This is the day the Lord has made: let us be glad and rejoice! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 5, 2015
Dear Parishioners,

Alleluia! Alleluia! The great feast of Easter has arrived. If Lent was done well, if Holy Week was done well, then this day and season holds much promise for new faith life and new hope.

It is a process, as trite as that might sound. We Americans can be so impatient for results, demand instant gratification for so many things (What do you mean the computer froze up? I need it now!), want learning to become immediately practical (Is this going to be on the test?) that we are very reluctant to even give process an opportunity to help us.

Dying and rising is a process. It can take a life time or take a second. It can surprise and derail our plans over and over. It is never convenient. We are never fully prepared. But when the soul is ready the Spirit will arrive.

SJC is particularly happy this Easter to welcome two new members who were baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil. The community has been praying for them for some time now and especially this Lent. They have studied and prayed, shared and learned so much about God, themselves and the Church through the RCIA process. We welcome Ellen and Eric to our parish family and to the family of the church universal.

In welcoming them I also want to express my sincere gratitude to those who walked with them to the Easter font: their sponsors and family members, their catechists and RCIA team members. To paraphrase an overused expression, it takes a parish to welcome new members. Thank you one and all.

I can’t thank enough all of the liturgical ministers who gave so selflessly of themselves for Holy Week and, really, all year round. I am so grateful for the quality of liturgies we are able to have here, due in large part to the dedication of very talented parishioners and parish ministers. We are so blessed.

The parish mission this year was lead by Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson. He has developed a retreat program over several years and it is called ‘BELOVED’. If you enjoyed Terry’s presence and energetic insights into the life of the believer, consider giving yourself (or your spouse or another family member) the gift of attending the BELOVED retreat on April 24-26. There is further information elsewhere in the bulletin and on the website. A retreat is a process of discovery. Come and discover how powerfully you are called, forgiven and sent by God into the world. You are the BELOVED of God. With Terry as the retreat master you will have a rich and prayerful weekend experience. It may be your best Easter ever, if you give the process a chance!

He is risen, as he said. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Peace,

Fr. David
Recently all parishioners received a brochure explaining the upcoming archdiocesan To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign and a letter from Fr. David inviting you to attend an Imagine Session at our parish. As explained in the brochure, a good portion of the funds raised through the Campaign will remain at our parish for our use.

We are asking your help to determine how these funds should be used. By participating in one of the Imagine Sessions you can help to identify and prioritize the needs of our parish for the future from your perspective; what would enable us to better live out our parish mission of celebrating the Sacraments, reaching out to those in need, and pursuing life-enriching religious education and formation opportunities for children, youth and adults. This is a tremendous opportunity for parishioners to come together and impact the future of our parish. Come share your ideas!!

Join fellow parishioners thirty minutes before each Session in the Parish Center to share a cup of coffee and conversation. To help us in planning, please call the Parish Center to let us know which session you can attend or sign up on our parish website home page at stjohnofthecross.org.

Ellin and Eric, you have put on Christ, in him you have been baptized, to share in his ministry of proclaiming the Gospel.

As Christ took a towel and washed the feet of his disciples so too through baptism you are called to a life of service, a commitment to: feeding the hungry, giving drink to those who thirst, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, caring for the poor, and visiting the sick, the dying and those imprisoned.

Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit may you live a life of proclaiming the mighty works of God who has called you to be sharers in the Kingdom in prayer and good works (Alleluia, Alleluia).

Congratulations!!!!
Prayer

"Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead."

Preparation
As you begin this time of quiet prayer, find a comfortable place to sit with your back straight and your legs planted on the ground. Breathing normally, take a few moments to breathe in and breathe out. Spend this time centering yourself to listen to what God may be saying to you during this time of prayer, to listen to what rises up in your heart. Close your eyes for a few moments. As you sit with your eyes closed, use these or similar words: “Here I am, Lord. Here I am.” When you are ready, open your eyes and pray.

Do You Understand That I Must Rise?
It’s a sad but beautiful dawn. You are not sleeping, so you decide to get up and go for a walk. You want to think over what has happened and what it might mean. He is dead. You know that; you saw him die. But there was something else, something you can’t quite make sense of, something that felt unfinished about it all, something unsettling. You keep walking with your eyes down, trying to understand, trying to make sense of it all. Your mind bounces to the many times he talked about the need to die so he could rise. What did that mean?
The sun is up now, and you look up to feel the warmth of the rays against your face. Looking ahead, you notice some women running down the path. They seem to be in a joyful panic, like something frightening but wonderful has happened. As you get closer to where they came from, there is man standing there. He is standing so tall, so confident. It’s as if he has accomplished something impossible. Getting closer, you realize it’s him. It’s Jesus. You know you saw him die. How can he be standing there? He looks at you with eyes that are clear and sure. He speaks to you. What does Jesus say to you? How do you respond?

Standing closer to Jesus, you feel a strength coming from him. You want to reach over and embrace him, to touch him to be sure it is really Jesus. He seems to know your mind and the questions swimming around in your head. Jesus reaches over and touches your hand. You feel a surge of energy rush through you. “It is you,” you say to Jesus. “It is you!” Tears stream down your face. Jesus says something to you. What does Jesus say? What do you want to say to Jesus?

Today, Easter Sunday, is a day when life conquers death. How does my belief in the Resurrection change how I live my life? Who do I need to share the hope and joy of the Resurrection with today?

Glowing with Joy
This past month my wife Sarah made a retreat. When she returned it had felt like I hadn’t seen her in weeks, but as she walked through the door she was glowing. As she began to share about her prayer experiences and how vividly the Gospel stories unfolded in her imagination, I knew she had a very real encounter with God. I could feel the graces she received spilling out onto me, and I began to tear up. I recalled praying with some of the same passages on my own retreat and how I too was beaming when I returned home.

Moses’s face was also shining when he encountered God on Mount Sinai. When he descended the mountain with the news of a new covenant, the people could see how his face glowed. “Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God,” the Scripture says (Exodus 34:29). He had such an intimate encounter with the divine that his face could not help but show this joyful truth. Where do you think the expression “You’re glowing!” came from?

Sarah’s face could not hold back her joy, and I couldn’t help but feel some of those divine rays reaching from her to me. Making a retreat is a very special time, because it allows a lengthier encounter with God. Imaginative prayer can help take it even further as we imagine ourselves in the presence of Jesus, chatting with him, journeying with him, and being fed or healed by him.

Pope Francis’s emphasis on having a personal encounter with God is nothing new, but he’s brought attention to its life-changing power. I think the public has noticed how the pope’s face shines with joy. Our faces can shine too, like the pope, like Sarah, and like Moses. When we meet God face to face in prayer and allow ourselves to be touched by God’s divine rays, we too will be glowing with joy. Used with permission. Excerpts from an article by Andy Otto. Ignatian Spirituality.
Give yourself the gift of the
Beloved Weekend
April 24-26, 2015

Come be filled. Energized. Strengthen your connection to God.

Discover the joy that being God's beloved brings to your life.

Learn more on our parish website or pick up at brochure in church.
Richard Rohr Meditation

The common Christian reading of the Bible is that Jesus "died for our sins"—either to pay a debt to the devil (common in the first millennium) or to pay a debt to God the Father (proposed by Anselm of Canterbury, 1033-1109). Anselm's infamous *Cur Deus Homo* has been called "the most unfortunately successful piece of theology ever written." My hero, Franciscan philosopher and theologian John Duns Scotus (1266-1308), agreed with neither of these understandings. Scotus was not guided by the Temple language of debt, atonement, or blood sacrifice (understandably used in the Gospels and by Paul). He was inspired by the high level cosmic hymns in the first chapters of Colossians and Ephesians and the first chapter of John's Gospel.

After Anselm, Christians have paid a huge price for what theologians called "substitutionary atonement theory"—the strange idea that before God could love us God needed and demanded Jesus to be a blood sacrifice to atone for our sin-drenched humanity. With that view, salvation depends upon a problem instead of a divine proclamation about the core nature of reality. As if God could need payment, and even a very violent transaction, to be able to love and accept "his" own children—a message that those with an angry, distant, absent, or abusive father were already far too programmed to believe.

For Scotus, the incarnation of God and the redemption of the world could never be a mere mop-up exercise in response to human sinfulness, but the proactive work of God from the very beginning. We were "chosen in Christ before the world was made," as the hymn in Ephesians puts it (1:4). Our sin could not possibly be the motive for the divine incarnation, but only perfect love and divine self-revelation! For Scotus, God never merely reacts, but always supremely and freely acts, and always acts totally out of love. Scotus was very Trinitarian.

The best way I can summarize how Scotus tried to change the old notion of retributive justice is this: *Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity (it did not need changing)! Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God.* God in Jesus moved people beyond the counting, weighing, and punishing model, that the ego prefers, to the utterly new world that Jesus offered, where God's abundance has made any economy of merit, sacrifice, reparation, or atonement both unhelpful and unnecessary. Jesus undid "once and for all" (Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10) all notions of human and animal sacrifice and replaced them with his new economy of grace, which is the very heart of the gospel revolution. Jesus was meant to be a game changer for the human psyche and for religion itself. When we begin negatively, or focused on the problem, we never get out of the hamster wheel. To this day we begin with and continue to focus on sin, when the crucified one was pointing us toward a primal solidarity with the very suffering of God and all of creation. This changes everything. Change the starting point, change the trajectory!

We all need to know that *God does not love us because we are good; God loves us because God is good.* Nothing humans can do will ever decrease or increase God's eternal eagerness to love.

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**M A R Y  M A G D A L A ’ S  E A S T E R  P R A Y E R**

I never suspected  
Resurrection  
and to be so painful  
to leave me weeping  

With Joy  
to have met you, alive and smiling,  
outside an empty tomb  

With Regret  
not because I’ve lost you  
but because I’ve lost you in how  
I had you -  
in understandable, touchable,  

kissable, clingable flesh  
not as fully Lord,  
but as graspingly human.  

I want to cling, despite your protest  
cling to your body  
cling to your, and my,  
clingable humanity  
cling to what we had, our past.  

But I know that...if I cling  
you cannot ascend and  
I will be left clinging to your former self  
...unable to receive your present spirit.

Ron Rolheiser

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St. John of the Cross Parish  
www.stjohanofthecross.org  
April 5, 2015  
Page 6
Background on the Gospel

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ’s Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples’ discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus’ empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John’s Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John’s Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus’ body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary’s report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus’ body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus’ Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Living the Gospel

The news of an empty tomb spread from Mary to Peter and the disciples. They ran—hope quickens us. They believed—faith urges us. They witnessed to the good news—good news cannot be contained. Good news is infectious. Good news brings radiance to tired, suffering, worn faces. Good news such as an empty tomb and soon an encounter with the risen One not only cannot be contained, it changes us. Like Mary and the disciples we become witnesses to Christ’s risen Life. Our encounters with the risen One compel us to be witnesses, to spread Easter joy.

Easter Sunday is more than a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is also an invitation to each of us to take our place in the long line of witnesses to encounters with him and his risen Life. Perhaps this is why we are so awed at the mystery: not just that Jesus was raised from the dead, but that God entrusts us with continuing Jesus’ saving mission and with being witnesses to God’s mighty deed of resurrection. We witness to Jesus’ resurrection when we faithfully live our baptismal promises, witness to our belief that Jesus is alive and shares his risen Life with us. Believing is radiating the joy of our encounters with Christ, bringing others to encounter him, continuing Jesus’ saving work. Believing is encountering emptiness in others and bringing them joy and hope. Believing is helping others move the large stones that block their growth and happiness. Believing is running to help those in need. Believing is turning our Easter Alleluias into good works that spread joy and hope and faith. Believing is Easter Alleluias lived every day.

May we radiate in all our being and all we do the joy of the good news of Jesus’ risen Life.

May we witness to the good news of Jesus’ risen Life by the good works we do for others.

Loyola Press
Thursday, April 16th 7-9pm
School Multi-Purpose Room

April in Provence
The Soulful Art of French Container Gardening

Join us for a spiritual, hands-on experience featuring Amy Cox of omstead (www.omstead.net) who will lead us through the creation of French container gardens to take home & savor for the outdoor season ahead.

Wine & cheese will be served as Amy intermingles tales of her own spiritual adventures and growth experiences in Provence.

Amy will also offer a limited supply of spiritual garden-centric items for sale, including plantable prayer seed crosses and other unique items perfect for creating lasting First Communion memories. 5% of the proceeds will be donated back to the St. John of the Cross Women’s Club.

Registration and payment of $25 must be received by Thursday, April 9th. To register and pay online using a credit card, please use the below link: https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/classic/home?studioid=116375
Or you may drop an envelope with your contact info and $25 cash or check payable to: “omstead, llc” at the Parish Center no later than Thursday, April 9th.

Women’s Club
20TH ANNUAL FLOWER SALE
Locally Grown Landscape Quality Flowers & Baskets
Color photos, plant descriptions & care instructions for all plants at the parish website: www.stjohnofthecross.org

- Order Online by Thursday, April 30 OR return order form to the school or parish office
- Pick-up flowers Wednesday, May 6th from 1:00 to 5:00 in the handicapped parking lot north of the church. Orders not picked up by 5:00pm will be donated to church. Please make other arrangements if you are unavailable to pick up your order.

The mission of the St. John of the Cross Women’s Club is to bring the women of our parish together to foster and celebrate our spiritual and social well-being. Through our fundraisers, retreats, spiritual reflections and social events, we seek to develop a closer relationship with God and one another.

Every woman of the parish is invited to join the Women’s Club and attend our various functions. We seek your assistance in the planning and coordination of our events.
To learn how you can get involved contact Ginny Grecco at 708-246-7371.
Parish Directory

Call the Parish Center office today to schedule your family photo for the new Parish Directory or register on-line for your photo appointment and receive a $10 coupon to use toward the purchase of additional photos. Visit our parish website home page.

The SJC Men’s Club

invites all men of the parish to an engaging morning with

Rev. Mike Foley
Pastor, Our Lady of the Woods, Orland Park

Discovering and Sharing the Risen Christ in the Liturgy

Saturday, April 11
9:00am-10:30am
SJC Parish Center

Light morning refreshments will be served.

Fr. Mike 55, attended St. Denis School and St. Laurence High School. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a bachelor’s in sociology and later returned to earn a master’s in organizational development. He also graduated from the University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in the same class as Fr. Robert Barron and Fr. Dario Boscuzzi.

Fr. Mike served as assistant pastor at St. Louis de Montfort (1986-90) and was in residence at St. Barnabas (1990-95) and St. John Berchmans (1995-2000). He served as pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle (2000-02); as associate pastor of St. John of the Cross, Western Springs (2002-03), and as pastor of Most Holy Redeemer, Evergreen Park (2003-2009). He was associate pastor at St. Michael in Orland Park (2009-2012) and has served as pastor at Our Lady of the Woods, Orland Park since July, 2012.

Calling All Gardeners!
It’s Not Too Late to Join Us!

We are actively looking for new volunteers to join our Gardening Angels group. Come help keep our parish grounds beautiful, well-manicured, weed-free and watered. There are several levels of volunteerism. Confirmation candidates and high school teens are invited to participate as well.

There is a Special Projects Group that helps at one or all of the following:
- Planting Days (anticipating May 16, 19 & 23)
- Mulching Day (anticipating June 6)

Regular Weekly Volunteers—These volunteers come to garden once each week for about two hours during the months of June - August. (Based on the number of volunteers we have, and schedule availability, we may be able to spread this out to once every other week.) Choose what works best for you.

If you would like to be a part of this dedicated and energetic group or have additional questions, contact Jan Grabacki—708-246-4610 (Home) or 630-204-5264 (Cell) - or beaconjan@aol.com

It doesn't matter if you don't know a flower from a weed—Your energy and enthusiasm is really all we need!

Fr. Bonin Trip to the Opera

Fr. Harry Bonin is organizing a trip to the Lyric Opera to see *The Marriage of Figaro*, on October 21 at 2:00pm. We need a group of at least ten to get a great discounted rate. Please call the Parish Center ASAP if you are interested.

Interfaith Career Network

All are invited to a five-week Career Transition Boot Camp beginning Tuesday, April 14 from 7-9 pm. Whether you are looking for a change in jobs, making a career switch, unemployed, under-employed, or a recent grad looking for your first position, this workshop offers the training and support you need in your job search. You will learn new skills and gain confidence. Come to one or all five sessions. First Presbyterian Church of La Grange.
Inside each of us there is a deep, congenital restlessness. We are not restful beings who sometimes get restless, but restless beings who occasionally experience rest. Karl Rahner, I believe, had it right when he said that we do not have souls that get restless, but that our souls themselves are lonely caverns thirsting for the infinite, deep wells of restlessness that make us ache to sleep with the whole world and all that is beyond.

Because of this we can find it difficult to concentrate during the day and to sleep at night. We go through life feeling like we are missing out on something, that life is more exciting and fulfilling for others than it is for us. Our achievements rarely satisfy us because we are always aware of what we haven’t achieved, of missed chances and failed possibilities. Always too, it seems, that we are inadequate to the task, that we cannot not disappoint those we love.

We are always a bit dissatisfied. As Henri Nouwen puts it, in this life, it seems that there is no such a thing as a clear-cut, pure joy, but that even our happiest moments come with a shadow, a fear, a jealousy, a restlessness. Inside us, no matter what our age, we are always somewhat lost and full of a sadness that we don’t quite know what to do with. Thoreau was right, we do live lives of quiet desperation. What are we meant to do with that?

An analogy might help us here: We can learn something valuable, I believe, by comparing these feelings to what a baby feels, at a certain moment, in the presence of a baby-sitter in the absence of its mother. As many a frustrated baby-sitter has learned, there can come a moment, usually later in the evening, when the baby grows tired of being titillated by flashy toys, extra sweets, and the continued cooing of the baby-sitter. The baby becomes irritated, cranky, weepy, and finally disconsolate. At point nothing will soothe its aches, except the voice and the touch of the mother herself. The baby needs to hear the mother’s voice and only the mother’s voice, no attempt by the baby-sitter to replace the mother or even to imitate the mother are of much avail. The baby will not be fooled, there comes a moment when only the mother can soothe and comfort. The baby’s disquiet will disappear only when she again hears the mother lovingly call her name.

It’s no different for us really, as adults, in trying to come to grips with our congenital restlessness. We can distract ourselves for awhile, be titillated by flashy toys, be soothed and lulled by sympathetic voices, and momentarily even be content in the absence of our real mother. But there will come a time, usually a little later on in the proceedings when we are a bit more tired and cranky, when these things will soothe no more. We will begin to miss, in the very depths of our souls, the one voice and one presence that can ultimately bring us rest.

Of course that one voice that can soothe, that one voice that we search for among all the others, is the voice of God, the primordial Mother. Ultimately we reach a point in life when there is an ache and a sadness inside us that no one can still and comfort, other than the one who ultimately brought us to birth. Like the baby frustrated with its baby-sitter, we too need to hear our mother lovingly pronounce our names.

The Gospel of John opens very differently than the other Gospels. There are no infancy narratives. Right at the beginning we already meet the adult Christ and the first words he speaks are a question: “What are you searching for?” John’s whole Gospel tries to answer that, but the full answer is given only at the very end, by Jesus himself.

What are we ultimately searching for? On the morning of the resurrection, Mary Magdala meets the newly-risen Jesus, but she doesn’t recognize him. He approaches her and asks (in words that repeat his question at the opening of the Gospel): “What are you searching for?” She explains that she is searching for the body, the dead body, of Jesus. He says just one word to her in response: “Mary”. He calls her by name and, in that, she not only recognizes him, but she hears precisely what a disconsolate baby cannot hear in the voice of her baby-sitter, the voice of the mother, lovingly pronouncing her name.

In Jesus’ response to Mary Magdala, we learn the answer to life’s most fundamental question: What do we ache for? Ultimately all our aching is for one thing, to hear God, lovingly and individually, call us by name. There comes a moment in the night for each of us when nothing will console us other than this, hearing our names pronounced by the mouth of God.

Ron Rolheiser
Where Our Spare Change Goes

40 years ago, Catholics in the United States wanted to respond to famine in Africa. Could we feed the hungry through Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving? The answer was yes—and it came in the form of a small cardboard box. 40 years later, CRS Rice Bowl is our way to help our brothers and sisters in need each Lent. CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. Through CRS Rice Bowl, we hear stories from our brothers and sisters in need worldwide, and devote our Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts to change the lives of the poor.

In 40 years, $250 million have been given through CRS Rice Bowl to support programs that prevent hunger and poverty around the world. Of that, $62.5 million went to programs in the U.S. through local dioceses and $187.5 million went to CRS programs overseas. Last year our parish donated $10,700 of spare change through our Lenten almsgiving.

Each year CRS Rice Bowl funds are directed to between 40 and 45 countries where CRS runs humanitarian programs. 75% of gifts support CRS’ humanitarian programs around the world. Some examples include:

- Agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests
- Water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities
- Microfinance projects support small businesses
- Mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services
- Education projects provide resources and training

25% of gifts remain in each U.S. diocese where they support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

As a parish community we participated in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent, praying and fasting in solidarity with those who are hungry, and learning about the people who will receive help from our sacrificial contributions. Expressing our love for those in need renews our relationship with Jesus and expands our hearts in hope. Bring your Lenten Rice Bowl with spare change to the Parish Center.

Food Pantry Donations

Please bring nonperishable food to the church narthex. During the month of April our donations will be delivered to our neighboring parish, St. Cletus. Remember, basics like toilet paper and diapers are great too.

Pope Francis helps us to reflect more deeply on how our experience of God’s love can open our hearts to solidarity with our neighbors, and move us to action.

“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, in the face of Jesus.” (Pope Francis, Address during Visit at the Homeless Shelter “Dona Di Maria,” 5/21/13)

“When we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them—some food, a place in our homes, our time—not only do we no longer remain poor; we are enriched. I am well aware that when someone needing food knocks at your door, you always find a way of sharing food; as the proverb says, one can always ‘add more water to the beans’! Is it possible to add more water to the beans?... Always?...And you do so with love, demonstrating that true riches consist not in materials things, but in the heart! (Pope Francis, Address during Visit to the Community at Varginha, 7/25/13)

“The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry....Poverty calls us to sowe hope.... Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures.” (Pope Francis, Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools—Q&A, 6/7/13)

Opportunities to Serve

Go to our parish website to see the many ways you can volunteer your time and talent or donate goods. From serving our parish on a consultative body or other parish organization, assisting our parish seniors, helping at local charities, or donating goods or funds to help our Sharing Parishes or the many local charities we support, to bringing nonperishable food to the church narthex to feed the poor—there are so many ways you can, “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.” Give Bill Bright a call at x-132 if you’d like to discuss ways you can become involved.
**Music Notes**

**Tower Chorale to Visit SJC**
On April 19, members of the Tower Chorale will provide special music at the 10:45am Sunday Mass. The Tower Chorale is a 90-voice community chorus comprised of amateur and professional singers, including former members of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Grant Park Symphony Chorus, Light Opera Works, Chicago Opera Theater, various community theater and music organizations, and singers from several of the local churches. Known for musical diversity, this non-profit organization has been one of the premier music groups in Chicago’s western suburbs since 1986.

All SJC Music Ministers and any child, second grade and older, are invited to sing with the Combined Choirs of St. John of the Cross Parish for our upcoming First Eucharist liturgies.

Saturday, May 2
11am & 2pm
Rehearsal at 10:30am and 1:30pm

Saturday, May 9
11am & 2pm
Rehearsal at 10:30am and 1:30pm

Children who plan to sing should also attend one rehearsal on either Wednesday, April 29 or Thursday, April 30 in church from 3:45-4:30pm.

*Thank you for sharing your gift of song with our littlest ones!*

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**St. John of the Cross Parish presents**
**Music for Soprano & Organ**
*Tracey Ford, Soprano*  
*Johnny Kash, Organ*  
**Wednesday, April 8 at 7pm**
In Church
All Are Welcome ~ No Admission Charge

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**Crossroads**

The mission of Crossroads Youth Ministry is to embrace teens in our vibrant and caring parish community and meet them where they are by providing opportunities for them to:
- Grow in their relationship with God
- Build a community with other Catholic teens
- Learn more about their Catholic faith
- Develop leadership abilities by serving others
- Have fun in a faith-filled environment.

We carry out this mission by fostering the growth of our Crossroads Family. This family includes the teens, their families, our volunteers, and the parish community.

**Spotlight on Leadership**

Meghan Cannon attended a work tour last summer and loved serving others. She was able to see that she has gifts and talents to share so she joined our Leadership Team this year and has been shadowing a current teen leader. This summer she will take over to lead our Sports Coordination efforts.

Ann Reed, mother of three Crossroads graduates and a past YC teacher, joined our team two years ago and has enjoyed working as a mentor to assist Sean Thomas leading social events. They’ve had fun organizing dodgeball tournaments and are in the midst of planning our end of the year Trivia Social Night on May 17. We will be looking for someone to take over Ann’s role when she moves on this year.

**Upcoming Events**

Gather with teens from other parishes for music, food, and inspiration at a Youth Rally on April 12. See the website for details.

As the parent of a Catholic teenager, do you ever wonder how you can continue to support and enhance the faith journey of your son or daughter in high school and beyond? Does your teen think that one’s faith journey ends after Confirmation? Come join parents of teens in our parish as we explore answers to these and other questions! **Monday, April 13**, from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Center. Mike Patin will be our guest speaker. Hospitality will be provided and there is no charge for this event. Questions? Contact Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net.

**Summer Work Tours**

2 adults are needed to go on two work tours this summer to work alongside and supervise our teens. Contact Katie if you would like more information.

**July 12-18**  Habitat for Humanity in Franklin, WV  
**August 1-8**  Our Lady of Perpetual Help, our Sharing Parish in Williamsburg, KY
Have you ever thought about the impact that the Eucharist has on your work days, Monday through Friday, or on your relationships in your family, neighborhood, or the world?


Our parish will be offering a book discussion where we will read the book and discuss its impact on our lives. Our discussions will span three weeks and will be offered two times each week. You may attend either session each week.

Mondays at 7 pm: April 27, May 4, and May 11
Thursdays at 1 pm: April 30, May 7 and May 14

This series is being facilitated by Terry Stadler. Terry has been a parishioner for 32 years, along with his wife, Mary of 47 years. He has 11 years experience in directing adult spirituality development and growth.

The book is being offered to our parishioners for $7. Please sign up for this exciting discussion group by dropping off an envelope with your contact info and payment for the book to the Parish Center by April 15th.

Name: __________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________
Prefer Mondays ________   Thursdays________

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Upcoming Program at The Well in LaGrange Park
**Sponsored by SJC ~ Free to our Parishioners**

**Living the Risen Christ**
Saturday, April 18; 9- Noon   Facilitator: Jack Shea

The Gospel stories of the Risen Lord are not meant to be memories of something that happened in the past or assurances of a post-death existence in the future. They are revelations of a way of thinking and acting that are meant to give life and love into the present. But in order for that revelation to be received, we must ponder the symbols of the stories and test out their invitations in our experience. During our morning gathering, that is precisely what we intend to do.

Cost: $40   Free to parishioners. Register by calling the Parish Center office by April 15th.

Jack Shea is a theologian and storyteller who lectures nationally and internationally on storytelling in world religions, faith-based health care and contemporary spirituality.

*The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park*
Youth Catechesis

Religious Education for children
Kindergarten to 8th grade.
New families, please bring a copy of each child’s baptismal certificate when registering if they were not baptized at SJC.
Youth Catechesis is SJC’s religious education program for children. Our volunteer Catechist and Catechist Aides are engaging and inspiring as they lead your children to a closer relationship with Our Lord, Jesus.

Registration Fair
April 12 & 13
during YC classes

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760
www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am - 4:00pm
(Sun & Mon eve during class)

YC Schedule
Classes K-6 10:15-11:30am  Sunday, April 12, 19, 26
6:15-7:30pm  Monday, April 13, 20, 27
Special Needs & 7th & 8th grades  Sunday, April 12

Parish School

Our fourth grade students have been preparing for their annual Regional Fair. As part of the fourth grade curriculum, the students study the U.S., and at the end of the unit, each student selects a state to research and presents it at the Fair. The students look forward to this project each year as it is definitely one of the highlights of the fourth grade.

Many of our teachers prepared for spring and Easter in different ways over the past few weeks. Our first grade students grew grass in their science class and decorated flower pots to take home to celebrate spring. Our younger students made their own Easter baskets in art class and the fourth graders make mosaic crosses. On Holy Thursday, the school gathered for a beautiful prayer service prepared by our Learning Resource Center teachers.

HAPPY EASTER!
Mass Intentions

**Monday, April 6** Monday within the Octave of Easter
7:45am Muriel Albertson; Our Beloved Dead

**Tuesday, April 7** Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
7:45am Libby Chapman; deceased members of the Klein & O’Sullivan families

**Wednesday, April 8** Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
7:45am Helen Hycnar; Sr. Anna O’Brien

**Thursday, April 9** Thursday within the Octave of Easter
7:45am Jack Gallagher; James Zbiliski

**Friday, April 10** Friday within the Octave of Easter
7:45am Christopher Delia; Patrick Sheridan

**Saturday, April 11** Saturday within the Octave of Easter
8:00am Evelyn Spitkovsky; deceased members of the Moore family
5:00pm Amedeo & Adina Misantoni; deceased members of the Lukowsky & Den Besten families

**Sunday, April 12** Second Sunday of Easter
7:30am Stephen Siedlaczek; Rosemary Bozzi
9:00am Don Cisek; Raymond Cochran
10:45am Bernard Lahart; Rosemary Schick
12:15pm Raymond Principe; Roberta Cokin
5:00pm Sr. Anna O’Brien; Thomas Marshall

*Italics: Living*

**Pray for our Beloved Dead**

Eleanor Cronin, mother of Caroline Winterfield, grandmother of Jeff Winterfield, great grandmother of James, Andrew and Graham

Richard Ryan, brother of late Neil and Mary Ryan

Margaret Dine, mother of Denny, grandmother of Erin, Catherine, and Denny

**Pray for our Sick**

Ron Burchart
Karen Hult
Jill Jodlowski

Baby Olivia Kavanaugh
Lee Lepinske

**Wedding Banns**

Nora White and Kevin Malone
Paige Hodum and Kevin Petzold

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter
May every Church and Christian community be a place of mercy amid so much indifference.

Pope Francis @Pontifex 3.23.15

In the roughest moments, remember: God is our Father; God does not abandon his children.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · 3.10.15

The heart grows hard when it does not love. Lord, give us a heart that knows how to love.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · 3.3.15
Many volunteers give of their time and talents and are delighted to discover their faith grows in the process. 21 parishioners volunteer at YC even though they do not have children in the program; 37 high school teens bless our youth with their energy and love of the Lord and many, many parents serve. Please take a moment to thank these amazing individuals, parents, and teens when you see them. We honor them for their gift of Love! Please prayerfully consider joining your neighbors and friends in YC next year. You will be amazed at how much you receive from giving to our children! All you need is a love for Christ!

Thank You to All Our Catechists, Aides, Substitutes, Office Helpers, Hall Monitors, and Parking Lot Attendants! Thank You!!!