood. Jesus Christ is substantially present in a way that is entirely unique. This happens by the power of the Holy Spirit through the ministry of the priest’s acting in the person of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer. At Mass, when we are offered the Host and hear, “The Body of Christ,” we answer, “Amen,” that is “Yes, I believe.”

Only Jesus can transform us into himself. Our inner receptivity is critical. To receive love, we need to be open to it. The sacrificial gift of self at every Mass is the best way to be continuously transformed into Christ. Then in Christ we become bread for the world’s bodily and spiritual hungers. Used with permission, USCCB

Does my participation in Sunday Mass and receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ have an effect on my life during the rest of the week? How am I the Body of Christ at work, at home, at school?

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Prayer

Prayer for Life
God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life. Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“The best gift parents can give their children is a happy marriage. Nurturing your marriage will pay benefits for your child even if it costs money for a babysitter.”

Rock Solid Marriage

Fall Resolutions To Spark Your Marriage
Has your marriage fallen into a rut? Even good marriages go through the doldrums. The arrival of Fall, however, can bring new energy and purpose. Why not use this energy to reinvigorate your marriage? Here are a few suggestions.

1. Read a book. Would you like to learn more about strengthening a new marriage, or dealing with the challenges of a long-established marriage? How about maximizing your time together, or raising faith-filled children? Find a book to read and discuss together.

2. Try something new together. Sign up for a class, anything from yoga to current affairs. Set aside one night each week to cook a new dish. Plan a day trip to a nearby town or historic site you haven’t yet seen.

3. Volunteer in the parish. Pope John Paul II reminded married couples that their witness to love and life should extend beyond the immediate family. In focus groups with married couples, many participants said that volunteering in their parish helped to strengthen their marriage. Opportunities abound: teaching in the religious education program; serving as lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion; sponsoring a candidate in RCIA; or helping to organize the parish’s fall festival.

4. How about a Date Night? Don’t wait for the New Year; make a Fall Resolution to have a regular Date Night. Take turns planning your date, or compile a list of things you’d like to do on your date and work through it. We’ve put together some ideas for no cost, low cost, outdoors and at-home dates.

5. Join a prayer group and attend together. Or simply add a regular prayer time to your day taking turns leading.

USCCB For Your Marriage

Buying a Bible

The USCCB recommends The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE).

Released on March 9, 2011, the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) is the culmination of nearly 20 years of work by a group of nearly 100 scholars and theologians, including bishops, revisers and editors. The NABRE includes a newly revised translation of the entire Old Testament (including the Book of Psalms) along with the 1986 edition of the New Testament.

For a good selection of Catholic Bibles, visit a Catholic bookstore. You can also listen to an audio version of the daily readings at http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm

A friend of mine likes to humor about his struggles in growing up. When I was in my twenties, he quips, I felt that by the time I was forty I would have grown-up enough to let go of my bad habits. But, when I turned forty, I gave myself an extra ten years, promising myself that by age fifty, I’d have conquered those habits. Well, now I’m my fifties and I’ve promised myself that by age sixty, I’ll be more mature and more serious about the deeper things in life.

Most of us, if we are honest, have a similar story. We’re well intentioned, but we keep pushing the things we need to change in our lives off into the future: Yes, I need to do this, but I’m not ready yet. I want more time. Sometime in the future I’ll do this.

That's a near-universal sentiment, and for good reason. The tension we experience between our desire to grow up and our perennial procrastination and infinite stalling in doing that, reflects in fact a tension that lies at the heart of Jesus' message, a tension between God's promises as being already here and God's promises as still coming. Simply put: Everything Jesus promised is already here and everything Jesus promised is still coming. We're already living the new, resurrected life, even as we're waiting for it still to come. What lies inside this paradox?

Biblical scholars and theologians tell us that everything Jesus came to bring us (the Reign of God, the Kingdom of God, the New Age, the Final Age, the reign of justice on this earth, new life, the resurrection, eternal life, heaven) is already here, except that it's also still coming. Simply put: Everything Jesus promised is already here and everything Jesus promised is still coming. We're already living the new, resurrected life, even as we're waiting for it still to come. What lies inside this paradox?

I suspect that all of us can relate to that: It's very threatening to have God become "concrete" in our lives, as opposed to God simply being a reality that will one day become very real. Because if God is "concrete" already now that means that our worlds have to change now and we have to stop pushing things into the indefinite future. This isn't so much a fault in faith as it is a procrastination, a stalling, wanting of a little more time before we need to get serious. We're like the guests in the Gospel parable who are invited to wedding banquet. We too want to go to the feast, intend to go to the feast; but, first, we need to attend to our marriages, our businesses, our ambitions. We can get serious later. There's time. We fully intend to take Jesus seriously; it's just that we want a little more time before we do that.

We are all, I suspect, familiar with St. Augustine's infamous prayer. After converting to Christianity at age twenty-five, he struggled for another nine years to bring his sexuality into harmony with his faith. During those nine years, he prayed this way: Lord, make me a chaste Christian ... but not yet!

To his credit, unlike many of us, at least eventually he stopped pushing things into the indefinite future.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
Calendar of Events: REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!!!!
Register ONLINE: www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

September 7: Kick-off Events
September 14: Update Meeting 10am Parish Center
Sept 21: First Home Group Meetings & Freshmen Experience

ALL HIGH SCHOOL TEENS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US for our CROSSROADS KICK-OFF SUNDAY SEPT. 7 TODAY

4-5pm Freshmen & their parents gather in Parish Center lower level for introductions to Freshmen Experience
5-6pm All teens & families are invited to come together for Mass
6pm Dodgeball Tournament for teens in the gyms & Parent info session for all parents

Parents can find out what THIS BOWL has to do with Youth Ministry!

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 building their faith!
Please contact Katie Hayes khayes@stjohnofthecross.org to get the details & join these teams already underway!
Pray for our Sick

- Tara Bassi
- Mike Belpedio
- Jeanine Jasica
- Lucine Kasis
- Steven LaVoie
- Ann Maliszewski
- Christine Moran
- Alexander Obi
- Gary Ziembta

Pray for our Beloved Dead

- Henry Juirus, brother of Bob Firlit
- Norman Wallace, brother of Steven

Mass Intentions

**Monday, September 8, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Dr. William Buckingham

**Tuesday, September 9, St. Peter Claver**
7:45 Betty Cook; Donald Parker

**Wednesday, September 10, St. Gregory the Great**
7:45 Bill Broderick; Barbara Rovtar

**Thursday, September 11**
7:45 James E. Mangan, III; Kevin Ryan

**Friday, September 12, Bl. Most Holy Name of Mary**
7:45 Rev. William Bennett; Marie O’Brien

**Saturday, September 13, St. John Chrysostom**
8:00 Eleanor Lahart; Gora/Maier Families
5:00 Special Intention; James E. Mangan, III

**Sunday, September 14**
7:30 Genevieve Orzbuz; Geraldine Golf
9:00 Teresa Peterson; Rosemary Martinotti
10:45 Hague & Galloway Families; Ramon Sanchez
12:15 James Ryan; Joseph Ferguson
5:00 Charlie Fields; Teresa Baker Peterson

Italics—Living

Marriage Banns

- Benjamin Andrews and Joan C. Apolinario
- Daniel Donovan and Amanda Beringer

A Look Ahead:

**Monday, September 8**
9:30 am Spiritual Journaling
10:30 am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm YC Catechist Meeting

**Tuesday, September 9**
6:30 pm PAC Meeting
7:00 pm RCIA
7:00 pm Moran Prayer Group
7:00 pm Teacher Recognition Trust

**Wednesday, September 10**
8:30 pm Fr. Bonin’s Opera Study
9:30 am Angel Bible Study
10:30 am Bridges
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
7:00 pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School
7:30 pm Christian Meditation

**Thursday, September 11**
9:00 am Women’s Club Flourish
6:30 pm Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6:30 pm YC Catechist Meeting

**Friday, September 12**
7:00 pm Divorce and Beyond

**Saturday, September 13**
7:00 am Christian Meditation

**Sunday, September 14**
10:45 am Minister of Care Commissioning and Meeting
10:00 am Crossroads Update Meeting
The St. John of the Cross Women’s Club invites you to

MOTHER & SON CAMPOUT 2014

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

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 AND DROP IT OFF AT THE PARISH CENTER.

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