33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 16, 2014
“...our mission is to love as Christ loved
and to proclaim the Good News...”
from our Parish Mission Statement
Dear Parishioners,

There was a news story on Halloween that perhaps you were distracted from noticing. It was a story that made international news. It concerned a co-pilot being killed in a crash of a Virgin Galactic test rocket. The pilot survived. The crash was in the Mojave Desert.

I may not have noticed much more than that if it weren’t for a follow up story that put the testing in perspective. Sir Richard Branson is developing a vehicle to be commercially viable that will transport people to Mars.

I still may not have spent a lot of energy on the story if it weren’t for one other fact that came out in background stories. More than 700 people, at $250,000.00 a piece, have booked a seat on flights that are still scheduled to begin sometime next year. Sir Richard promises to be one of the passengers on the first flight.

Did I mention the tickets are only one way, not round trip? So if you decide to go you are also deciding not to come back.

The details of such a trip, the calculations, the cosmology, the variables, the ambition, the technology is overwhelming, at least to a non-scientific mind like mine. However, our capacity to be fascinated is truly endless. Pushing the boundaries of horizons, like the depths of the ocean or the heights of the skies, is inevitable. I can’t help but think, though, that it is more than just the pursuit of knowledge that drives explorers and pioneers, as fascinating as that may be. It is the search for the meaning of our existence in this endlessly wondrous universe that provides the motivation to learn more, to go deeper and to go higher simultaneously.

What is the origin of human life? Is the Big Bang Theory and Creation as told in Genesis the same thing or opposite things? Could God accomplish both? Pope Francis had something interesting to say on this topic recently:

“When we read about creation in Genesis, we run the risk of imagining God was a magician, with a magic wand able to do everything. But that is not so. (God) created human beings and let them develop according to the internal laws he gave to each one so they would reach their fulfillment.”

Beginning with All Hallows Eve/All Saints/All Souls, then with the changing of the clocks that make it so dark so much earlier, with the piles of leaves in every street and trees of green trees now just gray sticks, we are pushed to confront the reality of death as much as the meaning of life. Movies like ‘Interstellar’ or ‘The Theory of Everything’ might draw us out of ourselves ‘to infinity, and beyond!’ (to quote the philosopher Buzz Lightyear). As we near the end of the liturgical year, the Scriptures push us inward to contemplate the end of time, personally and collectively. The end of the world, the final judgment, the ‘second coming of Christ’ all climax next week in the Feast of Christ the King.

Are you ready? If you’d rather avoid all that I know where you can get a deal on a ticket to Mars. Cheap.

Peace,
Fr. David

PS Thanks to all who supported the high school ministry’s Crossroads food drive for Harvest Saturday. You will feed many people whom you may never meet.
PSS We welcome our Sharing Parish, St. Thaddeus, to the 5:00 pm Sunday Mass. It is good to gather at the altar. Thank you especially for sharing your gift of music with us.
PPSS Share Christmas has begun. Your generosity touches many. Thank you.
Our look at the meaning and significance of the Funeral Liturgy continues this week with some of the rituals, symbols and words of prayer.

The rituals, symbols, song, words of prayer and Scripture found in the Funeral Rites are rich, as they offer us hope that our loved ones are with God and God is with us. The Funeral Liturgy (Mass) begins with the reception of the body in the church with the greeting, “The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be always with you.” These simple words express hope to the grieving and the larger faith community stating that God is leading us with compassion in this moment of sorrow. The casket is sprinkled with holy water as the words “In baptism he/she died with Christ, may he/she now share with him eternal life.”

This simple ritual and these words give rise to hope for it was in the waters of baptism that we were reborn into Christ’s life. Water is the symbol of new life lived in Christ through which we have become a new creation. These words echo hope in the new life that is to come in the resurrection we all hope to share in. We are also reminded of this hope each time we bless ourselves with water as we enter into church.

The placing of the pall, the large white cloth over the casket is another sign to us that we belong to Christ. At baptism we have clothed ourselves in Christ. As in the white garment of baptism, so in the pall we see the outward sign of our Christian dignity. The color white in our faith tradition expresses joy, hope and glory. It is the color worn during the Easter celebration of Christ's resurrection. Our tradition holds that at this time symbols of faith such as a cross/crucifix or bible may be placed upon the casket. These symbols manifest hope as they recall the good news that joy and new life triumph over death.

As the casket is moved toward the altar, one sees the paschal candle placed near the casket. Blessed at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, the paschal candle is a symbol of the light of Christ, the light that pierces the darkness of death and a light that makes known to us Christ’s presence as the Light of the World. The light of the paschal candle reveals hope that we too shall rise again just as Christ has risen from the dead.

The Collects or Opening Prayers of the funeral rite vary depending on the circumstances of death. For example there are prayers for parents, those who have died in old age, those who have died suddenly, etc. What all of these prayers have in common is that they offer hope through what they state: “give comfort to those who sorrow,” “raise us up to new life,” “command that he/she be carried safely home to heaven,” and through the attributes of God: “compassionate,” “lover of souls,” “mercy,” “consolation.” These prayers recognize the grief and sorrow that is experienced by the community and addresses them by offering hope and consolation.

Fr. Bill

The Book of Remembrance
During the month of November parishioners and visitors are invited to write the names of their beloved dead in The Book of Remembrance found by our Ambo. The Book of Remembrance will remain there until the final feast of the Church year, Christ the King. All of our deceased loved ones inscribed in this book will then be prayed for each week at Mass as we remember Our Beloved Dead.

The Books of Life
During November our parish Books of Life are placed along the north wall of church. These books, one for each month, list the names of every person who has been buried from St. John of the Cross Parish. As a parish that is rooted in faith in our Lord Jesus, let us prayerfully recall these deceased members of our community. Take time to look through the books. Find the names of those you know and offer a prayer for them.
The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ “... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18).

The belief that those who are directly affected by unjust systems and structures have the best insight into knowing how to change them is central to CCHD. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. CCHD offers a hand up, not a hand out.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has come to the aid of communities nationwide for over forty years in an effort to eradicate poverty. During World Youth Day, on July 25, 2013, Pope Francis told us, “Never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity.” The CCHD puts these words into action by funding housing, education, the development of job opportunities and other social-justice initiatives.

Projects supported by the CCHD go beyond providing for basic needs. They work to build healthy, sustainable futures for communities. For example, for several years now, the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR) has been transforming the way communities engage in restorative justice practices to develop a culture of nonviolence in Chicago’s South Side. The PBMR has also developed a strong leadership model for at-risk youth to facilitate peace circles in areas of high conflict. In addition, the PBMR assists families to address unjust legislation surrounding juveniles without parole. The heart of the PBMR is about building human relationships; it carries on Christ’s mission “to bring glad tidings to the poor…liberty to captives…sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18).

This Collection is the primary source of funding for the CCHD’s anti-poverty grants and education programs. Collection funds offer new hope each year to those living in poverty throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. Fifty percent of the Collection’s proceeds stay here in our archdiocese to fight poverty in our communities and defend the dignity of our neighbors, and the other 50 percent go to funding programs nationwide.

This year, the Appeal Weekend for the CCHD is November 15–16, and the Collection Weekend is November 22–23. Please help us defend human dignity and show Christ’s charity to those in need. To learn more about the CCHD in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the groups it funds, please visit www.ChicagoPeaceAndJustice.org/CCHD. Thank you for your generosity and for your lives of faith. You and those you love are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

“Being a believer means that one lives a certain way: walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness, and living peaceably among all people. Christian discipleship means practicing what Jesus preached.” US Bishops, Everyday Christianity
Parish News & Notes

Thanksgiving Day Mass
All are invited to gather at our 9:30am Mass on Thanksgiving Day to thank God for his countless gifts. This will be our only Mass that day. The parish office will be closed on the holiday and open from 9am-Noon the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 28th.

Be part of the Choir on Thanksgiving & Christmas

Thanksgiving Day Music
All singers in the parish are invited to join voices with all six of our parish choirs at our Thanksgiving Day Mass. Please come for warm-ups and rehearsal at 8:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning.

Christmas Music
This Christmas all singers are invited to join one of our parish choirs to help make the music at our Christmas Masses extra special! The commitment is minimal – attendance at only 4 weeknight rehearsals is required (Contemporary Ensemble meets on Thursdays; Traditional Choir meets on Wednesdays). Contact Jessica Koch for details by November 26: jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org or (708) 246-4404.

Parish Babysitting
Did you know our parish offers free babysitting in the Garden Room of the rectory during the Sunday 9am and 10:45am Masses? No fees, no registration, just ring the bell and drop off your child so you can attend Mass. The Garden Room is in the basement of the rectory, the building just south of church by the Mary Garden. The front glass doors face north. Please note there is no sitting on holiday weekends such as Thanksgiving weekend, November 30th.

Welcome!

Please help us welcome our newest members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:
Kelly and Sean Finegan and Family
AnnMarie and Matthew Egan
Alyssa and James Salmon and Family
If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

Food Pantry Donations
Your nonperishable food donations brought to our church narthex during the month of November will be donated to our neighboring parish St. Francis Xavier. Please remember to bring food for the poor when you come to Mass.

Prepared for Christmas with The Little Blue Book
The Little Blue Book can be your constant companion for Advent. The right hand side of each page will cite a part of the Gospel for the Mass each day followed by a reflection. The left hand side has timely thoughts, quotes and information. You might want to share some of it at dinner with your family. It should not take more than 6 minutes each day—an easy commitment. Let the Little Blue Book slow you down and let you be with Christ in a special way each day this Christmas season. Give them to your family members as a personal invitation to pray this Advent. Reflections begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, and end on the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 11, 2015. The Little Blue Books will be available at the exits of church next weekend. Suggested donation $1.
Share Christmas Begins Next Weekend!
Sign up to be a part of a special tradition at St. John of the Cross Parish called Share Christmas. Beginning next weekend, November 22 & 23, before and after all Masses in the church narthex, parishioners can sign up to buy a Christmas gift for someone in need. Gifts are brought to the parish center on December 8-10th where they are packed up for delivery to grateful recipients in the Chicago area. A variety of gifts and food & gift cards can be purchased for the family or individual you select. Volunteers are welcome on drop off and packing days. Donations can also be made to Share Christmas on our parish website. See our website for more details! Call Lolly at 630-261-5675 or Cathy at 630-655-8878 with questions or to volunteer.

Semi-Retired? Retired? Eager to “give something back?” The Ignatian Volunteer Corps may be for You! Members of this Jesuit service program volunteer in poor and marginalized communities 2 days per week (Sept-June), grow deeper in their Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Jesuit Catholic tradition and meet monthly with other IVC members and a spiritual reflector. IVC members serve as tutors, employment counselors, food pantry volunteers, elderly companions, hospital chaplains and more! Detailed information is online at www.ivcusa.org/Chicago. To inquire, please contact Jacqueline Fitzgerald at 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.

LIVESTOCK FOR LIFE
Each year parishioners help our brothers and sisters at our Sharing Parish, Holy Cross, in Jinja, Uganda through the Livestock for Life Program. Your donation supplies a hen, goat or pig (and training) to a specially selected family. The animal provides income for the family and the church.

You may purchase a gift card on our parish website with your credit card or drop off a check with the form below to the Parish Center. Each gift is $40. You will receive your gift card in the mail.

Donate Stamps
Shoppers at Jewel Osco receive Saver Stamps that can be redeemed for Cuisinart cookware. Donate your Saver Stamps to help us earn cookware for new refugee families served by the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program in Chicago. Stamps may be dropped off at the parish center or the YC office.

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Lifelong Learning

Living the Gospel

Every servant in this gospel parable is given riches by the master with the expectation that each servant will increase what has been given. Even one talent was a significant amount of riches. To bury it was to waste its potential. The servant who does so out of fear, wickedness, laziness is condemned by the master upon his return and loses even what he has. The wealth each of us has been given by our Master is a share in his very Life. Even a small amount is an incalculable richness. We will be judged by how we have chosen to allow this Life to increase, to grow within us. To choose otherwise is to bury our very selves.

In our everyday living of the Gospel we can be fearful or lazy. We can be safe. We can do what is minimally necessary—go to Mass, get to confession, say our daily prayers—but take no risks. Real growth in our potential and the Life God has given us comes in taking risks. We risk dying to self and increasing our Life when we see someone we don’t know poor and in need and still reach out to him or her. We risk dying to self and increasing our Life when we share our own “talents” by volunteering for a liturgical ministry or for one of the parish committees, even if we feel others may be more qualified. We risk dying to self and increasing our Life by sharing our abundance with others who are less fortunate. Always, though, when we risk dying to self, we receive from God an abundance of Life because in the dying to self we are more perfectly conformed to Christ. The shock of this gospel is the extravagance of what is being given to us. All we need to do is be faithful in “small matters.” ©Living Liturgy

How are we using the talents God gave us?

What's the deeper meaning behind this parable? Who is the man who went on the long trip? Who are the servants? What does the money stand for?

The man who went on the trip is Jesus, who ascended to heaven after his resurrection. He will return at the end of the world. The servants stand for you and me. The money stands for our God-given talents. In his absence, Jesus expects us to use our talents to build up his kingdom. It's interesting that the man in the parable with the least amount of money or talents is the one who made no effort to do anything with his talents. He probably reasoned that he had so little in comparison to the others that he could be excused.

Jesus tells the parable of the talents to teach about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to each of us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven. It reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbor. God’s grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

M Link & Loyola Press

Lord teach us to be generous. Teach us to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for reward, except to know that we are doing your will and using our talents to the best of our ability. Amen.

Monday
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday
Rev 3:1-6, 14-22
Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday
Rev 4:1-11
Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday
Rev 5:1-10
Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b
Luke 19:41-44

Friday
Rev 10:8-11
Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday
Rev 11:4-12
Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10

Sunday
Christ the King
Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17
Ps 23:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Cor 15:20-26, 28
Matt 25:31-46
Prayer

Lord God, you have given us the blessing of life itself—
health, intellect, talents, and abilities;
you have blessed us with this good earth—
a harvest of food, resources to warm us and protect us;
you have enlivened us with the gift of faith—
enabling us to love, giving us reason to hope.
May we be worthy stewards of these gifts
that we may use them to the glory of your name.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Richard Rohr Daily Meditation

Remember:
An understanding of ripening basically teaches us the wisdom of timing,
love, and patience, and allows us to be wise instead of judgmental.
(Sunday)
The refusal to ripen leads to what T.S. Eliot spoke of in "The Hollow Men,"
lives that "end not with a bang but with a whimper." (Monday)
The movement toward gratitude, authenticity, and union is the natural and
organic inner work of the second half of our lives. (Tuesday)
If we are to speak of a spirituality of ripening, we need to recognize that it
is always characterized by an increasing tolerance for ambiguity, a
growing sense of subtlety, an ever-larger ability to include and allow, a
capacity to live with contradictions and even to love them! (Wednesday)
Real elders are the truthful mirrors when hard truth needs be told, but also
gentle mirrors that can affirm and praise and not distort the moment, but
enjoy it for exactly what it offers. (Thursday)
A ripening mind and heart might simply be described as a capacity for non-
dual consciousness and contemplation. (Friday)
Rest: Sitting in the Sun

When James Finley was a young monk at the monastery of
Gethsemane, he shared with Thomas Merton (who was his spiritual
director) his frustration at his seemingly inept efforts to experience God's
presence. Merton responded: "How does an apple ripen? It just sits in the
sun." Not that we don't need to continue to seek God, but by our own
efforts alone we cannot achieve spiritual maturity. We must bring
ourselves to the Light where God's grace seasons us into juicy, sweet,
flavorful ripeness.

In the northern hemisphere the days are growing shorter—we
have fewer and fewer hours of daylight. We may have to seek out
the sun's rays more intentionally. In moderation, sunlight
strengthens the immune system, enhances emotional health, and
synchronizes biorhythms. Find some time where you can simply
bask in sunshine, exposing your skin and soul to the light freely
given, only waiting to be received.

Gateway to Silence:
Ripen me into fullness.
Join us as we kick off the holiday season with a festive luncheon held at the William Tell Terrace Room, 6201 Joliet Rd. in Countryside. Convenient parking is available in the west corner of the lot. Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 1. No refunds after this date. Tickets are $25 per person for lunch, a glass of wine and an entertaining program. Entrée Choice: Butt Steak, Chicken Marsala or Tilapia. Please indicate entrée choice and name of guest below.

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Phone: __________________________________________
Total Enclosed: $________

Any questions can be directed to Trudy Schmitt at 246-1077.
Each Luminaria Kit includes
5 white bags,
5 long-burning candles (10+ hours)
and enough sand to assemble your luminaries.
Free home delivery for Seniors!
Order Deadline: Sunday, December 7th
Pick Up: Sunday, December 14 from 10-Noon
in the parish center

Complete form below and return with payment
to the parish center or order online at
www.stjohnofthecross.org

Please contact Lee Rosenberg at
fletchrosen@gmail.com or
call 708-269-6046 with questions.

To order with cash or check, complete form and
return to the parish center. Make checks payable to
SJC Women’s Club.

Last Name: ___________________________________________
First Name: ___________________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________________

Luminaria Kit (s) x $10 = Total Due _____________

Seniors check here for free delivery! □

Address for
Delivery:_____________________________________________

The Women’s Club Social Welfare Chairpersons are
Jennifer Miller and Sylvie Salazar. They work together to
help organize events such as our Coat Drive and our
upcoming spring outreach event: “Princess for a Night”
Spring Prom Dress and Accessories Collection to help
teen girls who cannot afford a new prom gown. Watch for
details.
Infant Baptism at SJC

Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday!

Pictured above from left to right are: Kylie Marie with parents Matthew and Jessica Pfenning, Weston John with parents Sam and Brandi Miller, Annabella Loretta with parents David and Shannon Leuzzi, and Makayla Lyn with parents Alex and Lynda Garza.

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.

Strong Catholic Parent

Prepare for Advent

Advent, which begins on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 30th, is a season of preparation: we shop for gifts, plan parties, and decorate our homes for the coming of Christmas. Sometimes it is easy to forget the real mission of Advent: preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Introduce your family to a timeless ritual celebrating the coming of the Messiah that will add depth to your spiritual lives. Make plans to create an Advent Wreath for your home. Here are the materials you will need to purchase:

- Styrofoam ring, 9" in diameter
- Three purple candles
- One pink candle
- Evergreen branches, artificial or real—enough to cover the surface of the ring
- Clippers for cutting branches
- Floral wire and tape (if using real branches)
- Ribbon

Watch this space next week for instructions on making your wreath and learn the history of the Advent Wreath. Then each week we will provide prayers for your family as you light each candle.

Indifference towards those in need is not acceptable for a Christian. Pope Francis Tweet, Nov. 6
**Crossroads News**

**Calendar of Events**
- 11/16 - Freshman Experience 6-7:30 pm
- Home Group Meetings
- 11/19 - Guatemalan Work Tour Info. meeting 7:00 pm

**Guatemalan Work Tour Informational Meeting**

High school teens and adult parishioners are invited to join us on a new summer work tour to Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos (NPH) in Guatemala, June 8-15, 2015.

An information meeting will be held Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Read more about the work tour on the Crossroads website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/work-tours.

**Addressing Teen Issues and Challenges**

The Crossroads Parent Outreach Team invites all parents of high school teens to a Speaker Event next Sunday, November 23 from 7-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

Jeanne Widing, LTHS Student Assistance Program Coordinator, will lead a discussion about the issues and challenges facing today’s teens. Come meet other parents and get the tools to understand and support your teen. There is no charge to attend. Please RSVP to the Parish Center at 708-246-4404. Questions? Contact Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net.

**Pray for our RCIA**

Please remember our RCIA candidates and catechumens in your prayers.

**RCIA Prayer**

Almighty God,
look upon your servants,
Nicole, Mick, Eric and Ellin,
as they begin the process
of being counted among the members of your Church.
Teach them through this time of preparation
in coming to know Christ,
the love of God,
the mysteries of our faith,
the way of the Gospel,
the grace of the sacraments
and the importance of their relationship
with you and the Church.
Send down upon them and their sponsors
your Spirit of guidance and wisdom
as they journey together in faith.
We thank you for these whom you have called
and we await their joining us
around the table of the Lord.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
assure them of the prayers and support
of the St. John of the Cross faith community.

*Receive the Holy Spirit.*
John 20:22
Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual literature has always highlighted the primordial struggle between good and evil, and this has generally been conceived of as a war, a spiritual battle. Thus, as Christians, we have been warned that we must be vigilant against the powers of Satan and various other forces of evil. And we've fought these powers not just with prayer and private moral vigilance but with everything from Holy Water, to exorcisms, to a dogmatic avoidance of everything to do with the occult, the paranormal, alchemy, astrology, spiritualism, séances, witchcraft, sorcery, and Ouija boards. For Christians these were seen as dangerous venues through which malevolent spirits could enter our lives and do us harm.

And scripture does, seemingly, warn us about these things. It tells us that for our world to come to its completion and its fulfillment Christ must first triumph over all the powers that oppose God. And for that to happen, Christ has to first vanquish and destroy death, darkness, evil, the powers of hell, the powers of Satan, and various "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers."

What, concretely, are these powers and how is Christ ultimately to triumph over them? How should we conceive the battle that's taking place?

We are clearer about how death will be defeated: We believe that the resurrection, Jesus' and our own, is how that battle is to be won. As to Satan and hell, each of us has her own idea of what these are, but what we share in common as Christians is the belief that these will not be vanquished but will continue to exist, alongside and opposed to God and heaven, for eternity. That's the common Christian belief, though not the universal one. There have always been theologians and mystics who believed that the full triumph of Christ will occur when the Satan himself converts and goes back to heaven along with everyone else in hell. The love of God, they believe, is so powerful that, in the end, nobody, not even Satan himself, will hold out against it. Eventually love will win everyone over and Christ will be fully triumphant when hell is empty.

But that still leaves us with what scripture calls the "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers". Are these simply another way of referring to Satan and his powers? Or do these refer to spiritual forces that many believe are hidden inside the occult, alchemy, astrology, spiritualism, séances, witchcraft, sorcery, and Ouija boards? How might we conceptualize evil spiritual forces?

To the extent that we do not dismiss them out of hand as purely mythical, each of conceptualizes them in some way, usually in the graphic images given us in the Book of Revelation and by centuries of Christian artists. And so we picture some kind of spiritual warfare happening beneath the surface of things, a spiritual battle between good and evil, a warfare wherein, eventually, Christ will triumph by defeating and destroying all these malevolent powers, akin to the primordial battle wherein Michael, the Archangel, initially defeated Satan and threw him out of heaven.

But those are archetypal images, not meant to be pictured literally but intended rather to point us towards something deeper. What really are the "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers" that are opposing Christ and how are they to be defeated? How might we conceptualize the spiritual warfare going on beneath the surface of things?

The spiritual warfare that is being described in scripture and inside all authentic spirituality has less to do with the occult and exorcisms than it has to do the malignant grip of narcissism, greed, anger, bitterness, hatred, lust, wound, grudges, and ignorance. These are the real "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers" that oppose Christ and the struggle against them is the real battle between good and evil.

Authentic spiritual warfare is to be pictured this way: Inside our world and inside each of us there's a fierce battle waging, a war between good and evil, and these are the contestants: Hatred is battling love; anger is battling patience; greed is battling generosity; bitterness is battling graciousness, jealousy is battling admiration; choosing to remain inside our wounds is battling healing; holding on to our grudges is battling forgiveness, ego and narcissism are battling compassion and community; and self-hatred is in a bitter battle with the acceptance of love and God's unconditional embrace. Paranoia is waging a war against metanoia. That's the real war that's going on, in our world and inside each of us.

Hatred, anger, paranoia, greed, bitterness, lust, jealousy, non-forgiveness, and self-hatred are the "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers" about which scripture warns us. Hence the final triumph of Christ will occur when the last of these forces is eventually subdued, when we are finally at peace with goodness, with love, with trust, with ourselves, with others, with our history, with our mistakes, with those who have hurt us, with those whom we have hurt, with our shortcomings, and with our impatience with God.

In the meantime, there will be spiritual warfare, primordial battles all around.

Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser
YC Buddy Event: Our wonderful 7th and 8th grade students paired up with our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students to learn about “Angels of Care.” Bill Bright spoke about the importance of being angels to others. Then students created angel ornaments for the elderly and participated in Praise and Worship singing and prayer with Jim Clauer.

Last week, our students concluded their One School, One Book unit reading *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. Many of the teachers partnered with their classrooms’ buddies with the older student reading with the younger student. Our sixth grade presented a Reader’s Theatre of the play to the primary grades. Overall, this proved to be a wonderful experience for the entire student body.

We also celebrated “Red Ribbon Week.” Each day students used their creativity to promote a drug free society. Their activities included decorating their doors with drug free messages and coming to school with crazy hair to stress, “Do not let drugs mess with your head.”

Also, join us on Sunday, November 16, 2014 from 2-4:30 p.m. for our Inaugural Zumbathon at Fred Astaire, Burr Ridge. All proceeds will benefit the students at SJC!
This Week at SJC

Monday, November 17
9:30 am Spiritual Journaling
10:30 am Step 11 Christian Meditation
11:30 am Speech Contest Pizza Party
2:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 pm Spiritual Journaling
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 18
9:05 am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
3:00 pm Ministers of Care Orientation
7:00 pm School Board Meeting
7:00 pm RCIA

Wednesday, November 19
9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Ladies Bridge
2:00 pm Christian Meditation
3:00 pm Spirituality of St. John of the Cross
6:30 pm YC Catechist Meeting
7:00 pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School

Thursday, November 20
9:00 am Women’s Club Flourish
9:30 am Mom’s Club
2:15 pm Market Day
7:00 pm Career Networking
7:00 pm Outreach Meeting
7:00 pm Women’s Club Board Meeting
7:30 pm Men’s Club Board Meeting

Friday, November 21
3:45 pm Altar Server Training

Saturday, November 22
7:00 am Christian Meditation

Sunday, November 23
1:30 pm Baptism Prep Class
7:00 pm Crossroads Speaker

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 17, St. Elizabeth of Hungary
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; John Weithers

Tuesday, November 18, Dedication of Ss. Peter & Paul Basilicas; St. Rose Phillipine
7:45 Jack Byans; Genrose Hlavin

Wednesday, November 19
7:45 Frances Albertson; William Boyle

Thursday, November 20
7:45 Joseph McDonnell, Sr., Casimir Bonkowski

Friday, November 21, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:45 William Albertson, Sr.; Bridget & Anthony McVady

Saturday, November 22, St. Cecilia
8:00 Margaret Taylor; Frank Saran
5:00 Evelyn Whitson; Joshua Brija

Sunday, November 23, Christ the King
7:30 Paul Doyle; Thomas E. Doyle
9:00 Jean and Stanley Oczikowski; Franklin Smith
10:45 Patrick Grogan; Ray Fiedler
12:15 Susan Feehan; Bruno Shukis
5:00 Theodore Palter; Joan Peterson

Wedding Banns

Tom Gallagher and Kim Fanone

Pray for Our Sick

Mary Jo Benak        Lori Cook
Richard Baruth       Larry Klinger
Bruce Byrne          John Kravcik
Ramona Carroll       Lee Lepinske

Pray for Our Beloved Dead

Joseph Anthony Delaney, father of Peg Monteagudo and Michael Delaney, grandfather of Emily, Laura, & David Monteagudo
Sean, Connor & Nolan Delaney

Parish Directory 2015

Are you detailed-oriented? Are you interested in getting involved in a project here at St. John of the Cross Parish? We are now forming a volunteer committee to develop the 2015 Parish Directory. If this interests you, please contact, Elizabeth at 708.246.4404.
All women of the parish are invited to a festive evening

advent by candlelight

featuring speaker, Mary Kay Slowikowski, who will offer inspiration on how to make the most of your Advent Season! Join us for a memorable evening in the Parish Center with old friends and new!

Monday, December 1st 7-10pm • $10 per person

Table Coordinators for 8 or 12 are needed. As a coordinator add a special holiday touch using your linens, candles and centerpiece decorations - keep it simple and share in the responsibility with the women at your table. (Note: dishes, flatware and stemware will be provided in addition to coffee, soda and dessert)

For details and to reserve your table

Contact: Katie Pruitt at ilboilers@gmail.com or 708.784.0065

RSVP by November 26th to reserve your seat

Name: ____________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________

I am coordinating a table: please circle yes no

If you have a table/seating preference, list here: ____________________________________________

Mail your rsvp and $10 per person (checks payable to SJC Women’s Club) to: Katie Pruitt • 3921 Central Ave. • Western Springs, IL 60558 • 708.784.0065