May we choose faithful discipleship above any earthly possession. May we follow Jesus with undivided hearts and determined resolve.
Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday Deacon John Schopp had a wonderful Pet Blessing that he says was the most numerous of recent years. Fr. Bill and I were able to join our parish deacons and their wives (John and Mary Ellen, Tom and Mary Kay McGorey and Joe Pepitone without Mary who couldn't make it) for dinner celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The entire Chicago diaconate community gathers every year close to the feast as their primary fundraiser to assist families of deacons who may be in financial need, to fund the deacon office expenses including salaries, and to generate funds for charitable donations that the Deacon Council specifies. Since I was involved in the formation of deacons and their wives for almost seven years it was also a great opportunity to see some folks I know from across the archdiocese. (If I could only remember all of their names!)

I want to provide you with an update on the To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign (TTWCI) campaign that has been talked about for much of the past year. A good many ideas have been generated from parish leadership and through the listening sessions that were held in the spring. Thank you for your participation and concern for how we can improve parish life as well as our parish facilities. Despite a considerable amount of preparation work done in anticipation before asking anyone for money, we (the Executive Committee, the Parish Staff and the Finance Council) have decided to not move forward with the TTWCI campaign as it has been presented to date. I am working with the Parish Advisory Council (PAC) to best address the short and long term needs of the parish as well as the archdiocesan goal that has been given to us. I will be discussing all of this in greater detail when I give the year-end financial report at the Masses the weekend of November 14-15. In the meantime you will also be receiving a letter with details about how we have come to this decision. As always, I appreciate your continued financial and spiritual support of the parish and its needs.

We had the communal celebration of the Anointing of the Sick last Sunday. It is always a powerful sacrament, but especially so when celebrated communally. Unfortunately this past week we had four funerals, two of which were long time ushers, Jerry Donohue and Barry Cicero. We also had the funeral of long time parishioner and active Saintly Senior, Marie Daly. They were generous, each in their own way, in the building up of the parish community of SJC over the years. They will be missed. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Our Director of Music Ministries, Jessica Koch, and Pastoral Associate, Steve Weigand, gave an Evening of Reflection last Tuesday for those in the music ministry. This year we are focusing more on resourcing the liturgical ministers and trying to give them the spiritual nourishment they need to be effective in their roles. Adult formation can come in many different ways and in many different formats.

Peace,
Fr. David

Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.

Pope Francis Address to Congress, Washington D.C.
Remembering All Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Remembering the Dead
In parishes around the world, the Church remembers the names of their dead. We hear their names at the Prayer of the Faithful during Mass and in the chanting of the Litany of the Saints at the Easter Vigil. The names of the deceased are seen on holy cards, memorial cards, and grave markers and Masses are prayed for the repose of souls. These rituals and practices serve to keep the memory of those who have gone before us in faith present in our minds and hearts.

The Book of Remembrance
During the month of November, the Month of All Souls, parishioners and visitors to St. John of the Cross Parish are invited to write the names of their beloved dead in The Book of Remembrance found by the Ambo. The Book of Remembrance will remain there until the final feast of the Church year, Christ the King. Remembering all of those who have gone before us, “marked with the sign of faith,” helps us better understand and appreciate our faith in the Christ, our risen Lord, who conquers sin and death and brings new life to all.

Unlike the Books of Life, which list only deceased parishioners of St. John of the Cross, our Book of Remembrance may include the names of all our deceased loved ones.

Month of All Souls
The origins of the solemnity of All Saints (November 1) and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day, November 2) are connected. From the beginnings of the Church, Christians have cherished the memory of those martyrred for the faith and those who lived a life of virtue as icons of Jesus Christ. The martyrs and saints became venerated as disciples and imitators of Christ. All the saints are celebrated each year on November 1; however, most Christian traditions of honoring the dead are linked with All Souls Day on November 2. On this day, we remember our own loved ones who have gone before us in faith. These tributes extend beyond the day itself and last through the month of November, the Month of All Souls.

The Books of Life
In keeping with the important observance of this month, our parish Books of Life will be placed along the north wall of our church. These books, one for each month, list the names of every person who has been buried from St. John of the Cross Parish and their date of death. As a parish that is rooted in faith in our Lord Jesus, let us prayerfully recall these deceased members of our community.

Take time to look through the books. Find the names of those you know and offer a prayer for them.

Please join us Monday, November 2nd at 7pm to celebrate the Feast of All Souls. Our Mass of Remembrance will commemorate parishioners and loved ones who have died during the past year. As the names of all deceased are read aloud, families will be invited to light a votive candle as we prayerfully remember them.

A Prayer for Those Who Mourn
Comfort us in our loss and sorrow, O Lord. Be our refuge and our strength. Lift us from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life. Enable us to press on toward him, so that after our earthly course is run, he may reunite us with those we love, when every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Teachings of Pope Francis  (Continued from last week....)

Be a family of forgiveness.
Be a family of love.
Be a family of care.
Be a family of prayer.

Practical ways to be families of care:

- As a family regularly identify who is your neighbor—brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers. This will open your heart and mind to opportunities.
- As a family identify and make a commitment to a social justice activity in your parish community. This strengthens the bonds of your family and that of your parish community.
- Pray for the strength to persevere in your commitment to others and remember, no single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force.” ~ The Joy of the Gospel, 279

Practical ways to be a family of prayer:

Lean on the saints to intercede for you and your family. The saints in heaven are members of our family as children of God who have succeeded in lives of love, forgiveness and care. In particular entrust your family to the Holy Family, they know the blessings and challenges of family life.

Pope Francis shares his own reliance on St. Joseph: “I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church. Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this.” In speaking to Vatican employees, Pope Francis advised them to first and foremost, “Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.” This holds true for individuals, parents, children and families. The best way to take care of your spiritual life is regular prayer — both personal and communal.

“Resting in prayer is especially important for families. It is in the family that we first learn how to pray. And don’t forget when the family prays together, it remains together. This is important.” Pope Francis, Jan. 17, 2015

While saying prayer before meals and bedtime is important, the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is our best prayer. Here we express all forms of prayer as praise and adore God, ask his assistance, ask the saints to intercede on our behalf, even as we praise and thank God for ‘simply’ being God. When a family regularly prays together at Mass, all other prayer becomes a regular and natural part of family life.

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A Family Prayer

Give us new eyes, Lord, to see our lives in the light of your love. Too often our fear, neediness, anger, or hurt fog our vision. Help us to see your providence in the glory of trees, lakes, and cloudless skies. Help us to see your generosity in the many gifts we enjoy each day. Help us to see your wisdom in the rhythm of the days, the weeks, the seasons, and the years. Help us to see your image in the faces of everyone we meet and to know your goodness in the joy and love we feel for one another. We ask you this because we know you love us. Amen.
Living the Gospel

The man must have had an inkling that keeping the commandments was not enough, or else he never would have approached Jesus with his question about how to inherit eternal life. In spite of his faithfulness in keeping God’s commandments and his being loved by Jesus, the man nevertheless had a divided heart: “he went away sad, for he had many possessions.” The man needed to turn his focus from earthly life to eternal life, from possessions to single-mindedly following Jesus to salvation. Where is our heart? Are we overjoyed at Jesus’ glance of love, or are we sad because it is too much?

Giving our all to follow Jesus doesn’t mean that we literally sell everything; we all have family and social obligations that make having things a necessity. Jesus is saying that we can’t let possessions (or anything else, for that matter) divide our hearts. Too often possessions possess us; we must let go so only God possesses us. The “rich man” who couldn’t “give up” his wealth was not ready to follow Jesus. After all, following Jesus leads to the cross—where everything is given up! Following Jesus goes beyond keeping the commandments to Gospel living. This means that “giving up” is more than dispossessing ourselves of what we have. It means that we make our very lives available—this is what following Jesus truly entails. Jesus’ teaching about giving up everything is very hard and demanding, but this is the only way to receive a hundredfold now and in eternal life. This is another description of discipleship, of Gospel living: “giving up” is dying, receiving a hundredfold now is experienced in terms of already sharing in the glory of eternal life. Now this is topsy-turvy: by giving up all, we gain everything!

Background on the Gospel

In today’s Gospel, an unnamed man approaches Jesus and inquires about what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replies that one must follow the commandments of the Law of Moses. The man acknowledges that he has observed all of these since his childhood. Jesus then says that only one thing is lacking: he must give his possessions to the poor and follow Jesus. The man leaves in sadness, and Mark tells us that this is because he had many possessions.

Jesus makes two requirements of the wealthy man who approaches him. First, he must give up his possessions. Throughout history, some Christians have taken this literally. Their example witnesses to us a radical commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. Some have read this as a particular requirement directed to this specific individual. Still others have sought to explain the meaning intended by the word possessions as those things that prevent one from following Jesus. Christians have generally understood that at the least, following Jesus requires that believers hold material possessions loosely and remain vigilant against seeking security in accumulating possessions.

The second requirement Jesus makes of this man is the invitation that Jesus extends to all would-be disciples: “follow me.” Jesus very much wants this man to be his disciple. We believe that the Christian faith is one in which each believer is in a personal relationship with Jesus. Just as this Gospel tells us that Jesus loves the man and is sad when he departs, so too, Jesus loves us and is saddened when we are unable to follow him.

We see in this Gospel reading another example of Mark’s pattern, which shows Jesus offering further elaboration about his message and meaning to his disciples. To his disciples, Jesus laments the challenges faced by those who are rich in following him and entering the Kingdom of God. In reply to the disciples’ astonishment at the strictness of the standard that Jesus speaks about today, Jesus reminds his disciples that nothing is impossible with God. Salvation is determined by our ability to rely completely upon God.

Peter replies to Jesus by boasting that the disciples have already given up everything. Jesus acknowledges that those who have given up everything for the sake of the Gospel will be rewarded. This reward begins now, in the new community that one will gain in this life, and will continue in the eternal age to come. Our personal relationship with Jesus is also an invitation to the community of faith, the Church.

Readings for the Week

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Knowing that Jesus still walks our streets, that he is part of the lives of his people, that he is involved with us in one vast history of salvation, fills us with hope. A hope which liberates us from the forces pushing us to isolation and lack of concern for the lives of others, for the life of our city.

Pope Francis at Mass at Madison Square Garden, New York City
Prayer

From all eternity, O Lord, you planned my very existence and my destiny. You wrapped me in your love in baptism and gave me the faith to lead me to an eternal life of happiness with you. You have showered me with your graces and you have been always ready with your mercy and forgiveness when I have fallen. Now I beg you for the light I so earnestly need that I may find the way of life in which lies the best fulfillment of your will. Whatever state this may be, give me the grace necessary to embrace it with love of your holy will, as devotedly as your Mother did your will. I offer myself to you now, trusting in your wisdom and love to direct me in working out my salvation and in helping others to know and come close to you, so that I may find my reward in union with you for ever and ever. Amen.


Prayer Is the Sharing of Presence

When I spend time with a friend, I want that person’s presence. After a while, a phone call or an e-mail just isn’t good enough—I want a body to hug, a face to gaze upon, the whole person behind the phone voice and the written words. God wants our whole presence, not just our thoughts flung heavenward when we have a second and just our emotional overflow when the day has gone sour. Prayer is the sharing of presence.

—Days of Deepening Friendship

One reason prayer can seem unnatural is that we don’t go about it naturally at all. We feel that we must assume a certain physical position, or that we must use some words and phrases but not others. It’s all right to feel joy and gratitude, but we try to push the anger and sadness back and out of the way.

Actually, sometimes we’re tempted to pray sort of the way we’d go through a job interview—putting out our best appearance and conversation, and presenting the self that we think will make the best impression.

Or, we are so used to other people judging and shaming us that we bring to God the self that is least likely to get us into trouble.


Are you entering a conversation with a tricky deity who is impossible to please? Or are you entering a conversation with someone who loves you better than the "bestest" friend?

Try this: After you have enjoyed a conversation with a friend, reflect on your part of the conversation. Write down what you said, what tones of voice you used, which physical gestures. Write about how you felt and how you expressed those feelings.

Then, when you pray, remember that marvelous self that you shared with your friend. Try to bring that self into conversation with the Divine friend, and see what happens.

Ignatian Spirituality

The faith is not a gift just for me. Faith is given to be joyfully shared.
Pope Francis @Pontifex Oct 3

Do we say “Thank you” to God every day?
Pope Francis @Pontifex Sep 10

Is our relationship with God placed on our calendars with the same commitment that we do when we are making appointments with other people or for our children’s activities or for our work responsibilities?

Check Your Spiritual Pulse

To monitor the health of my relationship with God and if I am keeping God a priority, I take my spiritual pulse every few months, which involves looking at my own life with God’s help to see what I am noticing and then asking God for help in noticing any new invitations. I invite you to do the same this week.

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“With God all things are possible.”
Enliven us with your spirit of love, O Lord, so that we may seek your mercy and justice for all people; bless us with the light of your wisdom, so that we may follow Christ Jesus.
In His name we pray. Amen.

Like happiness, holiness is always tied to little gestures.
Pope Francis at Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.

St. John of the Cross Parish www.stjohnofthecross.org October 11, 2015 Page 6
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is much more than attending classes or memorizing information in one’s head. RCIA is a journey and process of conversion. Each week the six people (inquirers – name given to those who are drawn to the Catholic Christian way of life) in our parish seeking to become Catholic, their sponsors and catechists meet to talk about and reflect upon this journey. We look at where God is calling, how we have responded, how a certain aspect of Catholicism has touched us.

A great way to look at RCIA is to see it as an apprenticeship where one learns and is formed in the Catholic Christian way of life. This forming is only the beginning of living one’s relationship to and with God and Church in a new way. This apprenticeship involves more than our six inquirers, their sponsors and catechists. It involves the entire faith community of St. John of the Cross. As those in RCIA journey towards God (conversion) so too does the entire community. Their journey impacts ours.

I remember last year walking over to church with one of our catechumens (one seeking baptism in the Catholic faith) and a parishioner asking, “How much longer do you have (in regards to being baptized)? We are all praying for you.” In asking this question, a parishioner was witnessing to his role in RCIA. As a parish community we are all responsible for the initiation of our newest apprentices. In an article “A New Look at the RCIA” Rita Burns Senseman writes about the important role parishioners play in the RCIA process. These ways include:

As a mentoring community. Every baptized parishioner has a role in initiation of our new members. We are part of that mentoring community that apprentices the new disciples. By observing our prayers, words, deeds and actions in the parish and in the broader community our newest members learn what it means to live as Catholic Christians today. We provide the examples. We are the models. RCIA depends on the parish community because we make up the Christian community.

As sponsors. In addition to the prayers we offer for our candidates and the examples we provide, there are other specific ways parishioners are involved in RCIA. Baptized members of the community serve as sponsors for the candidates in RCIA. A sponsor is an active member of the parish who walks with the candidate on the journey to new, fuller life in Christ. The sponsor supports and guides the candidate along the way. The sponsor is the candidate’s personal connection to the parish.

As catechists, coordinators, and assistants. Members of the community also serve as catechists (teachers) for the process of initiation. Others members of the community serve as coordinators and assistants in various aspects of the initiation process. In Journey to the Fullness of Life, the US Bishops urge that “even more parishioners” become actively involved in RCIA. The more parishioners become personally invested in the process of initiating others into the life of Christ, the more the community itself will be renewed in its own life in Christ.
Youth Catechesis
Putting Faith First
YC is off to a great start!
Service projects! Spiritual bouquets! Team building!

Parents Putting Faith First
Parents: log on to our Pinterest account at www.pinterest.com/sjcyc and check out the board of “Parent Raising Catholics” filled with ideas for everyone!

YC Schedule
Classes K-6
10:15-11:30am Sunday, Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15
6:15-7:30am Monday, Oct 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16

FFC
Noon-12:30 pm Sunday, November 1

Jr Hi Sm Groups and Special Needs
Sunday, Oct 8, Nov 1

7th & 8th graders will meet on campus with younger buddies on either Nov 15 or 16

Identity Retreat—Oregon Trail
The Frosh/Soph. Identity Retreat is January 2-4 at Dickson Valley Camp in Newark, IL. Register online today at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats

Home Group Leaders Needed!
At our Freshmen Experience last weekend we talked about our community and sharing our gifts. During journaling time, this is what some freshmen reflected:

“It was easy to give up my phone because it isn’t as important as God.”

“I am open to praying and setting aside time for God.”

These teens are open and interested and NEED adults to mentor and guide them in a Home Group. Please call Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404 to come see a Freshmen Experience night and see how enjoyable this service can be for you!

We also need an adult leader for Service projects.

Harvest Saturday is Coming - Nov. 14
You can make a difference!
We need MANY teen volunteers (whether in Crossroads or not) to allow us to continue this great tradition. Adult drivers needed too. Please mark your calendars today and be ready and willing to serve others!

Our parish teens and their energy make the difference! This is a youth driven event and a great service project with a direct impact on hunger. We delivered over 1,100 boxes of food last year!

Sign up on our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads, or contact Wendy Duquette at wsdukes@sbcglobal.net, Kim Sarros at sarros@ameritech.net or Fran Karas at franbkaras@gmail.com.
The teachers at SJC spend time each year planning field trips that directly relate to the curriculum. This week, the Kindergarten class took their first SJC field trip to Bengston’s Pumpkin Patch. The children were able to learn about and see live farm animals and tractors and pick their own pumpkins. Next week, during their science lab time, the students will hollow out the pumpkins, learn about pumpkin seeds, and also measure the circumference. This is just one example of the many wonderful learning opportunities our students have at SJC.

Fr. Dave Kelly at St. Elizabeth Seton in Orland Hills on Tuesday, October 13
On Tuesday evening at 7pm Fr. Dave Kelly from Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation will discuss the positive effects of restorative justice, violence as a public health issue and a call to action. Call 708-403-0101 for more information. All are welcome. Picture above is Sr. Donna, Fr. Kelly, and PBMR parish rep, Shawn Sweeney.

Volunteer Opportunities

SJC Children’s Liturgy of the Word  Adult volunteers are needed to help lead our Children’s Liturgy sessions during the 9:00am and 10:45am Sunday Masses. If you have a desire to enhance the faith of young people and nurture their experience of Mass, consider volunteering as a CLOW catechist. Each session (20 min) is team taught and all materials, training and support are provided. Please call Lori Berkey (708-784-1201) for more information.

Parish Garden Angel Fall Clean Up  Help with autumn clean up and bulb planting from 9am-Noon on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17, Tuesday October 27 and Saturday October 31 (weather permitting). Call Jan with questions 331-903-3135.

Leaf Clean up for Seniors  Help rake yards of seniors living in Countryside on November 7 beginning at 9am. Call Shannon Rapp at 708-567-8687.

October Collections

Bring Your Donations to the Parish Center
Clothing for Kids  New or gently used infant, toddler, & children’s fall and winter clothing for our new sharing parish, St. Gall.

Write-Outs (3 pieces of stationary & envelope) and Stamps  Kolbe House is beginning to collect write-outs and stamps for inmates’ Christmas letters home.

Bring Your Donations to the YC Office
Disposable Diapers & Wipers  Hope’s Front Door in Downers Grove offers immediate assistance to those in need. Donate all sizes of diapers to the YC office.

Bring Your Donations to the Church Narthex
In the month of October our Nonperishable Food donations will be delivered to our new sharing parish, St. Gall in Chicago.
Parish News

www.interfaithcareernetwork.org

Tuesday, October 13, 7-9 pm at First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Week 4 of Career Transition Boot Camp.

Wednesday, October 14, 7-9 pm at SJC. A workshop on how to use LinkedIn for all experience levels.

Thursday, October 15, 7-9 pm at SJC. For a fresh perspective on your job search our speaker will focus on the transition process and how to keep yourself open to new opportunities.

Saturday, October 24 from 9-11am at St. Cletus. Come in for a helpful 20 minute one-on-one coaching on your resume, strategy, or elevator speech.

Prayer Shawl Meeting
If you are a knitter or crocheter, please consider attending the next Prayer Shawl meeting which will be Wednesday, October 14 from 1-2:30pm in the Parish Center. There is a continuing need for people to join in this ministry of caring. If you would like further information or to request a shawl, call Sheila 708-246-7836, or Mary 708-246-5108.

New Altar Server Training Registration
All parish students in 6th, 7th or 8th grade are invited to join the Altar Server Ministry. New Server Training will be held in church on:

three Tuesdays (Nov. 3, 10 and 17) from 3:45-5pm
OR
three Fridays (Nov. 6, 13 and 20) from 3:45-5pm

Students must attend all three sessions. There is also a parent info meeting on the first day of training from 4:45-5:15pm. Class size is limited so register on our parish website today.

New Little Rock Study Begins
Little Rock Scripture Study will begin its 4 session study on the Word of God at Vatican II on October 26th. Class materials cost $15 which can be paid ahead of time or brought to class. Questions can be directed to Roberta at bertageorge@gmail.com or Chris at 708-246-4784.

Seasons of Hope-Christ Centered Grief Support
6 Tuesdays Beginning Tuesday October 20 at SJC
Seasons of Hope is a grief-support ministry grounded in the healing wisdom, tradition, and practice of the Catholic faith but is open to anyone mourning the loss of a loved one or struggling with the grieving process. Seasons of Hope consists of six weekly sessions held on consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning October 20 from 6:30-8pm in the parish Rectory. There is no charge to attend. Please call Kathleen Broderick at 708-246-1165 to register or for more information.

Grief Support for Teens Begins This Week
A bereavement support group specifically designed for teenagers to meet other teens who understand what they are going through. The group will help teens explore thoughts and feelings, learn by listening to others, and share memories. Meetings are on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm beginning October 15 through November 19 in Hinsdale. Call Laura at 630-856-6985 or laura.cottrel@ahss.org to introduce yourself and register.

Lost Child Pilgrimage Saturday, October 24 from 9am-1:30pm Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii
A special day of reflection, healing and hope for people grieving the death of a child. More information and registration at www.ourladyofpompeii.org or 312-421-3757.

Coping with the Holidays Workshop for Adults November 21 from 9:30-12:30pm
Adults who have lost a loved one are invited to a workshop that focuses on positive alternatives for coping with the holidays on Saturday, November 21 from 9:30am-12:30pm at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood. Contact Nancy Kiel at 708-216-1646 to register.

“When you pray, go into a room by yourself, shut the door and pray to your Father who is there in the secret place; and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.”

As a private room would have been a great luxury in Jesus’ time, his focus is not so much on domestic arrangements as on the orientation of the mind and heart at the time of prayer. Even the ascetical practices of prayer, such as fasting, he taught, should be performed in a discreet and modest way. They are not solemn ways of feeling holier or bargaining positions in a struggle to get what we want out of God. “I’ll give up sweets for Lent if you help me get the job I want.” They are not control techniques. The disciplines of the spiritual life, Jesus says, should be performed quietly and cheerfully and interiorly. (Laurence Freeman, The Goal of Life)
Men’s Choir
All men of the parish are invited to join the men of the Traditional Choir and Contemporary Ensemble for a Men’s Choir that will lead singing at the 10:45am Mass on Sunday, October 18. If you love music, take advantage of this opportunity to create vibrant music for worship in our parish, deepen your prayer life, and meet new people. There will be one rehearsal, on Wednesday, October 14 from 7:30-9:30pm in church. Contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries for more information.

Boy Scout Annual Wreath Sale
Our Parish Scouts are selling handcrafted wreaths and decorations for the holidays. This fundraiser supports Scouting training and activities throughout the year. Go to our parish website to order. Wreaths will be available the weekend before Thanksgiving. Did you know that the Scouts donate the beautiful wreaths on our Church, Parish Center and School?

Moms’ Club
Enjoy coffee and conversation with other mothers in the parish while the kids play on Friday, October 16 from 9:15-10:30am in the Parish Center.

Upcoming Training Sessions at LaGrange Hospital
October 26 from 5:30-8:30pm General Orientation for any new volunteer at LaGrange. A TB test and flu shot will be provided. November 2 from 4-9pm No One Dies Alone Training (Dinner is included.) NODA volunteers must also attend the general orientation on October 26. Both sessions are in the Medical Center Dixon Room B & C.

A Night of Comedy benefitting SJC Parish School Athletics
Friday, October 23 from 7-11pm
In the School Gym
All are invited to a night of laughter hosted by Chicago comedian Pat McGann with special guests Jim Flannigan and Kevin Bozeman. Pat McGann is an Emmy nominated comedian who has appeared on David Letterman. Jim Flannigan and Kevin Bozeman are mainstays at Chicago’s top comedy clubs. All proceeds will benefit the SJC Parish School Athletic Programs. Tickets are $50 per person. Please bring your favorite food and beverages to share. Send your contact info, number of tickets, and check to Kathy Stillo at the school or drop off your envelope to the Parish Center office.

Breaking Bread Supper Club Begins a New Season
Adults of the parish (any age, any marital status) are invited to join our parish Supper Club. It’s a great way to meet fellow parishioners for an evening of fun. 8 to 10 adults are grouped together to share dinner in each other’s homes about 4-5 times during the year. Scheduling is up to the group. The host provides the entrée and beverages while others bring an appetizer, salad, side, and dessert. Register by October 14th at sjcbreakingbread@gmail.com. Our new year will kick off with a Wine & Cheese get-together at the Parish Center on Friday, October 16 from 6:30-7:30pm so everyone can meet their group. (Parishioners can still join if they cannot make the 16th.)

Senior Club Bus Trip to White Pines Dinner Theatre:
Thursday, October 29 from 9am-5pm
Join fellow parishioners and friends on a trip to Mt. Morris, Illinois for lunch and a musical program with Gregory James, a MoTown great who sings songs you will know from Al Green, the Four Tops, the Temptations, Marvin Gaye and more. The cost of the trip is $55 for the bus, delicious lunch, entertainment, and gratuities. Drop off your reservation check by Monday, October 19. Direct questions to Carolyn Koehler at 708-246-2978.
St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their babies baptized recently. Pictured above with Father David are from the left: Danielle and Paul Rudolph with baby Leah, Randy and Jennifer Porzel, with baby Matthew, Robert and Mary Dorsey with baby Mark and big brother. Bob and Mary Dorsey are members of our parish Baptism Team. Pictured to the right top with Deacon Voytas are Matt and Megan Yena with baby William Matthew. In the middle picture with their godparents are Ryan and Amy Germino with baby Kylie Isabelle. In the bottom picture are Sean and Lindsay Geraghty with baby Patrick William.

Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is “forged” by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows. Pope Francis Festival of Families, Philadelphia

News Around the Archdiocese

Annual Mass for Hope & Healing for victims and survivors of child and youth sexual abuse and their families. Saturday, October 17 at 9:30am Holy Family Church, Chicago.

Annual Mass Supporting People with Mental Illnesses, Families, Friends, and Mental Healthcare Providers Sunday, October 18 at 2pm at St. Gertrude Church in Chicago.

St. Luke’s Day Mass Healthcare providers are invited to the annual St. Luke’s Day Mass at 11am on Sunday, October 18 at Holy Name Cathedral. Mass will be followed by a talk on St. Thomas Aquinas and the Practice of Medicine by our guild chaplain, Fr. Henry Kricek, in the school auditorium. Please RSVP to mkeen@marianjoy.org.

Adult Mental First Aid Workshop Saturday, October 24 from 8am-5:30pm at Christ Church of Oak Brook. Adults will gain a basic understanding of mental illnesses and addictions and learn strategies for how to help someone. Sign-up (space is limited to 30), contact Adult Ministry and Care - Cindi Swift at 630-321-3936, cswift@cc-ob.org.

Day of Reflection for Women who have broken free of abusive and harmful relationships on Saturday, October 24 from 9am-3:30pm at St. Giles Parish in Oak Park. Materials and lunch provided. No fee. RSVP to Barb at 708-256-3329 or Annette at 708-383-3444.
Parish Sponsored Program at The Well
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. Our next parish sponsored program for the fall is detailed below. To register, simply call the Parish Center. The Well Spirituality Center is located at 1515 Odgen Avenue in LaGrange Park. Visit their website, www.csjthewell.org, to view more.

Domestic Violence Mass of Healing & Prayer at SFX: Tuesday, October 20
October is Domestic Violence awareness Month. The SFX Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry would like to invite you to a Mass of healing and prayer at St. Francis Xavier in LaGrange on Tuesday, October 20 at 7pm.

Domestic Violence Help
Pillars in LaGrange offers a domestic violence shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, and other services for victims of domestic violence and their children.
Domestic Violence Hotline 708.485.5254
Sexual Assault Hotline 708.482.9600

Study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on Morality
Our study will focus on the way in which the Church’s moral teachings shed light on what it is to live a life “worthy of the Gospel of Christ.” The class will use videotaped lectures, workbooks with explanatory text and questions for at-home preparation, and supplemental materials. The cost of the materials is $32. The 13-week series will be offered on Tuesdays beginning November 3 in the Parish Center from 10am until noon. Please register in the Parish Office by October 17. Call Madonna Muscarello at 630.325.7990 with any questions.

SAM Spirituality Among Men: October 17 at 9am
At our last session of Spirituality Among Men (SAM) we focused on the complex issues driving the decline in the number of lay people, priests, and sacramental life in the American Church.

We are blessed as a Church and as a nation to have had the presence of Pope Francis last month. Pope Francis has renewed our pride in being Catholics and has excited all Americans to once again turn to the Gospel for answers.

Please join us Saturday, October 17 at 9:00am in the Parish Center as we continue our discussion about the future of our Church and how Pope Francis is changing that conversation. As part of our discussion, we will review the Holy Father’s words and insights and share how it is changing the way we think and act.

Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home
Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis
Tuesday, October 20 from 7-9 pm
What’s all the hype about? What significance does Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment have for the human members of Earth’s community? What message does it hold for the Christian world?
Laudato Si marks movement from a worldview of “dominion over” to “communion with,” from separation to interconnection. The encyclical makes the inseparable connection between justice for Earth and justice for her human family. It impels us to wake up and take action now!
Join us for a panel discussion on insights gleaned, movement gained, and what more needs to be.
Facilitators: Pat Bergen CSJ, Sallie Latkovich CSJ, Mary Southard CSJ, John Surette SJ

Protecting our Water
Water is an environmental issue of serious concern. Climate change, lack of adequate sanitation services, and chemical-heavy production methods are constantly limiting the quantity of clean water available to many countries.

Pope Francis calls attention to our role:
"...access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.... But water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries which possess it in abundance. This shows that the problem of water is partly an educational and cultural issue, since there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behavior within a context of great inequality." - Laudato Si’ #30
St John of the Cross Women’s Club

Invites you to a Night of

Fairytale Fashion

Thursday October 29, 2015

Drury Lane, 100 Drury Lane,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

5:30 PM
Cocktails, Silent Auction & Boutique Shopping

7:30 PM
Dinner, Fashion Show & Grand Raffle

$65 per person/cash bar. Tables of 10 are available

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Grand Raffle Prizes
Tickets are $5 each or six (6) for $25

First Prize
Downtown Get Away
Two night stay at the Talbott Hotel on the Magnificent Mile, plus dinner for two at RL Restaurant & a Spa gift certificate

Second Prize
Day in Paradise
Grab your BFF & head to Nordstrom meet with Personal Stylist & a Beauty consultant, have lunch and enjoy a $500 Nordstrom gift card

Third Prize
Picture Perfect Photo Shoot
Family sitting with Karen Pace filled up to 30 digital images & all printing rights

Raffle will be held during dinner. Winner need not be present.

Purchase fashion show tickets on the parish website or at the parish center.
Raffle tickets can be purchased from Julie Misarti at 773-294-9099 or any Women’s Board Member!
Mass Intentions

**Monday, October 12**  
**Weekday**  
7:45am Dennis Callaghan; Pat Wees  

**Tuesday, October 13**  
**Weekday**  
7:45am Thomas Siragusa; Sr. Anna O’Brien  

**Wednesday, October 14**  
**Memorial of St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr**  
7:45am George Zurowski; Catherine Blakely  

**Thursday, October 15**  
**St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church**  
7:45am William Egan; Reggie Cook

**Friday, October 16**  
**St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin**  
7:45am Brian Donovan; Our Beloved Dead  

**Saturday, October 17**  
**St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr**  
8:00am Anna Lukwinski; Tara Bassi  

**St. John of the Cross Parish**  
[www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org)

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**Pray for Our Sick**  
Bill Beaucamp  
Lori Cook  
Lucielle Drescher  
Karen Hult  
Dan Hussey, Sr.  
Hamilcar Intengan  
Virginia Rachford  
Don King  
Mary Lichtenauer  
Juan Mendez  
Jane Nilles  
Marion Pascale  
Steve Pechous

**Pray for Our Beloved Dead**  
Matt Heinzel, son of Michael and Mildred  
Robert Swade, brother of Ron  
Barry Cicero, husband of Patricia, father of Suzanne, James, Natalie  
Richard M. Bayers, brother-in-law of Walter Kazragis, uncle of Allison Kazragis  
Marijo Seguin, niece of Mary and Terry Stadler

**Wedding Banns**  
Kristen Eckert & Joshua Kaiser  
Sarah Kiehl & David Altbelli

James Martin,SJ @JamesMartinSJ 10.8.15
Mission and Philosophy
The mission of St. John of the Cross Parish School is to provide a safe and dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows. We offer challenging educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student. Our parish school prides itself on multigenerational Catholic traditions and achievement, which empowers our students to live The Good News.

“Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge”

We proudly offer:

- School Liturgies, Classroom Prayer Services, and Sacramental Preparation
- Grade Level and School Service Experiences
- Exceptional Technology including one to one iPads, SMART boards, Laptop Computers, and Chromebooks
- Student Resource Services and Academic Support
- Full Time School Nurse
- Comprehensive Fine Arts, Physical Education, Technology, and Spanish Programs
- Full and 1/2 Day Kindergarten and 3 and 4 year old preschool
- Before and After Care for Kindergarten—8th Grade
- No Cut Athletics
- Many Co-Curricular Activities

Early Childhood and Kindergarten
October 14, 2015
9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 15, 2015
1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL
Www/stjohnofthecross.org/school
708-246-4454