30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 25, 2015

Son of David, have pity on me.
The speeches, homilies and addresses of the Holy Father during his apostolic visit to the United States continue rich, deep reflections about marriage, the family, family life, and the family’s mission and vocation in the world. They merit close attention and study in order to receive their full fruits of wisdom and guidance. We, in the United States, have been given a wonderful gift by Pope Francis’s visit and the words he left with us will hopefully continue to take root in our country for years to come.

Wednesday, September 23: Washington, DC  
Address at Welcoming Ceremony – South Lawn of the White House:  In his remarks to President Barack Obama and the crowd gathered at the White House, Pope Francis reminded his listeners of a key reason for his visit, setting the stage for later reflections on the family: “I will also travel to Philadelphia for the Eighth World Meeting of Families, to celebrate and support the institutions of marriage and family at this, a critical moment in the history of civilization.”

Meeting with the U.S. Bishops – Cathedral of Saint Matthew:  The Holy Father thanked the bishops for their ongoing support of marriage and the family. After listing a number of dark signs of the modern world, including abortion, children who die from hunger, and the elderly, Pope Francis said: “It is wrong, then, to look the other way or to remain silent. No less important is the Gospel of the Family, which in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia I will emphatically proclaim together with you and the entire Church.”

Thursday, September 24: Washington, DC and New York, NY  
Address to Congress – U.S. Capitol:  In his speech to the United States Congress, the Holy Father spoke about the family, its importance, and the need for society to promote and protect it. At the same time, the pope noted his concern for the family, “which is threatened, perhaps as never before, from within and without.” He said that “fundamental relationships” are being questioned, as well as the “very basis” of marriage and the family. In response, he stressed, “I can only reiterate the importance and, above all, the richness and the beauty of family life.” The pope went on to exhort special concern for young people, whom he called the “most vulnerable” members of the family. He shared his concern that many young people face violence, abuse and despair, and may not start a family “because they lack possibilities for the future” or because they are presented with too many options for their lives.

Friday, September 25: New York, NY  
Address to the United Nations:  Pope Francis stressed two points related to the family: first, that the family has the primary right to educate its children, a right that is particularly important in places where education is lacking, especially for girls; and second, that it is incumbent on governments to help their people have the spiritual and material means “needed to live in dignity and to create and support a family,” which the pope called “the primary cell of any social development.” Adding more detail, Pope Francis said that at a minimum, families need lodging, employment, and land to meet their material needs, and religious freedom and the right to education to meet their spiritual needs.

Saturday, September 26: Philadelphia, PA  
Mass – Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul:  Pope Francis stressed the call that each and every baptized man and woman has to serve the Lord and build up the Church. “Acknowledging the good work already being done in the local Churches “to respond to the needs of families and to support them in their journey of faith.”

Continued on the next page...
Saturday, September 26: Philadelphia, PA  Prayer Vigil for the Festival of Families – Benjamin Franklin Parkway: On Saturday evening, thousands of families from the local area and around the world gathered on the main street of Philadelphia to pray together, enjoy live music, hear testimonies from six families, and most of all listen to Pope Francis. While the Holy Father had prepared a text for the occasion, he decided to give unscripted remarks that were simultaneously translated from Spanish into English. In his prepared remarks, Pope Francis used a beautiful image to express the vocation and mission of the family: “The family is the living symbol of the loving plan of which the Father once dreamed. To want to form a family is to resolve to be a part of God’s dream, to choose to dream with him…to join him in this saga of building a world where no one will feel alone, unwanted or homeless.” The Holy Father went on to say that family life is not always easy: “Laying down one’s life out of love is not easy. As with the Master, ‘staking everything’ can sometimes involve the cross.” And later, he exhorted all present to help each other: “Let us help one another to make it possible to ‘stake everything on love.’ Let us help one another at times of difficulty and lighten each other’s burdens.” In his unscripted remarks given at the Festival of Families, the pope spoke with enthusiasm and joy about the meaning of the family in God’s plan. With humor and candor, he returned to the theme that family life is not always easy: “In families sometimes we throw dishes. In families children cause headaches…Families always, always have crosses.” But God’s grace is real: “the cross is followed by resurrection…So the family is – if you excuse the word – a workshop of hope, of the hope of life and resurrection, since God was the one who opened this path.” As he has done before, Pope Francis stressed two members of the family who need special care, children and grandparents. He said that taking care of them “is a sign of love” and gives a people a future. He ended his remarks with a heartfelt exhortation: “May God inspire you to keep moving forward. Let us care for the family. Let us defend the family, because there our future is at stake.”

Sunday, September 27: Philadelphia, PA  Meeting with Bishops – St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  He said that for the Church, the family “is not first and foremost a cause for concern.” Instead, it is “the joyous confirmation of God’s blessing upon the masterpiece of creation,” seen most beautifully in families who remain faithful despite many trials. He encouraged the bishops to “decisively” recognize the gift of the family with gratitude and appreciation, and to be attentive to the myriad changes taking place in society regarding the family, on social, cultural, and legal levels. He criticized the common consumeristic approach to so many things in society: “Consuming relationships, consuming friendships, consuming religions, consuming, consuming…Whatever the cost or consequences.” This mentality is deeply harmful to people and relationships. The Holy Father encouraged the bishops to help families “correspond ever more fully to the blessing of God which they are!” and to invite young people “to be brave and to opt for marriage and the family.” He said, “A pastor must show that the ‘Gospel of the family’ is truly ‘good news’ in a world where self-concern seems to reign supreme!” To conclude, the pope asked God for the “gift of a renewed closeness between the family and the Church. Families need it, the Church needs it, and we pastors need it.”

Closing Mass for the World Meeting of Families – Benjamin Franklin Parkway This Mass was the final public event during Pope Francis’ apostolic visit to the United States. The parkway was filled with people from all over the world who came to pray and participate in the Mass with the Holy Father. Again the pope spoke about the family in great detail. He spoke about the holiness of “little gestures” learned in the family: “little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion…Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home.” He strongly exhorted all families to live lives of communion, not division; love, not impatience. He asked everyone, “At home do we shout at one another or do we speak with love and tenderness? This is a good way of measuring our love.” In his closing remarks, he gave families clear direction on how to live out their mission and vocation: “May the Lord help us to be sharers in the prophecy of peace, of tenderness and affection in the family. May his word help us to share in the prophetic sign of watching over our children and our grandparents with tenderness, with patience and with love.” Excerpts from Pope Francis Corner froyourmarriage.org. USCCB For full text go to the Vatican Website.
Parish News

RCIA News

What do I need to do to have my baby baptized?

Pre-baptism sessions are offered for parents whether it is your first child being baptized or a subsequent child. The sessions are offered on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30pm (noon during the summer). It is our expectation that both parents attend this session. Feel free to bring your new baby and invite the godparents too. To learn more simply call the Parish Center front office during regular business hours (9am-4pm). One of our full-time staff members will take all the necessary information and answer any questions you may have.

RCIA: Currently at St. John of the Cross Parish we are in the Inquiry or Pre-Catechumenate Period. In truth, this period began when each of our Inquirers first heard the Good News of Jesus Christ from a spouse, family member, friend or someone in our community. Somehow, in the mystery of God, they have been drawn to this moment in time. During this time our Inquirers are hearing the Gospel message, sharing their stories and reflecting on the place where God is in their lives. They are asking questions and learning about how Catholics respond and live their faith in response to God’s calling. Think of the Inquiry or Pre-Catechumenate Period as one of window shopping, a time of discovering just what it is they are looking for. During this time of searching, our Inquirers are not asked to make any commitment at this time. This year’s Inquirers are, Amy, Marla, Marti, Randy, Rob, Sarah and Schler. May we, the faith community of St. John of the Cross, keep our Inquirers in prayer.

Fr. Bill Vollmer

Almighty God,
look upon your servants,
Amy, Marla, Marti, Randy,
Rob, Sarah and Schler,
as they begin the process
of being counted among
the members of your Church.
Teach them through
this time of preparation
of coming to know Christ,
the love of God,
the mysteries of our faith,
the way of the Gospel,
the grace of the sacraments
and the importance
of their relationship
with you and the Church.
Send down upon them
and their sponsors
your Spirit of
guidance and wisdom
as they journey together in faith.
We thank you for these
whom you have called and
we await their joining us
around the table of the Lord.
Through the power
of the Holy Spirit,
assure them of
the prayers and support
of St. John of the Cross.
Amen.

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their babies baptized last Sunday. Pictured from left to right are Daniel Furey Mauro with parents Aaron and Kara, Jane Frances Mc Dermott with parents Patrick and Melinda, and Lucille Theresa King with parents Scott and Nora.
The Book of Remembrance

During the month of November, parishioners and visitors to St. John of the Cross Parish are invited to write the names of their deceased beloved 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.

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.

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.

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.
Spiritual direction can be described many ways, but the best way is to emphasize its role in helping people see, accept, and live out God’s will in their lives.

Everybody has a personal vocation. It’s his or her unique role in accomplishing God’s redemptive plan through the life of “good works” which, as the letter to the Ephesians says, “God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph 2.10). Spiritual direction doesn’t give you a personal vocation. The vocation is already there. But direction assists people in discerning their vocations and carrying them out. Which, of course, is a lifetime job. People tend to imagine that a vocation comes whole and entire in a sudden lightning flash, and that’s the end of it. But the unfolding of a vocation is a lifelong process, and discerning it a daily task.

One obvious conclusion is that there’s nothing esoteric or mystical about spiritual direction. It isn’t reading tea leaves or gazing into a crystal ball. Think of it as a conversation between friends. But, you may ask, a conversation about what?

There are lots of possibilities, but topics that typically arise include establishing and maintaining a plan of life—a program of spiritual practices helpful in the daily struggle, rooting out stubborn faults, spiritual reading, improving relationships and being of service to others. There may be times when chatting with a spiritual director really will be helpful in making up your mind about what will be best for the others.

Spiritual direction isn’t about telling people what to do. It’s about helping them to consider their options in the clear light of personal vocation. Then it’s up to them to make their own free choice.

Excerpts from article by Russell Shaw. Ignatian Spirituality.

St. John of the Cross Parish is fortunate to have Marianne Firlit as our parish Spiritual Director. Marianne has her office in the Rectory. Reach out to Marianne via email at mgfirlit@gmail.com to make an appointment.

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Cultivating Time for God

We commit to new things in our lives frequently -- we might start a new exercise program, a new way of eating healthy, a new program at our church, or a new professional development program. With our children, we often make and honor commitments on their behalf as we seek to help them develop physically, socially, spiritually, and academically. We shuttle them to sports practices, dance, gymnastics, piano lessons, or tutors. Each of these things requires us to be intentional about showing up and honoring our commitment.

The same is true for our relationship with God. To make space for prayer in a busy calendar, we can start with answering these 3 questions:

1. When will my time of prayer be?
2. Where will my place of prayer be?
3. What will be in my space of prayer?

When we want to add a new routine in our lives, it requires planning and thoughtfulness. If we were starting a new exercise program, we would take the time to prepare ourselves by getting the right gear, figuring out when we are going to exercise, and figuring out what we are going to do. Or if we wanted to begin eating healthy, we would prepare our kitchen. We would ready our space, think through meals ahead of time, and set ourselves up for success.

The same is true for our prayer lives. If we desire to grow in our relationships with God, then we need to honor this the way we would starting a new exercise program, a new diet or any new thing that matters to us in life.

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Loyola Press.
May our faith draw us confidently to Jesus, strengthening our urgency and conviction to live as he did.

May we persist in prayer and come to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Background on the Gospel

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel. In this Gospel, we find evidence of Jesus' fame in the sizable crowd that accompanies him as he journeys to Jerusalem. Jesus' reputation as a healer has preceded him. When the blind man, Bartimaeus, hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he calls out to him, asking for his pity. When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, the crowd around him tries to silence him. Yet Bartimaeus persists, calling out more loudly and with greater urgency. He will not be silenced or deterred from getting Jesus' attention. We notice how quickly the crowd's reaction changes when Jesus calls for Bartimaeus. Those who sought to quiet him now encourage him. When Jesus restores Bartimaeus's sight, no elaborate action is required. (In other healing stories in Mark's Gospel, actions accompany Jesus' words). In this instance, Jesus simply says that Bartimaeus's faith has saved him. Throughout Mark's Gospel, the success of Jesus' healing power has often been correlated with the faith of the person requesting Jesus' help. For example, it is because of her faith that the woman with the hemorrhage is healed. When faith is absent, Jesus is unable to heal; we see this after his rejection in Nazareth. Once his sight has been restored, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. In Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is the last disciple called by Jesus before he enters Jerusalem. Bartimaeus hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, but he calls out to Jesus using words of faith—"Son of David." Many in Jesus' time believed that the anticipated Jewish Messiah would be a descendent of King David. Bartimaeus's words prepare us for the final episodes of Mark's Gospel, which begin with Jesus' preparation for the Passover and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Mark has shown us in our readings over the past few Sundays, however, Jesus will be the Messiah in a way that will be difficult for many to accept. Jesus will show himself to be the Messiah through his suffering and death. Loyola Press

Lord of light, restore us with your vision of selfless love so that we may make real in our lives the prayers and hopes that you alone see in the depths of our hearts. Hear the prayers which we ask of you in the name of Jesus, the healing Christ.

Living the Gospel

The verbs describing Bartimaeus’s actions in this gospel say everything about faith, encountering Jesus, and choosing to follow him. He cried out, kept calling, threw aside his cloak, sprang up and came to Jesus, stated his request, received his sight, followed Jesus. Such need, such urgency, such conviction! These verbs describe Bartimaeus’s faith-in-action, his deepening relationship with Jesus. Faith is the insight and cause of action. So must it be for us. Faith urges us to encounter Jesus, receive what he offers so generously, and then live as he would wish us to live.

Yes, such need, such urgency, such conviction did Bartimaeus have! Without persistence in prayer and seeking encounters with Jesus, it will be impossible for us to follow him faithfully. It would be impossible for us to have the urgency and conviction that Bartimaeus had. Encounters with Jesus in prayer keep our relationship to him growing, keep our relationship with him healthy and strong. The paschal mystery rhythm of dying and rising plays itself out in many ways—this Sunday in a rhythm of faith and action. In practical, everyday terms this means that at times we are doing our faith—reaching out to those around us in need. At other times we are being our faith—taking time to savor our relationship with God. Gospel living is finding the right balance between doing our faith and living our faith. But always it must be with urgency and conviction. ©Living Liturgy
Twice a year, our Parent Association hosts a School Book Fair for our children. The children are able to visit the Parish Center and purchase books at their reading level with the proceeds going directly back to the Parent Association. This fundraiser along with other Parent Association fundraisers helps to sponsor special lunch days and other amenities for our children. We thank our parents for their commitment to our school.

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 next 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 3:00 - 4:30pm
Mon. November 16 7:00 - 8:30pm

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: http://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).

Dear young friends, do not be afraid to give your all. Christ will never disappoint you.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Oct 16
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? Order after Masses this weekend or on our parish website.

Little Rock Study on Book of Wisdom
Our Little Rock group study will begin a four week series on the Book of Wisdom on October 26 at 1pm. Class materials cost $15 which can be brought to the first class. Call Chris with questions at 708-246-4784.

Line Up a Job Before the Holidays
Holiday Job Search, Myths and Maxims
Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, November 5 from 7-9 pm for a timely and insightful program on your holiday job search. You may believe nobody hires in December. Or, even if there is an opening, the hiring manager won't have time to meet with you. Wrong and wrong again! Our speaker, Jeff Carroll, will dispell these and many other myths that often go along with a holiday job search. Instead he will provide you with facts regarding what you SHOULD do and a positive outlook based on reality. Jeff is the Director of Leadership Development in the Business College at NIU. Additionally, he speaks to corporate and college audiences about building relevant and resilient careers in the 21st century; and facilitates a career mentoring community he founded in 2010. Looking forward to seeing you at St. Cletus School Building, 700 W. 55th Street, La Grange (Room 201). Look for the ICN sign outside and use the flag pole entrance.

Parish Sponsored Program at The Well
Saturday, November 14 from 9-4pm
Facilitator: Carter Phipps
Evolution changes everything. But what does it mean about your spiritual life, human culture and well...the future?
Spirituality in an evolutionary context means that the future is yet unwritten, that our generation might add a line, a sentence, or even a paragraph to our vast cultural and cosmic story. 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.
Cost:$90 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. La Grange Park.

Spiritual Side of the Cancer Journey: Multi-faith Panel and Discussion
Cancer brings many challenges. Often people respond by turning toward their faith or spiritual practice; for others, their faith is shaken, and they may turn away. Come to a free program at The Wellness House in Hinsdale featuring a multi-faith panel who will address challenges and questions about the spiritual side of the cancer journey on Thursday, October 29 from 6:30-8:30pm. Registration is required. Call 630-323-5150. Learn more at wellnesshouse.org.

A Prayer for Married Couples
Lord God, Author of love, we ask you to bless the union of our marriage, a symbol of life and our forever love. Look with kindness on us and guide us amidst the joys and struggles of our lives. Open our hearts to your Spirit to sustain our love, to conquer every difficulty together, to grow together. Renew and strengthen our marriage when it becomes lost, wounded or worn out. Help us to love as you love, without condition, without limit. Give us the grace to know true joy together and gratitude for the gift of each other. Increase your love in us, and strengthen our bond of peace, so that we may share the rich blessings of our love within our family and in our world. We ask this in Jesus’ name, Love Incarnate. Amen.
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.

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.

Harvest Saturday
Adult drivers are needed for Flyer Day and Harvest Saturday November 7 and 14. Call Wendy Duquette if you can help at 708-246-1582.

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.

New Parishioner Welcome
Help Elizabeth Russell-Jones, in our Welcome Center. We are looking for 6-8 volunteers to serve on a Welcome Advisory Committee helping to welcome new families. Call Elizabeth at the Parish Center to learn more.

Aging Care Connections
Aging Care Connections offers a range of programs and services every month to more than 8,000 area seniors and their families. To learn how you can volunteer call 708-354-1323 or Bill at the Parish Center.

St. Teresa said, “The important thing is not to think much but to love much; and do that which best stirs you to love.”
Divine love is beyond our comprehension, but we must begin somewhere. I think of Merry’s advice to Pippin in The Lord of the Rings: “It is best to love first what you are fitted to love.”
The hobbits were fitted to love the shire. Their deep roots and affection for the things of home enabled them to care for the troubles of the greater world that was beyond their grasp. We, too, can start at home and see the love for our families as a signpost to something greater.

Bring Your Food 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.

St. Gall is one of the largest parishes on the southwest side of Chicago. Their pantry is open every Wednesday and serves approximately 250 families each week and 5,000 people (which translates to 1000-1500 families) at their Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. Elizabeth Arreola who has managed the St. Gall pantry for years, let us know that in preparation for the holidays, in addition to the usual items, they could use:

- 3 lb. packages of granulated sugar
- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Soup with pop-top lids (for homeless)
- Cans of creamed corn

(Cans of creamed corn are "like gold nuggets" - a real favorite of their families. It would be wonderful if we could get a huge quantity of creamed corn for them!)

Picture below is St. Gall Pastor, Fr. Gary, with some parishioners.
What is Aging Care Connections?
Aging Care Connections of LaGrange is the most comprehensive connection for expert information, programs and social services to adults age 60 and older and their family members to make the best, most informed decisions regarding needed care in their lives. Programs and services are designed to provide care options to seniors in order to enhance their ability to remain as independent as possible in their own communities. Aging Care Connections will assess the needs of older adults facing a change in health or functional ability on an individual basis, helping families to develop a plan of care utilizing public and private resources, family support and the older adult’s preferences. Services provided are wide ranging and include chore housekeeping, special bus transportation, home delivered meals, and respite for caregivers of older adults. Specialists are also available at LaGrange Hospital to assist in determining care needed on a short term and long term basis after hospitalization. In collaboration with the LaGrange Hospital, Aging Care Connections helps ensure that seniors receive optimal physical and mental care, education, support, and counseling needed. Call 708-354-1323 or email info@agingcareconnections.org for more information.

Aging Care Connections Annual Halloween Party for Seniors
Friday, October 30
10am Apple Cider, Treats, Costume Contest, Door Prizes & Raffle
11:30am Lunch
12:30pm Halloween Bingo
Salerno’s Pizzeria in Hodgkins
Make your reservation today by calling 708-354-1323.
Suggested donation $2.

October Collection
KOLBE JAIL MINISTRY
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.”

Thank You from Kolbe House
Dear St. John of the Cross Parish,
We just received the $1500 sharing check from you. I want to thank you on behalf of the Kolbe House staff and our incarcerated brothers and sisters whom we serve. This donation helps relieve the budget stress that we face.

We have all witnessed Pope Francis’s recent visit to the United States. Though not a front page newsworthy event, his visit to a jail was noted. It seems that wherever he goes he visits a jail/prison. When he addresses those who are gathered, prisoners, administrators, officers, and political figures, he addresses them all equally as brothers and sisters. He notes that there is nothing that separates us from another or the love of God. The love of God is our unity.

The Pope’s presence in jail gives us all an example to follow. We at Kolbe House certainly are encouraged by the Pope’s personal affirmation of this ministry. I would hope that the people of St. John of the Cross Parish also would feel affirmed for their kindness and charity that supports and strengthens Kolbe House Jail Ministry. Again there is nothing that separates us from one another. The love of God acted out by all of us in our way unites us.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez
Director

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We just received the $1500 sharing check from you. I want to thank you on behalf of the Kolbe House staff and our incarcerated brothers and sisters whom we serve. This donation helps relieve the budget stress that we face.

We have all witnessed Pope Francis’s recent visit to the United States. Though not a front page newsworthy event, his visit to a jail was noted. It seems that wherever he goes he visits a jail/prison. When he addresses those who are gathered, prisoners, administrators, officers, and political figures, he addresses them all equally as brothers and sisters. He notes that there is nothing that separates us from another or the love of God. The love of God is our unity.

The Pope’s presence in jail gives us all an example to follow. We at Kolbe House certainly are encouraged by the Pope’s personal affirmation of this ministry. I would hope that the people of St. John of the Cross Parish also would feel affirmed for their kindness and charity that supports and strengthens Kolbe House Jail Ministry. Again there is nothing that separates us from one another. The love of God acted out by all of us in our way unites us.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez
Director
Crossroads

Harvest Saturday Is Coming - Nov. 14th
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The weekend of November 14th our youth ministry leads our teens, our families, our church and our whole community in a wonderful mission of service. Our Harvest Saturday efforts bring everyone together to give to those who need food. You are critical to this effort!

Please know that many hands are needed to get the food to those who need it. We want you to experience this fabulous day—it is amazing, energizing, overwhelming and magnificent to see!

Sign up at 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.

Boys Basketball Registration Opens Monday

High school boys of the parish are invited to register for the 2015-2016 Church League Basketball season. Register online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/sports/

Teams practice once per week beginning the week of November 30. Games are played Saturday evenings and occasional Sunday afternoons, December 5 through early March.

Volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and gym monitors are needed in order make this league possible. Contact Jim Messina at 708-466-9131 if you can help.

Home Group Leaders Needed

This picture was taken at the Quintana’s first home group with their freshmen last December. Martin & Doris and their daughter Gia had met the teens during our Freshmen Experience in the Parish Center in November and were thrilled to begin gatherings in their home. As new members to our parish they jumped into this opportunity to build a faith-sharing community and allow the teens a safe place to discuss and ask questions. Are they busy? YES! Do they have a lot on their plates? YES! Does the time they spend encourage and enliven their own faith? YES! Do these teens give an awesome example to their young daughter? YES! Are their group members blessed by their willingness? YES!

This year we have an amazing group of freshmen who have enjoyed our speaker, video, discussions and scripture reflection time getting to know each other and what our Parish can offer them over the next four years. The Freshmen Experience Adult team is constantly saying how awesome this group is!

Can you say YES to guiding them during their high school years? High School is full of turmoil and change, but the place that is steadfast and secure is their opportunity to learn about God and Jesus and grow in a faith-sharing community. Please contact Mary Stadler, Home Group Coordinator, at 708-246-3838 or Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404 to ask questions!

There is still time to register for the Frosh/Soph Identity Retreat, January 2-4. Register online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/retreats.
Men’s Club

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!

Listed below are our upcoming Men’s Club events. Mark your calendar and plan to be a part of our activities.

⇒ Men’s Club will be looking for volunteers to support the Boy Scout Pancake breakfast on Sunday, November 15.
⇒ Next SAM gathering is Saturday, November 21 at 9am in the Parish Center.
⇒ Brian Burch of CatholicVote.org will speak to the Men’s Club on Thursday, December 10 at 7pm.
⇒ Date Change: Our December SAM gathering was moved to Sunday, December 13 at 7:15am.

Women’s Club

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS WOMEN’S CLUB
ANNUAL

COAT DRIVE
To benefit
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

October 18th thru November 8th
Drop boxes available in the Church, Parish Center and School

November 7th & 8th
Donations will be received in the Parish Center after all Masses

For more information contact:
Jennifer Miller at jenjoemiller@hotmail.com or Sylvie Salazar at jdranskomore@sbcglobal.net

We thank you for your support and for helping many others keep warm this winter!

Most of us have half-a-dozen or so favorite anxieties, like bitter sweets we suck on endlessly. We would be frightened to be deprived of them. Jesus challenges us to go beyond the fear of letting go of anxiety, the fear we have of peace itself. The practice of meditation is a way of applying his teaching on prayer. It proves through experience that the human mind can indeed choose not to WORRY.   (Laurence Freeman, The Goal of Life)
The Buddhists have a little axiom that explains more about ourselves than we would like. They say that you can understand most of what’s wrong in the world and inside yourself by looking at a group-photo. Invariably you will look first at how you turned out before looking at whether or not this is a good photo of the group. Basically, we assess the quality of things on the basis of how we are doing.

Rene Descartes must be smiling. He began his philosophical search with the question: What’s the one thing that’s indubitable? What’s the one thing, for sure, of which we can be certain. His answer, his famous dictum: I think, therefore I am! Ultimately what’s most real to us is our own consciousness. And it’s so obsessively real that, until we can find a maturity beyond our natural instincts, it locks us inside a certain prison. What prison? Psychologists call it narcissism, an excessive self-preoccupation that keeps us fixated on ourselves and on our own private headaches and idiosyncratic heartaches. Like the Buddhist commentary on the group-photo, we worry little about how others are doing; our focus is first of all upon ourselves.

And this condition is not a childish thing that can be brushed off by glibly affirming that we have grown-up, are beyond ego, and are unselfish. Ego and its child, narcissism, do not go away simply because we consider ourselves mature and spiritual. They’re incurable because they’re an innate part of our make-up. Moreover, they’re not meant to go away, nor are they, in themselves, a moral defect. Our ego is the center of our conscious personality, part of our core make-up, and each of us needs a strong ego to remain glued-together, sane, healthily self-protective, and able to give of oneself to others.

But it usually comes as a shock to people when someone suggests that great people, spiritual people, have strong egos. For example, Francis of Assisi, Theresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Mother Teresa, for all their humility, had strong egos, namely, they had a clear sense of their own identity, their own giftedness, and their own importance. However, in each case, they also had the strong concomitant sense that their persons and gifts did not originate with themselves and were not meant for them. Rather, like Israel’s sense of itself as chosen people, they were clear that the source of their giftedness was God and that their gifts were intended not for themselves but for others. And, in that, lies the difference between being having a strong ego and being an egoist. An egoist has a strong ego and is gifted, but he understands himself as both the creator and objective of that gift. Conversely, great persons have strong egos but are always aware that their giftedness does not come from them but is something flowing through them as a gift for others.

The goal in maturing then is not to kill the ego but rather to have a healthy ego, one that is integrated into a larger self that precisely is concerned with the group-photo. But coming to that maturity is a struggle that will leave us, too often, in either inflation (too full of ourselves and too unaware of God) or in depression (too empty of our own value and too unaware of God).

Maturity and sanctity do not lie in killing or denigrating the ego, as is sometimes expressed in well-meaning, though misguided, spiritualities, as if human nature was evil. Ego is integral and critical to our natural make-up, part of our instinctual DNA. We need a healthy ego to be and remain healthy. So the intent is never to kill or denigrate the ego, but rather to give it its proper, mature role, that is, to keep us sane, in touch with our gifts, and in touch with both the source and intent of those gifts.

But this can only be achieved paradoxically: Jesus tells us that we can find life only by losing our lives. A famous prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi gives this its classic, popular expression: O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek: to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Only by denying our ego can we have a healthy ego.

Finally, some wisdom about ego from the Taoist master, Chuang Tzu: If you are crossing a river in small boat, he says, and another boat runs into you, you will be angry if there is someone steering that runaway boat; but you will not experience that same anger if the boat is empty. Why no anger then? Chuang Tzu’s answer: A person who has let go of his or her ego “leaves no trace”. Such a person does not trigger anger in others.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Daylight savings time ends Nov. 1. Turn your clock back one hour.

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 26 Weekday
7:45am Jerry Jung; Mike Delaney

Tuesday, October 27 Weekday
7:45am Ron Pacer; Bridget Dowdle

Wednesday, October 28 Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles
7:45am Suzette Pertile; Walter Piszczor; Our Beloved Dead

Thursday, October 29 Weekday
7:45am Genrose Hlavin; Evelyn Spitkovsky

Friday, October 30 Weekday
7:45am JoAnn Jones; Dorothy Rydzewski

Saturday, October 31 Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Fr. Bill Martin; Virginia Jagodzinski
5:00pm Elizabeth Treacy; John Basso

Sunday, November 1 Solemnity of All Saints
7:30am Genrose Hlavin; Ann Cadero
9:00am Mary Ann Matysik; Loretta Zielinski
10:45am Thomas J. Riordan; Mary Jane Vollmer
5:00pm Tom & Lorette Scanlan; Catherine Boyle

Monday, November 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
7:45am Jerry Albertson; Evelyn Spitkovsky
7pm Mass of Remembrance

Pray for Our Sick
Marian Pascale
Steve Pechous
Michael Sullivan
Lorraine Rende
Jackie Walsh

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Wilfred “Bill” Beauchamp, husband of Carol, father of Bill, Pat, Mike and Terry
Robert Miller, father of Marjorie Miller, grandfather of Allison and Bill Kihn
John Doyle, father of Mark, grandfather of Kevin, Cullen, Mary, Adeline & Julia
Geraldine Rogalski, mother of Paul, grandmother of Paul, Alex, Elizabeth & Rebecca
Kathleen Hurley, mother of Julie Scannell, grandmother of Norah, Martha, Daniel & Thomas

Lord, help us to live
the virtue of generosity,
to love without limits.
Pope Francis @Pontifex Apr 6

Let us learn to
live with kindness,
to love everyone,
even when they
do not love us.
Pope Francis @Pontifex May 9

Wedding Banns
Amanda Nunez and Adam Chalus

St. John of the Cross Parish
www.stjohnofthecross.org

Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell,
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Associate Pastor
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org
Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright, Director of Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta, Director of YC
jcascetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman, Principal
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes, Dir of Crossroads
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch, Director of Music
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin, Director of Operations
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Megan O’Malley, Reservations
momalley@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones, Welcome Center
erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Associate
swiegand@stjohnofthecross.org
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
$75 PER PERSON/CASH BAR. TABLES OF 10 ARE AVAILABLE

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZES
Tickets are $5 each or six (6) for $25

FIRST PRIZE
Downtown Get Away
Two nights 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 session with
Karin Page
 PLUS UP TO 30 DIGITAL IMAGES & ALL PRINTER 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!