Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2015
The Christian ministers of Western Springs along with people from their congregations joined in communal prayer and praise at a simple Ecumenical Blessing of Palm at the village Tower on Palm Sunday morning. This was the first gathering of the churches in our village.
Living the Gospel

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to grasp two things written in the Scriptures: that he “would suffer and rise from the dead,” and that “repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations.” Our repentance—conversion of life—turns us to the God who forgives and who fills us with the new Life of the resurrection. Ultimately, this risen Life within us empowers a way of living that witnesses to God’s forgiveness of our sinfulness. The resurrection claims us as witnesses not only to God’s forgiveness of us, but also to our forgiveness of one another. Repentance opens new opportunities to touch and see the risen Jesus. Repentance opens us to God’s gift of forgiveness. Repentance opens us to the new Life of resurrection Jesus offers. Ultimately, the resurrection is a pledge of new Life for us and makes visible God’s forgiveness of our sinfulness. Forgiveness is part of the reality of risen Life; it is the effect of death and resurrection.

Repentance and forgiveness do not belong simply to Lent—there, that’s over for another year. Instead, they are very much a part of the Easter mystery. Forgiveness is the virtue that enables us not to allow past hurts to determine our decisions and actions in the here and now. Forgiveness opens up the space for creating together with the one forgiven a new future where we can once again truly be sisters and brothers in the risen Christ. Giving and receiving forgiveness is a resurrection activity. Walking and acting like a forgiven and forgiving people is how we make known the risen Jesus.

Background on the Gospel

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus’ appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today’s reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus’ appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today’s Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus’ post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, “Peace be with you.” This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today’s Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus’ greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke’s Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke’s report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness of sins.

May we be fonts of God’s mercy and forgiveness.
May we faithfully witness to the Presence of the risen Jesus and God’s desire to forgive our wrongdoing.

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May we faithfully witness to the Presence of the risen Jesus and God’s desire to forgive our wrongdoing.
Jesus Appears to Mary

Can you imagine being Mary, sitting in her house, overcome with grief and despair at losing her son? Can you imagine Mary, fully immersed in a “Holy Saturday” moment, pondering what happened, absorbed in her grief? Grief that we can relate to because of loss in our own lives.

Ignatius invites us to contemplate the interaction between Mary and her beloved son, who she watched die on the cross. What would the dialogue sound like?

“Woman, why are you crying?”
“I thought I had lost you.”
“I am here. I am here. I am risen, Mom. I am risen.”
“You are here, Son.”

Being a mom, I cannot even imagine the depth of joy Mary felt at seeing her son again. I have no doubt that her heart burst with joy and that she was radiant with love and hope. Can you imagine the depth of her consolation in that moment?

But what does Mary’s experience have to do with our lives? EVERYTHING!

In this Easter season we celebrate Mary’s joy that her son is here. We celebrate that Jesus is alive in each of us, in our world, creating us moment by moment. We celebrate that we can experience the joy Mary felt at seeing her son because Jesus lives within us. Easter reminds us of the reason to hope in the first place—because of the Resurrection of Mary’s son!

Living Our Way into Easter Joy

I’m often struck by friends who note how much harder it can be to “feel” Easter than to experience Lent. Somehow the reflection on sin and suffering comes more easily to many than experiencing joy and redemption. However, in this we are not alone: the disciples, too, have difficulty at first absorbing the fullness of Resurrection joy.

In many Resurrection scenes, we find Jesus offering reconciliation. In John’s Gospel, Jesus goes to the disciples who have locked themselves into the upper room. The disciples are fearful (John 20:19). Later, Jesus speaks to Thomas and to Peter, who each have their own kinds of difficulties with the Resurrection: Thomas doubts and Peter is in need of knowing Jesus’ love for him after his betrayals. Peter may have wondered: Why was I so afraid? Why did I go back on my promise to stand by Jesus? We, too, in our own lives may wonder: How did a perfectly good situation unravel into such difficulty? Often suffering, betrayals, and other evils defy our attempts to give them logic.

No wonder, then, that Jesus’ appearance to the disciples is not immediately met with a sense of “all is well.”

Remarkably, Jesus is uninterested in talking about the past. Instead, he is focused on offering healing, peace, and love in the present, with an eye to the future. Jesus’ response to all of this confusion is not to dwell on the past or to go into the reasons why his friends betrayed him or what could have been done differently. Instead, Jesus offers peace, reconciliation, and mission.

To the disciples in the upper room, he offers peace and then asks them to pass on that peace in forgiving others’ sins (John 20:21–23). He breathes on them, an intimate way to share the Spirit. To Thomas, he offers the closeness of touch and a chance to believe again and then recommends having faith in the absence of sight (John 20:27–29). In my favorite scene, Jesus eats breakfast on the beach with seven of the disciples and then asks Peter three times whether he loves him. Jesus gives him a chance to speak for love, in place of the three denials he had spoken earlier. “Do you love me?” and “Lord, you know that I love you” are like a choral refrain. And Jesus follows each refrain with mission: feed my lambs, tend my flock, and follow me.

In all three cases, Jesus offers peace and reconciliation in an intimate and personal way and then asks the disciples to pass on the very gifts that they have been given: forgiveness, belief, and selfless love. He does it all slowly and in an easy and unhurried way, for example, walking with the disciples on the way to Emmaus before revealing himself, or eating breakfast on the beach before talking to Peter.

These are good guides for us, too, for entering into the fullness of Easter. We can reflect on the love of God, who does not ask why but instead forgives, heals, invites, and loves. And then we can practice forgiveness, faith, and selfless love in our actions and pass those on. We can give ourselves time to see God in the Resurrection and give ourselves the same gifts of patience and simplicity that Jesus offers his friends. In this way, we live our way into Easter joy.

Used with permission. Ignatian Spirituality. By Becky Eldredge

Used with permission. Ignatian Spirituality. By Marina McCoy.
Dear Brothers and Sisters, a Happy and Holy Easter!

The Church throughout the world echoes the angel’s message to the women: “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised… Come, see the place where he lay” (Mt 28:5-6).

This is the culmination of the Gospel, it is the Good News par excellence: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning; the whole mission of the Church would lose its impulse, for this is the point from which it first set out and continues to set out ever anew. The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

That is why we tell everyone: “Come and see!” In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life’s troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast… “Come and see!”: Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.

With this joyful certainty in our hearts, today we turn to you, risen Lord! Help us to seek you and to find you, to realize that we have a Father and are not orphans; that we can love and adore you.

Help us to overcome the scourge of hunger, aggravated by conflicts and by the immense wastefulness for which we are often responsible.

Enable us to protect the vulnerable, especially children, women and the elderly, who are at times exploited and abandoned.

Enable us to care for our brothers and sisters struck by the Ebola epidemic in Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and to care for those suffering from so many other diseases which are also spread through neglect and dire poverty.

Comfort all those who cannot celebrate this Easter with their loved ones because they have been unjustly torn from their affections, like the many persons, priests and laity, who in various parts of the world have been kidnapped.

Comfort those who have left their own lands to migrate to places offering hope for a better future and the possibility of living their lives in dignity and, not infrequently, of freely professing their faith.

We ask you, Lord Jesus, to put an end to all war and every conflict, whether great or small, ancient or recent.

We pray in a particular way for Syria, beloved Syria, that all those suffering the effects of the conflict can receive needed humanitarian aid and that neither side will again use deadly force, especially against the defenseless civil population, but instead boldly negotiate the peace long awaited and long overdue!

Jesus, Lord of glory, we ask you to comfort the victims of fratricidal acts of violence in Iraq and to sustain the hopes raised by the resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

We beg for an end to the conflicts in the Central African Republic and a halt to the brutal terrorist attacks in parts of Nigeria and the acts of violence in South Sudan.

We ask that hearts be turned to reconciliation and fraternal concord in Venezuela.

By your resurrection, which this year we celebrate together with the Churches that follow the Julian calendar, we ask you to enlighten and inspire the initiatives that promote peace in Ukraine so that all those involved, with the support of the international community, will make every effort to prevent violence and, in a spirit of unity and dialogue, chart a path for the country’s future. On this day, may they be able to proclaim, as brothers and sisters, that Christ is risen, Khrystos voskres!

Lord, we pray to you for all the peoples of the earth: you who have conquered death, grant us your life, grant us your peace! Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!
During the spring and summer months, SJC will be collecting new or gently used gym shoes (all sizes, all types, all colors) that will be donated to those in need through Sharing Connections in Downers Grove as well as at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation and Kolbe House Prison Ministry in Chicago. Drop off your donation today at the Parish Center.


Perhaps, as was suggested to me by the insightful Patrick Malone, SJ, the correct question to be asking is not, “Why, God?” but rather, “What do I do with this?” “Why?” demands answers, accountability, understanding, and a desire for control. It seeks a capacity to argue the premise, to reconfigure the situation in some way that will alter the current reality. It demands that an incomprehensible world be made sensible. By asking “Why?” I am stewing in my angst or frustration. I am ready for a fight.

But “What do I do with this?” looks forward, not back. It seeks direction more than clear understanding. It takes reality as it is, not as we wish it would be, and allows us to seek our call in the present moment. It offers a desire for faithful service, not control. With this question, I don’t stew but instead sit with the reality before me, holding it gently, experiencing Christ sitting right beside me—holding me gently too.

Ignatian Spirituality. By Lisa Kelly.

Our parish partners with and supports a variety of local nonprofits. Watch our bulletin for ways you can become involved and make a difference in our community.

What is Pillars?
The mission of Pillars is to help build healthier communities by providing quality mental health services, social service and education for people of all ages. Pillars, which has been changing lives for over 85 years, served over twelve thousand people in West and Southwest Suburban Cook County, Eastern Du Page County, and Chicago in the last year. Their wide ranging services include mental health services, Headstart preschool, day care, bereavement programs for children and adults, addiction support for adolescents and adults, 24 hour domestic and sexual abuse hotlines, crisis intervention, and domestic abuse shelter (Constance Morris House) and housing initiatives that aim to keep people housed and prevent homelessness.

How Can I Help?
Parishioners can help Pillars by volunteering their time, donating goods or providing financial support. Here is a list of just of the few ways you can volunteer. Call Bill Bright, Director of Parish Outreach at 708-246-4404 x132 or go to info@pillarscommunity.org for more information.

- **Provide Meals:**
  Connie’s Kitchen is a program through which volunteers provide Saturday dinners for the women and children living at Constance Morris House, our domestic violence shelter.

- **Assist at the Resale Shop:**
  Hope Chest is an upscale resale shop run by volunteers to benefit Constance Morris House. Volunteers work in the shop or “shop” for our clients.

- **Offer Clerical Support:**
  Volunteers can assist with daily tasks that include filing, data input, etc. Opportunities offered at various locations including Western Springs, Berwyn, and our Foxfire Psychosocial Rehabilitation program in Summit.

- **Become a Sexual Assault Advocate:**
  Advocates provide medical and criminal advocacy to individuals and families affected by sexual violence at local emergency rooms and police departments. Volunteers must complete Pillars’ free 40-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Training and be responsible for taking 2 shifts per month on the Pillars’ 24-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline. An orientation will be held on May 20 and training during the first week of June.
Parish News

Petitions Brought to Lourdes
Each spring members of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (a Catholic lay religious order who work with the sick and poor) from all over the U.S. travel to Lourdes, France with 40-45 ill people to pray for renewed health at the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette. Several of our parishioners who will be traveling to France on their 9th pilgrimage invite you to submit petitions or intentions which will be blessed and presented at the Grotto altar during a special Mass. (Pictured above.)

- Written or typed petitions should be placed in a sealed envelope marked Lourdes Petitions and dropped off at the Parish Center by next Sunday evening, April 26th.
- Prayer petitions may also be submitted electronically at http://theorderofmalta.wix.com/lourdes-intentions by Friday, April 24th.

This year, the Mass in the Grotto will be broadcast live via webcam at 3:45am EST Saturday, May 2, 2015 at http://en.lourdes-france.org/tv-lourdes. To receive an acknowledgment of your petition include your name and address with your petition.

Annual Catholic Charities Collection on Mother’s Day Weekend

Eva is doing all she can to raise her grandchild alone on a limited income. She called Catholic Charities when she couldn’t afford to fix her plumbing. We made the home repair and invited her to our caregiver support group. She was one of the 398,078 seniors helped by Catholic Charities last year.

Every 30 seconds someone turns to Catholic Charities for help. Two-thirds of them are women who find an open door and a listening ear. Your gift supports services that impact every stage of life – from infants to seniors – restoring hope and confidence. Learn more at catholiccharities.net.

“People have a dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things.” - Pope Francis
Job Openings at SJC
Go to our parish website to read the full job descriptions for: part-time School Technology Assistant and part-time Crossroads Coordinator. Either position might be a perfect fit for you.

It’s Not Too Late!!!
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.

Pray for our First Communicants
The names of parish second graders who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on May 2 or 9 are hanging on our prayer tree in the church narthex. Parishioners are invited to take a name and remember that child in your prayers.

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!
One of our first graders’ favorite activities is their “Squiggle of the Week.” The teachers give each student a piece of paper with some sort of squiggle on it. Some weeks it is a curvy line; other weeks it may be a circle. Each child creates an illustration around the squiggle and also writes a story to accompany the illustration. It is amazing to witness the children’s work develop from their first squiggle to their last later in the year. At the end of the year, the teachers compile a book of each child’s squiggle to take home for memory boxes.

This Week At SJC
School Book Fair: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
School Advisory Board: Tuesday at 7pm
State of the School: Thursday from 10-11:00am & 7-8:00pm
School Play: Friday 7pm, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 2pm
Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Jewelry & Rosary Sale
This Weekend
Help support our Work Tours by shopping at our sale this weekend and next. We will be selling a variety of jewelry including Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets, rosaries and more in the Parish Center before and after all Masses. These beautiful items make great Mother’s Day and First Communion gifts.

Work Tour Update
We still have openings at Habitat for Humanity in WV, July 12-18 for 6-7 teens, and 1-2 adults, and Our Lady of Charity in Cicero, July 20-24. Space has opened up for our trip to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, our sharing parish in Williamsburg, KY August 1-8. There is room for 1-2 adults and 2-3 teens. See the website for registration forms.

A new t-shirt: $10
2 meals & snacks: $20
A day with friends being enlightened: PRICELESS
Plan to attend the one day S.Wo.R.D. retreat, Friday, June 5 in the Parish Center. Incoming Freshman through graduating seniors are invited. The registration deadline is May 5. Visit our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats to register.

Pictured above are our talented Crossroads teens presenting a very moving Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.
Youth Catechesis

Registration for YC, our parish religious education program for children in kindergarten through 8th grade, for the coming school year is underway. Please stop in the YC office to register your child. New families are asked to bring a copy of each child’s baptismal certificate when registering if they were not baptized at SJC.

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760
www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Our Office is located in the southeast corner of the school building at 51st Street & Caroline .
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am- 4:00pm
(Sun & Mon eve during class)

Each spring we recognize those who teach and pass on our Catholic faith to our parish children. Please consider being a YC catechist or Aide next year.

A Prayer for Catechists
Loving God, Creator of all things, you call us to be in relationship with you and others.
Thank you for calling me to be a catechist, for the opportunity to share with others what you have given to me.
May all those with whom I share the gift of faith discover how you are present in all things.
May they come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide my heart and lips, so that I may remain constant in loving and praising you.
May I be a witness to the Gospel and a minister of your truth.
May all my words and actions reflect your love.
Amen.
Loyola Press.

News

Alleluia!
During the six weeks of Lent, our parish community prayed, fasted and gave alms through the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program which focused on the poorest members of our global community. Our lives were touched by stories from Tanzania, Nicaragua, Niger, Lebanon, Democratic Republic of Congo and the United States. Through our Lenten prayers and donations, we have touched the lives of millions of people served by Catholic Relief Services, our representative to the poorest communities in the world.

Rice Bowls are still being collected at the Parish Center office. To date our parish has donated over $7,960 of which 65% goes to support CRS’ programs around the world. The remaining 35% stays here in the Archdiocese of Chicago to alleviate hunger and poverty in our own communities through CRS Rice Bowl Grants. Thank you for your generosity.

Grief Support
A workshop for adult women who have lost their mothers will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 9am-12:30pm at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood. Register by May 4 or for more info: Amy Carlozo 708-216-5413.

Book Study
The St. John of the Cross Spirituality Group will meet on eight Wednesdays in May (6,13, 20, 27) and June (3, 10, 17, 24) at 3pm in the Parish Center to discuss the book, Love Beckons, by Sister Joyce. To participate and order your book contact Joan at 708-246-6753 or billjoanbinder@sbcglobal.net. The cost of the book is $12. All are welcome to join us.

Father of Life, hear our Easter prayer that our re-creation in the image of the Risen Christ may be complete, and our rebirth in his new life may be experienced in every moment you give us. We ask this in the name of our Risen Savior.
Amen.
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 1:30 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.

Participants should try to read the first two chapters for our first session. Stop in the Parish Center to pick up your copy today!

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The next program our parish is sponsoring at The Well focuses on a new book, *Fly While You Still Have Wings and Other Lessons My Resilient Mother Taught Me*, written by well known author Joyce Rupp. It is an inspiring story on the mother-daughter relationship, love, limits, courage, grief and healing. This mini-retreat will include time for prayer, group interaction, book signing and a presentation by Joyce.

The book is available on Amazon so you can read it ahead of time! Stop in the Parish Center office if you would like to look at a copy of the book. There is no cost to attend this session for SJC parishioners. Simply call the Parish Center office with your name to sign up. The Well is located at 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park.

**Saturday, May 2**

at **1:30 – 3 pm**

**Facilitator: Author, Joyce Rupp**

“Every page of Joyce Rupp’s beautiful book is filled with practical wisdom. By meditating on the rich life of her own mother, Rupp not only shares with us timeless and life-changing lessons, but also reminds us that holiness always makes its home in humanity, and that saints are everywhere. I loved this book!” James Martin, S.J.
Following the reception of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, the post baptismal formation and education of our RCIA elect, who are now referred to as neophytes, joyfully continues over the coming weeks.

This period of catechesis is called mystagogy. Mystagogia comes from a Greek word meaning a time of entering into mystery. It is during this time that the newest members of our Church learn what it means to be disciples. Reflecting on their experiences at the Vigil, they continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Catholic Church and will reflect on how they will serve Christ and help in the Church’s mission and outreach activities.

Pictures from the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper are below. Look for more pictures from the Triduum next week.

Jesus washes the feet of the Apostles. Are we ready to serve others like this? Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 2
Principles for Interfaith Dialogue and Interfaith Attitudes

We live inside a world and inside religions that are too given to disrespect and violence. Virtually every newscast today documents the prevalence of disrespect and violence done in the name of religion, disrespect done for the sake of God (strange as that expression may seem). Invariably those acting in this way see their actions as sacral, justified by sacred cause.

And, if history is to be believed, it has always been so. No religion, Christianity no less than any other, has been innocent. Every one of the great religions of the world has been, at various times, both persecuted and persecutor. So this begs the question: What are some fundamental principles we are asked to live out apropos our relationship to other faiths, irrespective our particular faith?

What's best in each of our traditions would suggest these ten principles:

1. All that is good, true, and beautiful comes from one and the same author, God. Nothing that is true, irrespective of its particular religious or secular cloak, may be seen as opposed to true faith and religion.

2. God wills the salvation of all people, equally, without discrimination. God has no favorites. All people have access to God and to God's Spirit, and the whole of humankind has never lacked for divine providence. Moreover each religion is to reject nothing that is true and holy in other religions.

3. No one religion or denomination has the full and whole truth. God is both infinite and ineffable. For this reason, by definition, God cannot be captured adequately in human concepts and human language. Thus, while our knowledge of God may be true, it is always only partial. God can be truly known, but God cannot be adequately thought.

4. All faiths and all religions are journeying towards the fullness of truth. No one religion or denomination may consider its truth complete, something to permanently rest within; rather it must see it as a starting point from which to journey. Moreover, as various religions (and denominations and sectarian groups within those religions) we need to feel secure enough within our own "home" so as to acknowledge the truth and beauty that is expressed in other "homes". We need to accept (and, I suggest, be pleased) that there are other lives within which the faith is written in a different language.

5. Diversity within religions is a richness, willed by God. God does not just wish our unity; God also blesses our diversity which helps reveal the stunning over-abundance within God. Religious diversity is the cause of much tension, but that diversity and the struggle to overcome it will contribute strongly to the richness of our eventual unity.

6. God is "scattered" in world religions. Anything that is positive within a religion expresses something of God and contributes to divine revelation. Hence, seen from this aspect, the various religions of the world all help to make God known.

7. Each person must account for his or her faith on the basis of his or her own conscience. Each of us must take responsibility for our own faith and salvation.

8. Intentionally all the great world religions interpenetrate each other (and, for a Christian, that means that they interpenetrate the mystery of Christ).

A genuine faith knows that God is solicitous for everyone and that God's spirit blows freely and therefore it strives to relate itself to the intentionality of other religions and to other denominations and sectarian groups within its own religion.

9. A simple external, historical connection to any religion is less important than achieving a personal relationship, ideally of intimacy, with God. What God wants most deeply from us, irrespective of our religion, is not a religious practice but a personal relationship that transforms our lives so as to radiate God's goodness, truth, and beauty more clearly.

10. Within our lives and within our relationship to other religions, respect, graciousness, and charity must trump all other considerations. This does not mean that all religions are equal and that faith can be reduced to its lowest common denominator, but it does mean that what lies deepest inside of every sincere faith are these fundamentals: respect, graciousness, and charity.

Throughout history, great thinkers have grappled with the problem of the one and the many. And, consciously or unconsciously, all of us also struggle with that tension between the one and the many, the relationship between unity and diversity; but perhaps this not so much a problem as it is a richness that reflects the over-abundance of God and our human struggle to grasp that over-abundance. Perhaps the issue of religious diversity might be described in this way:

- Different peoples, one earth
- Different beliefs, one God
- Different languages, one heart
- Different failings, one law of gravity
- Different energies, one Spirit
- Different scriptures, one Word
- Different forms of worship, one desire
- Different histories, one destiny
- Different disciplines, one aim
- Different approaches, one road
- Different faiths - one Mother, one Father, one earth, one sky, one beginning, one end.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser . www.ronrolheiser.com
UNPLUG
& BE FILLED

Come to the Beloved Weekend
April 24-26

Go to our parish website or take a brochure at church exits to learn more.
Mass Intentions

**Monday, April 20, 2015** *Easter Weekday*
7:45am Mark Bestler; Franklin Smith

**Tuesday, April 21, 2015** *St. Anselm*
7:45am Peter Shannon; Ron Pacer

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015** *Easter Weekday*
7:45am Gloria Turlek; Our Beloved Dead

**Thursday, April 23, 2015** *St. George; St. Adalbert*
7:45am Ted and Tom Baer; Fred Vitale

**Friday, April 24, 2015** *St. Fidelis*
7:45am Thomas Marshall; Deacon John Flanagan

**Saturday, April 25, 2015** *St. Mark*
8:00am Eleanor Grace; Emerson Faith
5:00pm Gloria Turlek; Mitch Allen

**Sunday, April 26, 2015** *Fourth Sunday of Easter World Day of Prayer for Vocations*
7:30am Bruno and Genevieve Ziembas; Lillian Lassandro
9:00am Orlando Trinco; Daniel O’Brien
10:45am Nick Marchese; George Jakicic
12:15pm Frank Bilotta; Jane Glancey
5:00pm Sr. Anna Marie O’Brien; William J. Voller

*Italics: Living Intention*

Pray for our Sick

Karen Bernardino
Ron Burchart
Rodney Cullens
Mae Smith

Pray for our Beloved Dead

Kevin Hansen, cousin of Susan Sherlock, nephew of Sheila & Tom Hansen
Gerald Jonas, father of Greg, grandfather of Dan & Lisa

Follow the Pope’s Tweets

Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 6

Lord, give us the gift of tears, the ability to cry for our sins and so receive your forgiveness.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 9
Planting season is right around the corner! Buy your flowers at our Women's Club 20th Annual Flower Sale. Order by Thursday, April 30. Use this order form and return to the school or Parish Center office or order on our parish website. Pictures are on our website too! Flower Pick Up on Wednesday, May 6 from 1-5pm in the handicapped lot north of church.

20TH ANNUAL FLOWER SALE
Landscape Quality Flowers & Baskets at a Great Price!

HERBS & VEGETABLES - 3” Pots
- Italian parsley
- basil
- thyme
- cilantro
- rosemary
- oregano
- sage
- 3-pack big boy tomatoes
- 3-pack green bell peppers

GERANIUMS - 7” Pots
- white
- red
- fuchsia

MARTHA WASHINGTON - 6.5” Pots
- royal lavender
- merlot

GERANIUMS - 12” Deco-Pots
- coral
- fuchsia
- red
- medium blue

TREES
- blue
- pink

TOTAL $ DUE:
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SJC WOMEN'S CLUB