Jesus provides for those who make their lives a total gift of self to him.
Dear Parishioners,

When Archbishop Cupich came here about a year ago he continued an organizational study and restructuring of the archdiocese that began under Cardinal George. The archdiocese was spending $35M more than it had in income. The financial reorganization had been needed badly for some time. The interior structure of the archdiocese, the agencies and departments, were badly in need of being overhauled. We had the infrastructure of an archdiocese that no longer existed.

The Pastoral Center had many long time employees who had helped make the archdiocese function on a daily basis. Initially many jobs were terminated outright. That is always a brutal process for all concerned. Later, an early retirement package was offered that helped the decision to move on somewhat easier for some of the employees.

We’re talking about millions of dollars in expenses that needed to be cut, not all of which were salaries. Some departments were eliminated or refigured. The Office for Catholic Schools was dramatically restructured, caused considerable confusion and added to the inevitable dysfunction of a complicated bureaucracy.

However, most people think of parishes when they think of the archdiocese. Parishes are the ‘face’ of the archdiocese. It has long been the reality that parishes which were built during the height of the immigration of different European ethnic groups no longer serve those populations. Neighborhoods change but buildings remain. Different immigrants come and populations migrate. Nobody likes to live in a ghetto. Rather than living in the boundaries of the city of Chicago, suburbs are more attractive to many people. Think of the massive shift in housing developments following WWII. Our parish is a prime example.

Last Thursday Fr. Bill and I attended the second of two meetings where the priests were learning where the archdiocese is headed with the structure of its parishes. I don’t know as I write this if any concrete decisions are being announced and implemented. At the first meeting the majority of priests indicated they were more than ready for the archdiocese to finally move ahead on decisions we have been talking about for years. It is inevitable that some parishes will be closed outright; others will be clustered with one priest serving multiple sites. There will likely be other structural changes as well.

The redistribution of personnel will be one consequence of these decisions. While finances are important factors, we are also talking about how people are served and how communities are formed. While we may not be immediately impacted, it is important to remember we are talking about places where people have experienced the grace and mercy of God. Remember to keep them and the leadership of the archdiocese in your prayers.

Peace,
Fr. David

PS I hope you will be participating in Harvest Saturday next weekend. It is a great way to directly impact the quality of life for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

May the prayers we offer, O God, not be for greater things and talents to astound the world, but for greater love and compassion to enrich the world. Hear our prayers for the peace of our human family—prayers we offer to you in the name of you Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
Living the Gospel

Jesus teaches the crowds to beware of the hypocrisy of the scribes who know God’s word and law, yet seek places of honor and cure those whom the law demands they protect—the widows. Jesus condemns them severely. “Calling his disciples to himself,” he teaches them that they are not to do like the scribes. They are instead to do like the widow in the temple who gives all she has. True disciples give all they have, their whole livelihood—not goods, but themselves. The amount of what we have and give is really not important at all in the long run. What is important is how we regard and care for others; how we fulfill our responsibilities in the community; how we embrace the unlimited possibilities of deeper relationships, new riches, everlasting Life.

We learn how to be good disciples from others who follow Jesus faithfully, who contribute to the good of all out of the surplus with which God has blessed them. The Gospel holds up the poor widow as a model for the total self-giving of the true disciple. We need not look around us to find strong models for true discipleship. Nor is it a matter of these disciple-models giving large sums of money. Giving a bit of time each week for the good of another, participating in at least some parish activities beyond going to Mass and contributing to the collection basket, signing up when volunteers are needed are all ways of contributing a little, which makes a huge difference in overall parish life and community life. Even “something” can be our “all.” So, are we true disciples?

Background on the Gospel

The context for today’s Gospel continues to be mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish authorities. Mark reports some of Jesus’ teaching in the Temple area in today’s reading and in the preceding verses not included in our Lectionary sequence. In the first part of today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus warn the crowds not to follow the example of the scribes in seeking honor and attention from others. It is important to recall that Mark indicates that Jesus taught these things while in the vicinity of the Temple in Jerusalem. Mark is setting the stage for Jesus’ passion.

Jesus then observes how Jewish pilgrims are making their contributions to the temple treasury. The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish worship in the time of Jesus. It was expected that observant Jews would make pilgrimages to the Temple to offer prayer and sacrifices. Pilgrims were also expected to make a financial contribution to the temple treasury.

As we would expect to be the case, Jesus observes that those who were rich contributed large sums to the treasury. Those with less means made smaller contributions. Jesus calls attention, however, to a poor widow who makes the smallest of contributions—two coins of little value. Jesus upholds the poor widow’s offering for his disciples’ consideration, commending her because her small offering was an act of profound generosity, giving from her livelihood rather than her surplus.

To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, it is also an act of trust in God. We can only grow in true discipleship if we retain trust in God and give from our livelihood rather than our surplus.

May we continue to learn from Jesus and grow in true discipleship.

Monday
Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Ps 46:2, 3, 5-6, 8, 9
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17
John 2:13-22

Tuesday
Wis 2:23-3:9
Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19
Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday
Wis 6:1-11
Ps 82:3-4, 6-7
Lk 17:11-19

Thursday
Wis 7:22b-8:1
Ps 119:88, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175
Lk 17:20-25

Friday
Wis 13:1-9
Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab
Lk 17:26-37

Saturday
Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9
Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43
Lk 18:1-8

33rd Sunday
Dan 12:1-3
Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Heb 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

Picture on the bulletin cover: The lesson of the widow’s mite is presented in today’s Gospel and also in Luke 21:1-4 in which Jesus is teaching at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel of Mark specifies that two mites (Greek lepta) are together worth a quadrans, the smallest Roman coin. A lepton was the smallest and least valuable coin in circulation in Judea, worth about six minutes of an average daily wage.
Discerning How God Wants You to Spend Time Together

As we set out to make intentional time for God in our lives, it is important to consider not only our time, place, and space to be with God, but also to discern how God is inviting us to spend time together. Like any relationship, what we do together and how we spend time together changes over time based on what is happening in life.

Looking at my friendships in my own life, I can name many that started out as social friends I met at gatherings or parties in my early twenties. As life evolved and we got married and had children, how we spent time together changed. Our life circumstances did not alter our desire to spend time together, but it did require us to be more intentional about how and when we spend our time together.

The same is true with God. Our relationship with God needs this same type of freedom and organic growth to allow for the ongoing shifts and changes of life. At the same time, our relationship with God requires intentional commitment to decide not only when we will be together, but also how we will spend our time together.

As I look at my own history of prayer, I see a wide array of prayer methods that supported me in certain seasons of life to grow in God. Each were gift. One not better than the other, and the variety of ways to be with God adds to the beautiful repertoire of prayer methods available to us. With every season of life, I am invited to consider how God wants to spend time with me and how I can realistically give time to God.

Having an arsenal of prayer methods helps this process!

Build an Arsenal of Prayer Tools

- **Worship**: Weekly and regular attendance at Mass.
- **Traditional Prayers**: This includes the traditional prayers we were perhaps taught as a child, as well as other ways that might nurture us along in our faith journeys such as, Novenas, Devotions, Adoration, the Rosary, Litanies, Meditation and other memorized prayers.
- **Bible Studies & Prayer Groups**: Praying with others, sharing faith and life moments, allows us to know Christ in community, and in the lived experienced of laying down your life for another. Each of these types of prayer has their place and gift in our faith journey. There are many options for prayer, and I am a firm believer in being open to the many ways to be with God. What might some of your prayer tools already be?

Committed to One Prayer Method

To make space for prayer in a busy calendar, though, I suggest you pick **ONE** prayer method for you to use in your daily time, place, and space of prayer. Stick with your place, posture and method of prayer until it no longer works for you. Stay with your prayer method until it exhausts itself and you feel God inviting you to another way of being together.

That is not to say that on any given day you might engage in multiple prayer methods, but like an exercise routine, it helps to have consistency and repetitiveness so that you get acclimated to your prayer routine.

What is the **ONE** way you most feel called to be with God in this season of life?
Commit to using this prayer method daily in your time of prayer, place of prayer, and space of prayer.
What other prayer tools do you want to have in your tool box? Used with permission. Becky Eldridge.
Richard Rohr Meditation

We must cry out against injustice or by our silence consent to it. If we keep silent, the very stones of the street will cry out.

--Dorothy Day

I was delighted to hear Pope Francis mention the American Catholics Thomas Merton (whom I introduced earlier this year) and Dorothy Day in his address to the United States Congress. The Catholic Church and our world in general have sadly and unfairly ignored women. With Sister Joan Chittister, I hope that Pope Francis, "someone so devoted to the cause of the poor also realizes that women are the poorest of the poor everywhere. And do something loud, bold and continuous to call attention to the diminished status, security and economic equality of women in order to change that."

A common criticism of female activists in particular is that they are too "aggressive" (even the nonviolent ones). Studies show that in performance reviews, words like "bossy" and "abrasive" are applied with regularity to women, but not to their male colleagues. Thankfully, the lack of support has not deterred women from speaking up loudly for all marginalized and suffering people. When the Vatican reprimanded nuns in the U.S. for their "radical feminist themes" and focus on social services, the "Nuns on the Bus" didn't slow down but in fact increased their efforts.

We need prophetic voices to speak--and perhaps yell--truth to power. When criticized for "ranting and screaming," Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee responds, "the reason why I rant is because I am a voice for many women that cannot speak out to heads of state, UN officials, and those that influence systems of oppression. And so I rant. And I will not stop ranting until my mission of equality of all girls is achieved."

Dorothy Day (1897-1980) is one of these women who will not be silenced. She writes in her diary, "I too complain ceaselessly in my heart and in my words too. My very life is a protest. Against government, for instance." [3] Read Day's "harsh," necessary words: "We need to change the system. We need to overthrow, not the government, as the authorities are always accusing the Communists 'of conspiring to teach [us] to do,' but this rotten, decadent, putrid industrial capitalist system which breeds such suffering in the whitewashed sepulcher of New York." I know you are wincing, but should you be?

Day was hardly a poster-child for sainthood, although she's now being considered for exactly that--and by the church of New York! Many recall Day saying, "Don't call me a saint; I don't want to be dismissed that easily." In her youth she was a Marxist and agnostic. She had an abortion. She was an anarchist and a zealous pacifist when it was especially unpopular. Perhaps her own pain and mistakes became the source of her deep compassion. Day writes, "I cannot worry much about your sins and miseries when I have so many of my own. I can only love you all, poor fellow travelers, fellow sufferers. . . . My prayer from day to day is that God will so enlarge my heart that I will see you all, and live with you all, in His love."

Day, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement, focused both on the needs of individual people and also reforming the entire social system. In that, I would find her a more complete role model than even Mother Teresa. She worked to meet short-term goals (such as the hungry person in front of her); and she worked for long-range structural change, too. Day's humility and patience continue to inspire me:

We can do much to change the face of the earth, in that I have hope and faith. But these pains and sufferings are the price we have to pay. Can we change men in a night or a day? Can we give them as much as three months or even a year? A child is forming in the mother's womb for nine long months, and it seems so long. But to make a man in the time of our present disorder with all the world convulsed with hatred and strife and selfishness, that is a lifetime's work and then too often it is not accomplished.

Even the best of human love is filled with self-seeking. To work to increase our love for God and for our fellow man (and the two must go hand in hand), this is a lifetime job. We are never going to be finished.

Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other's faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light that fire in the hearts of others. And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other. No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much.

Gateway to Silence

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." --Gandhi
Outreach

Thank You From St. Thaddeus
Dear St. John of the Cross Parish,
Sunday’s Mass on October 25 at 5 PM was fantastic. The choir and I always enjoy joining in prayer and celebration with you. Thank you for inviting us and worshipping with us.

Your hospitality after Mass was wonderful. The tasty beef sandwiches and the excellent pasta hit the taste buds with great joy. Our stomachs were quite pleased. Then, to top it off, all those luscious deserts. What a treat!

Thank you, again.

God bless,
Fr. Frank and the people of St. Thaddeus

CHAIRity Outreach

The dilemma was what to do with 90 student desks and 160 chairs of assorted sizes and colors. SJC school no longer needed these items, and they could not be stored in the basement which is used as a storm shelter for the school children and staff.

Working through a network of friends and contacts, two SJC parishioners spent weeks contacting possible recipients and coordinating the distribution and delivery of all of the desks and chairs. What started as a recycling project became a labor of love and respect for those in need as well as our environment.

The recipients were Kolbe House/Assumption Parish, St. Cyprian Church and School, St. Gall Parish, St. Mary of Gostyn Parish, St. Thomas the Apostle School, and the Theatre of Western Springs. Here are some of their words of gratitude:

“We have been praying for a solution! We are in dire need as our children’s desks are falling apart. We are enormously grateful for your generosity.”

“I was sitting at my desk trying to figure out how we could pay for needed chairs when I received your email. You need to know how TREMENDOUSLY GRATEFUL we are for this gift. Many students will use them each day in the school. Children and adults will use them each week in our church crying room. Twelve people each year will have their feet washed while sitting in the chairs on Holy Thursday. Also, they will seat many adults for hospitality, and at our anointing of the sick mass luncheon and at various coffees that are hosted in the church lobby. May God continue to bless YOUR parish as you continue to bless ours.”

“This is great, just great! The chairs are beautiful! They will be used by our parishioners for small group meetings and other functions.”

Pictured above are Rose Horvath, Outreach Advisory Ministry Group Chairperson, and Cathy Pesch, sharing parish rep to St. Gall, SJC’s Victor, Andy, Martin, Jim, Frank and Phil who worked together loading the desks and chairs for delivery, and students helping to move the desks into their schools.
Outreach

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.

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.

Compassionate Service
Because kids in many inner city neighborhoods cannot trick or treat, our Parish School students worked on a sweet project just for them. Students hand decorated 500 individual treat bags which were filled by the Student Council with Halloween candy donated by school families. The bags were boxed and delivered to excited children at St. Mark, St. Thaddeus, Precious Blood and St. Gall.

Share Christmas Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed to help at the Share Christmas tables in church before and after all Masses on November 21-22, 28-29, December 5-6, and on Thanksgiving Day at 9:30am Mass. Please contact Lolly Maloney at lollymaloney@gmail.com to help!

Sharing Connections, Downers Grove
Sharing Connections provides furniture and household items to low-income families helping them transform a bare apartment or house into a home. Most of our families are coping with crises like domestic violence, returning or homeless veterans, job loss, or financial hardship. You can make a difference by helping us furnish hope.

Sharing Connections accepts donations at their warehouse located on Chase Avenue in Downers Grove on weekdays from 9-3pm and Saturday from 9am-noon. A wide range of household items from kitchen dishes to bathroom towels to furniture and baby items are needed. Items must be in good condition. There are some items like televisions, office furniture, books, etc. that they do not accept. Go to their website to see the list. To have large items picked up call 630-971-0565 to schedule a time.

Sharing Connections is having a Dresser Challenge where they are collecting 600 dressers. Purchase one from WalMart or Target and put one together as a family project!
In today’s Gospel, we hear the story of the poor widow who gave all she had (amounting to a single penny) to the synagogue’s treasury. Many people interpret this passage as meaning that the dollars they donate to the Church mean nothing because they still have money left in their savings accounts at the end of the day. However, Jesus is really calling attention to the intention behind the widow’s donation: her great faith. Many of us have the means to be able to donate the same amount each Sunday, but it often becomes a mindless task and we forget why we donate. Meanwhile, many families in our community silently calculate every dollar they spend, worried that they might not be able to buy groceries and pay bills.

This is reality for the thousands of people in Chicago living in poverty. However, with the help of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, many low-income communities are empowered to overcome many of the challenges poverty poses in their lives. They are making a difference in your neighborhood, helping to fund the Progress Center for Independent Living as they work to build a society in which people with disabilities have the their freedoms, rights, and civil liberties recognized fully by our government and society.

This November 21 and 22 join thousands of generous Chicago area Catholics who support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as it funds organizations doing remarkable work to fight poverty and promote community development in our neighborhoods. For more information, visit: www.ChicagoPeaceandJustice.org/CCHD.

Shawl Ministry

A grateful thank you to everyone who has contributed to the St. John of the Cross Shawl Ministry. We have distributed over 700 shawls in the past five years.

Please join us. We meet in the Parish Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm. (Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11.) Come to knit, drop off a shawl or request a shawl for family or friends. We welcome all knitters and crocheters. At this time of year many are thankful for your talents and gifts. For more information please call:

Mary 708-246-5108     Sheila 708-246-7836

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.

Preparing for Christmas with The Little Blue Book

The Little Blue Book can be your constant companion for Advent. The right hand side of each page will cite a part of the Gospel for the Mass each day followed by a reflection. The left hand side has timely thoughts, quotes and information. You might want to share some of it at dinner with your family. It should not take more than 6 minutes each day—an easy commitment. Let the Little Blue Book slow you down and let you be with Christ in a special way each day this Christmas season. Give them to your family members as a personal invitation to pray this Advent. Reflections begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, and end on the Baptism of the Lord. The Little Blue Books will be available at the exits of church the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 21-22. Suggested donation $1.
Are You an Evolutionary?

Saturday, November 14, 2015  9 – 4 pm

Are you a change agent? Do you have a tendency to fix things without being asked? Do you see opportunity where others may see chaos? But, do you get discouraged and feel some issues are stuck and will never improve?

Changing the world, even your “own world,” is hard work. How can you not lose a sense of optimism? How can you reframe the challenges of our time and become a more effective change agent?

Carter Phipps, author of Evolutionaries, will be leading a workshop at The Well on November 14 where a fresh approach to change making will be offered. Participants will be introduced to the concept of Evolutionary Spirituality … an idea at its essence that is about realizing that evolution is not just happening out there in the universe—in nature, or in our biology—but in our own lives and the lives of our communities.

As Carter explains, “It is connected to the choices we are making to develop and grow, to have more integrity, to understand ourselves and our world more deeply, to expand our own awareness and cognition, to reach for richer, more complex and integrated perspectives, to create novelty and beauty, and to contribute in some small way to the further development of human consciousness and culture.”

Free to St. John of the Cross Parishioners. To register, call the Parish Center office. The Well is located at 1515 W. Ogden in LaGrange Park.

All Ministers of Care and Communion Ministers
Reflection and Commissioning Ceremony for all Communion Ministers and Ministers of Care will be held on:
Mon. November 16 from 7:00 - 8:30pm

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.

Land a Job Before the Holidays
interfaithcareernetwork.org
How to Interview the Interviewer: Thursday, November 19 from 7-9 pm at the Parish Center. This evening will focus on how, when and where to research a company; which questions to ask during your interview and when; how to ask questions and get the answers you need and how to handle different interview situations. Our speaker, Tom Nosal, is also the author of Scaling Up Your Job Search: Three Strategic Steps to Landing Your Ideal Job.

Career Resource Center: Wednesday, November 18 from 7-9pm. Receive assistance with internet usage, resume/cover letter preparation and electronic job search skills including LinkedIn. First Baptist Church of La Grange. No appointment is needed.

Thanksgiving Day Music
All singers in the parish are invited to join voices with all of our parish choirs at our Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:30am. Please come for warm-ups and rehearsal at 8:30am on Thanksgiving morning. There will not be a 7:45am Mass that day.

We Gather Together
The Christian Churches of Western Springs invite you to a Thanksgiving Prayer Service on
Wednesday, November 25 at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
5250 Wolf Road
Please bring a nonperishable food item for donation.
All Are Welcome!
Youth Catechesis

Putting Faith First

All Saints Prayer Service by 5th Grade Students

Our 5th graders presented a beautiful prayer service to all our students which focused on six very special Catholics. St. Juan Diego, St. Marin de Porres, St. Julie Billiart, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Jacinta and Blessed Francisco Marto were the highlights of our service. What a fantastic presentation by our 5th grade students!

Parents Putting Faith First

Parents, want to see the Church Tour of St. John of the Cross that the YC children recorded? Check out the “Welcome to Youth Catechesis” page on our website or find it on our FB page, Twitter feed or Pinterest board.

Our 5th graders presented a beautiful prayer service to all our students which focused on six very special Catholics. St. Juan Diego, St. Marin de Porres, St. Julie Billiart, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Jacinta and Blessed Francisco Marto were the highlights of our service. What a fantastic presentation by our 5th grade students!

Parents, want to see the Church Tour of St. John of the Cross that the YC children recorded? Check out the “Welcome to Youth Catechesis” page on our website or find it on our FB page, Twitter feed or Pinterest board.

This week at SJC
Wednesday, November 11 Speech Contest 7:00pm
Friday, November 13 Out of Uniform Day

St. John of the Cross Parish
www.stjohnofthecross.org
November 8, 2015
Page 10
“I like being a Home Group Leader because the teens are awesome and allow us to be a part of their lives. They’re fun, faith-filled, and fabulous!”  Wendy Duquette

“The teens brought great positive energy for life into our lives. The experience enhanced our own faith journey and relationship as a couple. It was a privilege to serve as Home Group Leaders to a wonderful group of young adults. We would recommend it to everyone!”  Ann Smith

“We love being another set of adults that the teens can use as a sounding board as they figure out how to deal with the challenges of high school. Our children are grown and as empty nesters we missed having 17 pairs of shoes in a pile at the front door. Really! We love their energy.”  Chris & Mark Sever

Home Group Leaders are needed for our Freshmen. Call our Home Group Coordinator, Mary Stadler at 708-246-3838 to learn more about joining this rewarding ministry!

Harvest Saturday - November 14

Harvest Saturday is next week! See the back of today’s bulletin for details. Many volunteers are still needed.

Last Chance to Register

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/

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.

Rite of Acceptance

The Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens establishes a relationship between unbaptized persons and the Church. Candidates express their intention to become members, and the Church accepts them as catechumens.

The ceremony may take place several times a year at a weekend Mass. Ideally, it begins outside the church. The priest for the Mass usually presides, but a deacon may do so.

Those wishing to become catechumens stand outside with their sponsors and a group of the faithful. All sing an appropriate song.

The celebrant greets everyone and recalls the religious experience of the candidates. If the candidates are not well known, the celebrant asks their names. He asks each candidate two questions about what they are seeking and why. The candidates respond in their own words.

The celebrant formulates a short catechesis based on this conversation, and he ascertains from the candidates their readiness to accept the Gospel that will fulfill the longing of their hearts. The sponsors and assembly express their willingness to help the candidates find and follow Christ.

Next the celebrant traces the cross on the forehead of the candidates. Catechists and sponsors may assist in signing. All sing an acclamation and the celebrant concludes with a prayer. The candidates are now called “catechumens,” indicating their new status with the Church. They are invited to enter the building to hear the Word of God with the community.

After the homily they may be presented with a book containing the Gospels. Intercessions are made for the catechumens and then they are dismissed.

Rite of Welcome

Where as the Rite of Acceptance pertains to an unbaptized person, the Rite of Welcome welcomes those already baptized, but previously uncatechized (one who has not celebrated First Eucharist) who are seeking to complete their Christian initiation through the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist or those to be received into full communion of the Catholic Church. (For example, a person baptized as Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian.)

On Sunday, November 29 at the 5pm Mass one woman and two men will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance, and four women will celebrate the Rite of Welcome with our faith community. Let us keep these women and men in our prayers.

Please join us in praying for our teens on the Kairos 21 Retreat this weekend.
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.

The Women’s Club would like to thank all of those who supported, planned and attended our 2015 Fashion Show at Drury Lane last Thursday October 29. We had a night of Fairytale Fashion Fun with over 330 ladies who attended. We enjoyed boutique shopping, silent auction, swag bag, and grand raffles. Our adorable parishioner children models and, of course, Fr. Dave and Steve Weigand lit up the runway with their trendy styles and contagious smiles.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to the many charitable organizations supported by the Women’s Club. With your kind generosity and support the Women’s Club is able to reach out and support over 18 organizations and our Fr. McDonnell Scholarship Fund.

A special thank you goes to the Fashion Show committee who worked for over a year on our fantastic event.

Heather McCarthy and Julie Misarti, Chairpersons
Lee Rosenberg and Katie Pruitt- Silent Auction
Jeannie Francis- Grand Raffle
Melissa Timotic and Julie Krema- Signup parties
Carrie Frech- RSVP’s, Table seating, and Tablescapes
Dina Peso- Invitations, and Program booklet
Connie Madden- Boutique Vendors
Jenny Mazur- Children’s Models
Denise Pozen- Photographer
Jerry Niemann and Nichole Niemann-D’Aprile- Fashions with Flair Production Company.

Also special recognition to all the businesses who donated to our ad book. Thank you all and we hope to see you at our next Fashion Show in 2017!
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS WOMEN’S CLUB ANNUAL

COAT DRIVE

To benefit
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Donations will be accepted in the Parish Center after all Masses this weekend. Donation Drop Boxes are also located in the Church Narthex, Parish Center Lobby and School Lobby.

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

Thank you for helping others keep warm this winter.
At any given time, most of the world believes that death isn’t final, that some form of immortality exists. Most people believe that those who have died still exist in some state, in some modality, in some place, in some heaven or hell, however that might be conceived. In some conceptions, immortality is seen as a state wherein a person is still conscious and relational; while in other concepts, existence after death is understood as real but impersonal, like a drop of water that has flowed back into the oceans.

As Christians, this is our belief: We believe that the dead are still alive, still themselves and, very importantly, still in a living, conscious, and loving relationship with us and with each other. That’s our common concept of heaven and, however simplistic its popular expression at times, it is wonderfully correct. That’s exactly what Christian faith and Christian dogma, not to mention deep intuitive experience, invite us to. After death we live on, conscious, self-conscious, in communication with others who have died before us, in communion with those we left behind on earth, and in communion with the divine itself. That’s the Christian doctrine of the Communion of Saints.

But how is this to be understood? Not least, how do we connect to our loved ones after they have died? Two interpenetrating biblical images can help serve as an entry-point for our understanding of this. Both come from the Gospels.

The Gospels say that at the instant of Jesus’ death, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. (Matthew 27, 50-52) The Gospels then go on to tell us that on the morning of the Resurrection several women came to Jesus’ grave to anoint his dead body with embalming spices, but rather than finding his dead body, they meet instead an empty grave and two angels who challenge them with words to this effect: Why are you looking for a live person in a cemetery? He isn’t here. He’s alive and you can find him in Galilee. (Luke 24, 5) What’s contained in these images?

As Christians, we believe that we are given eternal life through Jesus’ death. Among other images, the Gospels express that in this metaphor: Jesus death, they tell us, “opened the tombs” and emptied graveyards. For this reason, Christians have never had a huge cult around cemeteries. As Christians, we don’t do much in the way of spiritual practices around our cemeteries. Why? Because we believe all those graves are empty. Our loved ones aren’t there and aren’t to be found there. They’re with Jesus, in “Galilee”.

What’s “Galilee”, in terms of a biblical image? In the Gospels, Galilee is more than a place on a map; it’s also a place inside the Spirit, God’s Spirit and our own. In the Gospels, Galilee is the place where, for the most part, the good things happen. It’s the place where the disciples first meet Jesus, where they fall in love with him, where they commit themselves to him, and where miracles happen. Galilee is the place where Jesus invites us to walk on water. Galilee is the place where the disciples’ souls enlarge and thrive.

And that is also a place for each of our deceased loved ones. In each of their lives, there was a Galilee, a place where their persons and souls were most alive, where their lives radiated the energy and exuberance of the divine. When we look at the life of a loved one who has died we need to ask: Where was she most alive? What qualities did she, most-uniquely, embody and bring into a room? Where did she lift my spirit and make me want to be a better person?

Name those things, and you will have named your loved one’s Galilee - and you will also have named the Galilee of the Gospels, namely, that place in the heart where Jesus invites you to meet him. And that is too where you will meet your loved ones in the communion of saints. Don’t look for a live person in a cemetery. She’s not there. She’s in Galilee. Meet her there.

Elizabeth Johnson, leaning on Karl Rahner, adds this thought: “Hoping against hope, we affirm that they [our loved ones who have died] have fallen not into nothingness but into the embrace of the living God. And that is where we can find them again; when we open our hearts to the silent calmness of God’s own life in which we dwell, not by selfishly calling them back to where we are, but by descending into the depth of our own hearts where God also abides.”

And the “Galilee” of our loved ones can also be found inside our own “Galilee”. There’s a deep place inside the heart, inside faith, hope, and charity, were everyone, living or deceased, is met.
Mass Intentions

**Monday, November 9**  
Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  
7:45am Thomas Albertson; Mary Piszczor

**Tuesday, November 10**  
St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor  
7:45am Thomas Siragusa; Suzanne Eley

**Wednesday, November 11**  
St. Martin of Tours, Bishop  
7:45am Deceased Members of O'Malley-Madigan Family; Mary Piszczor

**Friday, November 13**  
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin  
7:45am Dolores Collins; Our Beloved Dead

**Saturday, November 14**  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
8:00am Rose Canino; Margaret Dine  
5:00pm Julia Esposito; Robert Plechaty

**Sunday, November 15**  
33rd Sunday Ordinary Time  
7:30am Jerry Kirby & Kathleen McLaughlin; Patsy A. Huseman  
9:00am Patrick Healy; Mary Ann Matysik  
10:45am Deceased Members of Dziubla Family; Herb Nilles  
12:15pm Chester Cebula; Freda & Margaret Jandris  
5:00pm Mike Delaney; Ron Pacer

Pray for Our Sick
Carol Martin  
Keri Rohr  
John Martin  
Michael Sullivan  
Roberta Ohlquist  
Theresa Vana  
Marian Pascale  
Don Vollmer  
Steve Pechous

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
William Woods, father of Tim, grandfather of Patrick and Jeremiah  
Stephan Szymel, son of Adam  
Bob O'Brien, father of Marilyn Montgomery, grandfather of Daniel, Matthew & Edward

Welcome New Parishioners!
Erin and Daniel Sanchez and Family  
Lauren and David Bukovac and Family  
Jaime and Pat Suero and Family  
Emily and Joseph Turano and Family  
Lauren and Luke Stojak and Family  
Nellie and Edward McCarthy and Family  
Kristin and Gary Wojtulewicz and Family  
Amy and George Lay and Family

Welcome!  
Susan and Burton Podczerwinski and Family  
Sherri and Kristian Bjorson and Family  
Margaret and Frank Facchini and Family  
Mary and Jason Kahn and Family  
Colleen and Quinn Whalen and Family

---

**The Week Ahead**

**Monday, November 9**
9:30am Spiritual Journaling  
10:30am Christian Meditation  
1:00pm Little Rock Scripture  
2:30pm Adoration  
6:15pm YC Today!

**Tuesday, November 10**
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary  
3:30pm Altar Server Training  
6:30pm RCIA  
7:00pm Cub Scout Parent Night  
7:30pm Christian Meditation

**Wednesday, November 11**
9:30am Bridges Faith Sharing  
9:30am Gospel of John Bible Study  
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry  
2:30pm Christian Meditation  
3:30pm John of the Cross Study  
3:45pm Cherub Choir Practice  
7:00pm CCSS  
7:00pm School Speech Contest  
7:30pm Traditional Choir

**Thursday, November 12**
3:45pm Youth Choir Practice  
7:00pm Faith Sharing Group  
7:30pm Contemporary Choir  
7:30pm SAM Meeting

**Friday, November 13**
9:15am Mom's Club  
3:30pm Altar Server Training  
6:00pm Crossroads Box Night

**Saturday, November 14**
7:00am Christian Meditation  
Crossroads Harvest Saturday

**Sunday, November 15**
Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast  
9:00am YC Jr. High Small Group  
10:15am YC Classes Today!

3:30pm Boy Scouts  
4:00pm YC Jr. High Small Group  
6:00pm Freshman Experience

**Wedding Banns**
Amanda Nunez and Adam Chalus  
Laura Rizzo & Robert Sullivan

---

**St. John of the Cross Parish**

**November 8, 2015**

---

**Contact Information**

Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor  
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org

Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell,  
Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Associate Pastor  
vollmer@stjohnofthecross.org

Deacon John Schopp, Deacon  
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com

Bill Bright, Director of Outreach  
bright@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  
wesweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
Western Springs residents can put their nonperishable food donations on their front porch on Saturday morning. Our parish Crossroads teens will come by to collect your food between 10am and 2pm next Saturday, November 14.

If you live in Burr Ridge, Indian Head Park or another nearby town bring your Harvest Saturday donations to the Parish Center on Saturday before 2pm or any time during the coming week.

Our food donations will be delivered to grateful recipients at St. Thomas of Canterbury, Port Ministries, St. Cletus, Food Pantry St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry, and LaGrange Area Transitional Housing.

Thank you for helping us feed those who are hungry.
**SOLD**

**BROKER:** MIKE McCURRY

**LISTING:** 10% Off for new customers

10% Off for new customers

**ASSURED INC.**

**WE BUY!**

**8565 Lawn Ave. Ste. 5, Western Springs**

**Contact:** pwealthmgmt@gmail.com

**Website:** www.mccurryhomes.com

**SOLD**

**Hinsdale & Western Springs**

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

**Licensed Plumbers**

**Guaranteed work**

**Same Day Service!**

**7 Days a Week**

**Licensed Plumbers**

**Guaranteed work**

**Phone:** (877) 630-842-5473

**Website:** www.lasellplumbing.com

**ED THE PLUMBER**

**ED THE CARPENTER**

**Best Work • Best Rate**

**Satisfaction Guaranteed As We Do All Our Own Work**

License #: 023225

**$5 Off Any purchase of $50 or more**

7145 S. Ringery Hwy Route 83 Willowbrook, IL 630.655.2200

**Dennis Dorrus - Piano Lessons**

**Pianist, Degreed, Performing Teacher**

**Email:** ddorris3616@msn.com

**Phone:** (773) 610-0644

**We Do All Our Own Work**

**Bring This In and Receive $0 Enrollment!**

For a Limited Time Only... Hurry In

Open 24/7

**Phone:** (708) 483.6148

**Website:** www.anytimefitness.com

**VITECTOR'S APPLIANCE & HEATING**

**Water Heaters**

**Heaters**

**Sump**

**Licensed Plumbers**

**Guaranteed work**

**Same Day Service!**

**7 Days a Week**

**Licensed Plumbers**

**Guaranteed work**

**Phone:** (877) 630-842-5473

**Website:** www.lasellplumbing.com

**John F. O'Connell III, D.D.S.**

**Western Springs, IL 60558**

**Lic# J16531 - Bonded - Insured**

**Peter Conboy**

**Western Springs Resident**

**Contact:** (708) 579-3321

**Email:** michael@dusza.com

**Website:** www.eaglehm.com