While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
June 7, 2015
My Dear Friends,

God has been so good to me! For 60 years I have had the privilege of ministering at God’s altar. The Eucharist has sustained me and has strengthened all of us as the Body of Christ.

For 35 of those years I have had the great blessing of belonging to the spectacular parish of St. John of the Cross. The first 16 years it was my privilege to serve you as pastor. We had some fun, didn’t we? These last 19 years I have been free from administration and could simply be your priest.

What a joy it was to see you at the Mass celebrating this milestone with me on my actual anniversary, May 3rd! Thank you, thank you, and thank you for being there with me all these years. The gift of your friendship has blessed me beyond my wildest imagination from that wonderful day in 1955! Thank you for your cards, beautiful notes and very generous gifts.

I smile every time I think of celebrating my anniversary and every time I think of you. God love you.

With my great love,

Fr. Joe
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the weekend of June 6-7, 2015 we will take up the annual special collection for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese. Since my first day as Archbishop, meeting the retired priests has been a priority and a joy for me. Presently, there are 204 retirees who continue to share their priestly ministry in our parishes. Each day I hear accolades about their ministerial service. Many parishes depend upon their service for daily and Sunday Masses and for countless funerals. Without the help of our retired priests, many parishes would have to reduce Mass schedules and other services.

Our retired priests rely upon your help now. The Priests’ Retirement and Mutual Aid Association (PRMAA) cares for our retired priests. As you know, the costs for health care, prescription drugs, and nursing home care continue to increase. In addition, the priests’ pension fund remains seriously impacted by the economic downturn. This special collection is different from the December collection for retired men and women religious, which goes only to those in religious orders. Archdiocesan priests do not receive any funds from that collection.

As I ask your support of this appeal for our Archdiocesan retired priests, I invite you to think of it not only in terms of a matter of justice to care for their needs, but as an act of solidarity with them, letting our priests know that our appreciation for their witness is so strong that it prompts a desire to join them in their unique contribution to the life of the Church. This appeal gives me the opportunity to share my heartfelt appreciation for the service and devotion of our retired priests. In a special way, we also remember in prayer all the retired priests who have died this year.

Many thanks to all of you for your generosity in this collection last year. Please repeat your kindness during this appeal. Your donations, prayers, and good wishes are a needed support of our retired priests.

Together, let us pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. At the same time, I offer each of you my pledge of prayers and a remembrance at the Lord’s Table. Wishing you every blessing, with kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Gracious Father, Giver and Nurturer of all life, hear our prayers.
May the bread and wine of the Eucharist make us bread for one another and for all that we might become ministers of your life and love in our world.
Amen.
Petition as a Way of Life

Something to think about | The words of Jesus on prayer sound so simple: “Ask and you shall receive.” But behind that simple formula lies a whole way of life: a life of faith, of forgiveness of our brother, of generosity with those in need, of unworldliness, of total trusting in and dependence upon God. Petition is not just a form of prayer; it is a whole way of life.

How much petition should we make? Each one must follow the promptings of the Spirit here. There must be something of a balanced diet in our prayer life with room for various forms of prayer, for adoration and contemplation, for meditation in its different forms, and for the sacraments, and for Scripture reading; for intercession, and of course, for petition. One thing, however, is clear; we never “outgrow” the need for making simple petitionary prayer.

Anthony de Mello, SJ

Why Do We Pray?

If the answer to our prayers will sometimes be “no,” why do we pray in the first place? I have no doubt that our lists of personal reasons are varied and numerous:

• We believe in God.
• We seek to deepen that relationship with God.
• We thank and praise God for the gifts in our life.
• We seek comfort in our suffering.
• We ask for prayers in our need.
• We pray for others.
• We seek to see what gets in the way of our relationship with God.
• We discern God’s will for us.

I wonder, though, why God wants us to pray. While I am sure many others could articulate this better than I, my own thoughts are:

• God deeply desires a relationship with us.
• God wants all of our lives, so much so, that our way of being with God affects all of our doing. Prayer transforms us interiorly so our outward lives reflect God.
• God wants us to acknowledge our dependence on God. In doing so, we show our trust in God and we acknowledge our great creator, who has the power to do anything.

What are your thoughts? Why do we pray? Why does God want us to pray?

Becky Eldredge. Ignatian Spirituality.

Richard Rohr Meditation
Make Sure You Are Hungry

Christ is the bread, awaiting hunger.
— St. Augustine

Eucharist is presence encountering presence—mutuality, vulnerability. There is nothing to prove, to protect, or to sell. It feels so empty, simple, and harmless, that all you can do is be present. In most of Christian history we instead tried to “understand” and explain presence. As if we could.

The Eucharist is telling us that God is the food and all we have to do is provide the hunger. Somehow we have to make sure that each day we are hungry, that there’s room inside of us for another presence. If you are filled with your own opinions, ideas, righteousness, superiority, or sufficiency, you are a world unto yourself and there is no room for “another.” Despite all our attempts to define who is worthy and who is not worthy to receive communion, our only ticket or prerequisite for coming to Eucharist is hunger. And most often sinners are much hungrier than the so-called saints.

To live by faith means to put our lives in the hands of God, especially in our most difficult moments. Pope Francis 5.29.14
Children's Choir for Father's Day!
All children of the parish, 1st - 8th grade, are invited to sing for Father's Day, June 21, at the 9:00 Mass. There will be one rehearsal for this liturgy on Thursday, June 18 from 6:30 - 7:15pm. Questions? Contact Ann Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net.

Smile!
Your final opportunity to have your picture taken for our 2015 Parish Directory will be on Thursday, June 18, Friday, June 19 or Saturday, June 20. Please visit the website www.stjohnofthecross.org or call the Parish Center to schedule your appointment. If you already had your photo taken and you received a complimentary 8 x 10, the pictures are now available in the Parish Center for pick-up. Questions? Call Elizabeth Russell-Jones at x155.

Catholic Family Day
Come to Catholic Family Day at Six Flags Great America on Sunday, June 14! The day will begin with Mass at 10am. Tickets are available online by using the promo code: CATHOLIC. RSVP for Mass at strategicpastoralplan@archchicago.org Call 312-534-5316 for more information about Catholic Family Day.

Parish Center Summer Hours
The regular office hours for summer are 9am—8pm Mondays—Thursdays, 9am—6pm Fridays and Saturdays, and 8am—1pm on Sundays. (We will post special Fest and holiday hours as needed.) As always, after hours you can reach a priest in an emergency by calling the Parish Center at 708-246-4404 and following the voice prompts.

Petitions to Lourdes
Fr. Elliott Dees will be traveling to Lourdes, France in the coming weeks. If you would like him to place your petitions at the Shrine, drop them at the Parish Center office in a sealed envelope marked Lourdes Petitions by June 11th.

Music Basics & Bonin
Join Fr. Harry Bonin in the Parish Center on three Wednesday mornings, June 17 and 24 and July 8, from 9am-11:30am. Fr. Harry will review basic music elements and introduce you to our parish hymnal. Always interesting and entertaining, you won’t want to miss this series!
Help Sort & Pack School Supplies

It’s once again time to think about this year’s school supply recycling project. With the help of many of you last year in collecting, sorting and packing supplies, more than three hundred fifty boxes were distributed to the following organizations all of whom were most grateful for what they received:

- Catholic Charities in Chicago
- Catholic Charities in Cicero
- Global Youth Leadership
- Harvest Hope
- Kolbe House Prison Ministry’s Children of the Incarcerated Program
- Off the Street Club
- Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
- Refugee One
- St. Leonard Prison Ministry
- St. Thadeus School
- SCARCE
- School on Wheels
- St. Vincent DePaul Settlement House, St. Louis MO

Helpers of all ages are needed to sort and pack this year’s supplies on Monday and Tuesday, June 15 & 16 from 9 until 12 at Mary Lee and Jim Larsen’s home, 4521 Harvey in Western Springs. Please come for as little or as long as you would like. There will be a pizza lunch and a chance to swim afterwards for those who can stay. If you know of any additional schools or organizations that might be in need of supplies this year or you have any gently used school/art/office supplies that you would like to donate, please call Mary Lee and Jim at 708-246-3987.

Success for the Seasoned Job Search – the Benefit of Being Overqualified

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, June 18 from 7-9 pm when we welcome back Abby Kohut (aka “Absolutely Abby”). Many seasoned job seekers find themselves being called overqualified because they have more years of experience than the job description calls for. During this program Abby will provide you with some powerful strategies to help you overcome your interviewer’s misconceptions about you. Learn how to answer the overqualified question, how to change your cover letter and resume if you believe you are overqualified, seven ways to explain on an interview why being overqualified is an advantage and how to handle the “age factor”. All this and more at St. John of the Cross Parish Center. All are welcome and there is no charge to attend. www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Save the Date

St. Thaddeus 2nd Annual June Jamboree Fundraiser

Sunday, June 28 Noon to 4pm
Dancing, Food, Music, Raffle, Shopping

Food Pantry Collection

During the month of June the food donated in the narthex of church will be given to neighboring parish, St. Francis Xavier. Please remember to bring healthy nonperishable food to Mass to feed people who struggle to secure food. Every can and box makes a difference!

Do You Have a Heavenly Ringtone?

A priest was obsessed about reminding parishioners to turn off their cell phones before Mass. He mentioned it at least three or four times before the service started. Then just as he stepped up to give his homily, in a moment of total silence, a jiggling ring tone emanated from his own cell phone. Red-faced, he waded through his vestments, pulled the device from the holder on his hip, and in an audible whisper said frantically, “Lord, I thought I told you never to call me during Mass?!”

He may have been more symbolic than he realized. Unlike our cell phones that we can turn on and off as convenient, we can’t turn off a call from God. A calling often comes at what we would deem the most inconvenient time, because we are so focused on our agendas rather than being aware that within each moment lies the opportunity to respond to God in the world around us. Our minds quickly try to justify why not to take action or why not to step up to help another. Instead (our focus should not be attached) to any object or plan, save the ultimate goal of serving God. (Make sure) your cell phone is always on (and charged), waiting for that heavenly ring tone.

Excerpt from Ignatian Spirituality. Lisa Kelly

The one who listens attentively to the Word of God and truly prays, always asks the Lord: what is your will for me? Pope Francis 5.19.14
An artist designed an unusual door for a church in Germany. He divided the door into four panels. Each panel depicts several symbols referring to a Gospel event. The first panel depicts six water jars, referring to the miracle at Cana, where Jesus changed water into wine. The second panel depicts five loaves and two fish, referring to the miracle at Capernaum, where Jesus multiplied loaves and fish. The third panel depicts thirteen people seated at a table, referring to the Last Supper. The fourth panel depicts three people seated at a table, referring to the Easter supper Jesus ate at Emmaus with two of this disciples. The artist chose these four events because they relate to the Mass. They relate to Jesus’ gift of himself to us in the form of bread and wine.

Panel One: Miracle at Cana
Sometimes modern Christians have trouble seeing how water can change into wine. Early Christians had no trouble with this miracle. They lived off the soil and saw something similar to it happen each summer in their vineyards. Grapevines drew water out of the ground and with the help from the sun changed the water into wine. But the important thing about the miracle of Cana is not how Jesus worked it, but why he worked it. Was it merely to save a young couple from embarrassment of running out of wine at their wedding? The artist who designed the door suggests that Jesus had a deeper reason. Jesus wanted to prepare his disciples for the Last Supper, when he would change wine into blood.

Panel Two: Miracle of Loaves and Fish
Early Christians saw something similar to this miracle each year in their wheat fields. In spring they would plant five bushels of wheat, and by the time summer ended, the wheat would multiply into 500 bushels. Again, the important thing is not how Jesus worked this miracle, but why. Was it merely out of compassion for a crowd of hungry people? Again the artist suggest another reason. The miracle gave Jesus a chance to tell the people that he would soon feed them more marvelously than he had just done. He would feed them even more marvelously than Moses fed their ancestors in the desert. Jesus said to the people: “What Moses gave you was not bread from heaven.. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give him is my flesh” (John 6:32,51).

Panel Three: The Last Supper
At the Last Supper Jesus does more than change water into wine; he changes wine into his own blood. And he does more than multiply loaves of bread; he changes bread into his own body. “While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. ‘Take it,’ he said, ‘this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them and they all drank from it. Jesus said, ‘This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God’s covenant’ (Mark14).

Panel Four: Jesus at Emmaus with Disciples
The artist interprets the Emmaus supper as the first celebration of the Lord's Supper. Luke describes it this way: "Jesus took the bread and said the blessing, then he broke the bread and gave it to them" (Luke 24:30). This description matches what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

The artist’s door is an excellent summary of the Lord’s Supper as it develops in the course of the Gospel. It traces it from Cana, where it was prefigured to Capernaum, where it was promised, to Jerusalem, where it was instituted, to Emmaus, where it was first celebrated.

Today's feast of Corpus Christi celebrates Jesus’ gift of himself to us as our spiritual food and drink. This mystery of love is beyond all imagining. Jesus gives himself to us so completely that there is nothing more for him to give. Some time ago divers discovered a 400-year old Spanish ship buried in water off the coast of northern Ireland. Among the treasures found in the ship was a man's gold wedding ring. Etched into the wide band of the ring was a hand holding a heart and these words: I have nothing more to give you. The same image and sentence could be used to describe what today's feast is all about. It’s Jesus saying to us, "I have given myself to you so totally that there is nothing more to give you."

At communion, when the minister or priest holds up the sacred host and says to you, “The Body of Christ,” try to realize in a special way what you receive. It is the living body of Jesus. The same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem. The same Jesus who died on the cross. The same Jesus rose from the dead. It's so incredible that it's hard to image. Yet we know, by faith, it's true. Only a loving Father could have given his children such an incredible gift. Mark Link, SJ

Lord, grant us the awesome gift of meeting you. Pope Francis 5.30.15
All High School and College Students Invited to Join!

Are you allowing Jesus’ Word to lead you to joy? “If you abide in my word you will know my love and that love will fill you with an immense joy – a joy which is unsurpassing, exalted, and unfading.” (From a meditation by Don Schwager on 2 Peter 1:3,8.)

God’s Word has potential to bring us immense joy, but sometimes it is tough to see how it is relevant and really unlock that potential. Ignite is a weekly small group program for high school and college students where we will share our own experiences to achieve a better understanding of what God is telling us through His Word. Discussions will be Scripture-based where each week we will look at a gospel passage and talk about how it applies to finding joy and direction in our daily lives.

Please contact Ashley Klesken at aklesken33@aol.com or 708-299-1737 if you are interested in being part of a small group or being a small group leader. We will form groups and have our first discussion on Wednesday, June 10th at 7:30pm at the St. John of the Cross Parish Center. We will meet every Wednesday over the summer starting this week, June 10th, so feel free to come every week or just stop by any week that works with your schedule. I hope you’re ready to make new friends and set your faith on fire!

Summer Work Tours Begin

Our first summer work tour begins tomorrow. A group of teens and adults will be traveling to NPH Guatemala for a rewarding week of service at a home for orphaned, abandoned or at risk children. Join us in praying for safe travels.

Kairos Retreat

Kairos 20, a retreat for Juniors and Seniors, will take place August 6-9. Register by June 30 at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats/

God invites us to the Table to share the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. We pray that we might become Eucharist for others...

That we may be bread for one another, a parish community of support and compassion;
That we may be bread for our world, proclaiming with courage and conviction the Gospel of justice, mercy and peace;
That we may be bread for our children, teaching them the many wonderful thing that God has done for us;
That we may be bread for the poor and hungry willingly sharing with them from the bounty we have been given;
That we may be bread for all in need, welcoming all who come to our table seeking support, compassion and understanding. Amen.
Come be a part of the 
YC Family!
Register for the coming 
school year TODAY!
Youth Catechesis is our parish religious education program for all parish children from kindergarten through 8th grade. Registration is underway for the next school year. Visit our office to register your children. The YC office is located in the southeast corner of the school building at 708 51st Street. Call us with questions at 708-246-6760. New families are asked to bring a copy of each child’s baptismal certificate if not baptized at our parish. Our Office Hours are Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4pm.

Is God calling you to 
share your faith with 
others?
All parishioners are invited to volunteer in the classroom as a Catechist or Aide next year. We have volunteers who have children in the program, parishioners who do not have a YC student, and high school teens. All are welcome to share their faith with our parish children! You will find the experience to be rewarding!
Volunteers are also needed to help with our Vacation Bible School which begins the week of June 29. Call the YC office to learn more!

Thank you to all teachers: educating is an important mission, which draws young people to what is good, beautiful and true. Pope Francis 6.3.14
SUMMER INSTITUTE 2015
THE WELL Spirituality Center

7th Annual Summer Institute
A Consciousness for Our Time

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 7-9 pm — SATURDAY, JUNE 20 9-3:30 pm

Friday, June 19
6:30 pm Registration
7-9 pm 1st Keynote
9 pm Bonfire & Refreshments

“Recovering a Sense of the Sacred”
Carolyn Toben, Master teacher, retreat leader and guide to eco-contemplative practices based on the work of Thomas Berry and co-founder, Timberlake Earth Sanctuary in Whitsett, NC

Saturday, June 20
8:30 am Gathering/Coffee
9-Noon 2nd Keynote with Breakout Discussions
Noon Green Lunch

“Are You Ready to Let Both Feet Off the Ground?”
Gail Worcelo, SGM, Author of
Holy Ground Where Catholic Tradition and the Universe Story Meet and co-founder, The Green Mountain Monastery in Greensboro, VT

Saturday, June 20
1:30 - 3:30 pm 3rd Keynote

“Called by Deep Time—A Summons and A Response”
Miriam Therese MacGillis*, OP, Founder of Genesis Farm in Blairstown, NJ

* Live-streamed keynote presentation

“The major shift we’re making now is in our concept of time and space. In the old cosmologies, time was cyclical, and the universe fixed and static. But in this new context, the universe is a constantly emerging process. Time itself is development. Therefore, everything in the past has been essential to open up the possibilities for what is yet to develop — like the tree in the acorn. The acorn has to go through all the stages of its process to bring forth a tree, and the tree is very different from the acorn. But you can’t have one without the other.” —Miriam Therese MacGillis

Cost: $120. Some overnight accommodations are available ($50). Please register by 6/12/15.
The Summer Institute is preceded by a five-day retreat with Carolyn Toben. You are invited to consider blending the Institute and the retreat for an ever richer experience.
Everyone longs to know something that’s secret, to know something that others don’t know, but that you know, and the knowledge of which gives you some insight and advantage over others who are outside the inner-circle of that secret. It has always been so. Historically this is called “Gnosticism”, which forever makes an appearance in one form or another.

Today we see this in society at large in the immense popularity of books like The Da Vinci Code and The Celestine Prophecy. Their lure is precisely in the hint that there are secrets that a few elite persons know that contain important, life-altering, information which we, the unenlightened, are ignorant of. Our itch, of course, is to be inside these special circles. We see this paralleled sometimes in religious circles in the over-fascination people have with the private revelations of various self-acclaimed mystics, in special books claiming to disclose critical new revelations from the Blessed Virgin Mary, and in the undue interest shown in things like The Third Secret of Fatima. Gnosticism has many cloaks.

At first glance, Jesus, in Mark’s Gospel, seems to be hinting at just this sort of secret. He tells us there is a secret that is open to us which, if known, puts us into a special circle of enlightenment and community. In Mark 4, 11, he tells his disciples: To you is given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but to those outside everything is in parables. Clearly here Jesus is distinguishing between two circles, one which grasps the secret and is then “inside”, and the other which does not grasp the secret and is then “outside”. Jesus seems to be saying that in following him we can be either “in” or “out”, depending upon whether or not we grasp a certain secret. Genuine disciples are those who (in today’s terminology) “get it”, and those who “don’t get it” remain outside. But what are we inside or outside of? More importantly, what is the secret?

For Jesus, the secret is the cross; that’s the deep wisdom we need to grasp. If we understand the cross, all the rest of what Jesus teaches will make sense. Conversely, if we don’t understand the cross, all the rest of what Jesus teaches won’t make sense. Grasping the meaning of the cross is the secret to everything. But how, more concretely, should this be understood? What is the deep secret that lies inside the cross of Jesus? What, in essence, do we need to understand?

Various biblical commentators answer this in different, complementary ways. For some, it means grasping the wisdom that’s revealed in the cross. For others, it means understanding the brokenness of Jesus on the cross. Still, for others, it means understanding the invitation that is inside the cross which invites us to live out the demands of the cross. Each of these, in its own way, points to the most-profound secret of all inside human understanding, namely, that in giving love away in total self-sacrifice, at the cost of humiliation, brokenness, and death, we ourselves come to what’s deepest and fullest in life.

But, unlike all Gnostic secrets, ancient or contemporary, this is an open secret, available to everybody and, paradoxically, more-accessible to the “little ones”, the poor, and more-hidden to “the wise and the clever”. Jesus makes the point that he has no hidden secrets by emphasizing again and again that he only speaks openly and in public, never in secret, but in synagogues and marketplaces. Jesus has no hidden secrets, only open secrets that we fail to grasp.

Interestingly, we see that, in the Gospels, grasping the secret of the cross is not something we do once and for all. Sometimes we grasp it, and we are inside the circle of understanding; and sometimes we don’t grasp it, and we are outside the circle of understanding. For example, after Peter denies Jesus during the passion, the Gospels tell us that “Peter went outside”; and they are referring to much more than simply stepping outside through some courtyard door. In denying that he knew Jesus and in not stepping forward to assume the weight of what would happen if he remained faithful, Peter was stepping outside the circle of both true discipleship and of a true understanding of life. His denial of Jesus took him “outside”. We too, in our following of Jesus, sometimes step “outside” when we give in to temptation or adversity. But then, if we repent of our betrayal, like Peter, we can step back “inside.”

There are various ways that we can enter into an understanding of Jesus’ message and try to appropriate it for our lives, but few, perhaps none, take us so immediately to the center as does the invitation from Jesus in the Gospel of Mark to grasp and accept the wisdom of the Cross.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. www.ronrolheiser.com.
There are openings in several ministries at our parish. Training will be held this summer. If you would like more information about the ministry see Fr. Bill, or if you are ready to sign up call the Parish Center front office.

**Usher:** Ushers welcome, help people find seats, assist those with special needs, answer questions, take up the collection, and take charge when there is an emergency. There are openings at all Mass times. Ushers should be of high school age or older. Usually they serve at the same Mass each week.

**Communion Minister:** This ministry is for those high school aged and older who have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation) and wish to share their faith with members of the assembly. Scheduling is based on your availability.

**Lector:** Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass. Like Communion Ministers, Lectors should be of high school age and older, have received the Sacraments of Initiation and wish to share their faith. Good reading skills and a clear speaking voice are important. Scheduling is based on your availability.

**Minister of Care:** Ministers of Care are trained volunteers who visit, pray with and bring Communion to the elderly or patients at RML Specialty Hospital, LaGrange Hospital, Hines VA Hospital or at their home. Ministers complete four evening training sessions and receive additional instruction from Fr. Bill. Scheduling is based on your availability.
FEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

For SJC Fest to be a success, it requires a lot of volunteers. Over 300 to be exact! Won’t you please consider volunteering for this year’s Fest? Whether you are a returning volunteer or a new one, we really need all hands on deck! We could use your assistance selling carnival and food tickets, serving food and beverages, selling raffle tickets, helping with setup and takedown, security and much more. We’d very much appreciate you sharing your time and talent with your Parish family! For more info, please stop by the SJC Fest 2015 table outside the Parish Center after weekend Mass or visit www.sjcfest.com and click on the “Volunteer” tab.

MEGA RIDE BRACELETS ON SALE NOW!

Pre-Sale Price: $50
Good for unlimited rides during entire SJC FEST!

A limited number of Mega Pass Vouchers are now available for $50 on a pre-sale basis only. Vouchers can be redeemed at the carnival voucher redemption booth for an unlimited ride wristband during the entire SJC Fest from June 25th-28th. Vouchers can be purchased at the Parish Center Office (checks only), School Office (see Val Nelson), on the Fest website or after Sunday Mass. Mega Passes are non-transferrable, non-replaceable and non-refundable. For additional information, please call Diane Schick at (708) 292-1100.

Don’t forget to purchase your SJC FEST RAFFLE TICKETS!
Watch your regular mail for more info!!

Watch the bulletin for Fest News or visit our Fest Website at sjcfest.com
For the Men of the Parish

Get Involved ~ Make a Difference!
The Parish Men's Club is seeking a candidate to fill the office of President. If you are interested please contact Bill Bright at bbright@stjohnofthecross.org or Barrett Long at longbarrett@hotmail.com.

Father-Son Retreat
August 7-9, 2015 with Fr. Patrick McGrath, SJ

The Father-Son Retreat begins on Friday night with dinner and fellowship. After dinner, silence commences, and the retreat master gives the first of eight talks which are adapted from the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Your retreat is a time for personal silence and prayer. You can listen to the talks, walk the Way of the Cross, pray the Rosary, receive the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Healing, converse with a Spiritual Director or simply enjoy the beauty of 80 acres set outside the grind of daily life.

The Bellarmine Retreat House is located in nearby Barrington. An $85 deposit is requested at time of retreat registration for each Father and Son pair ($42.50 per individual).

Questions? Email info@jesuitretreat.org or call 847.381.1261.

Vocation: Protector

The mission God entrusted to Joseph was to be the custos, the protector of Mary and Jesus as well as the Church, Christ's mystical body.

How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unflawing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. From the time of his betrothal to Mary until the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, he is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad, on the journey to Bethlehem for the census and in the anxious and joyful hours when she gave birth; amid the drama of the flight into Egypt and during the frantic search for their child in the Temple; and later in the day-to-day life of the home of Nazareth, in the workshop where he taught his trade to Jesus.

How does Joseph respond to his calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church? By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans, and not simply to his own. Joseph is a "protector" because he is able to hear God's voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him, we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!

The vocation of being a "protector", however, is not just something involving us; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!

Being protectors, then, also means keeping watch over our own selves: our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions: intentions that build up and tear down! We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness!

Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness. St. Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

Excerpt from Inaugural Homily of Pope Francis
Monday, June 08
Crossroads Guatemala Work Tour Leaves
8:30am School Technology Staff Development
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
7:30pm Archdiocese RCIA Workshop
Tuesday, June 09
8:30am School Technology Staff Development
Wednesday, June 10
8:00am School Faith Formation Class
8:30am YC Focus Group Meeting
9:00am Broderick Bridges Faith Sharing
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00pm Christian Meditation
3:00pm Spirituality of John of the Cross
7:00pm Family Festival Meeting
7:30pm Ignite Bible Study
7:30pm SAM Planning Meeting
Thursday, June 11
8:00am School Faith Formation Class
10:00am Flourish
Friday, June 12
6:00pm Beloved Meeting
Saturday, June 13
7:00am Christian Meditation
8:00am Recertification of Virtus Facilitators
Sunday, June 14
12:00pm Baptisms

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us as we knit and crochet shawls for those who are ill or going through difficult life circumstances. We are always in need of more people to join in this ministry. If you would like further info, or would like to request a shawl for someone, contact Sheila, 708-246-7836 or Mary 708-246-5108.

Staff Directory
For a listing of staff members go to our parish website or call the Parish Center office at 708-246-4404.

St. John of the Cross Parish
www.stjohnofthecross.org
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42ND ANNUAL SJC GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 20 9AM-2PM
Half Price Bag Sale on
Monday, June 22 from 9am-1pm

It's time to clean those closets, garages, & storage sheds for the Annual SJC Garage Sale!

Drop off your items at the Parish School:
Saturday, June 13: 9am - 2pm
Mon - Thurs, June 15 - 18: 10am - 8pm
Friday, June 19: 10am-Noon

Have large items that you would like to donate?
Call Marian Orth (708) 246-2160 or Connie Madden (708) 417-2012 to schedule a pickup. June 15th - 18th

WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT ANY items if stained, torn or damaged: including clothing, undergarments, linens, stuffed toys, furniture and rugs. Items with missing pieces/parts * Console stereos, console TVs, Tube TV’s, electric organs, typewriters, trophies, non-motorized treadmills, Nordic Tracks * Bikes not in working condition * Bed Frames or mattresses, traverse drapery rods * Encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines * Large appliances (stoves, microwave ovens, washers/dryers) or humidifiers * Large Artificial Christmas trees/stands * Skis/ski boots, Computers 7 yrs or older, ANY monitor other than flat screen * Construction materials, kitchen cupboards, shutters, metal filing cabinets/desks * Tires * food items * drop side cribs * car seats older than 5 yrs.

For more information on Volunteering, please visit us at sjcgaragesale.com.
It’s a great way to meet people and serve others!
Like us on Facebook at St. John of the Cross Garage Sale!!
Bright Horizons at Western Springs

Programs for infants, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten prep

Now Enrolling!

4700 Commonwealth Avenue, Western Springs
(708) 246-4710
www.brighthorizons/wsb