St. John of the Cross Parish

5005 South Wolf Road ~ Western Springs ~ 708-246-4404 ~ www.stjohnofthecross.org

A Time of Renewal
Lent 2015

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2015
Dear Parishioners,

Ready or not, it’s Lent. Perception and time seemingly have nothing to do with each other when we really shouldn’t be caught by surprise. (Christmas is always on December 25th?). Time seemingly stands still when the activity that fills our time is a drudgery, or painful, or unpleasant. (Will winter never end?) If we are unaware, numb, disengaged or, equally, if we are over scheduled, over involved or over active, our perception and time disconnect. (I can’t believe that was 20 years ago! Where did the time go?)

Parish planning frequently anticipates and demands planning ahead of time. We were planning Lent a year ago. Details about this Lent were being nailed down in the Fall. Since the first of the year the staff has been acutely aware of how much time we had until Ash Wednesday and how much had to get done by then. While some people fight the winter doldrums, January and February are, perhaps surprisingly, busy times of year in a parish. March and April don’t slow down too much either. And May is ridiculous.

Even though Ash Wednesday and Lent have been on my radar for a while, there is still an element of surprise that it has begun. Today the catechumens will travel to Holy Name Cathedral and be received by the bishop to become the Elect for the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Their spiritual journey intensifies as the six weeks of Lent begin to fly by quickly. Please keep them in your prayers.

And take the time to schedule your time for maximum advantage. Next week-end Dr. Terry-Nelson-Johnson will speak at all the Masses. He will invite you to a three night parish mission the following three nights. It will be a great way to prepare for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. Don’t make the mistake of thinking you have plenty of time for that. Easter will be here before you know it.

The mission will also give you the opportunity to get to know Terry a bit better, in case you have never had a chance to spend some time with him. He is a dynamic presenter who shares his faith generously and powerfully invites you into a deeper relationship with the Living God. The staff is really hoping that for 25 or 30 parishioners (or more!) the mission will provide the impetus for setting aside the weekend of April 24-26 for the BELOVED retreat at the Carmelite Retreat Center in Darien. Terry is the retreat director for an experience that he has developed at Old St. Pat’s for many years. It has the potential to change your life.

But if you don’t block out your schedule now, by the time April gets here you most likely won’t be able to reschedule and reprioritize your time. There’s not a lot of time to lay the groundwork for rearranging your typical weekend and meeting your other obligations to family and work. Begin by listening next Sunday at Mass. Come to one, two or all three nights of the mission. Dare to give yourself the gift of the April BELOVED retreat.

Peace,

Fr. David

PS: Thank you for your generous support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. One envelope was returned with $1.75 in coins. I have no idea who contributed that, but it touched my heart.

Processional Cross
A number of people have asked what has happened to the processional cross with the corpus of Jesus on it. It is out for repair – two of Jesus’ fingers were broken. The cross will return, however we do not know the time frame. Until then a simpler cross is being used.

Becoming a Deacon
The call to the Diaconate, like all Christian vocations, is from God. Is it a call that may be beckoning you? To find out more about responding to this possible call, please contact Fr. David.
Background on the Gospel

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John’s Gospel. This year we read Mark’s account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark’s narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark’s account of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark’s Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus’ public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark’s Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. Jesus’ preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God’s promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark’s Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus’ battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus’ final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.  

Living the Gospel

Mark’s version of the temptation in the desert is short and to the point. He does not relay the details of Jesus’ experience of temptation, but he does show its outcome: Jesus boldly enters Galilee proclaiming, “This is the time . . . Repent, and believe.” Temptations always force us to make a choice. Jesus’ choice is to take up his saving mission. What is our temptation? What is our choice? These are the questions of Lent. They are the questions those of us who are baptized into Christ must constantly ask if we wish to participate in his saving mission, proclaiming by the choices we make that the Gospel determines who we are and how we act.

We know full well that we never will be rid of temptations and sinfulness. But this fact of the human condition ought not to keep us from taking up our baptismal mission to proclaim the Gospel. We proclaim the Gospel not because we are sinless, but because we have aligned ourselves with Christ. Confronting temptation and overcoming the sinfulness that keeps us from righteous Christian living is a necessary first step for faithful baptismal living. We must turn from sinfulness before we can do our part to continue Jesus’ mission. Since repentance, forgiveness, and belief are so central to Christian living, proclaiming the Gospel at least means that we turn from our sinful ways, forgive others, and express our belief by saying yes to God’s will for us. None of these is easy to do, which is why proclaiming the Gospel is a lifelong mission. The most eloquent proclamation of the Gospel is the witness of the way we live.  

May we face temptations with courage and make right choices leading to fullness of Life.
May we overcome temptations and more fully live our baptismal commitment.

During Lent, look for the readings for the week on a new page. Today see page 7.

During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.  

Pope Francis @Pontifex  ·  Feb 17

Lord, grant us the grace to know we are sinners.

Pope Francis @Pontifex  Feb 18
Prayer

The Grace of Detachment

The grace of indifference or detachment is often what we hope for in prayer. It is the place where we have surrendered to God the outcome of our hopes, fears, and worries, and we trust God enough that no matter what happens, “God’s grace will be enough for me.”

Detachment is not always a gift I like receiving in prayer, at first. Intellectually, I understand that detachment or indifference can be a fruit of prayer. Intellectually, I also know that it is an important component to the Spiritual Exercises. If I am frank, though, detachment can occasionally be one scary place.

For the past year, my husband and I have been discerning our future steps after my husband’s graduate degree was complete. The choice was between relocating to one of two cities. The process of discernment was arduous due to a rather crazy day-to-day rhythm of life, which impacted my ability to find stillness in prayer, and because we felt we were choosing between two goods.

At one point this spring, about eight months into this discernment process, I shared with a friend that I was struggling to find peace about this decision. I told her, “We have learned all we can about both cities. We have prayed about this for months, and I no longer feel pulled strongly to either city. It’s driving me crazy! Why won’t God give me the answer?”

She gently smiled and chuckled and said to me, “Struggling a bit with the grace of detachment?” That’s when it hit me. For months, I asked for God’s strength, enlightenment, comfort, and guidance in making this decision. Little by little God brought me to a point where I knew that no matter what city it was, I would be at peace. I was detached from the outcome.

I stood still for a moment as both fear and relief washed over me at this realization. The choice was now in our hands. We had discerned all we could with the help of friends and spiritual directors. We had gathered every piece of information we could about both cities. When we looked at the cities side by side and when we compared our pro and con lists, we knew that either city would work.

At one point this spring, about eight months into this discernment process, I shared with a friend that I was struggling to find peace about this decision. I told her, “We have learned all we can about both cities. We have prayed about this for months, and I no longer feel pulled strongly to either city. It’s driving me crazy! Why won’t God give me the answer?”

That’s when it hit me. For months, I asked for God’s strength, enlightenment, comfort, and guidance in making this decision. Little by little God brought me to a point where I knew that no matter what city it was, I would be at peace. I was detached from the outcome.

I stood still for a moment as both fear and relief washed over me at this realization. The choice was now in our hands. We had discerned all we could with the help of friends and spiritual directors. We had gathered every piece of information we could about both cities. When we looked at the cities side by side and when we compared our pro and con lists, we knew that either city would work.

What does St. Ignatius say to do at this point? Make a decision! Act! And test the fruits of the decision along the way. So that’s what we did and are doing, and while it is still scary at times, it is invigorating to be free to make a decision. Making this decision brought inner freedom only found through God. This place of detachment is a grace-filled place that, despite the fear that can accompany it, brings deep peace and trust in God.

The Word

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. —Matthew 6:5-8

Reflect

I am created in the image of a God who is One. I am unique. The Father loves me personally. I thank God for who I am.

1. Give Thanks. I thank God for this day, for my life, for all I am and have, and for His Word.
2. Pray for Light. I ask the Father to let me see my day as the Holy Spirit sees it, and to show me what I need to see.
3. Find God. I look at my day in the light of the Spirit. What have I done?
4. Anything Wrong? Have I been anxious? Sad? Focused on myself?
5. What Now? What do I need from God today? What do I need to do today? Tomorrow?

Prayer

When I go now to my inner room, God my Father, Creator of my inmost self, I go with ashes on my forehead and in my soul for what I have done and for the little love I return to You. Is it repentance enough that I accept as mine the burden laid on all of us by all of us? May I embrace as my own and offer to You the sufferings of the world that invade my day—the child in terror, the man without work, the woman wrapped in oppression and disdain? Let me feel the grief that weighed like lead on Jesus’ heart and know His unyielding love for me. Amen.

Used with permission. Becky Eldredge. Ignatian Spirituality.

Used with permission. Joseph Tetlow, SJ. Ignatian Spirituality.
“Lent is a time of renewal...a time of grace...Let us all ask the Lord: Make our hearts like yours. In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent, or prey to the globalization of indifference.”  Pope Francis, Excerpt from Message for Lent 2015

Got to the home page of our parish website to read the entire Lenten message.

Parish Mission with Terry Nelson-Johnson: March 2-4 at 7pm in church

What if the Paschal Mystery isn’t something that Jesus went through a couple thousand years ago, but something that we’re all invited to live every day? Using the metaphor of a marathon and his prodigious skill as a storyteller, Terry Nelson-Johnson challenges us to run our own Paschal Mystery, teaching us to look at life through the lenses of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter.

Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson – Terry’s art is the written and spoken word. His passion for narrative theology expresses the yearning of 2,000 years to connect our life stories with The Story of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through storytelling, poetry, and humor, Terry challenges us to enter more deeply into the mystery of grace, the mystery of spirit, the mystery of God. Author and leader of the acclaimed Beloved retreat, Dr. Nelson-Johnson works with parents, teachers, pastoral staff and members of faith communities across the country to design and conduct formation programs that encourage, affirm, and inspire. A prolific writer, his reflections and essays have been widely published in local and national publications. Dr. Nelson-Johnson served on the faculty of the Loyola Academy Jesuit High School for eighteen years and is Founder and Executive Director of Soul-Play, LLC, an experiential, theological, educational enterprise serving congregations, families, schools, and adult retreats. He is Resident Theologian and Animator of Faith at Old St. Patrick’s Church, holds a master’s degree from the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University; and a Doctorate of Ministry from the University of St. Mary of the Lake. He and his wife, Holly, are the parents of two children, Ian and Clare.

Little Black Books Pray daily through Lent with your Little Black Book while supplies last.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 6pm in church—Praying the Stations is a Lenten devotion that offers witness to Jesus’ passion and death. At each station we reflect prayerfully upon Jesus’ suffering, death and Resurrection and His great love for us.

Lenten Morning of Meditation
Encouragement in your Meditation Practice—Saturday, March 7 from 9-11:30am, 8:30am hospitality

8 Big Problems of Life: Film series with Laurence Freeman, OSB, on understanding and overcoming the 8 Big Problems of Life —making meditation, relationships, and daily life a great deal easier. Saturdays during Lent in the Parish Center from 8:30am-10am, except March 7th.

CRS Rice Bowl: See the next page for Week 1.

This Lent, we are invited not so much to think of what we will “give up,” but more, to think about how we will enhance, renew and develop our relationship with Jesus. As a parish community, we will participate in CRS Rice Bowl as a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially the most vulnerable around the world. Expressing love for those in need expands our hearts in hope.

Along with 13,000 faith communities across the U.S., our parish will participate in Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten Rice Bowl. This program invites us to pray with our families and fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, and at the same time learn about the people who will receive help from our sacrificial contributions.

At Masses this weekend each parish family will receive a cardboard Rice Bowl to fill with spare change and a Lenten Calendar with prayers, recipes and reflections.

Then each week in Lent we will learn about hunger and poverty in a different country. In addition, children in our parish school and YC program will receive Rice Bowls in their classrooms and will participate in special activities to help them deepen their awareness of needs throughout the world.

Your Rice Bowl can be brought to Mass on Palm Sunday or dropped off at the Parish Center after Palm Sunday.

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 2/22/2015 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent ~ page 5
Hungering for a Better Life: Our journey with CRS Rice Bowl begins in Tanzania, where a simple soybean is changing lives! What actions can you take this Lent to change lives—at home and around the world?

God of all people,
We offer you our Lenten journey.
May we learn to walk as one human family,
remembering in a special way those who are poorest and most in need.
Bless our prayers,
our fasting and our Lenten gifts.
Through these actions, we show our love for your Son, Jesus, and answer your call to love one another. Amen.

Gertruda’s Story

Like many farmers in Tanzania, Gertruda Domayo used to struggle to provide for her three grandchildren. Now she is a member of Soya ni Pesa, a Catholic Relief Services project that means “soybeans are money.”

Through the project, Gertruda has learned that a few small changes can make a big difference. Crop spacing and fertilizer have doubled her harvests. The soybeans themselves add nutrients to the soil, fueling future harvests.

Gertruda has learned a new way to sell her soybeans, too. She combines her crops with those of other soybean farmers. Together, they sell their soybeans in bulk. The farmers’ customers benefit too. They save time and money by purchasing large amounts of soybeans all at once. Gertruda’s new way of selling increased her income sixfold over last year, when she sold her beans alone. She can afford to buy healthier food for her family.

Gertruda wants everyone in her rural village of Nakahegwa to have the same success she’s had. “I encourage my neighbors to join the project,” Gertruda says. “It will help them move from poverty by increasing their income and therefore change their lives for the better.”

Lord, help us to be instruments of your peace.
We pray for people around the world who are hungry, especially children, that they receive the nutritious food they need to live healthy, productive lives.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS:
Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person

When God created us, he made us in his image and likeness. That means that every human being has a special value and purpose. We need to care for each other so that we can be the people God calls us to be.

Go to our parish website for more—like CRS Rice Bowl Global Kitchen with Fr. Leo Patalinghug – Five 3-minute cooking shows, hosted by GraceBeforeMeals.com chef Fr. Leo Patalinghug, featuring simple, meatless recipes for Lent provided by CRS staff working in the countries featured in this year’s Rice Bowl stories. Watch the What Is Lent video series reflections of prominent Catholics, including Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

Download the CRS app for your phone. Have the full collection of stories, daily reflections and video series, a tool to set and measure Lenten sacrifices, recipes and a built-in feature to share Lenten experiences with text and photos through Twitter.
Monday, February 23
Regarding Others as Sacred
We hear Jesus tell us today that when we care for the hungry, the thirsty, or the sick, we are caring for him. Pope Francis helps us to think of others as Christ when he states that, in accompanying others, we “remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other” (The Joy of the Gospel, 169). We often think well of ourselves for providing assistance to another, but here Francis helps us look at the holiness of those we aid. Today’s Readings: Leviticus 19:1—2, 11-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (John 66:63b); Matthew 25:31–46.

Tuesday, February 24
Meditative Prayer
It could be tempting to just glance over today’s Gospel passage. After all, the verses from Matthew contain the text of the Lord’s Prayer, and we know that prayer by heart. But do we really know it? Perhaps as a Lenten exercise, you might spend time with the prayer. Begin with the phrase “hallowed be your name.” What does it mean that the Lord’s name be kept holy? Do you find that hard to do in a society that takes God’s name lightly? Consider the meaning of each phrase of the Lord’s Prayer. Doing so could change the way you pray. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4 – 5, 6 – 7, 16 – 17, 18 – 19 (18b); Matthew 6:7–15.

Wednesday, February 25
Being Open to God’s Mercy
The Gospel today is directed at a society that appears oblivious to the sign in front of them. Though Jesus is in their midst, they do not have faith. We cannot miss the Gospel’s connection to us. Are we reluctant to put our faith in Christ, even though he has done works in our midst? The Ninevites needed Jonah and changed their ways. Do we possess that same faith in Christ to repent and take in God’s mercy? Where in your life do you feel the need for God’s mercy? Today’s Readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3 – 4, 12 – 13, 18 – 19 (19b); Luke 11:29 – 32.

Thursday, February 26
Ask, Seek, Knock
Jesus continues to teach us about prayer. We are called to ask, seek, and knock, so that the door will be opened for us. A curious word here is “seek.” It is not often that we see that word linked with prayer. We are, though, seeking God when we pray. Perhaps all we need to do is trust that God is there and will provide good things for us just as would a parent. During this Lent, will you seek to deepen your trust in God? Today’s Readings: Esther C: 12, 14 – 16, 23 – 25; Psalm 138:1– 2ab, 2cde – 3, 7c – 8 (3a); Matthew 7:7–12.

Friday, February 27
Reconciling with Others
Lent can be considered as a time of retreat in which we examine how we can deepen our relationship with God and others. During this time, we look inward to see how we might have harmed our relationships and begin to take the necessary steps to reconciliation. Today’s Gospel explains that our relationship with God cannot be considered separate from our relationship with others. We cannot offer our gift at the altar without making amends with our neighbor. Today’s Readings: Ezekiel 18:21– 28; Psalm 130:1– 2, 3 – 4, 5 – 7a, 7bc – 8 (3); Matthew 5:20 – 26.

Saturday, February 28
Loving When It Is Difficult
“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” These words from today’s Gospel can be challenging. It can be difficult enough to forgive and get along with our children, spouse, and parents. We are required, though, to love even those who have intentionally hurt us. Such love might seem impossible, but as the Second Vatican Council document Lumen Gentium states in article 40, the Holy Spirit strengthens us to do so. Today’s Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16 – 19; Psalm 119:1– 2, 4 – 5, 7 – 8 (1b); Matthew 5:43 – 48.

A Prayer to Be Open to the Spirit
Father of all creation, You set a bow in the skies as a sign of the covenant that you made with every living being. Never again would a flood purify the earth by destroying all of its creatures. In your mercy, you sent your Son to save us from our sins. Through our Lord's Death and Resurrection, we have been redeemed. Now, in the waters of Baptism, we are cleansed, become your children, and are granted a new life with you. Open us to the Spirit during this Lent that we may seek to deepen our lives in you. As we prepare to live out our baptismal call, may we heed your words to repent and believe in the Gospel. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
More Lenten Offerings

Sharing Parish, Kolbe House at Assumption

Kolbe House, the Catholic Jail Ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago, begins its ninth annual Lenten email retreat. Participants will receive an email from Kolbe House every Thursday during Lent that contains a short personal experience and scriptural reflection for the coming week.

These reflections have been written by Rev. Dave Kelly, C.PP.S., head chaplain for Kolbe House at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. He has worked at Juvenile for Kolbe House for over 30 years and serves as Director of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, a restorative justice hub on the south side of Chicago.

The Kolbe House online retreat encourages participants to be faithful as they embark on the traditional journey of Lent. This journey invites participants to reflect upon the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus and to examine their own lives.

Email kolberetreat@aol.com.

Word On Fire Retreat

Fr. Bob Barron will offer daily email reflections throughout the season of Lent. Each day through Easter Sunday (April 5), Fr. Barron will send you a short email with an uplifting spiritual reflection. Sign up at http://www.wordonfire.org/resources.

Matthew Kelly Retreat

Join Matthew Kelly, on a life-changing journey through your Best Lent Ever. Each week, participants will receive short videos and inspiration from Matthew that explain the genius of Catholicism and empower them to become the best-version-of-themselves. It’s simple and free, the only cost is your commitment to live better each day this Lent. Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever.

Lenten Lecture Series at Holy Name

Tuesday, March 3 - Rev. Louis J. Cameli - "Sacraments of Initiation"
Tuesday, March 10 - Archbishop Blase J. Cupich - "Sacraments of Vocation and Witness"
Tuesday, March 24 - Rev. Bradley A. Zamora - "Sacraments of Healing"

6:15pm food and fellowship followed by the lecture at 6:30pm. Free parking in the cathedral lot.

Gospels on the Go! Get a Free Bible App

Free App at the App Store. Download Truth and Life App. Find the Play List. Go to Four Gospels During Lent. With your Bible App set aside 15 minutes each day of Lent on the train or waiting for kids at pick-up time. Read the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Make your goal to cover 2 chapters per day.

Lenten Reflections from Laurence Freeman, OSB

Sign up to receive a daily reflection from the leader of the World Community of Christian Meditation at wccm.org. Get WCCM readings and meditation timer app on your smart phone too!

RCIA: Journey to Easter

Join us in prayer during Lent

At each Sunday Mass in Lent we will pray the RCIA Prayer for our elect after communion.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Beginning this weekend in the opening procession at the Masses at which they will be in attendance, our catechumens, Ellin and Eric, who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, will carry their baptismal garment with them. Our candidates, Nicole and Mick, will wear their baptismal garment as they were baptized in another faith tradition and seek full communion in the Catholic Church. The Rite of Sending, a parish celebration will take place at the 10:45 a.m. Mass today.

At this Mass, a catechist from the RCIA team will present each of our catechumens and candidates to the priest. He will then call them forward with their sponsors and be asked through a series of questions as to if they are prepared to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. After this, they will sign their names in the book of the elect which will be presented to Bishop John Manz at Holy Name Cathedral at the Rite of Election celebrated later this afternoon. The Rite of Election refers to the biblical idea of being “chosen by God” into a relationship. We believe that God continues to call people into a covenantal relationship through the Sacraments of Initiation.

At the cathedral our catechumens and candidates will be affirmed by their godparents and sponsors that they are ready and have the desire to be initiated into the Catholic faith. Having entered the Cathedral as catechumens and candidates, Ellin, Eric, Nicole and Mick leave as members of the “elect”, those to be initiated at the Easter Vigil.

Let us all continue to pray for our elect as they continue their preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Fr. Bill
SAM
St. Augustine said "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." If you are a guy with a Saturday morning free and are not afraid to explore your faith with your SJC brothers, join us on March 7th at 9am in the Parish Center when SAM (Sharing Among Men) returns to our parish.

New Parish Directory
Our new Parish Directory will bring our faith community together and will help you to connect names with faces. We know your family has changed since the last directory five years ago, and we have many NEW families. You’ll receive a FREE 8x10 portrait and a Parish Directory just by having your picture taken.

We will be in the church narthex booking photo appointments before and after all Masses beginning the weekend of Feb. 28/March 1. Photos will be taken in April or May. Or register on-line for your photo appointment and receive a $10 coupon to use toward the purchase of additional photos. Visit www.appt.lifetouch.com.

Interfaith Career Network
Use Story Telling to Improve Your Interviews
Thursday, March 5 from 7-9 pm Jim Waszak, will focus on the challenges most people have in interviewing. St. Cletus Education Building (Room 201).

Employers - Help ICN Assist Local Job Seekers
Employers can send open job postings to jobs@interfaithcareernetwork.org. We will post your employer jobs on our network for FREE. If you have any questions contact Judy Kennedy at jkennedy1333@ameritech.net or call 708.352.8943 or Tom Rohan at tom_rohan@yahoo.com or call 708.772.4231. www.interfaithcareernetwork.org

Confirmation Preparation for Adults
Adults who have been baptized, have received First Holy Communion, and who are interested in completing the sacraments of initiation should contact Fr. Bill Vollmer. Adult Confirmation Preparation Sessions will be held on Monday evenings at St. Frances of Rome in March and April.

Programs at Mayslake
Medical Professional's Retreat
“In Deep Quiet”
This retreat offered by Mayslake is all about quiet: its value and how to achieve it. Come join us as we train our hearts solely on the Word of God, and nothing else. 8pm Monday, Feb. 23 through Wednesday, February 25 at the Carmelite Center in Darien. Cost: $285

Anxiety Awareness & Prevention
“Open New Doors—leave your worries behind”
This workshop offers insights into anxiety: what causes it, what eases it, what prevents it and how it impacts our lives and spirituality will be discussed. We all experience anxiety in our lives from time to time. Worrying and stress can prevent us from being the best person that God created us to be. Slowing down to gain insights can reduce our stress. Resources will be presented to enhance our coping skills for even more abundant and healthy lives. Tuesday, March 10 from 7-9pm Cost $25
Call 630-852-9000 or mayslakeministries.org for more information.

Annual Crossroads ~ Men's Club Fish Fry on Friday, March 6th
Pre-Purchase Tickets by dropping off this form to the Parish Center and we will have your tickets at the door.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: _____________________________</th>
<th>Phone: ____________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5pm Seating ______ 6:30pm Seating ______ (Check One)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Tickets:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids ______ @ $ 6= ______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults ______ @ $12= ______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors ______ @ $ 9= ______ Total Enclosed = ______</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proceeds from the Fish Fry help to cover the costs for our parish teens attending summer work tour trips.

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 2/22/2015 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent ~ page 9
Thank You Students!
Pictured above is the drinking fountain purchased by Helping Hand in Countryside with donations from our parish school students last spring. If you look closely you will notice that it is a special one that allows people to easily fill their water bottle!

Catholic Charities St. Patrick’s Day Celebration - March 12
The excitement is building for the 12th annual Catholic Charities St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, being held at FitzGerald’s, 6615 Roosevelt Road in Berwyn, on Thursday, March 12 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. The evening features great Irish entertainment, provided by the McNulty Irish Dancers, the Shannon Rovers and members of the Irish Musicians Assn-Chicago. Reservations include hearty Irish fare, beer, wine and soft drinks. There is also a Silent Auction and a Grand Raffle featuring fantastic prizes. Reservations are $50 if made by March 9th, and $60 after and at the door. Make your reservations by calling Esmeralda Zepeda at 708-329-4022 or by visiting www.catholiccharities.net/stpats.

Help Needed
Sharing Connections is a volunteer-led organization that served over 7,000 DuPage, Cook and surrounding county residents last year providing furniture, furnishings, clothing and holiday gifts to those in need. Guests to the Downers Grove location are all neighbors moving from being homeless to a home, fleeing domestic violence, struggling in the cycle of poverty or victims of floods or fire. The beds, cribs, tables, lamps and couches provided are often the difference between dignity and despair.

In addition to their core mission of providing furniture, families who come to Sharing Connections can now also obtain gently used clothing donated from the community. “New” clothes helps reduce the shame often felt from wearing shabby or ill-fitting clothes.

Currently, clients “shop” for items they need by digging through bins and sorting through items on metal shelving. These items are often in disarray, and the system requires significant volunteer time to keep things organized, time that would be better served assisting clients, accepting more donations, or providing support to staff.

In order to improve space and increase efficiency, Sharing Connections is planning to build a closet in the Downers Grove location to properly store the clothes. It is also hoped that this “Dignity Closet” will provide a more dignified experience for families that will translate into how they feel about the value of the goods they receive, how they care for those goods and themselves long after they leave the warehouse.

Sharing Connections is seeking funding donations to help build the new closet as well as the ongoing donations of furniture, household items and clothing. Volunteers from Sharing Connections can pick-up large donations. Call 630-971-0565 x300 to schedule a pick-up. Direct any questions to Bill Bright, Director of Parish Outreach.

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 2/22/2015 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent ~ page 10
Opportunities to Donate

Prom Dress Drive
The Women’s Club is collecting gently used prom dresses and accessories now through March 13th for teens who cannot afford a prom dress. Boxes are set up in the church, Parish Center, and school. We are also looking for gift certificate donations from local hair salons, spas, dry cleaners. Questions: contact Jennifer Miller at jenjoemiller@hotmail.com.

Cookie Service Project
Cookie donations are needed for the Cookie Walk at the Circle of Friendship Party for the Off the Street Club. Please put 6 baked or store bought cookies per disposable plate. Cookies may be dropped off at the donation table in the Parish Center lobby on February 26th and 27th.

Brown Bag Lunch Service Project
Help supply brown bag lunches for the Beds Daytime Support Center on March 6th and March 20th. A simple lunch would include: a sandwich, chips or crackers, fruit (no apples), and one of the following, soft granola bar, pudding or jello cup. A total 20-30 lunches are needed each day, make all or just a few. Additional lunch dates are available. Please contact Laurie Smillie at smillie@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us or call 708.246.6760 to help.

Do You Love to Do Laundry?
Laundry Service Project
Help do laundry for BEDS Plus. 3 to 5 bags will need to be picked up on Sunday morning after 8am on March 7th and April 4th at the First United Methodist Church of Western Springs. The cleaned laundry can be dropped off the following Saturday before 5pm. Please contact Laurie Smillie at smillie@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us or call 708.246.6760 to help with this project.

Parish Food Collection
Our parish Food Pantry Collection during the month of February will be delivered to our neighboring parish, St. Francis Xavier’s Food Pantry. Please remember to bring nonperishable foods to the narthex of church when you come to Mass.

Welcome!!
Our parish faith community celebrates with the following families who had their children baptized last Sunday by Fr. Bill Vollmer. Pictured from the left are:
- Lillian Bea with parents, Neil and Ellen Freeman
- Liam Brian with parents, Christopher and Briana Graber
- Emily Lynne with parents, Matthew and Alison Kellam
- Ryan Joseph with parents James and Carrie Stolfi

Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross faith community:
- Lindsay and Matthew Dowling
- Lisa and Jason Stawczyk and Family
- Sister Barbara Kaufmann

If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call Elizabeth in the Parish Center at 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

spiritual journaling
Join our small group...the more the merrier. We have just begun a new book called "Ten Evenings with God" by Ilia Delio. We do 1 chapter a week and each week stands alone...drop-ins welcome anytime.
9:30-11am on Mondays in the Parish Center.

Dear parents, teach your children to pray. Pray with them.
Pope Francis @Pontifex
Calendar of Events
February 22  Home Group Meetings
February 28  Work Tour Meeting 1-3pm
March 5  Stations of the Cross Rehearsal
March 6  Fish Fry

Help!

Adult Volunteers Needed
Help us ensure that a favorite tradition continues! We cannot hold our Fish Fry, scheduled for March 6, without the help of 1-2 adults. We will provide you with an easy to follow checklist of tasks that will require just 5-8 hours of your time over the next few weeks. CAN YOU HELP? Contact Joe Gazdacka at gazzyjoe@aol.com or Katie Hayes at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org.

Living Stations of the Cross
We will be presenting the Living Stations of the Cross at Noon on Good Friday, April 3. Rehearsals are scheduled for March 5 and March 26 from 6-7:30pm. Contact Michael King at mking18@nazarethacademy.com to be a part of this prayerful and powerful event.

Service Project
Join the fun at the Off the Street Club Circle of Friendship Party on Saturday, February 28 from 12:30-4:30pm at the Lyons Township High School Corral. 10 more high school and 4 more middle school volunteers are needed to help with this day of friendship and games. High school volunteers will be working various games, helping with face painting, a treasure hunt, and crafts. Middle school volunteers will be paired with a first-grade buddy from Off The Street Club to play with. Contact Madeleine Girgis at madeleine.girgis@students.ignatius.org by Monday, February 23 to volunteer.

Wisdom

Understanding

Knowledge

Counsel

Fortitude

Piety

Wonder and Awe

YC Schedule

| Classes K-6 | YC Schedule | Sunday, Feb 22, Mar 8, 15, 22 |
| FFC | 10:15-11:30am | Monday, Feb 23, Mar 9, 16, 23 |
| Jr Hi Sm Groups | Noon-1:30 pm | Sunday, March 8 |
| Special Needs | 7th grade | Feb 22-3:45 pm – on campus |
| | 8th grade | Feb 22-in homes for session |

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 2/22/2015 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent ~ page 12
Students Receive Essay Awards

Seventh graders, Liam Giles and Bryan Dowd, received awards in an essay contest hosted by the VFW focusing on "Why we appreciate our American Veteran's?"

Eighth graders, Grace McGarel and Kevin Murphy, won the La Grange Council Knights of Columbus essay contest addressing the topic of how to increase presence and participation in the mass. Grace placed third and Kevin in first. Both students received Panera gift cards and Kevin and his family will attend the May meeting where Kevin will read his essay and receive a monetary award.

Also, eighth grader, Bridie Owens, received an honorable mention in the 2015 Americanism Essay Program, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Students wrote about what new amendment should be added to the US Constitution.

We congratulate all of our writers at SJC!

This Week At SJC
Friday, February 27, 2015  End of Trimester
Daniel Berrigan once wrote a wonderful little book entitled, “Ten Commandments for the Long Haul”. It was intended as spiritual sustenance, sustaining food, for those who walk the lonely, long road of faith and often find themselves discouraged and running out of gas. Berrigan doesn’t offer a quick fix, but points out the right direction within which we should be walking and where, at key junctures, if we cast our eyes at the right spot, we might find Elijah’s jug, God’s food for the journey.

As we begin a new year, filled with new hope and new resolutions, here are ten such commandments that might serve us well as we walk the long road:

1) Acknowledge your contingency, your helplessness.
You are a creature, not the creator.
You are not God, but a creature. Only God is “ipse esse subsistens”, self-sufficient being. Like all creatures, you’re dependent and interdependent. Life works when you acknowledge this, when you accept that you can’t give yourself life. All is gift. If you try to live the illusion of self-sufficiency and try to guarantee your own immortality, you mimic the sin of Adam and Eve, complete with all the futility of effort, the lording-it-over, and the alienation from nature that ensues. Proper living begins with the words: “I am not God!”

2) Pray, prayers of helplessness, gratitude, and praise.
Pray always! Also pray formally each day. By your baptism you’re a priest. Pray as priest: Hold the world up each day to God. Hold up both its wonders and its pain. Pray in gratitude, thanking God, not just for “this or that”, but for life itself, for light, for this earth, for those who love you.
Pray from your weaknesses and helplessness: “Lord, hang on to me lest I slip away from you. Do for me what I cannot do for myself.”

3) Welcome and accept the present moment.
Life is what happens to you while you’re planning your life. Don’t let the busyness, pressures, and heartaches of life steal the present moment from you. Only it is real. Drink it in, with all it carries. It’s the only place you will experience love and joy. If not now-when? If not with these people-with whom? If not here-where?

4) Give yourself permission to be inadequate.
Both God and nature give you permission not to be perfect. Don’t be too hard on yourself and, especially, on others. Everyone falls short. God doesn’t keep you from falling and failing, but redeems you when you do fall. You’re loved as you are. Fear not, you are inadequate!

5) Be sufficiently loving and critical, both at the same time.
If you’re critical without being loving, you’re destructive. If you’re loving without being critical, you’re weak. Your loved ones, your church, and your community need you to be loving and critical, both at the same time. Don’t blackmail community by constantly threatening your withdrawal. Love, be critical, and stay. Pull from your bag the new as well as the old.

6) Be post-ideological, post personal-history, post-conservative, post-liberal, post-naive, and post-sophisticated.
Be non-classifiable. Have an unlisted number as regards being liberal or conservative. Admit that the right and left have both run out of imagination and that their sympathies are highly-selective. Don’t be naive, but don’t be sophisticated either. See both as phases to pass through.
Forgive your past.

7) Bless what’s good and beautiful, even as you stand where the cross of Christ is erected.
Bless what’s good in the world. Never, for the sake of cause, orthodoxy or justice, denigrate beauty. All that’s good and beautiful has God as author. Honour it, before speaking any word of challenge to the world.
Imitate Christ: First bless the world and its goodness and, only then, go stand where the cross is perennially erected, where the excluded ones in the culture find themselves.

8) Be shockingly “Catholic” – earthy and wine-drinking.
Bask in the goodness of life. We have divine permission to be happy. God invented wine. Jesus scandalized people with his capacity to enjoy life. He drank wine and let his heart be warmed by friends.
Don’t confuse John the Baptist with Jesus. John was the ascetic, not Jesus.

9) Accept aging.
Rely more on the paschal mystery than on cosmetics. All that dies brings rich new life, even our own bodies. Paschal wisdom will do more for your joy than a face-lift. Aging needs to be defined aesthetically. Your soul must be properly aged before it leaves and your body, like an old wine-barrel, takes on a different function and beauty as you age. Aging is an art form.

10) Serve the right God!
God, as Julian of Norwich assures us, “is completely relaxed and courteous, himself the happiness and peace of his dear friends, his beautiful face, radiating measureless love, like a marvellous symphony.” Don’t serve any other God than this One. Don’t bow to any molten calf, created in the image and likeness of our own tensions and bitterness.
The Week at a Glance
Monday, February 23
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00pm Little Rock
2:30pm Adoration
6:15pm YC Classes
7:00pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday, February 24
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
7:00pm RCIA
Wednesday, February 25
9:30am Bible Study
2:00pm Christian Meditation
3:00pm Spirituality of St. John of the Cross
6:30pm K Hayes: Inviting Servant Leaders
7:00pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School
Thursday, February 26
9:00am Parish Directory Meeting
2:15pm Market Day Pick-Up
6:30pm Fostering Faith Workshop
Friday, February 27
Saturday, February 28
7:00am Christian Meditation
8:30am Christian Meditation Film Series
Saturday, February 28
1:00pm Crossroads Work Tour Meeting
4:00pm Crossroads Kairos Witnessing
Sunday, March 01
Terry Nelson-Johnson at All Masses
Intro to Parish Mission
Parish Directory Photo Sign Up in Narthex after All Masses
12:00pm Crossroads Kairos Retreat 19 Team
1:30 pm Baptisms

Mass Intentions
Monday, February 23 St. Polycarp
7:45am Clarence Naborowski; Deceased members of the Klein & O’ Sullivan families
Tuesday, February 24 Lenten Weekday
7:45am Noreen Hanson; Matthew Carmody
Wednesday, February 25 Lenten Weekday
7:45am Our Beloved Dead; Jack Gallagher
Thursday, February 26 Lenten Weekday
7:45am Alexander Sobey; Thomas B. McCarthy, Jr.
Friday, February 27 Lenten Weekday
7:45am Catherine Schnitzer; Jack Gallagher
Saturday, February 28 Lenten Weekday
8:00am Jerry Sezzuoglio; Norma Sumpay
5:00pm Alice Sobey; Lorraine Janda
Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday of Lent
7:30am Evelyn Spitkovsky; Kathleen Errion
9:00am John J. Schwab, Jr.; Deceased members of the Kotynek family
10:45am Lee Perkins; Betty Tobin
12:15pm Courtney McGregor; Florentina Cokin
5:00pm James E. Purcell; Helene McInerney

Pray for our Sick
Mary Barrett
Don King
Norbert Koziol
Nancy Lore

Pray for our Beloved Dead
Marian Bucko, father of Tomasz, grandfather of Robert, Dawid, and Emilia
Mary Irene Zotti, mother of Bob, grandmother of Michael, Matthew, Shayne, Kevin and Brian
Nancy Barron, mother of Kathleen Brown, grandmother of Michael, Kaitlin, and Connor

Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert and live out our baptism fully. Pope Francis @Pontifex
RUNNING THE
Paschal Mystery

AN INSPIRING THREE NIGHT EVENT...

Presented by Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson, D. Min.

SJC Parish Mission

March 2nd, 3rd and 4th at 7:00 PM

Monday: Introduction to the Paschal Mystery and Holy Thursday
Tuesday: Good Friday and Holy Saturday
Wednesday: Easter Sunday

More info available now at:
stjohnofthecross.org/mission