“All Saints Day and All Souls Day are the feasts of every saint and of every soul who has died and gone home into the eternal love of God, the Light of the World.”

Karl Rahner SJ
Dear Parishioners,

The Synod on the Family has concluded in Rome. Now every bishop in the world has to bring back to their own diocese the fruit of the consultation process and the summary of Pope Francis.

While I do not know everything the summary document has in it, I do know that many of the bishops came away from the experience with a far better sensitivity to the diversity of issues in marriage and family life from around the world. Everyone sees the truth from their own perspective. It cannot be otherwise when you think about it. So the challenge to the bishops is to be aware of as many perspectives as they can, even though they are not their own perspective, and try to hold them in a creative tension that yields a more complete and fuller picture of a world-wide perspective of marriage.

I experienced this difficulty a little when reading something on the perspective of the African bishops. They expressed a tremendous fear of a spirit of a new colonialization when it came to the countries of the West imposing their values and models of marriage and family life on them. Like slavery, colonialization is not part of my consciousness but it is a very important part of the consciousness of many people of this world, especially but not only in Africa. They have experienced a rejection of their native culture and wisdom and had another culture and set of values imposed on them, frequently violently. They do not want to become victims a second time. Maybe then the approach needs to be less judgment of who is right and who is wrong and more of an attempt to move to a common understanding rooted in the Gospel. Those who pound the bully pulpit of marriage being between one man and one woman forget that father Abraham had (at least) two wives. King David, composer of the psalms and builder of Jerusalem, had a man killed in battle so that he could take that man’s wife in marriage. The Old (Hebrew) Testament has example after example of marriage models that are far different than white, middle class, 21st Century America. We can see roots in some cultures and places that stretch to antiquity, so they cannot be easily dismissed. Rather, the roots reveal the depth of the complexity of change that is required in order to come to a common understanding. Hearing the concerns of the African bishops broadened my perspective a little on world wide marriage and family life.

This weekend is also the triduum of All Hallows Eve, the Feast of All Saints and then the Feast of All Souls. All three have to be seen as one unit for a fuller appreciation of each part. Costuming allows you to ‘play’ at a different identity than your own. So little kids play at being powerful super heroes and beautiful princesses’, things they are most definitely not today. Growing up is learning they will never be those people, and that is OK. Teenagers love Zombies and ‘scary’ costumes. The more blood and gore the better. Adolescence can fill teens with a kind of invincibility and shoves them toward boundary crossing and risk taking. The ultimate boundary is between life and death and so the attraction pulls them in that direction. Adults who even dare to be costumed revert to playfulness and exaggeration, the absurd or the infamous. The pun is the cleverest of adult costumes. In Christian tradition, of course, it was the costuming of the saints that was the target of Halloween. The Feast of All Saints is the church’s affirmation of the universal call to holiness, although that language would not emerge until the Vatican Council II. The Feast of All Souls, which follows immediately, acknowledges the reality that we will all die and have to stand ‘before the judgment seat of God’. I’ve come to appreciate very much our parish’s tradition of praying for all who have died the previous year and have a family member light a candle for them during the mass for All Souls. It is a powerful communal celebration of grief and hope.

The world around us is falling asleep in the death of winter. The beauty of colored leaves gives way to the grey of barren bushes and trees. The darkness takes over more time each day and the cold begins to numb the bones. Were it not for our faith we might be tempted to despair. Instead we begin the preparations for the season of Advent, soon upon us. We look to the celebration of the birth of the Light of the World.

Peace,
Fr. David
Pope Francis on what it will mean for the Church to conclude the Synod devoted to the family

Certainly, the Synod was not about settling all the issues having to do with the family, but rather attempting to see them in the light of the Gospel and the Church’s tradition and two-thousand-year history, bringing the joy of hope without falling into a facile repetition of what is obvious or has already been said.

Surely it was not about finding exhaustive solutions for all the difficulties and uncertainties which challenge and threaten the family, but rather about seeing these difficulties and uncertainties in the light of the Faith, carefully studying them and confronting them fearlessly, without burying our heads in the sand.

It was about urging everyone to appreciate the importance of the institution of the family and of marriage between a man and a woman, based on unity and indissolubility, and valuing it as the fundamental basis of society and human life.

It was about listening to and making heard the voices of the families and the Church’s pastors, who came to Rome bearing on their shoulders the burdens and the hopes, the riches and the challenges of families throughout the world.

It was about showing the vitality of the Catholic Church, which is not afraid to stir dulled consciences or to soil her hands with lively and frank discussions about the family.

It was about trying to view and interpret realities, today’s realities, through God’s eyes, so as to kindle the flame of faith and enlighten people’s hearts in times marked by discouragement, social, economic and moral crisis, and growing pessimism.

It was about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would “indoctrinate” it in dead stones to be hurled at others.

It was also about laying closed hearts, which bare the closed hearts which frequently hide even behind the Church’s teachings or good intentions, in order to sit in the chair of Moses and judge, sometimes with superiority and superficiality, difficult cases and wounded families.

It was about making clear that the Church is a Church of the poor in spirit and of sinners seeking forgiveness, not simply of the righteous and the holy, but rather of those who are righteous and holy precisely when they feel themselves poor sinners.

It was about trying to open up broader horizons, rising above conspiracy theories and blinkered viewpoints, so as to defend and spread the freedom of the children of God, and to transmit the beauty of Christian Newness, at times encrusted in a language which is archaic or simply incomprehensible.

The Church’s first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God’s mercy, to call to conversion, and to lead all men and women to salvation in the Lord (cf. Jn 12:44-50)

In effect, for the Church to conclude the Synod means to return to our true “journeying together” in bringing to every part of the world, to every diocese, to every community and every situation, the light of the Gospel, the embrace of the Church and the support of God’s mercy!

Pope Francis at the conclusion of the Synod of Bishops on the Family October 24, 2015

Synod Basics

In 2013 Pope Francis announced that in October, 2014 there would be an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on topics related to the family and evangelization which would be followed by an Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October, 2015 on the “The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world.”

The Synod is an assembly of bishops from around the world who assist the Holy Father, the President of the Synod, by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church’s teaching and strengthens her internal discipline. The Synod of Bishops meets at the request of the Holy Father, when he considers it necessary or opportune to consult with the world’s bishops. is the current Holy Father, Pope Francis.

The 2014 Extraordinary General Assembly is considered a preparatory step for the 2015 Ordinary General Assembly. At the Extraordinary General Assembly, the bishops defined the current state of the family and challenges that face it; at the Ordinary General Assembly, the bishops helped formulate pastoral guidelines to respond to those challenges.

After an Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, it is common for the Holy Father to issue a substantive document, called a post-synodal apostolic exhortation. The bishops asked Pope Francis to give the Church a document on the Family in which he might use some of their recommendations and help guide pastoral ministry now and into the future. Pope Francis’s Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium, which captured so many directions of the 2012 Synod on Evangelization, has been a gift to the Church and to the world. Sources: USCCB and Archbishop Kurtz’s (President of US Bishops) Reflection After Synod
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 martyred 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.

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 baptismal font. The Book of Remembrance will remain there through the month of November. 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.

If you would like your loved ones remembered throughout the coming year, complete an All Souls envelope which can be found on the lectern. These envelopes will be placed in a basket under our altar, and we will remember them at Mass each week as Our Beloved Dead. 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.

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. After Mass our priests and bereavement ministers will be available in the church narthex.

In faith we know that those who have died remain with us in love and in the communion of saints. In Hope, we look forward lovingly to the day when we will be united with them for all eternity. In Love we hold their memory forever in our hearts.
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.

Bill Allen
Bruno Arnalas
Nancy Barron
Richard Baruth
Tara Bassi
Richard Bayers
Wilfred Beauchamp
Jorge Bernas
William Bernasek
June Blankemeier
Alyce Bourjaily
Dr Richard Buckingham
Marian Bucko
Beverly Buechele
Isabel Buser
Bernie Casella
Pat Cavalieri
Bernice Chwierut
Barry Cicero
Dolores Collins
Harry W Colmer
Reggie Cook
Marie Coyne
John Cozza
Eleanor Cronin
Ramon Cruz
Michael Cunningham
Marie Daly
David Dees
Joseph Delaney
Mike Delaney
Helen DeStefani
Frances Dickman
Peggy Dine
Van Domanskis
Jerome Donohue
Mary Dowd
Bridget Dowdle
John Doyle
Jim Dunne
Suzanne Eley
Addy Falcone
Raymond Fatter
Mary Fitzpatrick
Mike Francis
George Forster
Eugene Galka
Gene Gallagher
Rita Gangi
Alice Geraci
Clara Giampa
Berta Gion
Jane Glancey
Robert Glancey
Marie Glowa
Donald Goss
Sophie Grudzien
John Guckien
Peter Gutrich
Kevin Hansen
Maria Hanson
Barbara Harris
Craig Harris
Matt Heinzl
Brandon Hemstreet
Miguel Hernandez
Joseph Hickey
James Houston
Kathleen Hurley
Virginia Jangodzinski
Norine Jennings
Jill Jodlowski
Jacqueline Johnson
Ramona Johnson
Gerald Jonas
Anne Kalis
Shirley Kazragis
Rev. Kieran Kemmer
Barbara Kenny
Robert Kidder
Patricia Kinnerk
Cecilia Kirschbaum
Mary Rita Koopman
John Koterba
Ted Kowalski
Joseph Kowalski
Norbert Koziol
Grace Kramp
Bruna Krause
Cecilia Krizek
William Kuzel
Walter Lach
Roger Laubertbach
Marilyn Long
Patrick Lynch
Robert Lyons
Robert Mahoney
Roland Mike Marshall
Eleanor Martin
Steven Matuszewski
Mary Ann Matsyisk
Beverly McCarthy
Tom McDonnell
Jim McDonnell
Joseph McGinn
Danny McGovern
Marguerite McGuire
Hal McReynolds
John Meehan
Robert Miller
Margaret Moore
Catalina Morales
Richard Murphy
Margaret Nash Burke
Pat Nebel
Richard Nicholson
Mary Niesen
Herbert Nilles
Eileen Nolan
Rita O’Connell
Nancy O’Connell-Stone
Helene O’Donohue
Larry O’Mahoney
Ron Pacer
Bob Pardus
Lucille Parenti
Greg Perona
Richard C Perry
Guido Guy Pertile
Edward Peters
Mary Beth Poronksy-Stull
Ann Porter
Dragica Pozek
Thomas Prendergast
Mike Reidy
Frank Reilly
Edward Reilly
David Roemer
Geraldine Rogalski
Robert Rooney
Richard Ryan
Mildred Bubbles Sabath
Rose Sacarro
Bob Santucci
George Sarros
Florence Sather
Andrea Schloederbach
Marijo Seguin
Susan Selig
Mark Shafranski
Leora Shaw
Robert Shaw
Bernadette Siamis
William G Siffermann
Mary Elizabeth Spetter
Howard Stapleton
Matthew Stefani
Louis Stork
Robert Swade
Anthony Terlep
Margaret Thorsen
Carole Turle
Thelma Ureel
Adeline VanBeek
Terry Vilmas
Irma Voller
Kevin Wallace
Tina Walsh
Catherine Ward
Gary Whitener
Trudy Williams
William Woods
David Woodward
Melanie Yates
Herbert Young
Genevieve Yurka
Rick Zech
Mary Irene Zotti
Mary Zupancic
Tertullian, a Theologian in the early Church (2nd Century) wrote, “Christians are made, not born.” Over the past months our Inquirers have been hearing the Gospel message, sharing their stories and reflecting on the place where God is at in their lives. They too have been asking questions and learning about how Catholics respond and live their faith in response to God’s calling. Over the past months the RCIA has laid important foundational blocks of our Catholic faith. These blocks have included – **Rituals and the Sacramental Life** of the Church. Through these rites and sacraments we experience the love of God in tangible ways. God uses physical signs, water, oil, bread and wine to communicate God’s profound love for us. Another block is **The Bible**. The stories of faith communicated to us by God help us to make connections in our lives. Through God’s word we come to know Christ and through this connection we are given inspiration and challenge to help us to follow the Good News. We learned that in Catholic worship that the riches of the scripture were opened up more fully at Vatican II with the creation of a three year cycle of readings on Sundays and a two year cycle on weekdays at the celebration of the Eucharist.

**Catholic Culture and Traditions** is another foundational block RCIA reflected on. Sacramentals such as holy water, a nativity scene, an Advent wreath, the liturgical year and meatless dinners on Christmas, hold special meaning for us as they help and remind us that the ordinary things of life can be transformed into celebration and expressions of God’s love for us. Three weeks ago our Inquirers received a tour of the **church and sacristy**. During this tour, they were given an explanation into the theological and spiritual design of our parish worship space. The architectural structure of our church is uniquely American, built with simplicity of brick and mortar. Our church was designed to be a place of public worship where you can clear your mind, enter into prayer and be free from distraction. The large simple cross is the central symbol of our faith. It symbolizes Christ’s victory over death and sin. It reminds us that Christ is risen and truly present among us. When we gather as a community to worship, Christ is present to us in the person of the Presider, the assembly, the proclaimed Word and in the Body and Blood we share.

**Mass**, was another of the foundational blocks of our faith RCIA looked at. As we gathered in church we did a walk through the Mass – using the letter “M” (shown below) as an image. The Mass or the Liturgy of the Eucharist is one of the sacraments of Initiation given to us by Christ so that we can continue to be molded and shaped as his followers. The ritual or pattern of the Mass consists of four parts, the **Introductory Rites** which gather us as a community, the **Liturgy of the Word**, in which God speaks to us, the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, we present our gifts to God and God transforms them for us. Here we remember all that Jesus did and continues to do to save us. In his life which he freely gave in service to all we are given the pattern of how we are to live our lives. God gives to us divine nourishment for the journey. The **Concluding Rites** send us forth to be Christ for others.

These are some of the blocks of the foundation of our Catholic Faith. If these are the blocks, **Jesus Christ** is the cornerstone. Early in the Inquiry process RCIA reflected on Christ, his presence in our world, in our lives and the heart of our faith. With Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” as the starting point, the RCIA group shared stories and images of who Christ is for us. These included: comforter, savior, healer, teacher, liberator, anointed, Lamb of God, charismatic, and friend.

Over the next several weeks more of the foundational blocks of our faith will be discussed. These will include; **Prayer**, **Mary and the Saints** and **Images of God**. All during this time our Inquirers continue to discern where God is calling them. Called, they will then journey to the next step in the RCIA process.

On Sunday, November 29 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass our parish’s RCIA Inquirers will be celebrate with the St. John of the Cross faith community the Rite of Welcome and Acceptance. Let us keep our Inquirers, Amy, Marla, Marti, Randy, Rob, Sarah, and Schler in our prayers as they continue their journey of faith.
Background on the Gospel

Every year the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. These saints are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share relation, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints. Every year when we celebrate this day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus' teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. We quickly note in this reading that none of those Jesus names as “blessed” or “happy” are expected . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

What does Jesus mean when he uses the word “blessed?” This word is sometimes translated as “happy” or “fortunate” or “favored.” In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, who mourn, who are persecuted. This might have been welcome and surprising news to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Because of this, it is natural that we proclaim this Gospel on the Feast of All Saints. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

Living the Gospel Message

It is no accident that the Gospel of Matthew has Jesus go “up the mountain,” traditionally a place associated with divine encounter, to teach the Beatitudes to his disciples. The Beatitudes reveal the very Being of God (“Blessed,” holy), God’s care for God’s beloved people (“poor in spirit,” “those who mourn,” etc.), God’s intent for faithful ones (“theirs is the kingdom of heaven”). The Beatitudes reveal the mind and heart of God. Those who have encountered God and lived the Beatitudes have the same mind and heart. We call them “saints.” There is a countless multitude of saints in heaven; there is a countless multitude of saints here among us who have embraced the beatific, Godlike way of living. While this feast day primarily honors the saints who have gone before us, we cannot forget ourselves on this day. They have gone where we hope to go.

We often think of the saints as out-of-this-world holy people who are far beyond our own experience or sense of our own goodness. When we pray the Litany of All Saints (for example, before the baptisms during the Easter Vigil) we ask the intercession of very many saints who lived centuries ago in a very different time and culture. They seem far away. This solemnity reminds us that at one time they were ordinary people just like us, living ordinary lives in faithfulness to Gospel values. The simple, everyday things we do well are saintly acts. Our smile is a saintly one. Our gesture of kindness is an expression of blessedness. Our humility is Godlike. Others’ holy gestures toward us are reminders that there is glory awaiting us. To each of us who embraces our blessedness: ours “is the kingdom of heaven.”

May we have the mind and heart of God and live holy lives.
May we more faithfully model our lives after that of the Saints who have gone before us.

“The saints are men and women who have joy in their hearts and spread it to others.”
– Pope Francis

Hear our prayers O Lord and be with us on our journey. May your peace guide our steps and hope light our way as we journey through this life to the joy of the life of the world to come. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
“Everything in God’s universe is present-tense. Divine love transcends time and place. So it’s never really too late to pray for a person or to express love to that beloved soul.” Ignatian Spirituality.

**Treasured Sorrow**

A week ago, a friend and I were at lunch, discussing the recent death of his family member, who was also a very dear friend of mine. The conversation turned to how, despite his grief, he could name many gifts of the experience of walking with his loved one during her battle with cancer. He named how the experience changed him, how many people he met during the process, and how it made him more compassionate towards others’ suffering.

As I listened, I began recalling experiences in my life that echoed with both struggle and graces. One of my teachers in my spiritual direction program, Bob Fitzgerald, called these moments of our lives “treasured sorrows.”

**What Is a Treasured Sorrow?**

It is a life experience where there was both grief and joy. We faced pain, challenges, hurt, loss, or grief. Yet, as we look back, we treasure the experience we went through because of what we learned and who we became in the process. While the experience itself was a beast to live through, we know that the growth we experienced, the reliance on God we now have, and the new awareness we have about ourselves would not be there without this period of life.

**Reflecting on Our Treasured Sorrows**

There are a handful of events in my life I can now name as treasured sorrows. While I would rather not re-live these moments of loss and pain, I know that these experiences changed me in a profound way, and so I treasure the lessons I learned.

I am more aware of what others experience. The utter dependency on God during these times grew strong roots of faith that still strengthen me today. I cherish the people I met and the relationships that deepened as we walked the experience together. I know the tools of my faith offer support and guidance after leaning on them as I walked the challenging journey.

Our treasured sorrows are our wise teachers. With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can sift through our experiences and name the sorrows and the treasures. Then, like any good friend would do, we can offer this experience to God to be transformed and used by God for the good of the Kingdom.

What about you? What in your life do you consider to be a treasured sorrow? Ignatian Spirituality

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**Praying for Our Loved Ones in the Military**

We would love to update our list of parishioners and their loved ones who are currently serving in the military. Please call the Parish Center office or email us at treyes@stjohnofthecross.org with their names.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Richard Rohr Daily Meditation**

**Practice Loving Kindness**

We all need to practice being kind, particularly to ourselves. It is only when we first reconnect with the infinite love that is our ground of being that we can extend that love to others through nonviolent actions. When we remember that we are love, we can truly wish even our enemies well. The Buddhist practice of *metta*, loving kindness, is a wonderful way to grow kindness for yourself and for others.

Begin by sitting in silence and finding the place of loving kindness within you. Then speak the following statements aloud:

- May I be free from inner and outer harm and danger.
- May I be safe and protected.
- May I be free of mental suffering or distress.
- May I be happy.
- May I be free of physical pain and suffering.
- May I be healthy and strong.
- May I be able to live in this world happily, peacefully, joyfully, with ease. [1]

Repeat these affirmations as many times as you wish. When you are ready, replace the "I" in each statement with someone else’s name. You might follow the sequence from the *maitri* (another word for loving kindness) practice I introduced a few weeks ago, gradually widening the flow of love to include: a beloved, a friend, an acquaintance, someone who has hurt you, and finally the whole universe.

**Gateway to Silence: Love Your Enemies.**
Unity Day Celebration

Celebrated across the nation last Thursday, our students, faculty, and staff celebrated Unity Day, a day set aside to promote kindness, acceptance, understanding, compassion and inclusion. Students took a few minutes to reflect on what it means to take care of each other and unite as one and to remember that when people stand together no one stands alone. After a brief assembly on Thursday, filled with videos of students reading, songs, and prayers, everyone proceeded outside and formed a circle in our parking lot while they held hands and recited the Prayer of St. Francis together. Students also wore a touch of orange in celebration of this event while the faculty and staff wore “SJC Unity Day T-Shirts.”

Harvest Saturday is Just Around the Corner!

It just takes a few hours to make a REMARKABLE impact on the lives of others! Volunteers are still needed for:

Flyer Day – Saturday, November 7
9-11am

Box Night – Friday, November 13
6-7:30pm (designed for confirmation candidates)

Harvest Saturday, November 14
Volunteers welcome anytime from
9:45am-2pm

Sign up at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads. Contact Wendy Duquette, wsdukes@sbcglobal.net, Kim Sarros, sarros@ameritech.net or Fran Karas, franbkaras@gmail.com with questions.

If you live in Burr Ridge, Indian Head Park or another nearby town and would like to donate to the food drive, we would be thrilled to have your donations and can accept non-perishable items on Box Night or Harvest Saturday at the Parish Center.

Congratulations to our seventh and eighth grade varsity football team who defeated Immaculate Conception 12-6 to win the Suburban Parochial League Championship last weekend!!!

Calendar
November 2 All School Liturgy 9:15am
November 3 Parent Association Meeting 9:00am Parish Center
November 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 6 No School Parent Teacher Conferences

Home Group Leaders Needed

Our teens have enjoyed their “Freshmen Experience” and are ready to begin meeting in Home Groups. In order to make that happen, we need leaders!

As a leader, you will host twice-monthly meetings in your home, November-May. You can partner with your spouse, a friend, neighbor or adult son or daughter. Contact Mary Stadler at 708-246-3838 to learn more.
Youth Catechesis

Over 200 parish 8th Graders participated in the annual Day of the Spirit Retreat led by Crossroads teens, YC and school faculty, staff and volunteers. Their day began at 11:30am learning about the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and ended by attending the Saturday 5pm Mass. Can you name the 7 Gifts? Look on page 12.

Postage stamps are needed for the work of the Kolbe House Jail Ministry. Can you donate a few?

The Kolbe House staff has plenty of Christmas cards to give to the Cook County Jail detainees—the urgent need now is for thousands of stamps!

Your help is greatly appreciated...stamps or the $ to purchase them. Donations can be brought to the Parish Center or placed in the Sunday Offertory basket in an envelope marked, “For Kolbe House.”

Ways to Serve

Fundraising Consultant

Our Sharing Parish, St. Gall, is looking for 3-5 members for their Young Adult Auxiliary Board. The Auxiliary Board assists the school with fundraising. There are 302 students who attend St. Gall school. For more information or if you are interested please contact Bill Bright or Noreen Walton Valle at: nvalle@stgallschool.com.

Leaf Clean up for Seniors

Gather the kids to help rake yards of seniors living in Countryside on November 7 beginning at 9am. Call Shannon Rapp at 708-567-8687.

Food Pantry Collection

In November and December, our food donations brought to the church narthex will be delivered to Mary Queen of Heaven in Cicero. MQH’s Ms. Rosa Herrera, along with her husband Armando (who is also a deacon at MQH), work alongside a dedicated volunteer staff to protect the dignity of everyone who comes through their doors to ensure they have the means to feed their family.

They serve about 100 families each month. Items families love include: canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans), cereal, tuna, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, and baby food. Thank you for sharing with others.

Parishioners at MQH also make donations to their pantry fund enabling Rosa to purchase perishable foods such as tomatoes, onions, peppers, cilantro and eggs for the families who come to the food pantry.

Thank You! SJC donated 183 cans of creamed corn to our sharing parish, St. Gall! Pictured to the left are SJC volunteers delivering food to St. Gall.
St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their children baptized by Fr. Bill Vollmer last Sunday. Pictured are: Michael and Frances Levar with infant Madeline Kell, Jason and Annie Shackelford with their two children, Dylan Paul and Sloane Hope, and Anthony and Tamara Burke with infant, Aiden Timothy.

Parents, can you "waste time" with your children? It is one of the most important things that you can do each day. Pope Francis @Pontifex Oct 27

All Ministers of Care and Communion Ministers

“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him” (Col. 3:17).

On behalf of the Pastoral Staff you are asked to attend a Reflection and Commissioning Ceremony for all Communion Ministers and Ministers of Care to be held this month in the Parish Center. Please choose the date that works best for you and kindly RSVP at least 2 days prior to your date of choice by following the link http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/blog/reflection-and-commissioning-ceremony/ on the home page of our parish website or calling the Parish Center office (708-246-4404).

Sun. November 8 from 3:00 - 4:30pm OR
Mon. November 16 from 7:00 - 8:30pm

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Leaders

Adult volunteers are needed to help lead our Children’s Liturgy of the Word sessions on Sundays during the 9am and 10:45am Masses. Each 20 minute session is team taught during the readings and homily. Materials, training and support are provided. Call Lori Berkey at 708-784-1201 for more information.

New Altar Server Training

All 6th, 7th & 8th grade students are invited to join the SJC Altar Server Ministry. Altar Server Training takes place in Church on three consecutive Tuesdays: Nov. 3, 10 and 17 (3:45-5:00 pm) OR three consecutive Fridays: Nov. 6, 13, 20 (3:45-5:00 pm). Students must attend all three sessions on the chosen day. Class size is limited and registration is done online at: www.stjohnofthecross.org/altar-server-training-registration/

A parent information meeting immediately follows the first day of training in church (4:45-5:15 pm).

Begins this Week!!
Register TODAY
The Synod was a great success on a number of levels. We walked together with humility and spoke to each other with boldness and candor, as Pope Francis asked. But even more importantly, the synod was a decisive demonstration of the Pope's ability to govern wisely and effectively. Throughout these sometimes stormy days Pope Francis remained serene and centered, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. His demeanor and poise had an enormous impact on the bishops. Jesus asked Peter to walk on water and this time he kept his eyes on the Lord and taught us all how to walk together.

Archbishop Blase J. Cupich
On the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops October 25, 2015

Our Spirituality Among Men series will continue Saturday November 21st with a discussion about Catholic Social Teaching and immigration. Since before the turn of the century, our country has absorbed a great number of immigrants. As part of this ongoing adjustment, a number of issues have been raised over the years including:

- the role of government assistance
- limiting those entering and
- national security

As we have seen in the presidential debates, this discussion continues today. As Catholics how do we frame the discussion apart from the political dialogue? What is a spiritual approach to this issue? The Men's Club invites all men of the parish to join us Saturday Nov 21 at 8:45am in the Parish Center for a lively discussion.

**SJC Men’s Club**
Invites all Men of the Parish to a
**BEARS vs. Chargers Gathering!**
Monday, November 9th
Parish Center
DOORS OPEN at 6:30pm
GAME TIME at 7:25pm
Join us for food, beverages and camaraderie!

Parish Sponsored Program at The Well
Saturday, November 14 from 9-4pm
Evolution changes everything. But what does it mean about your spiritual life, human culture and well…the future? In this program, Carter Phipps will explore the nature of evolutionary development, introduce the great pioneers of evolutionary thought, and explain why some of our most idealistic efforts at change can be counter-productive when it comes to the evolution of consciousness and culture. Carter Phipps is author of *Evolutionaries: Unlocking the Spiritual and Cultural Potential of Science’s Greatest Idea*. He is also the co-founder of the Institute for Cultural Evolution. **This program is free for SJC Parishioners.** Lunch is included. Simply call the Parish Center to register. The Well is located at 1515 N. Ogden Ave. LaGrange Park.

**God Said, “HA!” with Julia Sweeney**
Wellness House of Hinsdale welcomes all on Thursday, November 12 from 7-8:30pm. At the Hyatt Lodge at McDonald’s Campus in Oak Brook to hear author, actress, and comedienne, Julia Sweeney. Best known for her character on Saturday Night Live, Julia has written a funny and touching memoir about a family surviving cancer. No fee. Register at 630-323-5150.

**Land a Job Before the Holidays**
Thursday, November 5 from 7-9pm at St. Cletus

**Career Resource Center Help**
1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 7-9pm at the First Baptist church of LaGrange. Go to interfaithcareernetwork.org for more details.

**Coping with the Holidays Workshop for Grieving Adults**
Saturday, November 21 from 9:30-12:30 at Loyola Medical Center. Register at 708-216-1646.

**Sunday, November 15**
8:00am-12:30pm in the Parish Center
Enjoy the Scout-Men’s Club annual Pancake Breakfast On Sunday, November 15 from 8am through 12:30pm. All proceeds benefit programming and training for our Parish Boy Scouts in Troop 117. Payable at the door: $7.00 for adults, $3.00 for children aged 5-10, free for tots under 5.

During the Rite of Confirmation the bishop and the priests who are administering the sacrament lay their hands upon those who are to be confirmed and say:

“All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.”
There is no such a thing as pure objectivity, a view that is free of all bias.

Yet that's the claim often made by non-religious, secular thinkers in debates about values and public policy. They argue that their views, unlike those who admit that their views are grounded in religious principles, are objective and free from bias. Their underlying assumption is that a purely rational argument, a view in effect from nowhere, is objective in a way that religious arguments, based upon someone's faith and religious perspective, can never be, as if there was such a thing as a purely objective starting point. There isn't.

We all have a bias. The late Langdon Gilkey used to put this in a gentle, more-palatable way. We don't have a bias, he says, but rather a "pre-ontology", a subjective stance from which we look at reality. And that stance includes both the place where we stand, outside, when we look into any reality, as well as the software through which we perceive and reason as we look at anything. He's right. There's no view from nowhere, no view that's unbiased, and no view that's purely objective. Everyone has a bias. The religious person and the secular person simply stand at different subjective places and process things through different subjective, mental software.

Does this mean then that all views are equally subjective and that everything is relative? Can we not then distinguish between science and superstition? No. There are clearly degrees of objectivity, even if no one can claim absolute objectivity. To admit that even the strictest empirical scientific research will always contain a degree of subjectivity is not to put science on the same level as superstition or even of faith. Empirical science and rational thought must be given their due. It is medical doctors, not faith-healers, who cure physical diseases. Likewise, the scientific theory of evolution and the fundamentalist religious belief that our world was made in seven days are not to be given an equal claim. Much as religious thinkers are sometimes irritated by the absolutist claims of some secularists, science and critical rational thinking must be given their due.

But religious thinking must also be given its due, especially in our debates about values and politics. Religious opinion also needs to be respected, not least with the more-explicit acknowledgement that secular reasoning too operates out of a certain faith, as well as by the acknowledgement that, like its scientific and philosophical counterparts, religious thinking also brings invaluable and needed perspectives to any debate. A lot of the world's knowledge is contained within science and philosophy, but most of the world's wisdom is contained in its religious and faith perspectives. Just as we cannot live on religion alone, we too cannot live on science and philosophy alone. Wisdom needs knowledge and knowledge needs wisdom. Science and religion need to more deeply befriend each other.

More important however than having a proper apologetic about the place of faith and religion inside of public policy is an understanding of this for our own health and happiness. We need to understand how subjectivity colors everything, not so much so that we might eventually convince secularists that religious perspectives are important in any discussion, but so that we can more deliberately choose the right pre-ontology so as to see the world through better eyes and make better judgments on the world.

The 12th century mystic, Hugo of St. Victor, gives us, I believe, the right pre-ontology out of which to operate: Love is the eye! For Hugo, we see most accurately when our eyesight works through the lens of love and altruism, just as we see most inaccurately when our eyesight is colored by suspicion and self-interest. And this isn't an abstract idea. Experience tells us this. When we look at someone in love, beyond of course those periods when love is overly-obsessed with romantic attraction, we see straight. We then see the other as he or she really is, with full recognition of his or her virtues and faults. That's as accurate as we will ever see. Conversely, when we see someone through the eyes of suspicion or self-interest our vision is clouded and there's not as fair a perception.

Jesus says as much with the first words that comes out of his mouth in the Synoptic Gospels. In his very first remarks, he invites us, in one word, to see the world as it really is. His first word? Metanoia. This is a Greek word that is generally translated in English bibles, as Repent, but it literally means “to enter a different, higher mind”. And that connotation is highlighted when we contrast it to another Greek word which we already know, namely, Paranoia. Metanoia is the opposite of paranoia.

When we look at the world through the eyes of paranoia, we are not seeing straight. Conversely, when we look at the world through eyes of metanoia, we are seeing straight, religiously and scientifically. Love, indeed, is the eye.

Ron Rolheiser
Dear Parishioners,

The Parish Advisory Council (PAC) met on October 13, 2015. At our first meeting since our summer break, we welcomed our new Council members: Lisa Geneser and Jim Strafaci, At Large Parishioner Reps elected last May, Pat DeMars, Adult Spirituality Advisory Group Rep, Rose Horvath, Outreach Advisory Group Rep, Heidi Kotynek and Larry Krema, Apostles (appointed to help share the news and promote the work of the PAC), and Steve Weigand, Pastoral Associate.

As background, the PAC was established in 2011 to enable communication and collaboration among the Pastoral Staff, Consultative Bodies, and Ministry Advisory Groups in an effort to guide the Parish in living out its Vision and Mission. To keep the Parish informed of our work, a letter is published in the bulletin detailing key communication from each meeting. In addition, background information on the Council, pre-read materials (sent before the meeting to keep each other informed of goals and actions), and minutes from the meeting are posted on our parish website.

Last year the work of the PAC focused on generating and prioritizing ideas from Parish leadership, Parishioners, and Pastoral Staff that could be used as input for possible projects for our share (60% or $1.8M) of the $3M To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign (TTWCI) as well as to provide long and short term strategic direction to Parish leadership. Despite not moving forward with our campaign as originally planned, both staff and the PAC have reviewed the ideas to explore which might add to the quality of Parish life or strengthen the Parish in living out its Mission.

The ideas that related to School, YC, Crossroads, Welcome, Liturgy, and Outreach will be reviewed by the respective Staff member and their Consultative Body or Advisory Group. The remaining ideas were grouped into the following five categories: Technology, Evangelization, Buildings/Grounds/Environment, Volunteerism, and Marketing/Communications. At our PAC meeting members reviewed and prioritized the ideas in terms of how each idea would help us better live out our Parish Mission in the future and its importance in the overall scope of the Parish.

From our discussion, the Council decided to focus on ‘building community’ in the coming year. Members will gather input from their Boards, Groups and other Parishioners in the next few months in order to be ready to discuss new goals and action plans at our winter meeting in February. I look forward to sharing our progress with you then.

Lastly, thank you to all PAC members for your efforts and time acting as liaisons between your respective groups and the larger PAC group. Together, we will continue to help live our Parish Mission.

Ann Marie Calistro
PAC Chairperson
Mass Intentions

Monday, November 2
7:45am Jerry Albertson; Evelyn Spitkovsky
7pm Mass of Remembrance

Tuesday, November 3
7:45am Patrick McNamara; Charles & Anne Ward

Wednesday, November 4
7:45am John P. Ryan, Jr.; Mel Carr

Thursday, November 5
7:45am Helen M. Bukovsky; Our Beloved Dead

Friday, November 6
7:45am Herb Nilles; Robert Cosgrove

Saturday, November 7
8:00am Loretta Babka; Frank Mirabella
5:00pm Betty & Reggie Cook; Richard & Margaret Kirtley

Sunday, November 8
7:30am Danny McGovern; Francis Reilly
9:00am Raymond Cochran; James Houston
10:45am Anthony Jacyno; Emilia Ann Donlon
12:15pm Deceased Members of Shellar Family; Walter Lach
5:00pm John Jurkacek; Ronald Pacer

Pray for Our Sick
Lori Cook
Mildred Fitzgerald
George Kojima
Roberta Ohlquist
Marian Pascale
Michael Sullivan
Theresa Vana

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Jacqueline Johnson, mother of Mary Johnson, friend of Jane Sanchez
Mary Fitzpatrick, mother of Karen Swinehart, grandmother of Margaret,
Brendan and Maeve

Cecilia Krizek

Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross faith community:
Chona and Steven Dominguez and Family
Mindy and Jevon Herman and Family
Colleen and Kyle Condon and Family
Renee and Joseph Mahoney and Family
Maura and Dennis Monohan and Family
Evangelina and Gil Garza and Family

If you would like to register to become a member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS WOMEN’S CLUB ANNUAL

COAT DRIVE

To benefit
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Donation Drop Boxes are located in the Church Narthex, Parish Center Lobby and School Lobby.

Next weekend, November 7 & 8, after all Masses Donations will also be accepted in the Parish Center.

Questions? Email Jennifer Miller  jenjoemiller@hotmail.com or Sylvie Salazar jdrankomore@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for helping others keep warm this winter.