LORD JESUS CHRIST

You have given your Church
The mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations.

May our efforts to fulfill this mission be guided by the Holy Spirit
So that we might be a leaven of new life,
Salt of the earth and a light to the world,
Worthy missionaries and faithful to You.

Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church
and inspire us to speak the truth with love.

Help us to communicate to others the joy that we have received.

Permit us to be united, but not closed;
Humble, but not fearful;
Simple, but not naive;
Thoughtful, but not overbearing;
Contemporary, but not superficial;
Respectful of others, but boldly ourselves.

May we bear into the world the hope of God,
Which is Christ the Lord,
Who rose from the dead and lives and reigns
With Father and the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever.

Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, Pray for us!
St. Peter and St. Paul, Pray for us!
St. Thérèse, Patroness of Missionaries, Pray for us!
St. Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us!

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LOS ANGELES

ORDAINED A BISHOP ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels • Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Living the Gospel

In this Gospel Jesus opens the ears and loosens the tongue of the deaf-mute. Both he and the crowd cannot contain themselves, but proclaim what Jesus has done. What has Jesus really done? Healed the man? Yes, but more. Jesus has revealed that he is far more than a miracle worker, as fascinating and wonderful as that may be. Understood only as an external sign, however, the miracle falls short of the reality. The miracles Jesus performs reveal his own divine power, his own compassion for the human condition, his own mission. Jesus cares for each of us, cares enough to reach out and touch us! What must be proclaimed is not the sign itself, but that to which it points: God’s Presence bringing salvation. Faced with this revelation, no one can keep silent. The Word grants the power of word.

To live the Gospel well, we must come to know Jesus before we can proclaim who he is. Looking to mighty deeds that we think may be unfolding around us today—reports of miracles, etc.—is not where this gospel leads us. Rather, the gospel leads us to see Christ in the little things around us—the caring touch, the encouraging smile, the unexpected friendly phone call—and interpret these as evidence of God’s Presence and salvation. We ought to be “astonished” today by the many manifestations of God’s Presence in and through the people around us. We ought to be astonished at how God uses us as instruments to proclaim the Good News of salvation. We ought to be so keyed into Jesus’ Presence that we, too, cannot contain ourselves, but must proclaim God’s mighty deeds to anyone who has ears to hear. ©Living Liturgy

Background on the Gospel

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today’s reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus’ healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God’s grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark’s Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophoenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman’s great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus’ own mission affirms the early Church’s mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark’s Gospel and is sometimes called the “messianic secret.” Loyola Press

May we grow in our relationship with Jesus and widely proclaim his Good News. May we continue Jesus’ saving ministry in both word and action.
Lessons Learned from Lent

Are You Discouraged?

Try more prayer, meditation and penance.

Although it seems counterintuitive, when in desolation, increase your penance in some suitable manner. But why? It’s not obvious why “I feel miserable” will be helped by “I will increase my penance.” When in desolation, the momentum is towards helplessness and despair. If I can do something—anything—even a very small penitential act like foregoing sugar in my morning coffee, then I have concrete proof that I am not helpless. If I can undertake even a small penance, I have proof that the desolation has not vanquished my freedom, my strength, or my hope. Such a penance can be a first step, a small victory that, over time, can lead incrementally to greater victories. [Ignatian Spirituality]

A Prayer for Sight

May the Lord Jesus touch our eyes, as he did those of the blind.

Then we shall begin to see in visible things those which are invisible.

May he open our eyes to gaze not on present realities, but on the blessings to come.

May he open the eyes of our heart to contemplate God in Spirit, through Jesus to whom belong power and glory through all eternity. [Origen]

Richard Rohr Meditation

God Seems to Care About Human Suffering

Mark’s is primarily a gospel of action. Of the four gospels, his includes the least verbal teaching. Jesus is constantly on the move from place to place preaching and healing, preaching and healing, but it is mostly action and narrative. Jesus is the invasion of God’s Big Picture into our small worlds, and he does this much more than he talks about it. We have to look at Jesus’ actions, and how his physical healings consistently rearranged faulty relationships—with our own self-image, with others, with society as a whole, and with a God who was henceforth seen as on their side.

There is not much profit in just thinking, “Wow, Jesus worked another miracle!” But there is much profit in noting the changed status, self-image, courage, and relationship to family or community that the cure invariably entails. This is the real transformative message. I am never denying that Jesus could and undoubtedly did physical healing. It still happens, and I have seen it, but the healings and exorcisms in Mark’s Gospel are primarily to make statements about power, abuse, relationships, class, addiction, money, exclusion, the state of women and the poor, and the connections between soul and body—the exact same issues that we face today.

Further, Jesus doesn’t heal as a reward for good behavior (usually there is no mention of any prerequisites whatsoever, and often it is others who have the faith, not the one cured). Neither is there any primary concern about a later “life in heaven” in Mark’s Gospel. We projected that onto the text. All of the healing stories are present-tense concerns for human suffering in this world. They tell us that God cares deeply about the tragic human condition now. How could we miss this? In general, you should see all rewards and punishments as inherent and today (sin is its own punishment and virtue is its own reward now!) And surely what God does today, God will do forever! What is true now is true forever. That is our promise of any life and our warning against any eternal death.

Start and end the day with prayer.
Reacting with Gratitude

Years ago, I came across a greeting card with a quotation attributed to Anton Chekhov: “Any idiot can face a crisis; it’s this day-to-day living that wears you out.” At the risk of sounding like a pessimist, this quotation resonates with me. Sometimes, life seems like one big series of trivial annoyances. I drop my empty coffee mug into the wet gutter as I get out of the car. My son leaves his lunchbox at school, necessitating a drive back. The printer won’t print. These little frustrations can, I’m ashamed to say, take up far more space in my mind than they should.

Lately, though, I had a thought: what if I react to these little irritations not with grousing, but with gratitude? What if, for every little hiccup of life, I pause, redirect my thinking, and turn the episode into a chance to practice thankfulness?

And so I’ve been trying to retrain my perspective. When my younger son tugs on my arm during Mass to say that he needs me to take him to the bathroom, I make myself think: Isn’t this easier than those years that he was in diapers? When I keep trying to fit that Everest-sized mound of dirty clothes into the washing machine and the clothes keep spilling back out, it’s a golden chance to remind myself that it’s still easier than washing all these things by hand. Maybe the next time that commuter mug rolls out of my overfull hands, I’ll take the opportunity to be grateful for coffee and for the kind husband who brews it for me each morning. Maybe I’ll even send a little thought to the people in far-off places who grow and harvest it, making my morning ritual possible.

It’s not a total spiritual transformation. When these annoyances happen, I still feel that immediate flare of frustration, like the click of a lighter; I’m only human, after all. But with a little gratitude, I can at least keep myself from piling on the kindling. And this new habit helps me remember that Thanksgiving isn’t confined to one Thursday in November. With a little conscious effort, I can celebrate it constantly, every day of the year. Ignatian Spirituality.

So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.
Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7

In the Scripture, to be humble means to recognize the true relationship between God and ourselves. We have been created by God. When we come to appreciate that God is our creator and that he cares for us, the appropriate response is one of humility. It is only through humility that we are capable of praising God. We bow humbly before God our Father, know that our relationship with him is one of intimacy. God cares for us and wants us to turn to him with all of our cares.

What cares can I bring to God today?
In what ways can I best appreciate God’s blessings and respond with humility and praise?

Almighty God and Father, thank you for your wondrous creation and for the way you care for me. I humbly bow before you and present my cares to you.
As part of our adult formation efforts, SJC sponsors programs at The Well throughout the year. Our sponsorship helps The Well bring many inspiring speakers to our area and allows for our parishioners to attend special programs free of charge. Listed below are the programs sponsored by our parish this fall. To register, call the Parish Center two weeks prior to the program. The Well Spirituality Center is located at 1515 Odgen Avenue in LaGrange Park. Visit their website, www.csjthewell.org, to view more. Watch the bulletin for more details.

**Evolution on a Cosmic Scale**
Monday September 28 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Facilitator: Grace Wolf-Chase, Ph.D.

**Slowing Time Saturday**
Saturday October 10 from 9:30 – 11:30 am  
Facilitator: Barbara Mahany

**Laudato Si**
Tuesday October 20 from 7-9pm  
Facilitators: Pat Bergen CSJ, Sallie Latkovich CSJ, Mary Southard CSJ, John Surette SJ

**Are You an Evolutionary?**
Saturday November 14 from 9am – 4:00 pm  
Facilitator: Carter Phipps

**The Wizard at The Well: Oz in Advent**
Monday December 7 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Facilitator: Avis Clendenen

**Moms’ Club**
The Moms’ Club is an informal way to gather and connect with other moms in our parish. All moms with young children (6 and under) are welcome to join us on Friday mornings in the Parish Center from 9-10:30am for playtime, conversation and fun beginning September 25. Dates vary so sign up for our email sjcmomsclub@gmail.com to receive reminders and more information.

**Spiritual Journaling**
Next Monday, September 14 the Spiritual Journaling group will begin reading the book, Jesus, A Pilgrimage by James Martin SJ. Our format is to read a chapter together, followed by discussion and a 10-15 minute period for reflection. Journaling is optional. Join us on Monday mornings from 9:30-11am in the Parish Center. For more info or to order a book ($17) call Roe Lawinger 708-246-2107.

**NEW Christian Meditation Group! Come Join Us!**
Christian Meditation, a contemplative spiritual practice, will meet Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:15pm in the parish center room 7. Other times for weekly Christian Meditation are Wednesdays 2:30-3:15 pm, Saturdays 7-7:45am, and Christian Meditation as an 11th Step Practice on Mondays 10:30-11:30am.

**Becoming Catholic Responding to God’s Call**

God works in many different ways. Most of the time God works through ordinary people and events—a parent, a friend, a beautiful sunset, a song, an inspiring story. Other times, we hear God’s call during crisis moments or major life-changes—a birth, an engagement, a sickness, a death. Sometimes we just have a feeling that something is missing.

No matter what a person’s reasons are for becoming Catholic, the Church’s hope and prayer is that when God calls them, they will respond. One part of the Catholic Church’s mission is to help people respond to God as best they can. For Christians, initiation and on-going participation in the life of the Church are the primary responses to God’s call. Through the process of becoming catholic, we try to help people learn how to respond to that call not just for the moment of baptism but for everyday of their lives. The way we learn how to become Catholic is by actually doing what Catholics do. So the process of being initiated into the Church is not so much about learning things as in a classroom but learning a way of life as an apprentice learns a discipline from a master and that master’s community.

Do you remember when you first heard God’s call? Was it through a person or a significant event? What were you being called to do? How did you feel about what you were being called to do? Who helped you take the next step? Please pray for the men and women who are considering become Catholic.

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Come to the Parish Center on Tuesday evening, September 8th at 7pm to learn more. Call Fr. Bill with questions at 708-246-4404 x120.
Parish News

Centering Prayer Workshop at SJC
Many Catholics and other Christians are finding that a practice call Centering Prayer helps them move toward a closer and more meaningful relationship with God. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer and meditation that is grounded in ancient Christian tradition. The practice prepares us to experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Contemplative Outreach—Chicago is offering its fourth annual one day introductory workshop on the method on Saturday, October 3 at SJC. The workshop will offer in-depth introductory sessions on Centering Prayer, opportunities for silent contemplation and a range of other thought provoking topics for attendees to choose from. This year's agenda includes sessions on Thomas Merton, Cosmology and Teilhard de Chardin, ways of listening and speaking to the Divine within, the thoughts of Thomas Keating on Archetypes and more. All are welcome. Look for brochures at church exits or go to http://centeringprayerchicago.org/events/annual-fall-one-day-workshop/ or call Phil Jackson 847-778-1022.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the Parish Center on Wednesday, September 9 from 1-2:30pm. Knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us to make shawls for those who are ill or facing life's challenges. If you would like to request a shawl or would like further info, contact Sheila 708-246-7836 or Mary 708-246-5108.

Adult Study Groups Begin
Spirituality of John of the Cross
3:30pm on Wednesdays beginning September 16. Participants will gain a deeper awareness of and appreciation for the patron saint of our parish as we study ‘The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross.’ Please contact Sr. Joyce with any questions or to place your discounted book order. 708-599-2954.

Little Rock Scripture Study
Ten Mondays at 1pm beginning September 14. Word of God at Vatican II and Book of Wisdom. Contact Roberta Gilbert at bertageorge@gmail.com or Chris Sulak at 708-246-4784.

Chicago Catholic Scripture School
Year II Basic Bible Study this fall on Wednesday evenings beginning September 9th in the Parish Center. Learn More and Register at http://www.catechesis-chicago.org/ccss/en-us/overview.aspx

Fr. Harry’s Opera Prep
Fr. Harry is bringing a group of parishioners to see the opera, The Marriage of Figaro, on Wednesday, October 21 at 2pm at the Lyric Opera House. Join him on Wednesday mornings from 9-11:30am in the Parish Center beginning September 9—October 14 as he teaches about this opera so that all attending may understand and enjoy. Sessions are open to everyone. Call Fr. Harry with questions or to attend the opera at 708-853-9064.

Flourish: Faith Sharing for Women
All women of the parish are invited to the Flourish gatherings starting again this fall. Meetings are from 9-11am every other Thursday in the Parish Center beginning on September 10th. This fall we will be working on the bible study “Girl Talk” by Jen Hatmaker. Questions can be directed to Laura Jachim at l.jachim@comcast.net or Elizabeth Russell-Jones at erusselljones@stjohnofthecross.org

As women, we are relational by design. We long to communicate and share. Simply put, we are made to connect. (Just take a look at your cell phone bill.) But in the frenzy of everyday life, friendships are often the first casualty on an overwhelming to-do list.

Author Jen Hatmaker believes it’s time to reprioritize. Girl Talk is a fun, fresh Bible study with a focus on friendship. In this series, Jen takes a girlfriend-next-door look at what makes relationships tick. You’ll discover God’s design for community, how to avoid harmful people, and the five levels of communication that nurture intimacy. Most of all, you’ll share life with women on the same journey as you—which is what friendship is all about.
Choir Begins This Week.....

Children’s Choirs
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.

Teen Young Adult Choir
Our Sunday 5pm Mass Choir, “5 Alive,” serves high school/college/young adults. We practice at 4pm and sing at 5pm. No regular commitment is needed – you only come when it works for you! Start date is Sept. 13. Questions? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708) 246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net or visit the 5 Alive Facebook page.

Adult Choirs

Traditional Choir
rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 9. The Traditional Choir sings at the Sunday 10:45am Mass.

Contemporary Ensemble
rehearsals resume Thursday, September 10. The Contemporary Ensemble sings at the Saturday 5pm Mass.

Refreshments and fellowship at 7:00pm and rehearsal begins at 7:30pm in church.

What’s the adult music ministry at SJC all about?
Both adult choirs are fun, supportive, and social groups who pray together and aim to foster a community through our love of music. No previous experience or music-reading skill required – just a desire to sing praise to the Lord! If you are interested in attending a rehearsal or want to find out more about Music Ministry, please contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries at jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org.

Authentic Catholic Leadership Training Since 1960
1960, the year our parish was founded, was the first year of Catholic Scouting at SJC. Our first two SJC Scouts achieved Eagle Scout rank in 1966. Today, 55 years later, Scouting focuses on and builds character, creates lasting memories and friendships, and is a leadership training ground for our next generations of young men. If there are boys in the parish interested in an authentically Catholic fun leadership experience, Scouting is once again resuming weekly activities. If interested, please contact Tim Meece at tmeece@me.com for 1st through 5th grade boys, and John Spitkovsky at john.spitkovsky@mscsinc.com if older.

Anointing Mass for Healing
On Sunday, September 27 at 12:30pm there will be a special Mass for all those who would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing. This sacrament of healing is not limited to those near death, but is appropriate for those who are in need of physical, spiritual and emotional healing, those enduring the sufferings of old age as well as those who will undergo surgery. You may be anointed more than once if you become ill again or your condition becomes worse. A reception will follow the Mass for those who received the sacrament and their families and caregivers.

Convenient Protecting God’s Children Workshops at SJC Parish Center
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: 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.

Welcome!
Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:
Andrea and Daniel Crowe and Family
Kathryn and Michael Dahl and Family
Lisa and Eric Miles and Family
Karen and Jim Deane and Family
Emily and Kevin Collins and Family
Alyssa and Jonathan Moog and Family
Nora and Scott King
Angie and Vito Burdi
Kathleen and Frank Mungo and Family

If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center.

St. John of the Cross Parish
Learning Growing Serving Loving

St. John of the Cross would like to invite you to discover the world of Crossroads. The mission of our Crossroads Youth Ministry is to embrace teens in our vibrant and caring parish community and meet them where they are by providing opportunities for them to:

- Grow in their relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- Build a community with other Catholic teens
- Learn more about their Catholic faith
- Develop leadership abilities by serving others
- Have fun in a faith-filled environment

Crossroads registration is open to all high school parish teens attending both public and private schools. Our twice a month (September – May) teen meetings are not religion classes. We don’t lecture about the commandments, Sunday Mass or even the Bible. In informal small group conversations, our committed volunteer adult leaders share their faith, answer questions about life and faith, and help you deepen your relationship with God. You will also meet and make friends with a ton of teens in our parish. Please contact the Parish Staff at 708-246-4404 if you have any questions. Register online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads today.

Soph-Jr-Senior Home Groups start on Sept. 13

Crossroads Freshmen & Parent Orientation
Sunday, September 13 from 6–8 pm in the Parish Center

Calling all Freshmen teens (and their parents)!! You are invited to join us as the Class of 2019 and experience the St. John of the Cross Parish High School Program, called Crossroads. This evening is for all Freshmen teens and their parents to discover and experience what Crossroads can mean to you, your faith life and your relationship with God.

We will gather in the lower level of the Parish Center immediately after the 5 pm Mass on Sunday, September 13. We’ll open the evening together (teens and parents) with a short prayer and then divide into two groups: the teens will experience what an actual CR meeting looks like while the parents will receive important CR information and schedules, ask their questions and discuss the mission and value of Crossroads. As the evening comes to an end, we’ll rejoin the teens with their parents for a closing prayer and PIZZA!

Whether you have registered yet for Crossroads or not (and we hope you do so soon by visiting our website www.stjohnofthecross.parish.org/crossroads), please plan on joining us on Sunday, September 13 at 6pm in the Parish Center.

Ignite Scripture Study: All parish teens are welcome to join Ignite, student-led faith-sharing group discussions relating Scripture to your life. If you want to get closer to God, reading His word each week is a great way to do it. 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.
Is God Calling You to Share Your Faith? Crossroads Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Crossroads, is looking for adult volunteers to join our ministry 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
There is a 3 month opportunity:
- Freshman Experience Team member
There are 1 year opportunities:
- IGNITE Gospel Reflection Coordinator
- Service Coordinator
- Social Coordinator
There are 3 ½ year opportunities as Home Group Leaders working with freshmen students.

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.

Minister of Care

Adults interested in serving as a Minister of Care to the aged and infirm in hospitals and at home are invited to attend a four session training program at Carmelite Spiritual Center on:
- September 15, 17, 22 and 24 from 7-9:30pm or
- October 6,8,13, and 15 from 9-11:30am
The sessions will cover the theological, pastoral, and practical aspects of ministry to the sick. A fifth session will be held at the parish to cover information specific to serving at our parish. The cost is covered by the parish, however, registration is required by emailing Steve Weigand at sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org.

Communion Minister

Students who are sophomores in high school and older and adults interested in serving as a Communion Minister are invited to attend a training session to be held in church on:
- Sunday, September 20 from 3-4pm or
- Thursday, September 24 from 6:30-7:30pm.
No registration is required. Training will begin promptly.

Come.
Come as you are.

Be filled with the Light of my Infinite Love and know yourself as Beloved.

October 16-18
Register on our parish website.

Parish News
Outreach

Medical & General Volunteers Needed!!!
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.

Annual Support Our Troops Collection: September 8-22
Donation Boxes in Church and Parish Center
The mission of Operation Support Our Troops is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American solders. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain. Please do not include any glass items.

- Individual cold drink mix packets of Gatorade or Propel
- Slim Jims Beef Jerky
- Peanut Butter (28 oz. or smaller)
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Foot Powder (20 oz. or smaller)
- White or black athletic socks (No visible logos)
- Lotion for men (12 oz. size or smaller)
- Coffee singles or 1 lb. Bags of coffee
- Non-aerosol shaving cream, razors
- Deodorant
- Hand sanitizer (12 oz. size or smaller)
- Toilet paper

Please contact Laurie Smillie, smillie@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us or 708-246-6760 X251 with questions.

Looking for a Job?
Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, September 17 from 7-9 pm in the Parish Center. Our topic is how to research companies...a critical step in helping you to prepare for future interviews. Our speaker is Steve Grosskomft whose passion is the subject of careers, work and employment related issues. This meeting is open to everyone and there is no charge to attend.

Food Pantry Collection
During the month of September your nonperishable food donations brought to the church narthex will be delivered to Catholic Charities in Cicero.

At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in." — Mother Teresa

Sharing Parish
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Summer Work Tour Trip
Deacon John Schopp, Christine Marquette, and Mary DeMars accompanied Crossroads teens on a work tour in August to our sharing parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kentucky. Pictured with our group is the Pastor, Fr. Jesuraj Mariasalethu.

Prayer in action is love; love in action is service.
Thank you to all who listened to the call of the Holy Spirit to bring our youth into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Sunday, September 20th
and
Monday, September 21st
First Class is Open House for parents, Grades Kindergarten to 6th
7th grade: please refer to your child’s leader informational email after September 10th

The National Directory of Catechesis clearly states that the nature and purpose of all that we are about in catechesis is to put people-students, catechists and catechetical leaders-in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org yc
https://www.facebook.com/sjcyc * @youthsjc

The Christian who does not feel that the Virgin Mary is his or her mother is an orphan. Pope Francis @Pontifex
SAM (Spirituality Among Men)

“First a Priest Shortage, Now a Shortage of Laity?”

One of the greatest gifts that came out of Vatican II was the Church’s teaching on what it means to be a lay person in the Catholic Church. Up until Vatican II, to be a lay person meant that you were NOT something, i.e. a cleric. But Vatican II clearly defined what it means to be a lay person and it is now our time to step up.

However, recent statistical trends show that American Catholic lay people are leaving the ranks. In fact, according to a recent Pew Research study, while the #1 single religious denomination in the United States still is Catholicism, #2 is the group now referred to as “former” Catholics.

- What are these trends telling us?
- What is the story behind the numbers?
- Decline of priests and parishes?
- Lack of sound catechesis after Vatican II and loss of orthodoxy?
- Little serious ownership of faith on the part of adult Catholics?
- Or too much stress on orthodoxy and too little on the signs of the times?
- What are the issues that may be driving our brothers and sisters from our community?
- What is our role as lay people to build bridges and bring them home?

Please join us on:

Saturday, September 19, at 9:00am

in the Parish Center to share our common concern about the future of our Church. As part of our discussion, we will identify the issues behind the numbers and then continue our discussion about these key issues during our October 17th gathering.

If you are a man of the parish who is looking for others to share your concern about our Church and your role in the continuation of Christ’s mission, please join us on September 19 and/or October 17. Through baptism we became Catholic Christians. Through fellowship, we sustain our faith and the Kingdom, until He comes again.

September 2015: World Meeting of Families Philadelphia & Visit of Pope Francis

With as many as 150 nations represented, the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 will bring together generations, different cultures and various socio-economic groups as well as families from multiple faith traditions. Whether Catholic or of another faith tradition, all will join together to reaffirm the families importance as the cornerstone of our global society.

Sponsored by the Holy See’s Pontifical Council for the Family and the host diocese, each World Meeting has its own unique theme. The theme for Philadelphia is “Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive.” The World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 is a six-day international event and celebration that draws participants from around the globe.

The Congress – scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 through Friday, September 25, 2015 – will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (PACC) and is designed to provide participants with the opportunity to participate in cross-cultural dialogue and prayers during daily Mass, devotions and breakout sessions.

The closing events of the Eighth World Meeting of Families take place on Saturday, September 26 – Sunday, September 27 when Pope Francis visits Philadelphia. These events include the Festival of Families, an intercultural, multi-faith celebration of family life around the world, which will be held on the evening of Saturday, September 26, and a Papal Mass to be held during the afternoon of Sunday, September 27.

Learn more at http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/papal-visit/

Saturday, September 19
Chicago Pilgrimage at 1:30pm and Prayer Vigil at Federal Plaza from 3-4pm
Join fellow Chicagoans in prayer on the eve of Pope Francis’s visit to the US. Pilgrimages will begin at 3 locations (Holy Name, Newman Center-UIC, and Holy Family Parish) at 1:30pm. Most Rev. John R. Manz and Most Rev. Alberto Rojas will lead a prayer vigil beginning at 3pm at Federal Plaza at Adams & Dearborn. Public transportation is recommended.

Open our eyes and ears and hearts to your Spirit, O God, that everything we do and every moment you give us may speak of your loving presence in our world.
Sometime soon we will witness the canonization of Dorothy Day. For many of us today, especially those who are not Roman Catholic, a canonization draws little more than a yawn. How does a canonization impact our world? Moreover, isn’t canonization simply the recognition of a certain piety to which most people cannot relate? So why should there be much interest around the canonization of Dorothy Day — who in fact protested that she didn’t want people to consider her a saint and asserted that making someone a saint often helps neutralize his or her influence?

Well, Dorothy Day wasn’t the kind of saint who fits the normal conceptions of piety. Many of us, no doubt, are familiar with a basic sketch of her life. She was born in New York in 1897 and died there in 1980. She was a journalist, a peace-activist, a convert to Christianity, who, together with Peter Maurin, established the Catholic Worker Movement to combine direct aid to the poor and homeless with nonviolent action on behalf of peace and justice. The movement remains vibrant today. She served too on the newspaper she founded, Catholic Worker, from 1933 until her death.

Her person and the movement she started have powerfully inspired Christians of every denomination to try to more effectively take the Gospels to the streets, to try to bring together Jesus and justice in a more effectual way. She is invoked today as the primary role-model for virtually everyone, Christian and non-Christian alike, working in the area of social justice.

The honor is well-deserved. She, perhaps better than anyone else in her generation, was able to wed together the Gospel and justice, Jesus and the poor, and take the fruits of that marriage to the streets in an effective way. That’s a rare and very difficult feat.

Ernst Kasemann once commented that the problem in both the world and the church is that the liberals aren’t pious and the pious aren’t liberal. He’s right. Politics and religion are both generally impoverished because the pious won’t be liberal and the liberals won’t be pious. You normally don’t see the same person leading the rosary and the peace march. You normally don’t see the same person scrupulously defending the most-intimate matters within private morality and having the same moral passion for the global-issues of social justice. But that was Dorothy Day. She was equally comfortable leading a peace march and leading the rosary. Someone once quipped: If you drew out what’s deepest and best within both the conservatives and liberals and put them through a blender, what would come out is Dorothy Day.

A second feature which characterized Dorothy Day and her spirituality was her ability to simply act, and to act effectively. She not only had faith, she acted upon that faith. She was a do-er, not just a listener; and she was able to institutionalize her faith and embed it into an institution, the Catholic Worker, which not only was able to minister directly to the poor but was able to form itself into something larger and more permanent than the faith, vision, and power of a single person. Dorothy was able to act in a way that was bigger and more effective than her own person. There’s an axiom that says: Whatever we dream alone remains a dream, but what we dream with others can become a reality. Dorothy dreamed with others and made that dream a reality. Today, most of us struggle both to act on our faith and, even more so, to embed our faith concretely into effective, sustained community action.

Finally, Dorothy Day can be an inspiration to us because she did the right thing for the right reason. Dorothy’s commitment to the poor arose not out of guilt, or neurosis, or anger, or bitterness towards society. It arose out of gratitude. Her route to faith, Jesus, and the poor was rather unorthodox. In the years prior to her conversion she was an atheist, a communist, a woman ideologically opposed to the institution of marriage, and a woman who had had an abortion. Her turning to God and to the poor happened when she gave birth to her daughter, Tamar Theresa, and experienced in the joy of giving birth a gratitude that seared her soul. In her autobiography, The Long Loneliness, she describes how, at seeing her baby daughter for the first time, she was so overcome with gratitude that a faith and love were born in her that never again left her. Her passion for God and the poor were fueled by that.

She was also an earthy saint. She will, no doubt, be the first canonized saint whose photographs show a woman with a cigarette in her mouth. She’s a saint for our time. She showed us how we can serve God and the poor in a very complex world, and how to do it with love and color.
12:15 Mass is Back!
The 12:15pm Mass returns next Sunday! Weekend Masses during the school year are Saturday 5pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm and 5pm.

Mass Intentions

**Monday, September 7**  Labor Day
9:00am Nancy McGarvey; James Dunne

**Tuesday, September 8**  Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:45am Ann Malisewski; Robert Glancy

**Wednesday, September 9**  Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Priest
7:45am Betty Cook; Dr. William Buckingham; Bob Parker

**Thursday, September 10**  Weekday
7:45am Bill Broderick; Our Beloved Dead

**Friday, September 11**  Weekday
7:45am Melanie Yates; Margaret Kegaly

**Saturday, September 12**  Most Holy Name of Mary; Blessed Virgin
8:00am Fr. William Bennett; Marie O'Brien
5:00pm Raymond Principe; Deceased members of Grogan and Galvin Families

**Sunday, September 13**  24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Thomas J. McGuire; Special Intention
9:00am Lillian Sagat; Alexander Podeszwa
10:45am Eleanor Lahart; Ramon & Gloria Sanchez
12:15pm Walter & Patricia Cebula; Ed and Emma Sayers
5:00pm Tom Marshall; Suzanne Eley

*Italics: Living Intention*

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**Marriage Banns**

Erin Morrisroe and David Federico
Jacqueline Toschi and Vito Dasticie
Mary Kusper and Matt Vorderer

**Pray for our Sick**

Connie Christiansen  Mark Hubatch  Marion Pascale
Marie Daly  Leonard Janis  Jim Perona
George Forster  Don King  Marie Sadowski
Gene Gallagher  Helen Klimek  Dale Snow
Sean Hamer  Juan Mendez  Virginia Woodlock
Leona Hubatch  Karen Mitchell

**Pray for our Beloved Dead**

Anne Kalis, mother of Daniel, Dave and Joan Kizyma

**Labor Day:** Tomorrow is Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Only one Mass is scheduled at 9:00am. Please join us as we thank God for the blessings of labor and seek his continued blessings upon us. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Labor Day and the Parish Center office will be closed. In an emergency you may always reach a priest by calling 708-246-4404 and following the telephone voice prompts.

Loving God, through your Son you gave us an example to love one another as he loved us. Give us the strength to continue working to bring forth your kingdom here on earth – a kingdom of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Don’t Miss the FUN!
Laser Tag, Raffle, Candy Hunt, Inflatable Fun and a Movie on the Big Screen!

Women’s Club
Mother-Daughter Campout
Friday, September 25 at 6:30-9:30pm
North Lawn of Church

Bring your tent and gear (optional) for a night of fun!
We supply the food, drink and games!
$10 per person. RSVP by Sept. 23rd.
Walk-ins are welcome too! $15 per person at the door.

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________
Email: _________________________________________
Number of Children: _____ Number of Adults: _____
Amount Enclosed: __________

Enclose this form and payment (check payable to the Women’s Club or cash) and drop it off at the Parish Center.

Questions? Contact: Denise Schullo at deec7@hotmail.com
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