This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.

A Time of Renewal
Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2015
Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we welcome Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson as our parish Mission Director. He will speak at all the Masses and invite you to come Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night this week. If you can only make one night, come for that one night. If you connect with Terry and want to deepen your relationship with Christ and others please consider taking part in the BELOVED Retreat the last weekend in April. You’ll never regret it.

Archbishop Cupich asks for your participation in an important consultation on the family. You may have been aware of some media attention last October on part one of the Synod on the Family in Rome. In anticipation of part two this fall, Archbishop Cupich is giving a report to the National Conference of Bishops and is asking for consolidated feedback to be sent to his office. There are five questions. He also wants it to be made clear that this is not a voting process on what we want, or an opinion poll “but rather a part of a larger process of discernment. In other words, the Church is trying to understand where God is moving and calling us in this moment with regard to family life.”

The questions are pretty straightforward:

1. How has family life been a grace or a blessing from God for you?
2. In what way does our American culture at this historical moment help or hinder our families from being the families that God wants them to be?
3. In your experience, what are the main challenges that families face today?
4. How can we as a church respond to those challenges?
5. Can you suggest ways that parishes can include and be more available to those who might be overlooked when we consider family life, for example, single people, the widowed, single parents, divorced or separated, those who identify as gay or lesbian, and others?

You can find a version of this on the parish website where you can type your answers. Or you can re-produce these questions on a separate sheet of paper. There are two conditions for submitting your responses: (1.) you must TYPE your answers and (2.) you must constrain yourself to one side of one sheet of paper. Remember these responses will be summarized for the Archbishop by our staff and submitted to his office on one sheet of paper. The deadline is by Monday March 9.

In some ways all the questions can be reworded to ask: “What would you like to say to the bishops about family life and the church?” You’ve heard me talk before about how every institution you can name is under tremendous stress today. The institution of marriage has been under enormous stress for some time. With rampant corruption and greed the economic institutions of the world are as fragile as a house of cards. What has been the bedrock of society since time immemorial, institutional religion, is convulsing due to the stresses of our time. The institution of the traditional nuclear family has been pushed, pulled, stretched and redefined beyond the most previously commonly accepted definitions of family for some time now. This is hardly news.

What is news, in some ways, is that the institutional church is at the point where it can begin asking questions of how to respond to these stresses and demands on human institutions. It has also learned over the last 30 or 40 years that there is much wisdom and holiness in the people of God. It can even begin to ask for feedback and input on how to address these issues. One of our strengths is that we are a worldwide church. It is also one reason why simple answers are most inadequate. The earth is filled with great diversity as our loving God created it to be. Don’t miss your chance to add your two cents to the solution.

Peace,
Fr. David
Outline of Christian Initiation of Adults
Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate
This is a time for inquiry and introduction of the Gospel values, an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.

1st Step: Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
This liturgical rite marks the beginning of the catechumenate as the candidates express, and the Church accepts, their intention to respond to God’s call to follow the way of Christ.

Period of Catechumenate
This is the time for the nurturing and growth of the catechumens’ faith and conversion to God.

2nd Step: Election or Enrollment of Names
February 22: 10:45am Rite of Sending/Election
At the 10:45am Mass last weekend following the homily, both our catechumens and candidate reaffirmed their intention to take part in the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil by signing the Book of the Elect. It was an opportunity for our parish community to express its approval of their readiness and to send them forth to the celebration of election at the cathedral, assured of our prayers and support. Later in the day they traveled to Holy Name Cathedral with their families, sponsors, and the parish RCIA team where they were presented to the bishop and celebrated their recognition as elect. Let us continue to pray for them and for ourselves that we may be renewed by one another’s efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter. Our Book of Elect will placed near the ambo in church (where the readings are proclaimed) throughout the season of Lent as a visual reminder for us to pray for them.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment
This is the time immediately preceding the elects’ initiation, usually during Lent; it is a time of reflection, intensely centered on conversion, marked by celebration of the scrutinies and presentations of the preparation rites on Holy Saturday.

3rd Step: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation
This is the liturgical rite, integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are initiated through baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy
This is the time, usually the Easter season, following the celebration of initiation, during which the newly initiated experience being fully a part of the Christian community by means of pertinent catechesis and by participation with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration.
**Background on the Gospel**

On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus’ Transfiguration. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus’ prediction about his passion.

In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah’s return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus’ disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel’s history with Jesus signifies Jesus’ continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter’s offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter’s confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God’s Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus’ baptism.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus’ Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples’ confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus’ Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus’ Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus’ Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus’ passion and death.

**Reflecting on the Gospel**

This Gospel account tells of three theophanies (manifestations of God’s Presence) and hints at two others. On the mountain Peter, James, and John witness the first three theophanies: Jesus the transfigured One, Jesus the “beloved Son,” and Jesus the “Son of Man.” As the transfigured One, Jesus reveals what is yet to come. As the “beloved Son,” the Father reveals an intimate, divine relationship. As the “Son of Man,” Jesus reveals that he is the new Israel, the Messiah who would bring salvation. All three of these theophanies, these revelations of who Jesus is, point to something entirely new happening. But to embrace the new has its cost. Coming “down from the mountain,” Peter, James, and John would witness Jesus passing through death to the full revelation of what had been foreshadowed in his transfiguration: the theophany of his risen, glorified Body. This is a whole new Presence of the divine in our midst, a risen One who would never again face death. Finally, when Peter, James, and John choose dying to self, they are transfigured by Jesus’ risen Life. They too become theophanies. So can we.

In the risen Christ, we are a theophany of God’s desire for an intimate relationship with us. This relationship, however, has its cost: we must learn to die to self so we can share in Jesus’ transfigured glory. Gospel living might play out between work and leisure, between times with loved ones and times away, between success and failure, between doing something we would enjoy and doing something someone else would enjoy more. Our faithful dying to self is the way to share in Jesus’ risen Life. Faithful dying to self is a way we are theophanies of God’s Presence.

May we faithfully die to self through Gospel living and share in Jesus’ risen Life. May our Lenten penance lead us to a share in Jesus’ transfigured glory now and in the fullness to come.
A Time of Renewal

“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

Go 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
Terry will challenge us to see the Paschal Mystery as Jesus’ invitation to participate fully in the rhythm of life, the rhythm of nourishment, relinquishment and rejuvenation. Living this rhythm leads us “into Christ.” We believe that Jesus provided a model by his actions, most especially in the way he ran the “marathon” that is the Paschal Mystery. Our invitation is not to stand on the sidelines and “cheer for Jesus”, but to engage in the mystery, and to use that as our pattern to live a more abundant life.

Little Black Books Pray daily through Lent with your Little Black Book. Extra books are available in the Parish Center.

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 2.
As a parish community, we are participating 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. 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 last weekend each parish family received a cardboard Rice Bowl to fill with spare change and a Lenten Calendar with prayers, recipes and reflections. Extra Rice Bowls are available in the church or Parish Center office.

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 received Rice Bowls in their classrooms and are participating 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.

For information on more Lenten offerings such as the Kolbe House online retreat, Word on Fire email reflections, Matthew Kelly online retreat, lecture series at Holy Name Cathedral, and WCCM Lenten reflections from Laurence Freeman, OSB, go to the home page of our parish website.
Loving God, help us to care for all that you have created.

MELVIN’S STORY

Melvin Sánchez Ramírez makes his living as a coffee farmer in one of the poorest regions of Nicaragua. For him, his wife and his son, it has always been a challenge, but they’ve managed to get by. Then came coffee leaf rust. The fungus killed so many of Melvin’s plants, he had no coffee to sell. His family struggled to put food on the table.

Catholic Relief Services is helping farmers like Melvin learn how to protect their plants from leaf rust. We’re also teaching them to grow other crops, like plantains and sweet potatoes. Some farmers in the area are even learning to keep bees for honey and raise hens for eggs. Not only do these crops add nutritious variety to family meals, they bring vital diversity to plantings so the family isn’t relying on one crop for their livelihood.

With the money he earns by selling these new crops, Melvin is able to put food on his family’s table. And he invests some of that money in a CRS-supported savings group. Together, the group members are able to save their money and offer loans to help one another prepare for the future.

By planning ahead and working together, families like Melvin’s are making sure they have bountiful farms and better futures.

Lord, help us to be instruments of your peace.

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.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING  
FOCUS:  
Care for God’s Creation

God created every plant, every mountaintop, every animal—everything. And God said that these things are good. We find God in these good things he made, and so we must take care of creation—both for ourselves and for all of our human family.
Richard Rohr: Who Is Doing the Praying?

Prayer is not about changing God, but being willing to let God change us, or as Step 11 in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous says: “Praying only for the knowledge of his will.” Jesus goes so far as to say that true prayer is always answered (Matthew 7:7-11). Now we all know that this is not factually true—unless he is talking about prayer in the sense that I will try to describe it. *If you are able to switch minds to the mind of Christ, your prayer has already been answered!* The new mind knows, understands, accepts, and sees correctly, widely, and wisely. Its prayers are always answered because they are, in fact, the prayers of God, as well.

True prayer is always about getting the “who” right. Who is doing the praying, you or God-in-you, “little old you” or the Eternal Christ Consciousness? Basically prayer is an exercise in divine participation—you opting in and God always there!

See Jesus Anew

Imagine you are walking up a dusty hill with Jesus and some friends. As you walk, you’re talking about what’s been happening as you follow Jesus from town to town, hear him teach, and see him with people. You can’t quite place it, but there’s something about him that you find unique from the other teachers you’ve heard or seen. Jesus turns to look at your group coming up behind him. He waits. Once you’re beside him he looks you in the eyes and speaks. What does Jesus say to you? How do you respond?

You continue up the hill, but now you are walking beside Jesus. You walk together in silence. Even without words you feel so connected to him. It’s a connection you don’t understand, but he makes you feel safe and peaceful. You smile at the thought of being Jesus’ friend. You turn to Jesus and talk to him. What do you say to Jesus? He smiles at you and touches your arm.

Suddenly, there is a strong wind blowing the dust and dirt around. You put your head down to avoid getting something in your eye. When you look beside you, Jesus is not there. You wonder where he is. Is he alright? Then a bright, white cloud appears overhead. You see Jesus, who seems to float in the center of the cloud, looking down at you and smiling. There are two other men with him. As you look at Jesus, a voice comes through the air and says, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I well pleased; listen to him!” Your heart is pounding. You begin to sweat. Falling to the ground, you feel so afraid that you’re shaking. You think, *Who is this Jesus?* The wind picks up again, and you close your eyes. When you open them, Jesus is standing in front of you. His face seems radiant and peaceful. He looks at you with such tenderness. What does Jesus say to you? How do you respond?

You notice that your heart is no longer racing, and you feel calm and at peace. Jesus begins to walk ahead of you going down the hill. You smile and follow him.

*What are the fears in your life that you want to bring to Jesus?*  
*What does it mean to you to be Jesus’ friend?*

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Are You Looking for God?

I happen to believe that “if you are looking for God, God will find you.” Ignatius of Loyola or Mother Teresa would have likewise believed that even as we are looking, and even when we mostly feel lost, God is somehow finding us, whether or not it feels that way to us. When we set ourselves toward some worthy purpose that transcends our meager strength, we tap into a source of meaning, strength, peace, and courage that is beyond us. We come to realize, in a graced moment, that we are called to some great purpose, that we cannot do it on our own, but that we don’t have to do it on our own. We can speak to Jesus “in the way one friend speaks to another.”

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More Content On Our Parish Website!

Go to our home page of the parish website to read Ron Rolheiser’s weekly article and Week 2 of Lenten Meditations at Home.

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 3/1/2015 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent ~ page 7
Join the Boys’ Choir for a Day!

**What is it?**
A choir made up of boys from 1st – 8th grades from St. John of the Cross Parish.

**When will it happen?**
The 12:15pm mass on Sunday, March 15

**When is the rehearsal?**
You have a choice – come to 1, 2 or all 3:
- March 11 from 3:45 – 4:30
- March 12 from 3:45 – 4:30
- March 13 from 3:45 – 4:30

All rehearsals will take place in church. Contact Ann Maney with questions or for more information.
bourjman@sbcglobal.net or (708) 246 – 4171

**Do You Love Cookies?**
Our parish Girl Scouts will be selling their wonderful cookies after Masses this weekend. Stop in the Parish Center to buy a couple boxes of your favorites. The Scouts promise that they are calorie free!

**Is God Calling YOU?**
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.

**Processional Cross Being Repaired**
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.

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**Teacher Recognition Trust Party**
All are invited to the TRT St. Patrick’s Day Soirée on Saturday, March 14th at Ruth Lake CC. Proceeds from the raffles and live and silent auctions helps to provide an annual financial gift to both faculty and school staff, which supplants their income and lessens the salary gap that exists relative to public school employees. The gift also rewards them for their continued service and commitment to our parish school. For party tickets and sponsorships go to the home page of our parish website. For raffle tickets contact Elizabeth Turcich at elizabeth@turcichfamily.com or 630.654.3840.

**Mayslake: 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. 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.

**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 when interviewing. St. Cletus Education Building (Room 201).

**Mom’s Club Morning Drop In**
Calling all parish moms and their kids! Stop in the Parish Center to visit and play next Friday from 9:30-11am.

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**Sign Up Today in the Church Narthex**
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 this weekend. 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.

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 3/1/2015 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent ~ page 8
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. Tickets may also be purchased at the Parish Center this weekend before and after all Masses.

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: ________________________________

5pm Seating ______ 6:30pm Seating ______ (Check One)

Number of Tickets:

Kids ______ @ $ 6= ______
Adults ______ @ $12= ______
Seniors ______ @ $ 9= ______ Total Enclosed = ______

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

God’s Love

Lent seems to be the ideal time to look at marriage. How does our Lent journey shape what we are called to do in marriage?

A few decades ago, the word "obey" was removed from wedding vows. Instead we promised to love, honor and cherish each other. Many years later, Jesuit philosopher John Kavanaugh, S.J. lamented how much we had lost by dropping the word “obey” from wedding vows. He said that the root of the word “obey” simply means to put the needs of another ahead of our own.

Obedience in this context has nothing about one dominating another - only two people pledging to put the needs of the other ahead of their own. What a wonderful idea. It seems that this is exactly what we are called to in a gospel-based marriage.

Called by Jesus to Be Unselfish

Now during these weeks of Lent we can take some time to examine our marriage. Do we love as deeply as we had originally intended when we first made our vows? As unselfishly? Whether we’ve been married 3 years or 30, this sacred season could be the start of a renewed relationship with our spouse, shaped by our experience of Lent.

We are invited by Jesus to put the needs of another ahead of our own. We can deepen our commitments in marriage and even change the dynamics within our relationships through unconditional love. In loving this way, we transform not only our spouses but more importantly, ourselves.

For those of us who are parents, we have probably always put the needs of our children first – but our spouse? Yes, we care for each other, but do we put the other’s needs ahead of our own? And yet how profoundly would our marriages change if we simply lived that vow for a while?

During Lent, we can make “obey-ing” the special focus of our lives. Instead of giving up chocolate, what if each day during Lent, we asked for the grace to be more unselfish in our marriage? As a first step, what if tomorrow, before we got out of bed, we asked God to help us love our spouse more? To put the needs of this life partner of ours ahead of our own?

Creighton University. Used with permission.

God’s Love for Us is Like No Other

My 14-month-old granddaughter, Charlotte, loves everyone. I watch her work a room—a restaurant, a church dinner, any gathering of relatives. With her newly-polished walking skills, she toddles around, looking up and smiling at everyone. Last week at a parish dinner, she walked up to two girls who were about nine years old. I watched as she smiled up at them and held out her arms. As she anticipated, they melted, picked her up, and oohed and aahed over her for the next ten minutes. She was very happy.

Charlotte is not guarded about her life, and she fully expects that she will be deeply loved and taken care of by all who encounter her. A lot of us probably start out that way, but as we get older someone steals our toys or socks us on the arm. We, and Charlotte, will stop smiling at total strangers. It is part of the human condition to become more cautious about loving. Yes, we love other people but are acutely aware of their flaws, and we love them in our own, very human but limited way. Often we feel that love has to be earned in some way. Worst of all, we project all of this human frailty onto our relationship with God. We somehow assume that God loves us in the same limited, cautious way—and that God will love us more if we are better or more perfect.

I think Charlotte’s view of life is the same vision of love God wants for us. God waits for us so patiently and lovingly, and we put him off. We believe we need to get our act together before God can really love us—because that is how we tend to love. It is our fears that keep us from believing in that love and moving toward it.

I thought of Charlotte and her outstretched arms when I read what Pope Francis said: “God is indeed waiting for you; he asks of you only the courage to go to him.” In Charlotte’s world, God does love her infinitely, with no questions asked. In my world, I am more tentative. Can God really love me that freely? Even when I squirm in awareness of my own well-counted flaws?

This is where Charlotte’s wisdom trumps her Nana’s. Yes, God does love us without measure and with depths we can’t possibly imagine. God waits for us with a loving gaze and open arms, and as Pope Francis says, he asks us only for the courage to respond. Now is the right time to realize God waits for us and to take the first step toward him, with arms outstretched and hope in our hearts. That’s where we find love.

Creighton University. Used with permission. Ignatianspirituality
SJC Eighth Grader Wins Local Scripps Spelling Bee

Eighth grader, Bernadette Miao, competed at the Regional Spelling Bee last week defeating the top competitors at all regional schools to earn a trip to the National Scripps Spelling to be held in Washington, D.C. late May. Over 400,000 students competed in our region.

Bernadette studied about two hours each evening to prepare for this competition using many different tools. She studied word origins and joined a “word club” group that provides powerful lessons for vocabulary and language. Bernadette’s winning word was “emancipation.”

This Week at SJC
All Week  Standardized Testing  Grades 3-8
March 3  Parent Association Meeting 9am Parish Center
March 7  First Communion Teaching Mass 9am Church

Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. “Come back to me, with all of your heart,” our Lord beckons (see Joel 2:12). “We will,” we respond, but we aren’t quite ready; our hearts are not prepared. We want to squirm, evade, avoid. We note that our souls are not yet perfect. We think we are not ready for God to love us.

Yes, of course I want to have a deeper relationship with God, we tell ourselves earnestly. And we will...soon. God calls to us again: “Come back to me, with all of your heart.” Loyola Press

YC Outreach

Each year our 7th and 8th grade students reach out their arms and embrace cooking for others. BEDS Plus meals are made monthly by our parish junior high teenagers. What a gift this is for them as well as those receiving the food prepared for them. Thank you to all our wonderful youth that give with a joyful heart!

YC Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-11:30am</th>
<th>Sunday, Mar 8, 15, 22</th>
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<td>FFC</td>
<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
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<td>Jr Hi Sm Groups</td>
<td>Noon-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Sunday, March 8</td>
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<td>Special Needs</td>
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<td>March 22 and 23 -on campus</td>
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<td>Sunday, Mar 8, 22</td>
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**Calendar of Events**

- March 5  Stations of the Cross Rehearsal
- March 6  Fish Fry
- March 8  Home Group Meetings

**Living Stations of the Cross**

Give of yourself this Lent and help the parish pray and reflect by taking part in our Living Stations of the Cross presentation on Good Friday. Our first practice is March 5. Contact Michael King at mking18@nazarethacademy.com to sign up.

Plan on attending the Crossroads-Men’s Club Fish Fry on March 6. See page 9 of the bulletin for a ticket order form. Proceeds from the Fish Fry help support our summer work tours.

**Summer Work Tours - Sign up now!**

There is still time to join a summer Work Tour. We have room for six more teens at Habitat for Humanity in Franklin, WV, and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Williamsburg, KY. And it’s not too late to sign up for the Guatemalan Work Tour. Visit our website to download a registration form.

**Easter Basket Service Project**

On March 15 from 3:00-4:30, Crossroads teens will partner with our parish 3rd and 4th graders to make Easter baskets for children who would otherwise not receive one. Teens arrive at 3:00 and 3rd/4th graders at 3:30. Please bring candy and small toys, and we’ll provide the baskets. This is a favorite project every year and such a fun way to serve others.

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**Annual St. Patrick-St. Joseph Luncheon**

**Friday, March 13**

**11:30am**

**Parish Center**

Enjoy a traditional Corned Beef Luncheon followed by a Lively Musical Program

**Beer & Wine Included**

**$15 Members ~ $20 Guests**

RSVP by Monday, March 9

Questions? Call Gerry Mazzone

708-246-0721

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God of Love, through this Lenten journey, purify my desires to serve you. Free me from any temptations to judge others, to place myself above others. Please let me surrender even my impatience with others, that with your love and your grace, I might be less and less absorbed with myself, and more and more full of the desire to follow you, in laying down my life according to your example.

The homeless in our communities come from diverse backgrounds and situations. Many have fallen on hard times due to job loss or cutbacks in public services. Others struggle with mental illness or addiction. They are our veterans, family and neighbors. BEDS Plus Care is a non-profit agency that helps homeless individuals obtain stable, affordable housing and provides a continuum of professional support services including emergency overnight shelter. Since 1988, BEDS PLUS has given the homeless a safe place to sleep, hot homemade meals, professional counseling, and the job services they need to become self-sufficient. With its large corps of volunteers, dedicated staff and the long term support of local faith-based communities such as SJC, BEDS Plus has helped thousands of homeless individuals and families come in from the cold and get back on their feet.

Look on our parish website under Outreach for 2 volunteer opportunities to help BEDS.

Come to a St. Patrick’s Day Celebration to benefit Catholic Charities New Hope Housing Program at FitzGerald’s in Berwyn on Thursday, March 12 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Great Irish entertainment and hearty Irish fare, beer, wine and soft drinks, a Silent Auction and a Grand Raffle. Reservations are $50 if made by March 9th, and $60 after and at the door. For reservations go to www.catholiccharities.net/stpats.

Feed the Hungry
Our parish Food Pantry Collection during the month of March will be donated to St. Mark’s Parish in Chicago. Please remember to bring nonperishable food to the narthex of church when you come to Mass.
SAM Begins Next Saturday
An Open Invitation
to all Men of the Parish:

SAM (Sharing Among Men) is a unique forum for men of the SJC parish to learn and discuss issues related to our Catholic faith. The SJC Men's Club will host an inaugural SAM gathering on Saturday, March 7 from 9 -10:30am in the Parish Center. With Lent just underway, the upcoming SAM gathering is a great way to meet some fellow parishioners and share your opinion on the topic of the day.

The morning will begin with fellowship accompanied by fresh bagels, juice and coffee. After everyone has had a chance to find a seat, the content portion of the meeting will begin. A content leader will offer an opening reflection to introduce the discussion topic.

The topic for the March 7th gathering is Prayer.

After a short opening reflection, we will break into smaller groups to discuss our thoughts on the topic of prayer. A few starter questions will be offered to aid discussion, but all thoughts and reflections are welcome and encouraged.

SAM is a place where everyone can express their views on relevant Catholic topics in a warm, inviting atmosphere. Sharing is not required -- some men may opt to simply listen and learn more about the ways to pray and the significance of prayer in our daily lives.

Please give yourself the gift of fellowship and join your fellow parishioners on March 7 at 9am in the Parish Center. A 2nd SAM gathering is scheduled for Saturday, May 16.

Peace, SJC Men’s Club

Save the Date – Thursday, March 19, 2015
SJC Men’s Club NCAA Tournament & Cards Night

All parish men are invited to watch the NCAA Division 1 Second Round on the big screen. Food, beverages and playing cards are provided by the Men’s Club. Doors to the lower level Parish Center open at 6:30 pm. Please come join the fun and fellowship. More info to come! Contact Dan Montgomery at tdm30550@gmail.com or 312.952.1435

Interested in Joining the Women’s Club?
If you enjoy meeting new women and being part of planning, serving and sharing your time and talents, then we are looking for you to join us on the Women’s Club Board.

The Women’s Club is looking for the following new board members:

- Hospitality
- Publicity
- Fundraising
- Programs
- Spiritual Enrichment

* Please see the website for specifics on each position.

We have an induction ceremony welcoming our incoming board members in May. Our kick-off dinner meeting for the new board is held in August and meetings are held the third Thursday evening of every month, September thru May excluding December.

The Women’s Club is now collecting gently used prom dresses, shoes, jewelry, make-up and purses through March 15th.

These donations will be given to The Glass Slipper Project which is an organization that gives away free prom dresses and accessories to high school juniors and seniors in Chicagoland and other surrounding areas. To date, they have helped more than 18,000 young women attend their proms in style!

Collection boxes are set up in the Church, Parish Center, and school. Any questions, please contact: Jennifer Miller at jenjoemiller@hotmail.com or Sylvie Salazar at jdranskomore@sbcglobal.net

St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 3/1/2015 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent ~ page 14
Monday, March 02
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00pm Little Rock
2:30pm Adoration
7:00pm Parish Mission church
6:30pm YC 6th Grade Parent/Student Meeting
7:00pm Boy Scouts
7:45pm YC 6th Grade Parent/Student Meeting
Tuesday, March 03
9:05am Rosary Mary Chapel
9:00am Parent Association Meeting
7:00pm Parish Mission
7:00pm RCIA
7:00pm YC Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 04
9:30am Bible Study
2:00pm Christian Meditation
3:00pm Spirituality of St. John of the Cross
7:00pm Parish Mission church
7:00pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School
Thursday, March 05
9:00am Flourish
6:00pm Crossroads Stations Rehearsal
7:00pm Grecco Faith Sharing Group
7:00pm Washington Trip Parent Meeting
Friday, March 06
9:30am Mom's Club
5:30pm Crossroads Fish Fry
6:00pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 07
7:00am Christian Meditation
8:30am Meditation Lenten Morning of Meditation
9:00am Men's Club SAM
9:00am 2nd Grade Teaching Mass
Sunday, March 08
10:00am Crossroads Update Meeting
10:00am YC Jr. High Small Groups
10:15am YC Classes
10:30am YC Jr. High Small Groups
1:30pm Baptisms
3:30pm YC Jr High Small Groups 7
4:00pm YC Beds Kitchen
6:00pm Beloved Planning Meeting

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, March 2 Lenten Weekday**
7:45am John DenBesten; Martin Biebel
**Tuesday, March 3 St. Katharine Drexel**
7:45am Larry Dougherty; Margaret Mary Woods
**Wednesday, March 4 St. Casimir**
7:45am Deceased members of the O'Malley & Madigan Families; Jack Gallagher
**Thursday, March 5 Lenten Weekday**
7:45am Our Beloved Dead; Leonard Martyn
**Friday, March 6 Lenten Weekday**
7:45am Consuelo Pinto; David Myers
**Saturday, March 7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity**
8:00am Deceased members of the Wendt Family; Patricia Grogan
5:00pm Alice Marziali; Gloria Turlek
**Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday of Lent**
7:30am Luz Maria Perez; Florentina Cokin
9:00am Bob Moore; John Doyle
10:45am Brian Mitchell; Alice Marziali
12:15pm Margaret Mary Woods; Isidro Sumpay
5:00pm Sr. Evelyn McKenna; Thomas Marshall

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**Pray for our Sick**

Mary Barrett
Norbert Koziol
Nancy Lohr

**Pray for our Beloved Dead**

Robert Kidder, father of Will, brother of David, former husband of Christine

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**Is Spring Right Around the Corner?**
Don’t forget to turn your clock one hour forward next Sunday, March 8, 2015.

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St. John of the Cross Parish ~ Find more information on our website: stjohnofthecross.org ~ 3/1/2015 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent ~ page 15
RUNNING THE PASCAL 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: Rhythm of Life and Nourishment (Being Fed)
Tuesday: Relinquishment (Surrendering)
Wednesday: Rejuvenation (Resurrection)

More info available now at:
stjohnofthecross.org/mission

Join us this week!