let your mercy be on us, O Lord
Dear Parishioners,

Transitions in groups like a parish can be hard to pinpoint, but it feels to me like SJC is in a transition period with some things, at least. I am observing it in our ministries and with volunteers in general. There seems to be a generation of people who have been volunteering for a long time and have been incredibly generous with their time and service who are moving on to different things, either by their choice or by God’s! For some it is a reluctant letting go as aging narrows their world more and more. Whether it is people in the pews or people who have built up the SJC community over a number of years, God also seems to be calling many of them home to take their place at the table in the heavenly banquet.

Recently we trained a number of new Lectors, Communion Ministers and Sacristans. Soon we will train Altar Servers. While those involved in liturgical ministries are involved occasionally as scheduled, there is one area we need volunteers every week: the ministry of hospitality and ushers. We need a number of ushers at several Masses. If you are a creature of habit and regularly go to the same mass every weekend this could be a natural way to contribute to the well-being of the parish and your fellow parishioners. Pray about supporting this important liturgical ministry.

Another area requires more flexibility. One of the most important (and most appreciated) ministries that SJC offers is our Bereavement Ministry. There are two main areas: those who help families plan the details of the liturgy and the Resurrection Choir that sings at the funeral. Being able to help families plan requires the flexibility of being available on short notice. Usually a funeral is within a few days of a death so time is of the essence in order to get things in place before the wake begins. Of course cremations have changed everything and people have delayed funerals for weeks and even months, in which case there can be much more advance notice when a family needs a Bereavement Minister. We train people extensively prior to meeting on their own with a grieving family. In addition to helping plan the funeral liturgy, the Bereavement Minister plays a crucial role on the day of the funeral. There are a number of details that need to be attended to immediately before the funeral Mass. Again, we train you before you ‘fly solo’. The Resurrection Choir rehearses immediately before a funeral and is always open to welcoming new members. People leave after a funeral very impressed with how SJC has ministered to them at a very difficult time in their family. Pray about becoming involved in this sensitive ministry. We need you.

A third ministry that could use new members are the Wedding Coordinators. They run the rehearsal, usually the night before. Then they are present for the wedding itself, helping to set up, assisting the bridal party and helping to assist in distributing the Eucharist. Weddings have their own challenges and certainly their own joy. It may only be a couple of times a year but each time is tremendously important to two families and their loved ones.

The Women’s Club can always use helping hands for the Garage Sale. It’s a great way to make new friendships and generate funds that help pay for Catholic High School scholarships and donations to several organizations that benefit women and children. Many volunteers have supported the Garage Sale for years. However, the ravages of time are also taking their toll on many of them. I don’t think it is an exaggeration to say that many more new volunteers are needed if we will be able to sustain the Garage Sale for many more years.

And on and on. A parish always needs new volunteers. It is one sign of vitality and growth. Sometimes it is a matter of finding the right fit for someone’s gifts. It is always a matter of being at the service of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

Peace,

Fr. David
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.
If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, you will hear about something called RCIA. The initials stand for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the book ministers use to guide you through the stages and steps of church membership.

If you have never been baptized and are old enough to read this, you begin preparation with the Pre-Catechumenate. During this time you have some spiritual conversation about God and the Church.

Once you decide to follow Jesus Christ, you celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. As a catechumen, you are considered a member of the Church in a broad sense. Unmarried catechumens may have a Catholic wedding; deceased catechumens may have a Catholic funeral.

During the Period of the Catechumenate, you become acquainted with what the Church teaches, follow the Christian way of life, engage in liturgical prayer, and help spread the Gospel. The time span for this preparation varies.

This period of formation closes with the Rite of Election, when the Church proclaims that God has chosen you for the sacraments. Usually the bishop leads this ceremony at the cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent.

During the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, you make your spiritual preparation for baptism. This period usually coincides with Lent.

Finally you celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation: baptism, confirmation and communion. This usually takes place during the Easter Vigil at our parish.

As a new Catholic you deepen your participation through the period of Mystagogy by meditating, praying and doing works of charity.

If you have already been baptized, this preparation can be tailored to your needs.

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 the St. John of the Cross faith community.

Amen.
Parish News

Parish Grief Support Group Begins This Week
If you are mourning the loss of a loved one or struggling with the grieving process come and be a part of our parish support group. Led by experienced support group facilitators, six weekly Tuesday evening sessions will begin October 20 from 6:30-8pm in the parish Rectory. There is no charge to attend. If you have questions call Kathleen Broderick at 708-246-1165 or Steve Weigand, Pastoral Associate at 708-246-4404 x137.

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

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

Sitting down to meditate for the first time is a decisive moment in your spiritual path. It is similar to turning on the ignition at the beginning of a long car trip. What happens then? The journey simply begins. You pull away from the curb. Then like all journeys it proceeds by stages. There are delays, traffic jams, wrong turns, moments of exhaustion as well as the thrill of travel and the discovery of the new. These stages and their events could be described by means of a simple map of the levels of consciousness or as stages of self-knowledge unfolding through a gentle and steady discipline. (Laurence Freeman, *The Goal of Life*)

Join us in the Parish Center for Christian Meditation on:
- Tuesdays 7:30pm
- Wednesdays 2:30pm
- Saturday 7am
- Mondays 10:30am Step 11 Meditation

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SJC Parish Sponsored Program at The Well on Oct. 20
As part of our adult formation efforts, SJC sponsors programs at The Well throughout the year. Our sponsorship helps The Well bring many inspiring speakers to our area and allows for our parishioners to attend special programs free of charge. Our next parish sponsored program for the fall is detailed below. To register, simply call the Parish Center. The Well Spirituality Center is located at 1515 Odgen Avenue in LaGrange Park. Visit their website, www.csjthewell.org, to view more.

**Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home**
Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis
Tuesday, October 20 from 7-9 pm
What's all the hype about? What significance does Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment have for the human members of Earth’s community? What message does it hold for the Christian world?

*Laudato Si* marks movement from a worldview of “dominion over” to “communion with,” from separation to interconnection. The encyclical makes the inseparable connection between justice for Earth and justice for her human family. It impels us to wake up and take action now!

Join us for a panel discussion on insights gleaned, movement gained, and what more needs to be.

Pope Francis more than once has shared three phrases key to strengthening family life: “May I?”, “Thank you,” and “Pardon me.” He picked up that theme in his General Audience of May 13, 2015.

“The three key-words for the family are simple words, and perhaps at first they may cause us to smile,” the Holy Father said. “But when we forget them, there’s nothing to laugh about, is there?”

Yes, the phrases seem simple, but living in a spirit of harmony, gratitude, and forgiveness takes practice, and the family is a great place to start our practicing. Which attitude do you need to focus on today? What steps can you take to do that?

Ignatian Spirituality.
Living the Gospel

This Sunday’s Gospel begins with apostles seeking glory; they had yet to learn what being a follower of Jesus truly entails. There is more demand to being disciples than would appear, and finally facing that true glory is not found where we usually seek it. We receive true glory when we finally give up pursuing it and instead follow Jesus and the demanding life he offers. Why did the apostles follow Jesus? The gospel suggests they had reward on their minds: the glory of sitting at the right and left of Jesus in positions of honor. It took the apostles a long time to learn that the real reward of following Jesus would be to “drink the cup” and “be baptized” with his baptism. His baptism was his lifelong choice to do the will of the Father no matter what the cost. The cost would be humbly serving others to the point even of giving his life “for many.” As Jesus’ followers, we can choose no less. Like the apostles, it takes us no less time to learn this.

Much of our serving others is simply part of our everyday circumstances, for example, parents taking care of their children or a worker cooperating with others on a team job. Being the servant of all isn’t always something extra or big; most of the time it is simply doing our everyday tasks generously and with integrity while keeping in mind that others are the Body of Christ and to serve them is to serve Christ. If we can do these everyday tasks with loving care, then when something big comes along we won’t deny Jesus like the apostles, but will say “we can.” And mean it, knowing full well the demands that identity with Christ entails.

Background on the Gospel

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we continue to read from the section of Mark’s Gospel that reports Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. Last Sunday we heard Jesus lament the particular challenges those with many possessions face in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus then predicts his passion to the Twelve, who are amazed and afraid. In this part of Mark’s Gospel, Jesus’ words to his closest disciples seem to be intended to prepare them for the events that will occur in Jerusalem.

In today’s Gospel, James and John ask to be given seats of honor when Jesus enters into his glory. Once again, the disciples seem to be selective in what they hear Jesus say. They want to share Jesus’ glory, but do not appear to understand that his glory will be preceded by his suffering. Jesus notes their lack of understanding and predicts the suffering they will endure for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus says that the honor they seek is not his to give. When the other ten hear what James and John have asked, Mark reports that they are indignant. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach them.

Jesus explains the importance of service and sacrifice in the life of a disciple. In particular, he seems to be preparing the Twelve for their leadership roles in the emerging Christian community. Echoing the Gospel we heard several weeks ago (on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mark 9:33-37), Jesus acknowledges that his teaching is countercultural. In today’s Gospel, Jesus contrasts the dynamics within the community of disciples with those shown by the rulers of the Gentiles.

Following Jesus’ example of sacrificial love continues to be countercultural in our day as well. We might take this opportunity to consider our models of authority and examine our own exercise of authority. On whose example do we model our leadership? Loyola Press

Readings for the Week

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©Living Liturgy

May we be servant of all as we choose daily to follow Christ. May we embrace Jesus’ life of self-giving, each day learning more clearly what this means.

Work is important, but so too is rest. Shouldn’t we learn to respect times of rest, especially Sundays? Pope Francis @Pontifex Oct 10

St. John of the Cross Parish www.stjohnofthecross.org October 18, 2015 Page 6
A friend of mine recently described specific people who had changed her life. They had changed her just by being themselves, by loving her in their particular ways of loving. They did not change her life by imposing any kind of plan on her or by trying hard to influence what she did—no, the change happened in the midst of daily tasks and conversations.

In a sense, that friend was meeting God in those conversations and in the hours spent laboring over projects. When we allow others’ love to affect us, we’re surrendering to a much bigger love. When people love one another, however imperfectly, God is right in the middle of that.

- I remember the grandmother who laughed a lot and who was so patient with me as I made mistakes and learned new skills.
- I remember the pastor who would make himself available whenever I, a teenager, imagined myself to be in spiritual crisis. His calm manner and optimism about God working in my life steadied me and my faith.
- I remember the piano teachers who kept showing up, the elderly next-door neighbors who consistently acted delighted to see any of us children in their yards or at their doors.
- I remember people in church, at school, and on the job who have made my life a friendly sojourn.
- I think of people now—whether my husband of nearly two decades or friends of just a few years—whose kindness has made lovely prints upon my life.

If you feel that God isn’t showing up much these days, remember the people who have showed up often and sometimes quietly, to enter your conversations, lend their help, and connect with you in real and helpful ways. See, God never left.

Ignatian Spirituality.

Seeking Happiness

Happy those whose way is blameless,
who walk by the teaching of the Lord.
Psalm 119:1

The path to happiness is not as elusive as it may seem. The trouble is that people tend to look for it in places where it cannot be found. Wealth, power, and self-centeredness each offer the same empty promises. Jesus faced and rejected these when he was tempted by the devil in the desert. The path to happiness and eternal life is open. Jesus cleared the way for us by his word and example, and by unfolding the work of the Holy Spirit, who continues to teach us how to live according to God’s plan.

How can I identify the things that bring me true happiness?

What path am I going to walk today: my own, or one where Jesus leads?

Prayer Starter: Jesus, you lead and I will follow.

Ignatian Spirituality.

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Ignatian Spirituality.
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/

On Tuesday, our seventh grade students became the Living Rosary. The student body gathered in the church and celebrated the Rosary led by our seventh grade students. We encourage our students to pray the Rosary at home with their families. Kathleen McGowan, the Outreach Coordinator for the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, presented to our students this week. She discussed the importance of making responsible choices in our wireless world. Each presentation was age appropriate. It was a wonderful way to build awareness in our children.

This Week at SJC
Monday, October 19 All School Mass Church 9:15am
Tuesday, October 20 Book Fair Parish Center 7:00pm
Wednesday, October 21 Book Fair Parish Center
Thursday, October 22 Pre School Dad’s Night School Multi Purpose Room 7:00pm
Friday, October 23 Comedy Night Gym 7:00pm
Saturday, October 24 Day of the Spirit Church 11:30am

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

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

The SJC Parish School Athletic Association presents a Night of Comedy, Friday October 23, 2015 from 7pm-11pm in the school gym. Please join us for a night of laughter hosted by Chicago comedian Pat McGann with special guests Jim Flannigan and Kevin Bozeman. All proceeds will benefit the SJC athletic programs. Tickets are $50.00 per person. Bring your favorite food and beverages to share. Sign-up with Kathy Stillo at the school.
On this World Mission Sunday, all are invited to support 1,150 of the youngest dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and parts of Latin America and Europe. The prayers and generous gifts to the collection will help missionaries offer the poor of these areas practical help as they share the mercy of God. Put your special envelope in the regular collection today.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

ARCHBISHOP QUIGLEY CENTER
835 NORTH RUSH STREET * CHICAGO, IL 60611-2030 * PHONE: 312-534-8200 * FAX: 312-534-6379
* ARCHBISHOP@ARCHICAGO.ORG *

October 18, 2015

Dear Friends,

The visit of Pope Francis last month to our country was a vivid reminder of the unity we share as Catholics throughout the world, especially with those living in poverty and in missionary lands. This month he is asking us to join him in giving expression to that unity by supporting the Churches at the margins through the annual collection on World Mission Sunday. While we may not be the ones who travel afar to preach the Gospel, we can be missionary disciples by our generous support of those who do.

As we think about participating in this worldwide effort to spread the Gospel through the Holy Father’s Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we in the United States should remember that the Church in this nation was under this very same Vatican designation up until the last century. People from around the world donated generously as our dioceses were created, our parishes were built, and priests and religious from foreign lands came here to provide leadership. In fact, even to this day we enjoy the generosity of many priests and religious from other lands who serve in our parishes. We have been blessed by the sacrifices of others, and now it is our turn. We have been blessed with faith and abundant resources. Now the Pope is asking us to help him help others.

While I know that many parishes have their own missionary efforts through twinning and other relationships with dioceses and parishes abroad, the annual collection on World Mission Sunday provides us as the Archdiocese of Chicago an opportunity to join together in expressing our solidarity with Pope Francis by generously supporting this collection. When he came to our country as a missionary last month, he pointedly reminded us of our heritage of once being a mission Church, but he also urged us now to be a Church with a mission. The churches supported by the Pope’s Society for the Propagation of the Faith oftentimes suffer from great poverty, and even violent persecution, social unrest, and wars. They need our help. They need our financial support, and they need our prayers.

By contributing to the appeal on World Mission Sunday we are saying to our brothers and sisters around the globe: You are not forgotten! The Church is with you in spirit; we embrace you and we seek justice. Catholics living in these troubled parts of the world, in more than a thousand dioceses, need us to be the merciful, compassionate presence of Christ. They need us to bring them the hope that comes through solidarity. Let’s let the Holy Father know we stand with him.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Blase J. Cupich
Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago
Freshmen Home Group Leaders Needed
Before we can place our Freshmen into home groups next month, we need adult leaders. As a leader, you will host meetings in your home twice a month. This is a great opportunity to share your wisdom and life experience while guiding our parish teenagers on their faith journey.

You can lead a home group with a friend, your spouse, or adult son or daughter. Contact Terry or Mary Stadler at 708-246-3838 for details.

Harvest Saturday is Coming!
November 14

We need 80 MORE parish teen volunteers to allow us to continue this great tradition. Parents - encourage your teens and make plans to come to THE SERVICE PROJECT OF THE YEAR.

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

Interested? Ready to sign up? Go to the “Sign Up Genius” link on the Crossroads website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/Crossroads or contact Wendy Duquette at wdukes@sbcglobal.net, Kim Sarros at sarros@ameritech.net or Fran Karas at franbkaras@gmail.com.

Identity Retreat-Oregon Trail
Join your friends for a weekend of winter fun, reflection and prayer at the Frosh./Soph. Identity Retreat January 2-4 at Dickson Valley Camp in Newark, IL. Don’t miss out—register today at www.stjohnofthecross.org/retreats.
Volunteer Opportunities

**St. John of the Cross Parish**

**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.

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

**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.

**October Collections**

**Bring Your Donations to the Parish Center**

**Clothing for Kids** New or gently used infant, toddler, & children’s fall and winter clothing for our new sharing parish, St. Gall.

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

**Bring Your Donations to the YC Office**

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

St. Gall is one of the largest parishes on the southwest side of Chicago. Their pantry serves approximately 250 families each week and 5,000 people (which translates to 1000-1500 families) at their Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. Liz Aerola 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!)

Next Sunday October 25 our Sharing Parish, St. Thaddeus, will celebrate with us at our Sunday 5pm Mass. Their energetic Gospel Choir and Praise dancers will lead us in prayer.
Saintly Senior Club Bus Trip to White Pines Dinner Theatre
Thursday, October 29 from 9am-5pm
You are invited to join fellow parishioners and friends on a trip to Mt. Morris, Illinois for lunch and a musical program with Gregory James, a MoTown great who sings songs you will know from Al Green, the Four Tops, the Temptations, Marvin Gaye and more. The cost of the trip is $55 for the bus, delicious lunch, entertainment, and gratuities. Drop off your reservation check to the Parish Center Office today. It will be a fun trip and great way to make friends in the parish. Direct questions to Carolyn Koehler at 708-246-2978.

SAVE THE DATE – Men’s Club Bear Game Gathering!
The SJC Men's Club invites all men of our parish community to a Chicago Bears vs. San Diego Chargers gathering on Monday, November 9th in the Parish Center. More details to follow, but mark us on your calendar today. Check the Parish web site under the community tab for further information about the Men’s Club.

GO BEARS GO BEARS GO BEARS GO BEARS GO

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.

Looking for a Job???
Free Resume Review
Saturday, October 24 from 9-11am at St. Cletus Parish. Come in for a helpful 20-minute one-on-one conversation with a HR or other search related professional for some ideas and suggestions that may enhance or refresh your resume, obtain helpful job search strategies and perfect your elevator speech.

Career Transition Boot Camp
Week 4: Tuesday, October 20 from 7-9pm at First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Learn the fundamentals of networking and job search tips for people over 50 or those re-entering the workforce.

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.

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

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Mass of Healing & Prayer at St. Francis Xavier on Tuesday, October 20. The Domestic Violence Outreach Ministry at our neighbor parish would like to invite you to a Mass of Healing this Tuesday evening at 7pm.

Day of Reflection for Women who have broken free of abusive and harmful relationships next Saturday, October 24 from 9am to 3:30pm at St. Giles in Oak Park. Materials and lunch provided for free. RSVP to Barb at 708-256-3329.

Hotline for Help Pillars in LaGrange offers a domestic violence shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, and other services for victims and their children. Call the 24 hour line at 708-485-5254.
SJC Women’s Club Board Blessing at Mass
Pictured above are the talented and beautiful members of the Women’s Club Board at their Installation Blessing on October 4th. They invite you to their Fashion Show advertised on the back of today’s bulletin. Also coming up is the annual Coat Drive on November 7 & 8. Clean your closets now to help keep others warm this winter.

Welcome!
Congratulations to the following families who had their babies baptized last Sunday. Pictured above with their godparents are:
Brian and Kathleen Klick with infant Cormac Brian
Christopher and Candice Bruno with infant Harrison Lawrence
Vito and Andrea Mistretta with infant Vito Joseph
Recently I read, in succession, three books on suicide, each written by a mother who lost one of her children to suicide. All three books are powerful, mature, not given to false sentiment, and worth reading: Lois Severson, Healing the Wound from My Daughter’s Suicide, Grief Translated into Words, lost her daughter, Patty, to suicide; Gloria Hutchinson, Damage Done, Suicide of an Only Son, lost her son, David, to suicide; and Marjorie Antus, My Daughter, Her Suicide, and God, A Memoir of Hope, lost her daughter, Mary, to suicide. Patty and David were in their mid-twenties, Mary was still a teen.

You cannot read these biographies and not have your heart ache for these three young people who died in this unfortunate manner. What these books describe in each case is a person who is very loveable, oversensitive, has a history of emotional struggles, and is in all likelihood suffering from a chemical imbalance. Hearing their stories should leave you more convinced than ever that no God worth worshipping could ever condemn any of these persons to exclusion from the family of life simply because of the manner of their deaths. Gabriel Marcel had an axiom which said: To love someone is to say of that person, you at least will not die. That’s solid Christian doctrine.

As Christians we believe that, as a community of believers, we make up the Body of Christ along with all of those who have died in faith before us. Part of that belief is that Christ has given us the power to bind and loose which, among other things, means that our love for someone can hold that person inside our family, inside the community of grace, and inside of heaven itself. In all three of these books, these mothers make it clear that this is exactly what they are doing. Their family, their circle of grace, their love, and their heaven includes their lost child. My heaven too includes these three young people, as should any true understanding of God, of grace, of love, and of the family of life.

That’s a deep consolation, but it doesn’t take away the pain. For a parent, the loss of a child to any kind of death leaves a wound that, this side of eternity, will find no healing. The death of one’s child goes against nature, parents aren’t supposed to bury their children. The death of any child is hard, but if that death comes by suicide, that pain is compounded. There’s the frustration and anger that, unlike a death from a physical disease, this is unwarranted, unnecessary, and an act of betrayal in some way. And there’s the endless second-guessing: How responsible am I for this? How should have I been more alert? Where was I negligent? Why wasn’t I around at the crucial moment? Guilt and anger comingle with the grief.

But that isn’t all. Beyond all of this, which is itself more than sufficient to break a person, lies the stigma attached to suicide. In the end, despite a better understanding of suicide and a more enlightened attitude towards it, there is still a social, moral, and religious stigma attached to it, equally true in both secular and religious circles. In the not too-distant past, churches used to refuse to bury someone who died by suicide on blessed ground. The churches have changed their attitudes and their practice on this, but, truth be told, many people still struggle in their gut to accord a blessed, peaceful farewell to someone who has died by suicide. The stigma still remains. Someone who dies in this manner is still seen as somehow accursed, as dying outside the family of life and the circle of grace. There is, for most people, nothing consoling in their deaths.

I have suggested elsewhere in my writings that the majority of suicides should be understood as death by a mortal illness: a deadly chemical imbalance, an emotional stroke, an emotional cancer, or an oversensitivity that strips someone of the resiliency needed to live. Here, however, I want address more specifically the issue of the stigma attached to suicide.

There’s still a stigma attached to suicide, that’s clear. With that in mind, it can be helpful to reflect upon the manner in which Jesus died. His death was clearly not a suicide, but it was similarly stigmatized. Crucifixion carried a stigma from every point of view: religious, moral, and social. A person dying in this way was understood to be dying outside the mercy of God and outside the blessing and acceptance of the community. The families of those crucified carried a certain shame and those who died by crucifixion were also buried apart, in grounds that then took on their own stigma. And it was understood that they were outside the mercy of God and of the community.

Jesus death was clearly not a suicide, but it evoked a similar perception. The same stigma as we attach to suicide was also attached to the manner in which he died. Obblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Monday, October 19
9:15am Parish School Mass
9:30am Spiritual Journinging
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
6:15pm YC Classes Tonight
7:00pm Boy Scouts
7:00pm Family Fest Planning
Tuesday, October 20
Parish School Book Fair
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
6:30pm RCIA
6:30pm Grief Support Group Rectory
7:00pm School Advisory Board Meeting
7:30pm Christian Meditation
Wednesday, October 21
Parish School Book Fair
9:30am Gospel of John Bible Study
11:00am Ladies Bridge

Wednesday, October 21
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm John of the Cross Study
3:45pm Cherub Choir Practice
7:00pm Chgo Catholic Scripture School
7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice
Thursday, October 22
9:00am Women's Flourish Group
3:45pm Youth Choir Practice
7:00pm Boy Scouts Religious Medals
7:00pm School Preschool Dad's Night
7:30pm Contemporary Choir Practice
7:30pm Men's Club Meeting
Friday, October 23
7:00pm Comedy Night Fundraiser

Saturday, October 24
7:00am Christian Meditation
Day of Spirit 8th Grade Retreat
Sunday, October 25
10:15am YC Classes today
1:30pm Baptism Prep Class
2:00pm Boy Scouts Grades 3 & 4
6:00pm St. Thaddeus Visit
You Have Called Me By Name
Oh, Lord my God. You called me from the sleep of nothingness merely because in your tremendous love you want to make good and beautiful beings. You have called me by my name in my mother's womb. You have given me breath and light and movement and walked with me every moment of my existence. I am amazed, Lord God of the universe, that you attend to me and, more, cherish me. Create in me the faithfulness that moves you, and I will trust you and yearn for you all my days. Amen. —Joseph Tetlow, SJ
St John of the Cross Women’s Club
Invites you to a Night of
Fairytale Fashion
Thursday October 29, 2015
Drury Lane, 100 Drury Lane,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL
5:30 PM
Cocktails, Silent Auction &
Boutique Shopping
7:30 PM
Dinner, Fashion Show &
Grand Raffle
$65 per person/cash bar. Tables of 10 are available.

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 &
Beauty consultant,
have lunch and enjoy a
$500 Nordstrom
gift card.

Third Prize
Picture Perfect
Photo Shoot
Family session with
Karen Pence
Plus up to 30 digital
digital images & all
printing rights

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

Purchase fashion show tickets
on the parish website or at the parish center.
Raffle tickets can be purchased from Julie Misarti
at 773-294-9099 or any women’s board member!