To him belong glory and power for ever and ever

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King
November 23, 2014
Dear Parishioners,

To go along with the series Fr. Bill and Jessica Koch have put together on the Funeral Rites, I want to publish for the parish the Guidelines our Bereavement Ministers use when they minister to a grieving family regarding Words of Remembrance. In general there can be some confusion around this moment in the funeral particularly in understanding that it is not a eulogy. The two terms are not synonymous.

**Guidelines for Words of Remembrance**

Death is hard; funerals are hard; capturing the meaning of a person’s life in a few minutes or even an hour is hard.

So the first guideline is to be gentle with yourself. No one should ever feel obliged to offer Words of Remembrance, or impose on themselves or anyone else an obligation to speak at a funeral. If you can’t do it then don’t do it.

The second guideline would be to spend some time both listening to others and, in solitude, listening to yourself. Why was this person’s life important to you personally or to the whole family and all the friends? While you are the one who is speaking, you are also voicing the thoughts and feelings of many others. Only one person can offer the Words of Remembrance.

The third guideline would be to begin by thanking people for coming to the funeral Mass or for any other event or acts of kindness that have occurred in regards to your loved one’s death. It is appropriate to thank caretakers, hospice workers, doctors and nurses, neighbors who brought food, etc., etc. (without it turning into an endless list).

The fourth guideline is to highlight the deceased’s faith and values. When you think of this person, what are you grateful for? What is the gift(s) this person is leaving you and everyone else? How do they inspire you?

The fifth guideline is to accept the limitation that you cannot say everything. You can’t say everything you know about the person. You can’t say everything that the person did in their life. You can’t say everything the person means to you or to others. You can say some things but you cannot say everything, even if they are also important things. You are not giving a Eulogy. You are sharing Words of Remembrance. If there are characteristics of the person you want highlighted in the homily, or an overall theme for the funeral, please be sure you tell them to the Bereavement Minister or to the celebrant. Every effort will be made to include them in the funeral homily.

The sixth guideline is to focus on what is important and to self-edit out the trivial. Most everyone’s mother cooked. Most everyone’s father worked hard. This is not the time for inside humor that only some would understand. This is not the time to tell embarrassing stories about the deceased. This is not a ‘roast’ of the person who died. Nor is this the time to work out resolution of conflict or tension that may be present. Please do not embarrass either yourself or the deceased.

The seventh guideline is to speak the truth of the deceased person’s goodness without denying their imperfections.

The eighth guideline is to keep the entire reflection brief. We ask you to limit your reflection to one typed side of one sheet of paper, with normal font size and margins. This needs to be completed by the time the wake begins so that the celebrant can review it when he comes to the wake. If there is not enough time to do this then maybe someone else will have to speak or your words will have to be shared at a later point. The luncheon is quite appropriate for sharing funny memories or telling detailed stories.

Fr. David Dowdle ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org Fr. Bill Vollmer bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org
Year of Sacraments: Funerals

Our look at the Funeral Liturgy continues this week as we focus on Sacred Scriptures and Music.

There are a number of Scriptural passages intended for proclamation at the Funeral Liturgy from which a family may choose. The readings speak of the compassion of God: “These are the tears God will wipe away from every face” (Isaiah 25:8); “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28); the destruction of death: “On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever” (Isaiah 25:7); the reward of heaven: “Give her a reward for her labors and let her works praise her at the city gates.” (Proverbs 31:31); “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven” (Matthew 5:12); the promise of eternal life: “For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven” (2 Corinthians 5:1); “Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20); resurrection: “everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day” (John 6:4); “I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26); and the love of God: “What will separate us from the love of Christ? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor ... will be able to separate is from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39); “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God” (1 John 3:1).

The psalms used in the Liturgy of the Word are customarily sung. Many of the psalms suggested for the funeral rite speak of hope by revealing God’s comfort: Psalm 23, “Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope” (Haugen, GIA); kindness: Psalm 103, “The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful” (Haugen, GIA); and that God is our light and salvation: Psalm 27, “The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid, of whom should I be afraid” (Haugen, GIA). These words of God, and the psalms we sing, speak of the hope that what God has done in the past, God is doing now for us. Our hope is that our faith in Christ will lead us to share in his resurrection from the dead.

Music, chosen by the family with the guidance of the parish musician is an essential part of the Roman Catholic tradition. Music in the Funeral Liturgy helps to create a prayerful environment, evoke powerful emotions, support various themes of the liturgy (such as resurrection, forgiveness, eternal life, and the destruction of death), echo sacred scripture, and offer consolation and comfort to the grieving.

Music is a powerful means to convey our faith, our hope in the presence of the Risen Christ. For example, in Marty Haugen’s “Eye Has Not Seen” (GIA) we hear and sing, “Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him.” The song “You Are Mine” by David Haas (GIA) helps us to acknowledge God’s love for us and to recognize that God is ever present to us, especially in times of distress. “Do not be afraid, I am with you... I love you and you are mine.” Probably the most well-known and most frequently used song for funerals, “On Eagle’s Wings” by Michael Joncas (OCP) speaks to us very poetically about the hope of eternal life. “And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.” James Marchionda’s “May the Angels Lead You” (WLP), using text from the ancient funeral antiphon In Paradisium, paints a comforting picture of the martyrs and saints welcoming our deceased loved ones into heavenly paradise. The early American hymn, “What Wondrous Love Is This” speaks of the obliteration of death, which is made possible for us and our loved ones through our Savior, Jesus Christ. “And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I’ll sing on.”

Music can also be an opportunity for families to express their own emotions and set a particular tone for the entire funeral liturgy. Families often want to frame the funeral liturgy in the context of celebrating the gift of eternal life by using hopeful, upbeat songs like “Blest Are They” (Haas, GIA) the traditional hymn, “How Great Thou Art,” or even “City of God” (Schutte, OCP). Other families may prefer to create a more somber and formal tone by using traditional hymns in combination with classical music selections like Pie Jesu (Fauré) or Panis Angelicus (Franck). The theme of divine mercy and forgiveness may be emphasized through the selection of songs like “Jesus, Remember Me” (Taizé community, GIA) and “Without Seeing You” (Haas, GIA). Songs such as “All Will Be Well” (Warner, WLP) and “The Clouds’ Veil” (Lawton, GIA) express trust in God. “Keep in Mind” (Deiss, WLP) and the traditional hymn “I Know That My Mercy and forgiveness may be emphasized through the selection of songs like “Jesus, Remember Me” (Taizé community, GIA) and “Without Seeing You” (Haas, GIA). Songs such as “All Will Be Well” (Warner, WLP) and “The Clouds’ Veil” (Lawton, GIA) express trust in God. “Keep in Mind” (Deiss, WLP) and the traditional hymn “I Know That My
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 before and after the holiday. As always, in an emergency our priests can be contacted via the parish voicemail when the office is closed.

Collection on Thanksgiving Day
As has been our custom, the offertory collection on Thanksgiving Day will support our Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund. Using the Latin word for charity as its name, this fund provides emergency financial support to parishioners who through unplanned circumstances face difficulty meeting a critical financial obligation. Confidential arrangements are provided on a case by case basis through the pastor. Our offertory collections on Thanksgiving and Holy Thursday are directed to this fund, however donations can be made to the Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund throughout the years.

Special Collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development this Weekend
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 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.

Preparing 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.

An Advent Gift
Through the wonderful generosity of a parishioner, St. John of the Cross Parish is able to give parish families a special gift this Advent season. The Glory of the Incarnation is a cd of homilies by Fr. Bob Barron that celebrates the great feasts of the Christmas season, plus a final sermon on the Catholic view of other world religions. Meditations include: A Christmas Surprise: Luke’s familiar story explained as a subversive, surprising text, Gospel Family Values: Supporting the mission of each family member is the Biblical view of family, Journey of the Magi: A Metaphor for the Spiritual Life, Baptism of the Lord: An Icon of the Trinity, Christ and the World Religions: We share many truths with other religions, yet all paths do not lead to God. After you are done listening, we encourage you to pass it on to another family member or friend. Look for your cd after Masses the first weekend of December.

Suggested donation $1.
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 Rock Star
One of our parishioners, Jim Peterik, will join our high school and young adult choir, 5 Alive!, and all of our parish choir members at the Sunday 5pm Mass on December 7th to sing his song “Share Christmas.” Jim, a longtime parishioner, is a musician, songwriter, and producer. He is best known as a member of the band, Survivor, and as vocalist and songwriter of the hit song “Vehicle” by The Ides of March. He also co-wrote the anthem, "Eye of the Tiger," the theme from the motion picture Rocky III. Jim wrote his “Share Christmas” song in honor of our annual Christmas gift drive at St. John of the Cross Parish.

Star Trivia Question: Who is older? Jim Peterik or Fr. David?
THE RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

Next Sunday at the 5:00pm Mass, four men and women who are processing in the journey of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance. Ellin Wheelihan and Eric Wong will be accepted into the Order of Catechumens – those who are preparing to be baptized. Michael “Mick” McCaskey and Nicole Poletti will be welcomed as Candidates—those previously baptized in another Christian faith tradition and are now preparing to be received into full communion of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Paul Turner, writes, “The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens establishes a relationship between unbaptized persons and the Church. Candidates express their intention to become members, and the Church accepts them as Catechumens.” Joining to the Church now in this public moment, the Catechumens are now part of the household of Christ.

During this rite, the priest will greet the Catechumens and Candidates at the door of the church. As they and their parish sponsors come forward, the celebrant will ask their names, and each candidate will respond what they are seeking and why. They will be asked to accept the Gospel that fulfills the longing in their and our hearts. The sponsors and the entire assembly express their willingness to help them find and follow Christ more deeply. At this time the priest will trace the sign of the cross on the forehead of each Catechumen and Candidate. Then the RCIA team and sponsors will assist in the signing of other parts of the body such as the ears, eyes, lips, shoulders, hands, and feet. They are then invited to enter the church building to hear the Word of God with the community.

After the Liturgy of the Word and the Homily, they will be presented with a Bible. Our parish community will then pray for our Catechumens and Candidates after which they will be dismissed.

With great joy, the St. John of the Cross Parish Faith Community will welcome Ellin, Eric, Mick and Nicole into the next process of the RCIA, the Catechumenate. During this time they enter an extended period of time of pastoral formation and guidance aimed at training them in the Christian life and the faith of the Catholic Church.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers and look forward to the day they will share fully with us at the Lord's Table.

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honor. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Entrance Antiphon Rv 5:12; 1:6
Understanding the Gospel

In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today’s Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew’s Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones. Used with permission. Loyola Press.

Living the Gospel

“When the Son of Man comes . . .” We tend to think of Christ’s final coming in judgment only in terms of the end of time. We tend to think of it as something far in the future, something we need not fear nor be too concerned about now. However, Jesus surprises us with this revelation: “When the Son of Man comes . . . " is now in others, no matter what their guise or condition. There is an urgency about now: how we respond here and now to others bears eternal consequences. How we live now is already a judgment upon us and already is moving us in a direction of hearing Christ the King say to us, “Come, you who are blessed” or say to us, “Depart from me.” There is a propinquity—a nearness, a kinship—about who: the person near us is Christ and how we respond determines how we will be judged.

Growth in discipleship and living the Gospel is measured by the extent to which we look upon the other as Christ, loving that person as Christ, doing for that person as Christ. This is how we “share in the kingdom prepared for [us] from the foundation of the world.” Think about it: from the first moment of creation, God planned for us to share in God’s everlasting life and joy. All we need to do is reach out to those among us and treat them with dignity as the very Presence of the risen Christ himself. This is a small effort to put forth in our daily living, when we consider what God has so graciously offered us: an everlasting share in the glory of Christ the King. The time is now. We cannot afford to put off Christlike living to some future time. The judgment is now. What is at stake is our coming to fullness of Life. ©Living Liturgy.

Richard Rohr Meditation

Why is it that Mother Teresa could stand up before crowds of thousands and repeat simple New Testament phrases and blow people away?! She didn’t say anything new: “Jesus loves you,” she assured us. “We’re sons and daughters of God and we have to love Jesus’ poor.” Yet people walked out renewed, transformed and converted. She wasn’t a priest. She wasn’t well educated. Her authority came from her lifestyle and her pure goodness. Servanthood and foundational surrender are the true basis for teaching authority in the Church, much more than title, vestment, role, or office. Such lives have the authority of Jesus himself, and need no special ordination.

Prayer: Let it be.
Family Connection

In today’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we will be judged on only one thing: the acts of mercy we have shown to the least among us. Jesus identifies with the least ones; thus we serve Jesus whenever we serve one of the least ones. The Church calls the actions that Jesus described in today’s Gospel the Corporate Works of Mercy. These works are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bury the dead, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick and imprisoned, and to give alms to the poor. In these actions we show God’s compassion and mercy to those in need.

As you gather as a family, recall the list of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Talk about some concrete examples of how your family might do these actions in your community and then discuss why it is important that we do these things. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Ask: Why does Jesus say we ought to do these works of mercy? (Because whenever we show mercy to another person, we show mercy to Jesus himself.) Choose one Corporal Work of Mercy that your family will act upon this week. Pray together that your family will see and serve Jesus in the least ones among us. Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Works of Mercy

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God’s compassion and mercy to those in need.

Corporate Works of Mercy
The Corporate Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.
- feed the hungry
- shelter the homeless
- clothe the naked
- visit the sick and imprisoned
- bury the dead
- give alms to the poor

Spiritual Works of Mercy
The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.
- instruct
- advise
- console
- comfort
- forgive
- bear wrongs patiently

Making An Advent Wreath

The season of Advent, a joyful time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, begins next week.

Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. Legend has it that Saint Boniface first gave the wreath its Christian meaning in the eighth century, and we have been using these wreaths as part of our Advent preparation ever since. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. The evergreens signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the prayer, penance, preparation, and good works we are called to do during Advent. The color purple signifies the “royalty” of Jesus Christ. The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is the Sunday of rejoicing. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. We gradually add more light each Sunday until Christ, our Light, comes at Christmas.

Instructions to Make Wreath:
- Gather the following items: a Styrofoam circle, four candles (three purple and one pink), evergreen branches, and ribbon for trim.
- Imagining that the circle is a compass, place one candle at north, one at south, one at east, and one at west.
- Arrange the evergreens around the circle, attaching them to the Styrofoam. Decorate with ribbons.

Place your Advent wreath on your kitchen table or other prominent place in your home. Gather each week of Advent to pray. Watch this space for a special blessing for your wreath and a weekly prayer.

“...as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.” Matthew 25:45
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
Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday. Pictured above from left to right with Fr. David are: Ryan James with parents Andy and Elizabeth Nesler, Kyle Dimitri with parents Todd and Nikki Muentzer, Katherine Grace with parents Andrew and Bridget Hobbs, Keira Frances with parents Todd and Kristen Benjaminson.

For information on how to have your child baptized go to our parish website:  http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/sacraments/baptism/

Any men interested in attending this event on Nov. 28th from 10am-2pm are encouraged to contact Fr. David or Fr. Bill at the parish center. More on our website!!

Parish News & Notes

WHO WILL FILL THESE SHOES?

Friday, November 28, 2014, 10 AM–2 PM
Men in the Archdiocese of Chicago, ages 16-35, are invited to attend this exciting vocation event.
At Mundelein Seminary hosted by His Excellency Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago and Very Rev. Robert Barron
Come learn more about the priesthood and how to discern God’s call.
For event information and registration, visit: www.chicagopriest.com

SJC Men’s Club invites all men of the parish to a Bears v. Cowboys Party!
Thursday, Dec. 4th in the Parish Center
Doors Open @ 6pm—Game Time @ 7:25pm
Join us for food, beverages, and camaraderie!

WHO WILL FILL THESE SHOES?

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: ____________________________________

To order online at www.stjohnofthecross.org

Sponsored by the SJC Women’s Club in partnership with Village True Value Hardware.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Circle Entrée Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butt Steak Chicken Tilapia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butt Steak Chicken Tilapia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butt Steak Chicken Tilapia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butt Steak Chicken Tilapia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phone:________________________________________________

Any questions can be directed to Trudy Schmitt at 246-1077.
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.

Your Name____________________________________
Phone _______________________________________
Address______________________________________
Email: _______________________________________
Number of Gift Cards ______  Amount Enclosed ______

Refugee Family

Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Service is working hard to prepare for the arrival of a family of 9, a single mother and her children from the Sudan. While an apartment will be provided through Catholic Charities, our parish has been instrumental in obtaining mattresses, furniture, a baby crib and clothing. As further needs of the family become clarified we will publish ways you can help.

Pictured below are YC 7th and 8th grade students assembling the crib. The students also sorted through donated clothing and took them home to wash them for the family. Part of their work was to learn how to use a washer and a dryer!

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.
Happy Thanksgiving

During this time of thanksgiving, we offer our humble gratitude to all the families of Youth Catechesis. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We appreciate the opportunity to minister to your children about Jesus Christ.

St. John of the Cross Parish School students helped the Village of Burr Ridge kick off their Christmas tree lighting ceremony by marching in the Jingle Mingle Parade while our choir sang Christmas Carols. The chilly temperatures did not stop about 30 of our school families from having a wonderful Saturday evening.

On Monday our students participated in an all school service project. Representatives from BEDS and Helping Hands visited school to discuss their organizations with our students. After the presentations, students made gifts for the clients at these organizations. Along with this service project, SJC students participate in many others throughout the year including making sandwiches for the Port Ministries twice a month, visits to Feed My Starving Children, and collecting non-perishable food items for local food banks.

This Week At SJC
Monday, November 24 PreSchool Thanksgiving Feasts 10:45 a.m. School
Tuesday, November 25 All School Liturgy 9:15 a.m.
Tuesday, November 25 PreSchool Thanksgiving Feasts 10:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. School
Wednesday, November 26 No School
Thursday, November 27 No School
Friday, November 28 No School

YC Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-:30 am</th>
<th>Sun. Dec. 7, 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
<td>Mon. Dec. 8, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFC</td>
<td>Noon-1:30pm</td>
<td>Sun. Dec. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr Hi Sm Groups</td>
<td>7th Grade</td>
<td>Dec. 7 at 6:30pm Special Guest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8th Grade</td>
<td>Sun. Dec. 7 In Homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 &amp; 8 Grades</td>
<td>Sun. Dec. 14 In Homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs</td>
<td>Sun. Dec. 7, 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grief Support at The Well

“Honoring the Grieving Heart” on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 9am-Noon with facilitator: Joy Davy. Grief and loss come to us in many forms. There is no need to compare one person’s loss with another’s, as each of us is on his or her own way, working to integrate personal sorrows and joys into the people we are becoming. Join Joy Davy, MS, LCPC, NCC, for a morning dedicated to sending healing energy to our grieving hearts. Explore without judgment all the emotions of grief and loss and come to understand how you have been “broken open” and changed by your grief. Cost: $35 The Well is located at 1515 W Ogden in LaGrange Park. Call 708.482.5048 to register.

Grief & the Holidays

Grief & the Holidays is a program for people who are anticipating the holiday season after the death of a loved one. The program will explore ways of remembering the loved one and coping with the loss during this special time of year. December 11 from 6-7pm at Frisbie Senior Center, 52 E. Northwest Hwy in DesPlaines. Sponsored by Rainbow Hospice. Call 847-692-8884 to register.

Grief Support Group

A six session grief support group for men and women who lost someone close to them in the past two years. Come to share your memories, learn about the grief process and support others while receiving support. Tuesdays, Dec. 2-Jan. 6 from 6:30-8pm at Presence St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago. Fee $90 for all six sessions. Free if a loved one was a patient of Rainbow. Call 847-692-8884 to register. Class size limited.

Loss of a Child Worldwide

Candle Lighting

Candle lighting to honor and remember children who have died from any cause at any age. Sunday, December 14 at 7pm at Queen of All Saints Basilica to coincide with candles lit around the world symbolizing that “their lights shine on...” Arrive 10 minutes early at 6280 N Sauganash Ave. Chicago. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement 847-692-8884.

Pancake Breakfast Today

2014 Annual Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the American Legion Robert Coulter Post 1941 on LaGrange Rd today from 8am-Noon. Adults $6, Children $4, Under 3 free. 708-354-3300. Raffles too!
The Week at a Glance...
Monday, November 24, 2014
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
Tuesday, November 25, 2014
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
9:15am School Liturgy
5:00pm Crossroads Kairos Friendsgiving Party
Wednesday, November 26, 2014
9am-Noon Parish Office Open
Thursday, November 27, 2014
9:30am Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thanksgiving ~ Parish Office Closed
Friday, November 28, 2014
9am-Noon Parish Office Open
Saturday, November 29, 2014
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, November 30, 2014
5pm Mass RCIA Rite of Acceptance & Reception

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

Parish Directory 2015 We are forming a volunteer committee to develop the 2015 Parish Directory. If this interests you, please contact, Elizabeth at 708.246.4404.

Mass Intentions
Monday, November 24
7:45am Joanna Misantoni Vesper; Joseph Piszczor
Tuesday, November 25
7:45am Our Beloved Dead; Larry Dougherty
Wednesday, November 26
7:45am Sophie & Raymond Mathis; Mary Kay Connelly
Thursday, November 27 Thanksgiving Day
9:30am Barbara and Dr. Norbert Mann; Lillian Waszak; Matthew Rhodes
Friday, November 28
7:45am Joseph Koucky; In thanksgiving for nursing staff and doctors
Saturday, November 29
8:00am Dr. Edward Montgomery; Thomas Siragusa
5:00pm Marie Capellani; Robert Plechaty
Sunday, November 30 First Sunday of Advent
7:30am Ann & Sergio Toschi; Sandie & Philip Neri
9:00am Bob Sullivan; Betty Stead
10:45am Paul Stimetz; Vincent Candela, Sr.
12:15pm Shauna Laatz; Donald Cisek
5:00pm Oliver Hauber; deceased members of Maier & Gora families

Italics: Living

On Thanksgiving Day our morning Mass will begin at 9:30am. There will not be a Mass at 7:45am that day. As has been our custom, the offertory collection on Thanksgiving Day will support our Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund which provides emergency support to parishioners facing difficulty meeting an unplanned critical financial obligation. Thank you for your generosity.

Pray for our Sick
Cecilia Kirschbaum
Larry Klinger
John Kravcik

Pray for our Beloved Dead
Jorge Alonso Bernas, friend of Juanito & Evans Bartolome
Bruna Krause, mother of Linda Gramarossa
Raymond Fatter, father of Diane Kamenjarin
Barbara Story, aunt of Charlie Martin

Tower Chorale Christmas Concert on Dec. 5 at 7:30pm and Dec. 7 at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church in Westmont. Tickets available at door or from SJC members: Kathy Daley, Tom Licar, and Betsy Spiering. Adults $20, Seniors/Students $17, Under 10 Free

The Share Christmas experience at St. John of the Cross Parish is a strong and beautiful tradition that will fill your heart with joy as you make someone else’s Christmas special!

Our gifts are delivered to the following grateful recipients in the Chicago area: Blessed Sacrament Church, Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Santa Maria Addolorata, St. Thaddeus, St. Mark, St. Agatha, as well as families in our own parish community.

Join in on the fun! Sign up for Share Christmas begins today after all Masses and continues through the December 6-7 weekend. Sign up will also take place on Thanksgiving Day after the 9:30am Mass. For your convenience our parish Manna reps will be available in the church community room for you to purchase food and gift certificates.

What can I buy?
•An unwrapped gift for a child (infant to 18 years old)
•A food gift card from Jewel or Wal-Mart for a Christmas meal
•Gift cards for families from Sears, Wal-Mart, Kohl’s, Target or JC Penny
•Food and gifts cards for a Christmas meal and presents for a family

Please note, providing gift cards for our recipient families allows them to select the sizes and colors that more closely meet their needs. Similarly, providing food cards lets them choose food based on their ethnicity, family preferences and health/allergy concerns. Whether you choose to provide a store bought individual gift, or a gift or food card, know that your generosity will make all the difference in Christmas for our grateful recipients.

Donations can also be made on our parish website at www.stjohnofthecross.org. Click on the Sharing Box and direct your donation to the Special Collections link to choose Share Christmas. Your gifts will be used to purchase food and gift certificates.

Drop off Days are December 8 & 9 between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Center. The gifts will then be delivered to the parishes on Saturday, December 13th. If you have a van or small truck or if you are free to help load and deliver, please call us. Questions can be directed to Lolly Maloney at 630-261-5675 or lollymaloney@gmail.com or the Parish Center.

Find us ready Lord...not standing still.
Find us working and loving and doing your will.
Find us ready Lord...faithful in love and building the kingdom that’s here and above!