The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.
Pope Francis: Living the Eucharist in our Daily Lives

First, the Eucharist affects the way we see others. In his life, Christ manifested his love by being with people, and by sharing their desires and problems. So too the Eucharist brings us together with others – young and old, poor and affluent, neighbors and visitors. The Eucharist calls us to see all of them as our brothers and sisters, and to see in them the face of Christ.

Second, in the Eucharist we experience the forgiveness of God and the call to forgive. We celebrate the Eucharist not because we are worthy, but because we recognize our need for God’s mercy, incarnate in Jesus Christ. In the Eucharist, we renew the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ for the remission of sins, and our hearts are enlarged to receive and show mercy.

Third, in the Eucharistic celebration, we are nourished as the Christian community by Christ’s Word and Life. It is from the Eucharist that the Church receives continually her identity and mission. It is in our celebration that Christ fills us with his grace, so that our lives may be consonant with our worship of God in the Liturgy. Let us live the Eucharist in a spirit of faith and prayer, with the certainty that the Lord will bring to fulfillment all that he has promised.

Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

Jesus in the Gospels & the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the center of my life. I cannot imagine a day without the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. But it is evident that there is a relationship with the Gospels. We find in the Gospels a realistic, historical image of Jesus as he lived in Palestine. And in the Eucharist we find Jesus Christ living today among us. In neither case can we see him with our own eyes, but the story of the Gospels is the word of God. With strong impact it communicates to us the vital meaning of that word. By reading the Gospels we perceive this Jesus of two thousand years ago as living and very near to us. It is as if Jesus of Nazareth continues to live as he lived in former days. On the other hand, the Eucharist is the body and blood of Christ risen, living, present, although he is hidden under the appearances of bread and wine. He makes himself present, he speaks to us, he inspires us, and he gives us strength.

Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

Richard Rohr Meditation

Eucharist as Touchstone

The mystery of Eucharist clarifies and delineates Christianity from the other religions of the world. We have many things in common, but Christianity is the only religion that says that God became a human body; God became flesh, as John’s Gospel puts it (1:14). Our fancy theological word for that is the Incarnation, the enfleshment. It seems that it is much easier for God to convince bread of what it is than for God to convince us. Incarnation is scandalous, shocking—cannibalistic, intimate, sexual! He did not say, “Think about this,” “Fight about this,” “Stare at this;” but He said “Eat this!” A dynamic, interactive event that makes one out of two.

If we did not have the Eucharist, we would have to create it; sometimes it seems that outsiders can appreciate it more than Christians. As Gandhi said, “There are so many hungry people in the world that God could only come into the world in the form of food.” It is marvelous, that God would enter our lives not just in the form of sermons or Bibles, but in food. God comes to feed us more than just teach us. Lovers understand that.

Prayer:

Eucharisteo.
I give thanks.

Lord, grant us the awesome gift of meeting you. Pope Francis @Pontifex May 30

Gospel.
Who is the bread of your life?
Is it God?
Nothing else is as nourishing as God’s word.
So why waste your time on junk food? J Martin, SJ
Follow the Joy

From time to time, we feel the need to understand better what our gifts are. I think this is particularly true at certain stages of life. There’s a big surge toward our giftedness during adolescence, when many of us discover that we like music or can paint or write stories or play basketball well. What’s wonderful about that age is that we’re full of passionate energy, so that our gifts can really take off and develop. If we’re lucky, we grow to adulthood with some sense of our gifts, and we stay involved with them. If we’re really lucky, we end up working full-time at a job that incorporates at least some of our gifts. If we are involved in bringing up children, for a time our focus shifts to helping them discover their gifts.

Then, at midlife, we just might find ourselves in a second adolescence. We don’t have the same levels of raw energy we did in our teens, but we do feel surges of desire. We find ourselves taking classes again. We develop hobbies—such as woodworking, gardening, or knitting—that speak to those deep desires.

Often, I believe that those desires are pointing to our gifts. Because, in the most basic—and biblical—sense, our gifts are closely aligned with our deepest joy. What this means is that, if we attend to our true desires, we certainly will bump into our gifts.

This also means that, if you’re struggling to know what your gifts are (and some gifts lie dormant for decades, waiting for the right time to emerge), all you need to do is follow the joy.

Spend some time remembering what you loved doing as a child, then as an older kid, then a teenager. When you were free to do what you really wanted to do, what was that? What kinds of activities really energized you?

And, as an adult, what do you do that makes you lose track of time? When do you really get into “the zone”? What do you do that gives you that gut-level sense of satisfaction—regardless of how well you’ve done it or how imperfect the outcome?

Sometimes we discover that, even as children, we knew what gave us true joy. And the same activities we liked then are helpful clues to what we might be called to do now. In other cases, a gift really has lain dormant, and your desires now lead to discovery of a whole new thing.

Ask yourself—maybe every day—“What really gives me joy?” Vinita Hampton Wright

Meditation: It doesn’t matter how long it takes you, just keep going. Eventually, your own experience will teach you the value of it and you will see that the discipline of the morning and evening meditation gives you energy, gives you joy, gives you peace, which go into your life. You learn that from your own experience. So, just start, and if you fall asleep just wake up. (Laurence Freeman, Meditating as a Christian)
Living the Gospel

“The Jews murmured” because they could not get beyond their limited perception of who they thought Jesus was to the mystery about himself he reveals: “I am the bread of life,” the Bread “come down from heaven,” the Bread to whom we must come, the Bread who gives us a share in his “eternal life,” the Bread in whom we must believe, the Bread who gives Self “for the life of the world.” Jesus persists in revealing himself as the Bread sent by God to nourish the crowd (and us) for the journey to eternal Life. Jesus gives his life so that we might have new Life: “the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The surprise of the gospel is that Jesus himself, as the “bread . . . from heaven,” is both the promise and fulfillment of the eternal Life for which we long.

In the mystery of Christ we are reminded that life and death always go together. If we wish to live, we must be willing to die to ourselves. We are able to embrace dying to self because, through Jesus, we know that in the very dying is new life. Jesus has gone before us and taught us that death brings life. Cross leads to resurrection. Dying leads to eternal Life. God’s persistence in bringing us Life is a gift, indeed. It is also mystery. But the gift and mystery invite more than our own openness to receive. To receive God’s gift of Life—Jesus as living bread—is to pledge ourselves also to bring that Life of God to others through the good we do every day for others.

Background on the Gospel

On this Sunday, we continue to read from the “Bread of Life discourse” found in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. Recall that we have been reading from this chapter for the past two weeks and will continue to read from it for another two. Last week, the crowd asked for a sign that would show that Jesus came from God. Jesus replied by saying that he is the sign and the bread of life sent by God. At this point, our Lectionary omits six verses in which Jesus predicts the unbelief of the crowd and further develops his connection with God the Father. In these verses, Jesus says that he was sent by God to do the Father’s will. Jesus promises that those who look upon the Son with faith will find eternal life. Some of these themes are repeated in today’s Gospel reading.

Today’s Gospel begins with a report that the Jews complained about Jesus’ claims regarding his identity. They knew his family, and they knew he was the son of Joseph. They could not comprehend what Jesus meant when he said that he came down from heaven. Jesus responds to the complaints by saying that only those who are chosen by God will recognize him as the one that God sent. This is a recurring theme in John’s Gospel, that God has chosen those who will have faith in Jesus.

In the verses that follow, Jesus talks more about his unity with the Father. He is the one who has seen the Father and, therefore, knows the Father. Those who listen to God will recognize that Jesus is the one sent from God. Those who believe will have eternal life. Jesus concludes with the central element of our eucharistic theology. He promises that the bread of life will bring eternal life to those who partake of it, and he tells us that the bread of life will be his own flesh, given for the life of the world.

In today’s reading, we hear Jesus say again, as he did in last week’s Gospel, that he is the bread of life. We also hear Jesus add that he is the living bread. Both of these statements help us understand better the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist. We celebrate this gift of Jesus each time we gather for Mass. We believe that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist will lead us to eternal life.
MORNING of MEDITATION

Christian Meditation – How does it help us grow?

A DVD presentation by Laurence Freeman, OSB, Spiritual Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation.

Saturday, August 22, 2015
Hospitality: 8:30 a.m.
Meditation: 9:00 -11:30 a.m.

St. John of the Cross Parish Center
5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL

In this DVD, Fr. Laurence explains the significance of Christian Meditation to the prayer life of the Christian, and describes the stages and fruits of the contemplative journey.

ALL ARE INVITED;
Those who meditate, and those who want to learn to meditate.

Free will offering accepted.

Registration requested but not required
mary105105@gmail.com or 708-246-5108

The Morning of Meditation is sponsored by the Christian Meditation groups at St. John of the Cross Parish. Information on Christian Meditation is available at wccm-usa.org and wccm.org.
Background on the Gospel

This coming Saturday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the feast which celebrates Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. (It is one of three feasts of Mary that is usually considered a Holy Day of Obligation, however, because it falls on a Saturday it is not considered as such in the United States this year. The other feast days are January 1, the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.)

The Gospel for this feast day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

The Gospel reminds us that Mary's Assumption into heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—could give birth to Christ, who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.

Today's Gospel highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation. Loyola Press.

Join us at Mass at our regular morning Mass on Saturday at 8am.

Blessed are you, O God, in the Virgin Mary. Through her, your Son came into the world. Through him, she entered into the new world of your glory. Come and sow in our bodies the gift of eternal life, so that one day we may enter with her into your kingdom, through Christ, your Son and Son of Mary, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Mother, help our faith! Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call. Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise. Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith. Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature. Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One. Remind us that those who believe are never alone. Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!

Prayer to Mary at the conclusion of the Encyclical Lumen Fidei (29 June 2013) Pope Francis

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In a recent homily focused on the role of Mary in the Gospel story of the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), Pope Francis chose three characteristics of Mary to meditate on – her motherhood, her prayerfulness, and her willingness to act.

Mary is attentive, she is attentive in the course of this wedding feast, she is concerned for the needs of the newlyweds. She is not closed in on herself, worried only about her little world. Her love makes her “outgoing” towards others. She does not seek her friends to say what is happening, to criticize the poor organization of the wedding feast. And since she is attentive, she discretely notices that the wine has run out. Wine is a sign of happiness, love and plenty. How many of our adolescents and young people sense that there is no longer any of that wine to be found in their homes? How many women, sad and lonely, wonder when love left, when it slipped away from their lives? How many elderly people feel left out of family celebrations, cast aside and longing each day for a little love, from their sons and daughters, their grandchildren, their great grandchildren? This lack of this “wine” can also be due to unemployment, illness and difficult situations which our families around the world may experience. Mary is not a “demanding” mother, nor a mother-in-law who revels in our lack of experience, our mistakes and the things we forget to do. Mary, quite simply, is a Mother! She is there, attentive and concerned. It is gratifying to hear this: Mary is a Mother!

But Mary, at the very moment she perceives that there is no wine, approaches Jesus with confidence: this means that Mary prays. She goes to Jesus, she prays. She does not go to the steward, she immediately tells her Son of the newlyweds’ problem. The response she receives seems disheartening: “What does it have to do with you and me? My hour has not yet come” (v. 4). But she nonetheless places the problem in God’s hands. Her deep concern to meet the needs of others hastens Jesus’ hour. And Mary was a part of that hour, from the cradle to the cross. She was able “to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love” (Evangelii Gaudium, 286). She accepted us as her sons and daughters when the sword pierced her heart. She teaches us to put our families in God’s hands; she teaches us to pray, to kindle the hope which shows us that our concerns are also God’s concerns.

Praying always lifts us out of our worries and concerns. It makes us rise above everything that hurts, upsets or disappoints us, and helps to put ourselves in the place of others, in their shoes. The family is a school where prayer also reminds us that we are not isolated individuals; we are one and we have a neighbor close at hand: he or she is living under the same roof, is a part of our life, and is in need.

And finally, Mary acts. Her words, “Do whatever he tells you” (v. 5), addressed to the attendants, are also an invitation to us to open our hearts to Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served. Service is the sign of true love. Those who love know how to serve others. We learn this especially in the family, where we become servants out of love for one another. In the heart of the family, no one is rejected; all have the same value. A mother loves her children as they are. And in the family, children are loved as they are. None are rejected. “In the family we learn how to ask without demanding, to say ‘thank you’ as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggressivity and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm, when we quarrel, because in all families there are quarrels. The challenge is to then ask for forgiveness. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings” (Laudato Si’, 213). The family is the nearest hospital; when a family member is ill, it is in the home that they are cared for as long as possible. The family is the first school for the young, the best home for the elderly. The family is also a small Church, called a “domestic Church” which, along with life, also mediates God’s tenderness and mercy. In the family, we imbibe faith with our mother’s milk. When we experience the love of our parents, we feel the closeness of God’s love.

All this began because “they had no wine”. It could all be done because a woman – the Virgin Mary – was attentive, left her concerns in God’s hands and acted sensibly and courageously. But there is a further detail, the best was to come: everyone went on to enjoy the finest of wines. And this is the good news: the finest wines are yet to be tasted; for families, the richest, deepest and most beautiful things are yet to come. The time is coming when we will taste love daily, when our children will come to appreciate the home we share, and our elderly will be present each day in the joys of life. The finest of wines is expressed by hope, this wine will come for every person who staks everything on love. And the best wine is yet to come, in spite of all the variables and statistics which say otherwise. The best wine will come to those who today feel hopelessly lost. Say it to yourselves until you are convinced of it. Say it to yourselves, in your hearts: the best wine is yet to come. Whisper it to the hopeless and the loveless. Have patience, hope, and follow Mary’s example, pray, open your heart, because the best wine is yet to come. God always seeks out the peripheries, those who have run out of wine, those who drink only of discouragement. Jesus feels their weakness, in order to pour out the best wines for those who, for whatever reason, feel that all their jars have been broken.

As Mary bids us, let us “do what the Lord tells us”. Do what he tells you. And let us be thankful that in this, our time and our hour, the new wine, the finest wine, will make us recover the joy of families, the joy of living in a family.

Pope Francis 7.9.15 Homily Excerpts
Calendar of Events
8/16  Work Tour Return Meeting, Noon-2pm

Crossroads Registration Open!
Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is open. Visit our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/ to register. Registration is required each year in order to participate.

This summer, Crossroads teens and parish adults put their faith into action through service on work tours to Guatemala, Habitat for Humanity in WV, Our Lady of Charity in Cicero and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in KY.

Pictured below are Sean & Chris applying a fresh coat of paint, and Mariah and Olivia organizing the preschool classroom at Our Lady of Charity.

Children’s Choir Start
Up Dates!!

Did you know that SJC has two choirs available to all children in the parish? Mark your calendars as you schedule your kids for fall activities! Questions? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

Cherub Choir serves children in grades 1-3 and practices on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 4:30pm in the church. The start date is Sept. 9th with registration and a brief parent meeting at 4:20pm in church.

NEW THIS YEAR: 1st Graders will practice on Wednesdays in church, but separately from the 2nd and 3rd graders. Their practice time will be 3:45 – 4:30pm.

Youth Choir serves students in grades 4-8 and practices on Thursdays from 3:45 – 4:30pm in the church. The start date is Sept. 10th with registration and a brief parent meeting at 4:20pm.

College Student Panel Discussion
Attention Recent High School Graduates!
Monday, August 10th 7-8pm

Do you ever wonder how you can practice your Catholic faith and enjoy college at the same time? Do you want to learn more about what to expect as a new college student? Do you know how to find other Catholic students on campus? For answers to these and other questions, you are invited to a lively and fun all-student panel discussion on Monday, August 10 from 7 - 8 pm in the Parish Center. You'll learn helpful tips on how to make the most of your college experience from Catholic college students themselves! There will be snacks and drinks provided, so be sure to put this event on your "To Do" list! Bring a friend, and we hope to see you there!
The flame Continues to Burn Bright with Ignite!

OOOopps! Did we mis-speak? Who said Ignite is over?? Ignite, the small group Scripture Reflection Program, is continuing into September.

All Crossroads Teens and non-Crossroads Teens (of any faith) are welcome to join us at our Ignite sessions! This student-led faith-sharing group discusses a Gospel reading each Wednesday night about how it relates to our lives. If you want to get closer to God, reading His Word each week is a great way to do it. At Ignite we talk about questions we have about the Bible, our faith, and our lives in general. Prepare your heart for this school year spiritually through Ignite, and also by making new friends who have similar values and are striving to live a Christian life!

Make sure to check it out if you haven’t yet! We break into small groups every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30pm in the Parish Center.

We are looking for small group leaders who can lead Ignite groups during the school year. The Ignite leader commitment is less than 4 hours/week. Please contact Terry Stadler at 708-246-3838 or tjs47@att.net if you are interested in hearing more details!

Crossroads Volunteer Opportunities

In order to share our Christian Catholic faith with our teens in all of the possible expressions, the Parish Teen Program, Crossroads, is looking for a few additional adult volunteers. If you are interested in the future Church, our teens, we would love to have you join us on our Crossroads Leadership Team. There are short term opportunities (Kairos Retreat Team members, Freshmen – Sophomore Retreat Team members, 8th grade Day of the Spirit Retreat Team members, etc.) and 3 month opportunities (Freshman Experience Team member) and one year opportunities (IGNITE Gospel Reflection Coordinator, Service Coordinator and Social Coordinator) and finally 3 ½ year opportunities as Home Group Leaders!

Pray about your availability & commitment and contact Terry Stadler at 708-2463838 or tjs47@att.net with any questions or to say ‘Yes’ to our parish teens. We look forward to hearing from you and having you join us and guiding our teens in the development of the faith and their relationship with God.

Upcoming Protecting God’s Children Workshops at SJC

Parents, coaches or volunteers in the parish who have regular contact with children must attend a PGC workshop. SJC is offering several convenient workshops in the Parish Center on:

- Tuesday, Aug. 11 9am-Noon
- Tuesday, Aug. 11 6:30-9:30pm
- Wednesday, Sept. 9 9am-Noon
- Wednesday, Sept. 9 6:30-9:30pm
- Wednesday, Sept. 30 6:30-9:30pm

Register online at www.virtus.org. Click on “registration” on the left side, choose “begin registration process” and then choose “Chicago IL,” follow steps to register. Direct questions to Mary Beth Drafz in the Parish Center. Find other sessions at virtus.org. Bring your completed certificate from other locations to SJC.

Looking for a Job?

Our parish is part of a coalition of area Christian churches partnering with Interfaith Career Network (ICN). ICN provides job search support through various free programs open to all throughout the year. Watch our bulletin for upcoming programs or go to www.interfaithcareernetwork.org for more information.

Career Resource Center (CRC) August 19

The CRC is a volunteer staffed resource where job seekers receive assistance with internet usage, resume/cover letter preparation and electronic job search skills including LinkedIn…a powerful tool that will help energize your job search. These services are available at no cost on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the First Baptist Church of La Grange, 20 N. Ashland.
Fall Adult Study Groups

Spirituality of John of the Cross Study Group
The Spirituality of John of the Cross Study Group begins its fall study series on Wednesday, September 16 at 3:30 p.m. Drawing on 'The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross', participants will gain a deeper awareness of and appreciation for the patron saint of our parish. Please contact Sr. Joyce (708-559-2954) with any questions or to place your discounted book order. This study series meets weekly on Wednesdays through December 16.

Little Rock Scripture Study Group
Little Rock Scripture Study Group will meet on Mondays at 1pm in the Parish Center beginning September 14. The group will begin its study on the Word of God at Vatican II (4 sessions) and will continue with the Book of Wisdom (6 sessions). To register, call or stop in the Parish Center office with your contact information. Class materials are $15 which can be paid ahead of time or brought to the first class. A brief description of each study is detailed below. Direct questions to Roberta Gilbert at bertageorge@gmail.com or Chris Sulak at 708-246-4784.

Word of God at Vatican II
Did you ever wonder how the Bible became such an essential part of being a Catholic in our Day? Dei Verbum—The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation—remains one of the foundational teachings of the Second Vatican Council. Discover how this teaching helped to move the Bible into the heart of parish faith formation, and continues to direct our efforts in liturgy, education, and spirituality.

Wisdom
Wisdom is a deuterocanonical book of the Old Testament, meaning that it was written in Greek, rather than Hebrew, and was never accepted as canonical by the Jewish people. Its value for Catholics is immense because of its proclamation of the immortality of the souls of the righteous and its insights into God's gift of wisdom to the human race. Those who seek wisdom find God. While never quoted in the New Testament, the Book of Wisdom appears to have a strong influence on it. The praise extolled on the female person of Wisdom became a stepping stone for John's description of the Word that was in the beginning with God.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The regular monthly meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the Parish Center lower level on Wednesday, August 12 from 1-2:30pm. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join in this meaningful ministry to make shawls for those who are ill or in need. If you cannot attend meetings, but would like to make a shawl to contribute, call for further info and we will be happy to pick it up. If you would like to request a shawl for someone, call Sheila at 708-246-7836 or Mary at 708-246-5108.

Anointing Mass
Each year our parish has a special Mass for those who desire to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This year the Mass will be on Sunday, September 27 at 12:30pm in church. Watch the bulletin for more information about this sacrament.

Spiritual Direction
Marianne Firlit is a certified Spiritual Director who has an office in our parish rectory. Spiritual Direction can help you see God’s presence in loss, grief, anger or fear, can help you make an important decision in light of God’s grace, and grow in gratitude and joy through deeper prayer. Contact Marianne at mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org or call the Parish Center.
Infant Baptism

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their infants baptized by Fr. Bill last Sunday. From the left are Joseph and Taylor Genvardi with infant, Beckett Taylor, Matthew and Kristi Waddell with infant, Grace Marie, Tim and Krista Forster with infant, Sadie Grace, Mark and Tara Reynolds with infant, Emmeline Marie, and Daniel and Margaret Phillips with twins, Owen Stanley and Olivia Emmerick,

Also pictured to the right with Msgr. Ken Velo and big brother are William and Jennifer McNaughton and infant John Krug also baptized last Sunday.

God of all creation, we are made in your image and are signs of your love. Bless these children who were given new life as your adopted sons and daughters through the waters of Baptism. May they grow up to know your name and give you praise. Bless the mothers and fathers of these children. Fill them with your strength so that they will be models of faith for their children, nurturing and teaching by word and example to know you and walk in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
O Lord, bless all of your creatures as a sign of your wondrous love.

Climate is the single biggest threat to reducing poverty. Whether it is typhoons or floods destroying entire communities, damaging homes and property or unpredictable seasons for farmers leading to harvests growing smaller or failing, leaving millions hungry, climate change is undoing years of our work together to improve people’s lives.

Nature reveals God to us. The world is a gift from God and its future is intimately bound up with our own lives and choices.

Climate change not only threatens the natural world, but also the lives and livelihoods of our global neighbors, especially the world’s poorest communities. Our faith calls us to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people who are poor. So doing our bit to tackle climate change is a fundamental part of expressing our faith. cafod.org

Heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan destroyed thousands of homes, roads, bridges and farms in August 2013 for the third year in a row.

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open our eyes, Lord God of all, you made the earth and saw that it was good, but like robbers we have stripped it of its treasure. Open our eyes, Lord. Now the earth cries out and your people hunger and thirst. Open our eyes, Lord. Open our eyes to see the pain of your creation and move us with compassion for your world. Open our eyes, Lord. Lead us to act as neighbors, who do not pass by on the other side. Open our eyes, Lord. So that together we may care for all that you have made and with all creation sing your praise. Open our eyes, Lord.

The commitment of believers to a healthy environment for everyone stems directly from their belief in God the Creator... Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation which is called to join [humanity] in praising God. Pope John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace, 1990

- How would you describe a healthy environment?
- Why do you think a belief in God the Creator leads us to commit to a healthy environment for all?
- How do you think concern about the environment and the impact of climate change link with a respect for life and the dignity of the human person? How can we reflect our faith and our commitment to a healthy environment in our actions?

Creator God, we thank you for all that you have given us. Inspire us with your love to respect this wondrous gift and to play our part in caring for all that you have made. Through Christ our Lord, Amen. cafod.org

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Outreach

Service Opportunities

**Beds Daytime Support Center**
Help supply brown bag lunches for BEDS Daytime Support Center on August 21, September 4 and 8th. A simple lunch is ideal - sandwich, chips or crackers, fruit (no apples) and one of the following, soft granola bar, pudding or jello cup. Between 12-15 lunches are needed for each date. More dates are available. Please contact Laurie Smillie at smillie@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us or call 708.246.6760 to schedule.

**CURE Network**
General volunteers, nurses, nursing assistants, interpreters, optometrists, ophthalmologists, dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants are needed to help at a two day clinic on September 18-19 in LaGrange. Register to volunteer at www.curenetwork.org. Call CURE Executive Director, Karen Carroll at 877-278-7631 with questions.

Our parishioner, Dr. Ken Nelson, is founder and chairman of CURE Network. The CURE (Collaborative Underserved Relief and Education) Network was created to meet the vital and ever growing need to bring free specialty medical services to the underinsured and those without insurance in the greater Chicagoland area. Since its inception in 2010, CURE Network has proudly provided over $2,700,000 of free medical, dental, and vision care to over 4,000 patients.

Opportunity to Donate Goods

**Nonperishable Food for Kolbe House Pantry**
Due to space constraints, Kolbe House is not currently able to accept additional donations of clothing and toiletries. Kolbe could use the following food items to restock their food pantry:
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Powdered Milk
- Small packages of rice
- Small packages of beans
Bring food donations to the Parish Center lobby.

**Towels and Sheets**
Donate gently used or new towels and sheets (especially twin size). Items will be given to Sharing Connections and BEDS Plus care. Donations may be brought to the Parish Center or YC Office.

**Backpacks and School Supplies**
The Catholic Charities West Region is collecting school supplies for children of low-income families living in the western suburbs to help them succeed in school. Last year over 300 children received backpack and school supplies that empowered them to begin their school year with success. Please drop school supplies off at the Parish Center before August 15th. Our donations will be given to children attending the annual Health Fair at St. Frances of Rome on August 29. If you would like to volunteer at the health fair either the day before or the day of, contact Bill Bright.

**SJC Narthex Food Pantry Collection**
During the month of August our food donations brought to the narthex will be delivered to the food pantry at St. Cletus. Remember to bring nonperishable food with you when you come to Mass to help feed the hungry.

**Gym Shoes**
New or gently used gym shoes for both kids and adults will be given to Sharing Connection and Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. Donations may be brought to the Parish Center.

Loving Like Jesus: The love of God cannot be relegated to specific times and places or to a single part of our being. Jesus tells the one who is questioning him that the love of God must engage the whole person, body, mind, and soul. We are invited to allow our love for God to be in every breath we take, in our waking and in our sleeping hours, in our joy and in our sadness, in our successes and in our failures.

How wholeheartedly do I love God? What is one thing I will do to increase my love for God?

Gracious God, fill me with your grace, that I may be open to your presence in every fiber of my being, every minute of my day, and in every person I meet. Loyola Press
An Obituary for a Suicide

The more things change, the more they stay the same. That axiom still holds true for our understanding of suicide. Despite all the advances in our understanding, there are still a number of stigmas around suicide, one of which pertains to how we write the obituary of a loved one who dies in this way. In writing an obituary we still cannot bring ourselves to write the word, suicide: He died by his own hand. We still turn to euphemisms: He died expectantly. Her sudden death brings great sadness.

Suicide, in many cases, perhaps in most cases, is the result of a disease, the emotional and psychological equivalent of cancer, stroke, or heart attack. If that is true, and it is, why then, when I loved one dies of suicide, might we not write this kind of an obituary?

We are sad to report the death of J__ D__ who died after a long and courageous struggle with emotional cancer. Jane, as you know, was born into this world with a tortured sensitivity, a gift and an affliction she grappled with from her earliest youth. She found comfort and peace at times, but was never able to fully extricate herself from some inner chaos which was always partially hidden to those around her and which medicine could not cure, counsellors could not quiet, and our affection and solicitousness could not adequately soothe. In the end, despite her courage and our best efforts to help her, the disease was incurable. Her temperament was both her blessing and her curse. She was a gentle person, not given to ego and unhealthy self-assertion, always overly-anxious not to hurt others or to claim too much space for herself. But her self-effacement was part of her disease as well. No amount of encouragement was able to ultimately take away this inchoate constriction that somehow deprived her of her full freedom. In the end, she died, against her will; but her life, lived with such sensitivity, was a precious gift to all who knew her, even as it sometimes brought anxiety and heartbeat to those around her. Given the sad circumstance of her death, she, with her extraordinary sensitivity, would be the last person who would want us to feel guilty and second-guess ourselves about what we might have done to help prevent her death. When a disease is terminal, all the love and concern in the world can still not bring a cure. But she died inside of our love even as we feel frustrated that our love could not do more to help her. She lives now, still, inside our love and affection, and, God-willing, inside a peace and security that so much eluded her in this life. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Mental Health Association.

Or perhaps, in another situation, it might read like this:

We are sad to report the death of J__ D__ who died expectantly of an emotional heart attack. His death came as shock since those closest to him had no reason to suspect that he suffered from dangerously high emotional cholesterol or that he carried inside him some congenital heart disease that had not yet manifested itself clearly and had not been medically or psychologically diagnosed. In the face of this, understandably, we find ourselves questioning ourselves as to why we were not more alert or attentive to his person and his health and why we did not pick up on any symptoms manifesting themselves in his situation. Sometimes a potentially fatal disease can lurk beneath the surface and remain unobserved until it is too late. Such is the nature, often times, of deadly heart attacks and strokes. While his death leaves us feeling raw, struggling for understanding, at loss to explain how this could happen, and needing to resist the temptation project a certain anger at him for keeping his disease so private and hidden, we can also understand that much of his disease was hidden from him too and that the anatomy of this particular kind of death has within itself a particularly pernicious pathology which demands of its victim precisely this propensity to hide what he is undergoing from those closest to him. And this asks for our understanding: Everyone’s life is its own mystery, and not always open to outside understanding. Moreover, emotional heart attacks and strokes, like their biological equivalents, are not willed and claim their victim against his or her will. J__ was a gentle soul who wished no one any harm and tried to do no one any harm. He, no doubt, is as grieved as we are that his unwanted death has caused so much pain. But, no doubt too, he asks for our continued love and affection and, especially, for our understanding. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your local mental health association.

It is hard to lose loved ones to suicide, but we should not also lose the truth and warmth of their mystery and their memory.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.
Monday, August 10, 2015
10am Used Uniform Sale
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
7:00pm College Panel Discussion
Tuesday, August 11, 2015
9:00am Protecting God’s Children Workshop
6:30pm Protecting God’s Children Workshop
Wednesday, August 12, 2015
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00pm Christian Meditation
7:00pm Prayer Group
7:00pm Group Voice Lessons
Thursday, August 13, 2015
8:00am Archdiocese Meeting
7:00pm Faith Sharing Group
7:30pm SAM Planning Meeting
Friday, August 14, 2015
8:00am Archdiocese Meeting
Saturday, August 15, 2015
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, August 16, 2015
12:00pm Baptisms
12:00pm Crossroads Work Tour Meeting
6:00pm Crossroads Planning Meeting

Mass Intentions
Monday, August 10 St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
7:45am Muriel Albertson; Fr. Kieran Kemner
Tuesday, August 11 St. Clare, Virgin
7:45am Richard Baruth; Helen DeStefani
Wednesday, August 12 St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
7:45am Don Middleton; Dave Woodward
Thursday, August 13 Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
7:45am Sr. Anna O’Brien; Our Beloved Dead
Friday, August 14 St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
7:45am Vincent Domagal; John S. Piszczor
Saturday, August 15 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Not a holy day of obligation)
8:00am Eleanor Godlewski; Robert Cosgrove
5:00pm Mary Jane Vollmer; Deceased members of the Grogan and Galvin Families
Sunday, August 16 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Irma Voller; Fr. Kieran Kemner
9:00am Don Middleton; Ann Maliszewski
10:45am Jack Doyle; Evelyn Spitkovsky
No 12:15 Mass—Summer Schedule
5:00pm Helen DeStefani; Norma Jean Kennedy-Wedlake

Italics: Living Intention

Contact our staff:
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Becoming Catholic
Learn about the Catholic faith. Join our community. Discover what a life of faith is all about. Explore how Jesus may be calling you into his life in a deeper way. RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is open to those never baptized or baptized in another Christian faith or those baptized Catholic, but who have not received First Eucharist or Confirmation. Now is the time to give Fr. Bill Vollmer a call to learn if RCIA is for you. Call 708-246-4404 x120.

Pray for Our Sick
Don Goss
Leona Hubatch
Don King
Jim Perona
Marie Sadowski
Mark Shafranski
Dale Snow

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Mildred “Bubbles” Sabath, wife of Jay
Richard Murphy, brother of Margaret Anderson
Catherine Ward, mother of Bob and Donald, aunt of Dan Cochran
Greg Perona, son of Tom and Lena, brother of Steve, Tom and Robert

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The school year is almost here!
Want to get gently used uniform items at a great price?
Come to the used uniform sale!

St. John of the Cross Parish School
Used Uniform Sale

Monday, August 10
10am to 2pm
Parish Center

Cash & Checks Only

All proceeds support our Parent Association.
Questions can be directed to
Wendi Mulcahy at 312-513-2622
or Melissa Timotic at 312-405-7229