The Baptism of the Lord
Sunday, January 10, 2016
Dear Parishioners,

There are so many reasons for me to be so proud of the parishioners of SJC. You do many wonderful things to help other people, especially the poor, throughout the year. I hope you see in these pages on a regular basis the impact your generosity has on our Sharing Parishes and on so many worthwhile causes. Your generosity with Share Christmas this past year was overwhelming. We couldn’t offer many opportunities without the numerous volunteers who are continually coming forward to staff them. I want to take this opportunity to point out something else you do extraordinarily well that I don’t think I have ever talked with you about.

Especially in the last three or four years (or so it seems) a number of people have told me that they have joined our parish or that they come here to pray because they feel welcomed at many levels, and they feel particularly welcomed by the people in the pews. We never had a program about this as far as I know. I don’t believe we have even encouraged folks in any way to be conscious of welcoming others to the parish. But somehow on a consistent basis you (and there must be a lot of ‘you’) extend yourselves to the newcomer and the visitor. I suspect you don’t even know they are newcomers or visitors when you do it but I am here to tell you that it gets reported to me on a fairly regular basis. Maybe it is simple, common courtesy, like making room in a pew, but I suspect it is more than that. Somehow I think you communicate to people around you that you are glad they are here. You communicate that you genuinely do welcome them to pray with you and the whole assembly. KUDOS to ‘you’ for helping SJC to be a welcoming community at prayer.

A quick word on Fr. Joe, since many of you are asking about him: He set a goal for himself and was able to concelebrate the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. It was a great Christmas gift. He still struggles with his compromised lungs very much. It has caused him to become very frail, as you well know. His spirits are as positive as ever and he tells me how much he misses being able to celebrate Mass with the parish, but talking also triggers the coughing which makes that an unrealistic possibility. He wants to thank all those who sent him cards and gifts at Christmas and to assure you he remembers the parish in his daily prayer.

This is a good time of year to remind seniors that if God wants you at Mass on Sunday he has to give you two things and they have to be at the same time: good health and good weather. Please do not endanger yourself by coming out when it is too cold or if there is a possibility of falling from the ice or snow. We are glad to bring communion to those who are home bound throughout the year. Just call the Parish Center and ask to talk with our Pastoral Associate, Steve Weigand, and he will take care of the details.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. When I was at Bishop Barron’s ordination in September I saw the banners in the cathedral for the first time. There is more information elsewhere in this bulletin explaining the banner and you will see our smaller version in church today. Hopefully this feast will also remind you of your baptism and your responsibility to be priest, prophet and king for the world.

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David

Remembering Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country

Lord, hold those serving our country in the military 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.

Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Tom & Sandra Foody
Specialist Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki
A1C Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler and Mary Tischler
A Navy Seal

If you have a loved one serving and would like us to include them in our prayers please call the Parish Center Office.
Living the Gospel

The people in the Gospel looked to John the Baptist to be the long-awaited Messiah. It was precisely their expectation—misdirected though it was—that kept them looking for the Messiah. John redirected them from himself to the person of Jesus, the “beloved Son” of God. Our own baptism with “the Holy Spirit and fire” initiates us on a journey of discovery not only of who Jesus is, but also who we are in him. Who are we? We are those who, through our baptism “with the Holy Spirit and fire,” are conformed to Jesus and take up his saving mission. We must achieve the full potential of our own graced identity as God’s own people through a Gospel way of living.

Being baptized by “the Holy Spirit and fire” means that we share in Jesus’ mission, including the total gift of ourselves. Our Christian journey is about realizing that we ourselves are God’s Presence for another. We must constantly redirect our own expectations so that we keep focused on the One “mightier than I” who comes to others, now, through us. The gift of divine Life and its attendant call to self-giving discipleship does make demands on us. Taking our baptism seriously means that the ritual moment is just the beginning of a lifetime of openness to God’s continuing grace forming us to be faithful to who God calls us to be. God’s giving us a share in divinity is so gracious that the only response is self-giving in fidelity to our baptismal call. Further, while our baptismal living manifests dying for the sake of others, it also manifests a hope that is sure because God’s ultimate gracious gift of everlasting Life is a promise already being fulfilled. ©Living Liturgy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings for the Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 Sam 1:1-8, Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19, Mark 1:14-20</td>
<td>1 Sam 1:9-20, 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd, Mark 1:21-28</td>
<td>1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20, Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, Mark 1:29-39</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22a, Ps 88:16-17, 18-19, Mark 2:1-12</td>
<td>1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a, Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, Mark 2:13-17</td>
<td>2nd Sunday in OT, Isa 62:1-5, Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10, 1 Cor 12:4-11, John 2:1-11</td>
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May we, the Body of Christ, be filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit and be faithful to Jesus’ saving mission. May we, baptized into Christ, be faithful to our baptismal promises in our daily living.

Background on the Gospel

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today’s Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus’ baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus’ perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew’s Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another “epiphany.” On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus’ relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God’s own Son. In Luke’s Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus’ ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism. Loyola Press
God who claims us as your own in baptism, we pray for the courage to live out our calling to follow Jesus in service of others. Bless us with peace and courage, and fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

The Baptism of Jesus revealed Christ to be the anointed and chosen one, a sign of God’s grace and glory. Scripture testifies that through God’s definitive revelation in the person of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, God is involved in a constant process of communication with humanity. When we look at the testimony of scripture, we see that Jesus represents the fullness of God’s revelation to humanity. As Jesus himself explained to the apostle Phillip: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). By his example Jesus shows us that God possesses and expresses to perfection the qualities of truth, beauty, justice, mercy, grace, goodness, compassion—in a word, love. In fact, Jesus lived and suffered as one of us because “God so loved the world” (John 3:16). What greater love is there than “to lay down one’s life for one’s friends,” as Jesus did (John 15:13)? Perhaps one of the most useful of the many titles found in the Bible for God is Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23), which literally means “God-with-us.” That conviction, firmly rooted in our hearts, may be all we ever need to know about our loving God.

-Daniel Grippo  Adapted from www.vocationnetwork.org/blog/questions_catholics_ask

On the Cover

The cover art on this Sunday’s bulletin is a picture of a tapestry behind the Baptismal font at Our Lady of Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles. It is part of five tapestries with a central depiction of Jesus being baptized by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Each tapestry is forty seven and a half feet high and seven feet wide. The total square yardage is one hundred seventy six square yards of tapestry.

The great circular pattern above the Baptism scene is based on “Cosmati” stone floor decorations from the 11th century found in St. Mark’s Cathedral in Venice, Italy. The stylized “wavy” water patterns in the lower portion are derived from Byzantine mosaic patterns found at Ravenna and that were used throughout the early Christian period.

Artist John Nava is the designer of the tapestries in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. His central commission is the Communion of Saints, comprising 25 tapestries with 135 over life-size saints from throughout history and from all parts of the world. His Altar Tapestries display a hand drawn map of the streets of Los Angeles and a quote from the Book of Revelations to reflect the Church here and now as the New Jerusalem.

Nava is an internationally noted painter and draughtsman. He studied art at the University of California at Santa Barbara and did his graduate work in Florence, Italy. His work is found in numerous private, corporate and public collections throughout the United States, Europe and Japan, including the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C., the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Hawaii, and the Triton Museum in San Jose, California.

Last fall our parish purchased a small version of this banner. Ordinarily the banner is located in the Mary Chapel and used at parish celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism for infants. This weekend and throughout the week, the banner will be located near the baptismal font as a reminder of our baptismal identity and call. The image of John baptizing Jesus represents God’s manifestation to the world that Jesus is indeed the beloved Son of God. Jesus’ baptism marked the beginning of his ministry of proclaiming the Good News. Through our own baptism we too are made beloved sons and daughters of God; we put on Christ, that is, we are called to the life long journey of committing ourselves in service to others just as Christ did.

The Baptism of the Lord
In his dialogue with Nicodemus, Jesus taught that Baptism was necessary for salvation. "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (Jn 3:5). After his Resurrection, Jesus met with the eleven Apostles and gave them the commission to preach the Gospel and baptize, telling them, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk 16:16).

The word *baptism* in its origins is Greek and means "immersion" and "bath." Immersion in water is a sign of death and emersion out of the water means new life. To bathe in water is also to undergo cleansing. Saint Paul sums up this truth when he says, "You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead" (Col 2:12).

The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. "He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water" (St. Gregory Nazianzen, *Liturgy of the Hours*, I, 634).

Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father.

By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God. —From the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

Our RCIA catechumens (those preparing for Baptism) and our candidates (those to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church) continue their journey. This past Tuesday they met with their sponsors and the RCIA team for a discussion by Steve Weigand on the Sacraments of Initiation. During this period of the Catechumenate, they will learn about Sin and Brokenness, the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick), the Social Teaching of the Church, the Sacraments of Vocation (Marriage and Holy Orders) and the History of the Church. The RCIA process helps to build the foundation upon which our catechumens and candidates decide to form and shape their lives with the grace of God on the life of Christ. Please continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates.

Almighty God, look upon your servants, Amy, Marla, Marti, Randy, Rob, Sarah and Schler, 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.
Prayer

Richard Rohr Meditation
Our Foundation is Love

The most powerful, most needed, and most essential teaching is always about Love. Love is our foundation and love is our destiny. It is where we come from and where we’re headed. As St. Paul famously says, "So faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

My hope, whenever I speak or write, is to help clear away the impediments to receiving, allowing, trusting, and participating in a foundational Love. God’s love is planted inside each of us as the Holy Spirit who, according to Jesus, "will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (John 14:26). Love is who you are.

All I can do is remind you of what you already know deep within your True Self and invite you to live connected to this Source. John the Evangelist writes, "God is love, and whoever remains in love, remains in God and God in him [and her]" (1 John 4:16). The Judeo-Christian creation story says that we were created in the very "image and likeness" of God—who is love (Genesis 1:26; see also Genesis 9:6). Out of the Trinity’s generative, loving relationship, creation takes form, mirroring its Creator.

We have heard this phrase so often that we don’t get the existential shock of what "created in the image and likeness of God" is saying about us. If we could believe it, we would save ourselves ten thousand dollars in therapy! If this is true—and I believe it is—our family of origin is divine. It is saying that we were created by a loving God to be love in the world. Our core is original blessing, not original sin. Our starting point is positive and, as it is written in the first chapter of the Bible, it is "very good" (Genesis 1:31). We do have a good place to go home. If the beginning is right, the rest is made considerably easier, because we know and can trust the clear direction of our life’s tangent.

The great illusion we must all overcome is the illusion of separateness. It is the primary task of religion to communicate not worthiness but union, to reconnect people to their original identity "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). The Bible calls this state of separateness "sin." God’s job description is to draw us back into this primal and intimate relationship. "My dear people, we are already children of God; what we will be in the future has not yet been fully revealed, and all I do know is that we shall be like God" (1 John 3:2).

Gateway to Silence

God’s life is living itself in me.

Are we receptive to the love that God is constantly pouring out?

Sometimes we can be tempted to pay attention to what is missing in life instead of appreciating God’s bounty. Yet love is a plentiful offering. Jesus is receptive of God’s love in allowing himself to be baptized by John, although John says he is not worthy to untie Jesus’ sandals (Mark 1:7—11). Jesus shows us that before we can undertake our own ministries of care, we need to allow the sun of God’s loving rays to shine upon us so that we can reflect back some of that light to others.

How do we practice receptivity? Here are some concrete practices that may be helpful. All involve some degree of surrender to God’s action over our own.

1. Rest in silence. Silencing our own interior voices in prayer allows God’s voice within to rise to the surface. Or there may be an even deeper experience of relationship beyond words, an underlying unity of self, God, and others.

2. Be attentive to everyday acts of love. All around us, people act in loving and generous ways. Perhaps my spouse tries to connect by sharing about his day: am I open to listening attentively? Or I may see two students who greet and warmly embrace one another—even if I do not know them, witnessing their mutual care is a gift.

3. Let go and surrender to loving here and now. Often, we want to give and to receive love in ways of our own choosing, but if we are open to change, we make room for love to flow. Perhaps today my teenager doesn’t want to engage in small talk, but meanwhile I can practice kindness to a stranger in need.

4. Give away love without expectation of return. Paradoxically, the more we give away ourselves, the more room there is for God to enter in. St. Clare described the soul as a mirror that reflects divine love. St. Catherine wrote of it as like an empty jug that must stay near the fountain of love. Both images remind us that it’s in emptiness that we find fullness, and in letting go that we can both receive and give.

Ignatian Spirituality.
It seems to me that while both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy require serious commitment to be properly undertaken, the Spiritual Works of Mercy, in particular, require a more deep personal encounter. This means that in order to forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently, admonish sinners, instruct the ignorant, comfort the sorrowful, counsel the doubtful or pray for the living and dead one must “know” the person to whom he or she is offering the work of mercy. These works require a sense of mutuality, an awareness that at any moment I may be the provider OR receiver of mercy. These works remind us that a personal relationship should not be taken for granted. It requires effort and sensitivity. Relationships require patience and perseverance. Mercy requires all these things, as well.

The Spiritual Works also remind us to see, that is, to TRULY see those around us who are in need of mercy. There are so many who are ignored in our society, such as the elderly, people who are disabled, the sick, children, people of color and, of course, the materially poor. The Spiritual Works of Mercy require us to get to know the person we wish to serve. You cannot forgive someone you do not know! You cannot comfort someone you have ignored! You cannot counsel a stranger who has had a very different life than you. This will only serve to build more distance between you both.

In the words of Pope Francis: “Faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others. …We must create a ‘culture of encounter’, a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently, as well as those who hold other beliefs, who do not have the same faith…”

There is another important point: encountering the poor. If we step outside ourselves we find poverty. “…When I used to go to hear confessions in my previous diocese, people would come to me and I would always ask them: ‘Do you give alms?’ — ‘Yes, Father!’ ‘Very good.’ And I would ask them two further questions: ‘Tell me, when you give alms, do you look the person in the eye?’ ‘Oh I don’t know, I haven’t really thought about it.’ The second question: ‘And when you give alms, do you touch the hand of the person you are giving them to or do you toss the coin at him or her?’ This is the problem: the flesh of Christ, touching the flesh of Christ, taking upon ourselves this suffering for the poor” (Vigil of Pentecost 18 May 2013).

If you are looking to enact Spiritual Works of Mercy during this Jubilee, the first step is always to LISTEN! Be present to your neighbors; see them and get to know them before you offer help. Be willing to offer a hand or embrace if needed. Look a person in the eye when you speak. And remember that the Spiritual Works of Mercy are not simply items on a check list to be completed. They take time, so don’t be in a rush!

Megan Mio is director of the Archdiocese of Chicago Mission Office.
Our faith is lived in schools and parishes, soup kitchens and counseling centers, on street corners and in churches, where people of all backgrounds in every neighborhood of the Archdiocese of Chicago are served.

Your gift to the Annual Appeal helps to sustain Catholic schools, religious education, ministerial formation, and initiatives for life, peace and justice. Through its support of Catholic Relief Services, the Appeal serves people worldwide, without regard for religious affiliation, whose lives are devastated by natural disasters, illnesses, wars and famines.

Many parishioners have received a mailing from Archbishop Cupich asking you to make a pledge to the Appeal. Please respond generously. We will be conducting our parish Appeal at Sunday Mass in the coming weeks when you will also have an opportunity to contribute to the Appeal.

The Annual Catholic Appeal reminds us that we are part of a bigger church and participate in the ministry of the Bishop across the Archdiocese. Through our participation, we try and support other parishes so that they can enjoy what we enjoy—excellence in religious education and in our school. We are reminded that we are a missionary Church and need to reach out across many boundaries to be in solidarity with brothers and sisters we will never meet personally, but with whom we gather in faith at the Eucharistic table. The future Church will depend on those in formation programs today. It’s in our own best interest, and that of our children and grandchildren, to invest in them with trust and hope in the Holy Spirit.

- Fr. David Dowdle, Pastor

No one can put limits on God’s love, for he is always ready to forgive.

Pope Francis @Pontifex 30 Dec 2015
Dear Parishioners,

Thank you again for your support of our annual Share Christmas program. Through your incredible generosity we were able to provide gifts and food to 2700 individuals at Santa Maria Addlorata, St. Thaddeus, Blessed Sacrament, St. Agatha, St. Mark, St. Gall, Little Brothers, Beds Plus, Helping Hand, and St. Thomas of Canterbury.

When all the gifts are collected and sorted a small group of us has the privilege of delivering them. A story to share with you that has stayed with me…

At one of our delivery stops I was able to hand deliver a family gift of food and gift certificates to a father. Without even opening it all the way, he broke down in tears and told me that he was so grateful that his family could now have Christmas.

Our parish has received many notes of thanks. We share a few of them with you today to help communicate the impact that your giving has upon those on the receiving end.

I also extend our thanks to the many volunteers who helped coordinate this massive effort, especially our co-chairs, Lolly Maloney, Cathy Laskey, and Bruce Harken. If you are interested in helping next year please be in touch with me.

Another story… as we were in the prep stages of Share Christmas I met with the Scrip school reps who so kindly made our purchasing of gift certificates so convenient. One of the women told me that her little boy refers to Share Christmas as Share Magic. So many gifts, so much love, so much care… Thank you!

God’s richest blessings on you and your families in the new year.

Bill Bright
Director of Outreach

I would like to give my sincere thanks for giving me the opportunity to be able to provide a better Christmas this season for my children. There is a lot of hardship everywhere, and I am very humbled by your generosity. It's people like you that give people like me hope. I am working on my bachelor degree and right now anything helps. I lost my job in 2014 when I was expecting my son and I realized it was more important for me to be with my family at that time. Once again thank you so very much.

It's because of you that I can reach out to my family and bring to them the Christmas season.

Thank you very much for the gift cards you have given me. You have been a blessing in my life this holiday season. I truly appreciate it. Because of your generous donation, I am able to purchase gifts for my children and grandchildren. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

We can have a good Christmas now. Thank you.

Get into the spirit of your Baptism

The Rite of Baptism is our initiation into the Christian community of the church. As baptized persons, we are part of the “one spirit” that makes us members of the Body of Christ and each other. And with this gift of Baptism we have a responsibility to carry out the light and love of Christ to the world. What does that look like? A welcome to the stranger; an embrace of an enemy; a sacrifice for the sake of another. Let the spirit of your Baptism light a fire of love under you! ©Prepare the Word.
Our annual celebration of National Catholic Schools Week begins in three weeks. This year, we are celebrating the role as a community of faith, knowledge, and service where today’s students become tomorrow’s leaders. See next week’s bulletin or our website for a schedule of events.

This Week at SJC
Monday, January 11 Athletic Board Meeting 7:00pm

Confirmation Doves
We invite you to take a white dove off the prayer tree in the church narthex. Each dove holds the name of one of our Confirmation candidates. Please pray for this student as they prepare to be confirmed on February 6th. We ask that your family pray for the YC or School student by name in the coming weeks. You may use this prayer or one of your own.

May God’s light and the gifts of the Holy Spirit shine on every path name follows.
May Christ’s love guide them through all their tomorrows.
And may name always seek to grow deeper in the faith they have embraced.
Amen.

Parents Putting Faith First
Remember to stay during your child’s YC class for Steve Weigand’s, Pastoral Associate, presentation this week.

“Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age- Why God Allows Suffering and Evil”
Open to all parents - Room 119 of the School
Sunday, January 10th 10:20 to 11:25am
Monday, January 11th 6:20 to 7:25pm

Service Opportunity Open to All 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students in School and YC
- 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are needed to help with the Annual Catholic Appeal during Masses the weekends of January 30 & 31 and February 6 & 7.
- Signup NOW at the SJC website and receive service credit for your time. Students must attend a practice on Tuesday, January 26 or February 2 from 3:45-4pm.
- Serving as a Student Usher will count as 2 Service Experiences and attendance at the practice will count as 1 Experience.

YC Schedule
Classes K-6
10:15-11:15am Sun, Jan 10, 24, 31, Feb 7, 21
6:15-7:30pm Mon, Jan 11, 25, Feb 1, 8, 22
FFC
Noon-1:30 pm Sun, Feb 7
Jr Hi Sm Groups
Jan 10 in home setting
Jan 24 - all 7th gr in Parish Center at 6:30pm
Jan 24 - 8th gr in home setting

In Jesus of Nazareth, mercy has appeared and lives. Pope Francis @Pontifex 4 Jan 2016
St. John of the Cross Parish January 10, 2016 The Baptism of the Lord Page 10
Crossroads

Calendar of Events
January 10 - Update Meeting at 10am
Home Group Meetings

Kairos Applications Available
Kairos 22, a retreat for Juniors and Seniors, is March 10-13. Applications are available on the Crossroads website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats. Space is limited.

Identity Retreat
Crossroads Freshmen and Sophomores enjoyed outdoor activities, and had time to reflect and connect with God and each other at the Identity Retreat.

Attention Parents of Teens!
Come join us for a parent workshop and discussion on ways to develop lasting faith in our teens! Using a video curriculum and the book "Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family," we will be introduced to the latest national family research on faith formation, discuss struggles and successes in the faith formation of our teens, and learn strategies on how to help them create a strong faith that sticks through college and beyond!

Meetings will take place on Thursday evenings beginning on January 28 from 7:30 - 9 pm in the Parish Center. Please contact Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net to register and to receive additional information. Please join us!

Let us thank God who is merciful and ever at our side.
Pope Francis @Pontifex 31 Dec 2015

Thursday January 21, 2016
7:00-9:00pm
Parish Center
Welcome back Dee Dee Saracco of gravy*

for a another mouthwatering evening to help you host a “Piece of Cake” Dinner Party!
Dee Dee will also have containers available for purchase at this event and will be donating 10% back to the Women’s Club for anything purchased or ordered Thursday evening.
Her specialties include: Vodka Sauce, Bolognese Sauce, Turkey Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, & Sausage Bread

Wine-pairing presentation hosted by Mécénat Bistro and Wine Shop will also be donating 10% per bottle / 15% per case back to the Women’s Club for anything purchased at the event through Sunday 1/24.

It's sure to be an another enjoyable evening with GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE & GOOD FRIENDS!

Please No Walk-Ins
Limited Seating Available

RSVP by January 19th to the Parish Center
Cash or check payable to SJC Women’s Club
$15.00 per person

NAME:_____________________________
NUMBER OF GUESTS:_____ GLUTEN FREE?:______
ADDRESS:_________________________
E-MAIL:___________________________
PHONE:___________________________
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $___________

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT DENISE SCHULLO AT DEEC7@HOTMAIL.COM OR JEANNE CONKIN AT JCONKIN1009@YAHOO.COM

St. John of the Cross Parish January 10, 2016 The Baptism of the Lord Page 11
SAM returns on Saturday, Jan. 16
The next SAM gathering for men of the parish will be on Saturday, January 16. We will discuss Immigration and Catholic Social Teachings in the Parish Center beginning at 8:45am. Mark your calendar to join us at future SAM meetings on February 20, March 12 and April 16.

New Minister of Care Training
Ministers of Care bring Holy Communion to our parish homebound and those in area hospitals. The next training session at the Carmelite Center in Darien will be on Saturday, January 23 and 30 from 9am to 1pm. SJC covers the cost of training. Call Steve Weigand to learn more or to register.

Moms’ Club
Join other moms of young children for a casual kid-free get-together on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30pm at Carolyn Wyness’s home. Moms will also meet for a group discussion on Friday, January 22 from 9:15-10:30am in the Parish Center. Sitters provided. Learn the latest on our gatherings at sjcmomsclub@gmail.com.

Little Rock Scripture Study
Study the writings of St. Paul on Mondays at 1pm in the Parish Center. Session 2 is tomorrow, but it’s not too late to join us. Materials fee: $15.

Aid for Women Mass & Brunch
Annual March for Life Chicago
10am Mass and 11am brunch at the Palmer House Hilton on January 17 sponsored by Relevant Radio. March for Life will follow at 2-4pm at Federal Plaza at 50 W. Adams. Learn more at marchforlifechicago.com and helpaidforwomen.org/marchbrunch2016.

Gluten Fee Hosts Available
To receive a gluten free host see the high school sacristan before Mass begins. At communion time, go to the presider and say “Gluten free” clearly to the priest. Read more on our parish website under Liturgy.

Domestic Violence Support Group Meeting
Tuesday, January 19th from 7:00-8:00pm
Monthly Support Group on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The intent is to share our stories and listen to one another in a safe environment. We welcome both men and women survivors and victims to express their thoughts and feelings and share their experiences. St. Cletus-Room 200 in the Education Building. Please enter at the flagpole door. For questions please contact Kendall Grant at kgrant@stcletusparish.org or 708.215.5418.

Interfaith Career Network: In A Job Search?
Get Better Organized! Thursday, January 21 from 7-9pm at St. Cletus School Building. Join us for a lively, interactive and informative presentation on how to better organize your job search. Speaker, Steven Rosenblum, will offer insight, tools, resources and suggestions to help start, reinvigorate, lead and succeed in your search. He will share many of his experiences and best practices, which will also be extremely helpful.

5 week Career Transition Boot Camp begins Tuesday, January 19 from 7-9 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Whether you're looking for a change in jobs, making a career switch, unemployed, under-employed or a recent grad looking for your first position, this five-week workshop is for you!
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 12-session education program for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness. The course is designed to help all family members understand and support their loved one living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. The course includes information on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions. Thousands of families describe the program as life-changing. The program is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness.

NAMI Metro Suburban will offer its NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program beginning January 13th on Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm at the United Lutheran Church, 409 Greenfield Street, Oak Park.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to raising awareness and providing essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in our community living with mental illness and their loved ones.

To register contact NAMI Metro Suburban at 708-524-2582, ext. 103 or ets@namimetsub.org

Programs at the Carmelite Center in Darien
A Journey to Reinvention on February 6 – from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Are you interested in finding your true element and understanding your intentions before you make a decision? Learn how to eliminate bad attitudes and stop worrying about “who’s right” all the time. Let God create your best life! Discover how to find your element but keep your kindness.
Presenter: Mary Kay Slowikowski
Cost: $45 per person – Lunch included
Register by February 2 at carmelitespiritualcenter.org

The Gift of Gentle Awareness on February 13 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Mindfulness training, which is all the rage in the business and management world, has a long and rich history in religious and spiritual life as well. Come learn the elements and techniques of the modern practice of mindfulness, as well as the connections it shares with traditional Christian monastic methods of prayer and contemplation. If you find yourself caught up in your busy world, and want to learn a way to regain your balance when your day throws you off, join Fr Glenn Snow, O. Carm. in an introduction to mindfulness.
Cost: $40 per person—Lunch included
Register by February 10 at carmelitespiritualcenter.org
Additional programs can be found on their website.

Women’s Faith Sharing: Flourish
Join us for a new bible study next Thursday, January 14 from 9-11am in the Parish Center. (We meet every other Thursday.) The study is called Nehemiah by Kelly Minter. All are welcome. Note, even if you do not finish the reading, you will enjoy listening to the discussion and being in fellowship with other women in our parish. Come and check it out!

Hospitality Sunday: January 17
The Women’s Club will host hospitality after the 9am and 10:45am Masses next Sunday. Come and connect with others in our parish and enjoy a great donut!

Women’s Club Retreat
Save the date for our daytime local retreat on Saturday, March 5th. More details to come.

Upcoming Program at The Well
A Journey of the Heart on Monday, January 25 from 7-8:30pm
Journey with facilitator Kathy Brazda, CSJ as she shares her pilgrimage to the site of the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Cost: $15.
Additional programs can be found on their website.

Mayslake Ministries
The Transforming Power of Forgiveness to Love and Heal on Wednesday, February 3 from 7-9pm.
Eileen Timmins will explore the importance of healing wounded relationships; personal, and in the workplace. This presentation is an opportunity to become more aware of the presence of mystery and healing in your own life, your own work, and to regain a sense of physical, emotional and spiritual health. The goal: to help you enjoy your life, laugh again and see wonderful qualities in others – benefits you receive when you forgive.
St. Hubert Parish Hoffman Estates Cost: $20.00
Additional programs can be found on their website.

Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:
• Noreen and Joe Smrz and Family
• Abbey Struemph and Michael Schroeder and Family
• Jinny and Mason Taylor and Family
• Beth and Todd Lux and Family
• Crystal Deters
• Thomas and Lynn Freking
• Stella and Jeremy Mayer

If you would like to register to become a member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center in our Parish Center.
Among books on spirituality, I single out these:

- **The Taste of Silence**, Bieke Vandekerckhove. They say that the book you need to read finds you at the time you most need to read it. That was the case here. Vandekerckhove is a young Belgian writer who, twenty years ago, was diagnosed with amyothrophic lateral sclerosis, *Lou Gehrig’s disease*. Her normal life ended with that sentence and, after an initial descent into darkness, she found strength by making an inner journey into the deep silence that resides inside us all. Her description of her journey is remarkable.

- **Beyond the Abortion Wars, A Way Forward for a New Generation**, Charles Camosy. This is an important book that will healthily shake-up both Pro-Life and Pro-Choice readers by showing that, not only are we closer to each other than we thought, but there is a way, together, to walk out of the present political, social, religious, and legal stalemate within which we find ourselves.

- **The Reluctant Disciple, Daring to Believe**, David Wells. Wells, a young British layman, offers us a warm, witty, and exquisitely balanced insight into how spirituality and life interface in today’s world for a person caught up in the ordinary duties and concerns of life. Among other things, it’s a spirituality for those who don’t like the word spirituality.

- **Mercy in the City**, Kerry Weber. Weber, a young writer on the editorial staff at America Magazine, chronicles her own journey through a Lenten season. This is a warm read, very good book, with deceptive depth.

- **A Religion of One’s Own, A Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World**, Thomas Moore. This book will upset a lot of people for its rather existentialist concept of community and ecclesiology, but Thomas Moore writes, as always, with a freshness, insight, and depth that brings a healthy challenge to everyone.

- **The World Beyond Your Head, On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction**, Matthew B. Crawford. Not a spirituality book in se, but this book delivers on its title. If you can wade through the philosophical parts, which are taxing, Crawford gives you a lot, really a lot, to think about.

In terms of novels, I particularly liked these:

- **The Children Act**, Ian McEwan. A major, world-class novelist, McEwan gives us here a warm, easy-to-read story that packs a deeper metaphor.

- **The Anchoress**, Robyn Cadwallader. Did you ever wonder how people like Julian of Norwich lived? What really was an anchoress? Cadwallader gives us a fictional picture of what someone like Julian of Norwich would have lived out.

- **Purity**, Jonathan Franzen. It takes 600 pages for this story to sort itself out. But it’s vintage Jonathan Franzen. He tells a good story.

- **Lying Awake**, Mark Salzman. The story of a young Carmelite nun who has to discern illness from mysticism. This book is 15 years old, but well worth the read.

- **The Painter of Silence**, Georgina Harding. Set in Romania just after World War II, Harding sets humanity and soul into the tragedy of war and into human brokenness in general. A great read, along the lines of *All the Light We Cannot See*.

Finally, a special category: Each year I write a column on suicide. I don’t claim any special insight into that singular sadness that surrounds a suicide, both in society at large and in church circles. I write on this issue simply because there’s just too little out there to help anyone understand and cope with the loss of a loved one through suicide. During the past year, I received three separate books, all written by a mother who had lost a child to suicide. The stories, while stunningly unique in that each person is his or her own mystery, bear an eerie resemblance to each other, not because they are each written by a mother trying to come to grips with a tragic loss of her own child, but that in each case a grieving mother is describing a very similar kind of person, namely, a beautiful, over-sensitive young person who, in effect, is too-bruised to cope with ordinary life. All three of these books are worth the read and, read together, will scar your heart.

- **Healing the Wound of my Daughter’s Suicide**, Lois Severson.

- **Damage Done, Suicide of an Only Son** Gloria Hutchinson.

- **My Daughter, Her Suicide, and God**, Marjorie Antus.

Happy reading!

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser,
God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power. May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose. May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love. May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.

May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead. Amen.

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Mass Intentions

**Monday, January 11**

*Ordinary Time Weekday*

7:45am Muriel Albertson; Arlene & Jay Vaughan

**Tuesday, January 12**

*Ordinary Time Weekday*

7:45am Rev. Kieran Kemner; Colleen Conway Grace

**Wednesday, January 13**

*St. Hilary*

7:45am Guido Guy Pertile; Matthew Stephani

**Thursday, January 14**

*Ordinary Time Weekday*

7:45am Bill Alberts; Adeline VanBeek

**Friday, January 15**

*Ordinary Time Weekday*

7:45am Lois & Louis Stork; Bridget Dowdle

**Saturday, January 16**

*Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00am Bridget Dowdle; Patrick Gowan

5:00pm John Fash; Susanne Walsh & Pete Capellani

**Sunday, January 17**

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30am Mildred Domagal; Lola Bartucci

9:00am John Anderson; Robert Lawson

10:45am Dave Woodward; Bill Allen

12:15pm Joseph Maleszka; Matthew Stefani

5:00pm Roland Mike Marshall; Caryl Wall

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**Pray for our Sick**

Jean Allen

Guido Arquilla

Therese Bonneau

Lorraine Brandt

Judy Burke

Gloria Deisman

Mildred Fitzgerald

John Gazdacka

Don Heldmann

Lynn Jeffery

Don King

George Kojima

Carol Martin

John Martin

Donnie Misiora

JoAnne Klein

Steve Pechous

Frank Pipal

Bobbie Misiora

Alice Myers

Marion Pascale

Maurice Redmand

Dan Mulcahy

Roberta Ohlquist

Ron Tamer

Maria Olson

Theresa Vana

Steve Peck

Marian Pascale

Don Vollmer

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**Pray for Our Beloved Dead**

Marguerite Schroeder, mother of Craig

Lois Geraghty, friend of Pat Wees

Margaret Mulville, mother of Maureen Mulville, Peggy Frisbie & Kathy Kohut, grandmother of 8, great grandmother of 2

Maureen Soules, sister of Jack Bartz

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May we welcome your lavish love.

May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.

May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead. Amen.
Join in the FUN!

SJC Trivia Night V
Saturday, January 30th
SJC Parish School Gym
Doors open at 6:00pm Games begin at 6:45pm

All are invited to SJC Men’s Club Trivia Night “V”
An evening of fun, socializing and friendly competition
that is sure to test your knowledge!

How You Win
Gather a team of 9 other smart people who can answer 10 rounds of 10 trivia questions correctly within a set time to accumulate the most points. Your written answers will be collected and graded for correctness. Brain power only—No laptops, I-pads, or smart phones allowed.

Get A Theme
Each team is encouraged to have a theme to add to the fun and competitive spirit of the evening. The theme can be based on clothing/costumes and/or the food and drink that you bring. Examples include Chicago sports teams, Star Wars, Disco, favorite movie, etc. Be creative!!

BYOFD
This is a “Bring Your Own Food and Drink” event. Each team can bring whatever food and drink it wishes to consume during the event. In the past teams have enjoyed home cooked meals, fast food carryout items, appetizers or whatever you like! You will not have access to a kitchen. And don’t forget a cooler for beverages. Alcohol is acceptable to bring as attendees must be over 21.

Sign Up Today
Tickets are $200.00 per team/table of 10. Just fill out the form below and drop it off at the Parish Center with your fee or register on our parish website. Note: Table Captains, be sure to provide your email and phone in case we need to contact you. For registration and more information, you may contact Dan Montgomery @ 312.952.1435 or John Cisek @ 312.327.1295.

Team Name:
Team Captain: Phone/Email:
Team Member Names:
1. 6.
2. 7.
3. 8.
4. 9.
5.