The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
Dear Parishioners,

We had a visit last week from Dr. Jim Riggs who is the new (3 months) Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the archdiocese. Our principal, Mrs. Kathleen Gorman, proudly gave him a tour of the school. He was quite impressed with our faculty, students and facility. We welcome him to visit as often as he’d like during his tenure in Chicago.

Next Monday some of the staff and lay leaders will gather with me at St. Francis of Rome with all the other parishes of our Vicariate under Bishop John Manz. We will be discussing the larger trends of schools and parishes across the archdiocese. It seems Archbishop Cupich is trying to have as many people as possible understand the challenge of our archdiocese. He seems poised to make some decisions that have been long in coming. We simply cannot sustain all the institutions that were built when the population of the archdiocese was entirely different than it is today. Archbishop Cupich is moving prudently and trying to bring along as many priests, lay professionals and active laity to make sure that as many people as possible understand as much as possible why these decisions will be made. Exactly when these decisions will happen has not been announced; yet I can’t help but believe that it will certainly be within the year or very near future.

I am announcing at all the Masses this weekend that next weekend is the Annual Catholic Appeal. As I explained in November, we are coupling this appeal with our obligation to contribute $1.2 million to the archdiocese by 2022. Your generosity has been very stable for the past several years and every dollar over our goal (approximately $140,000.00 this year) has been able to be put into savings. Going forward we will put whatever overage there may be toward the balance of what we owe the archdiocese. I’d like to pay it off as quickly as possible but if it takes us seven years that is fine too.

It is not just a balance we owe. It is our obligation to participate in the mission of the archdiocese. We are so richly blessed and are able to offer all of our children the best of Catholic education, whether from the parish school or through our Youth Catechesis program. Our staff is at the service of this large parish in everything from the practical of the buildings and grounds to Sunday worship to adult spirituality opportunities. We need to support other parishes and schools as they try their best to provide for their people as well.

We’re taking this approach rather than also asking you for an additional $1.8 million as the archdiocese wanted us to do. There was no compelling reason to have a capitool campaign for the parish at this time. We are proceeding with plans that will update the security in all of our buildings, beginning this summer. The front entrance of the school building will be reconfigured to provide for greater security of access to the building. Additional cameras and other enhancements will also be implemented. We have the money for these improvements already in our savings so there is no need to keep asking for more money at this time. We will use the savings for exactly the reason why we have savings: so we can accomplish these kinds of projects without the unnecessary financial burden that a three to five year pledge drive would require.

Stay warm and watch out for each other, especially homebound neighbors and seniors. That is part of what community is all about.

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David

“A child asked me – you know that kids ask difficult questions – he asked me ‘Father, what did God do before creating the world?’” the pope said. “I assure you, I found real difficulty in answering the question. So I said what I’m now going to say to you: Before creating the world, God loved. Because God is love.” (Pope Francis in Tom McGrath’s new book, “Dear Pope Francis,” a compilation of letters from children around the world to the Pope)
# How Your Gift Is Used

## 2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Priorities of the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal</th>
<th>Amount (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Communities: support for parishes and schools serving financially challenged communities</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education: support for youth, young adult, campus and adult religious education ministries</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Life: programs to support the mission of the Church in parishes</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Transformation: programs to revitalize local parish communities</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Relief Services: assisting the poor and vulnerable overseas</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Formation: continuing education for lay volunteers and staff serving in parish communities</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest Education: continuing education for priests ordained for the Archdiocese</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect Life: activities to promote the dignity of life from conception to natural death</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice: activities supporting Catholic social teaching through Kolbe House prison ministry and Peace &amp; Justice initiatives</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Rebates: when an individual parish exceeds their Annual Catholic Appeal target, all funds raised over the target are returned to the parish for use with their local ministries</td>
<td>$3,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministries Total</td>
<td>$13,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of the Appeal: design, printing, postage, production, staff and vendors who implement the Annual Catholic Appeal</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Annual Catholic Appeal Goal</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any funds raised are carefully spent; it is money for God’s work and we use it accordingly.

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 next weekend when you will also have an opportunity to contribute to the Appeal.
Background on the Gospel

Today's Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be his custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

As Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God. Loyola Press

May we proclaim by our way of living the glad tidings of God's favor.
May there be liberty for captives, sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed, and glad tidings for the poor.

Living the Gospel

In this Gospel Jesus clearly proclaims who he is and what he comes to bring. He is One who lives "in the power of the Spirit"; he comes to bring a new teaching. He is God's anointed; he comes to bring the human community glad tidings, liberty, sight, freedom, favor. He is the long-awaited Messiah; he comes to bring manifest signs of salvation. The "eyes of all . . . looked intently at him." Do our eyes look intently upon him? Why should we? Because in Jesus all our longings, all our hopes, all our expectations are fulfilled. Jesus' word is a creative word fulfilled in him and continues in the gospel in which we ourselves encounter Jesus and are moved to be disciples.

Jesus is enshrined today in the lives of those who encounter him. Now we—our own lives—announce the meaning of the Word proclaimed and enfleshed. We can do so because, like Jesus, in our baptism we also have been anointed with the Spirit. By our baptism we have received a share in Jesus' saving deeds. As his followers, we make present his saving mystery. Living the gospel means that we continually look for the poor, captive, blind, and oppressed among us. We don’t have to look very far! “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled” is now true only when we ourselves respond to those around us who need a nourishing, strengthening, joyful word. This means that God's word isn’t something we only hear on Sunday, but becomes a living word in our hearts, inspiring us to be in our very selves living Gospels. As we gradually grow into being anointed by the Spirit, we, like Jesus, are the fulfillment of the Scriptures.
Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:
Lauren and Jeffrey Green
Emily and Steven Tazic and Family
Jayne Ingles and Family
Patricia Moran
Sarah and John Horwath and Family
Shannon and Gregory Morrissey and Family
Kathleen and Donald Peters
Benjamin George

If you would like to register to become a member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

"Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Lk 6:36-38

As we strive to live out the mercy and love of God, we should take heart in the motto for the Jubilee of Mercy, "Merciful Like the Father" (MV, nos. 13-14). What does it mean to be merciful like the Father—how is God merciful? Throughout Scripture, we see many examples of God’s mercy, such as his judgment of individuals and nations. Additionally, powerful examples are found in God’s salvific actions throughout history—in the history of Israel in the Old Testament, in the prophets, in the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ, in the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, etc. Mercy is not just an act of clemency for those who have done wrong. It is a way of life that is manifested in the compassion, love, and joy we see that God has for all creation.

While it is easy to see how God is merciful through the witness of the Scriptures and the life of the Church, it is sometimes challenging for us to apply it to our daily actions. How do we live out what Christ calls us to in Scripture? Our ability to live out this motto is dependent on our accepting God’s superabundant love and mercy that he pours out on us. Once we are nourished with God’s mercy and allow his merciful love to transform us, we are better able to show others this merciful love (MV, no. 14). Adopting a merciful attitude is not simply a spiritual action; it also includes physical acts that witness to God’s love. Luke 6:37-38 provides us with examples of how our actions can reflect the way that God treats us: through not judging or condemning, by forgiving others, and by giving generously to others (MV, no. 14). However, our actions of mercy are not simply things we do so that we will be judged worthy by God. They are actions that flow from our embrace of God’s mercy and love for us. By showing mercy and love to others, we illustrate how we have accepted God’s merciful love and how we want to continue this outpouring of mercy (MV, no. 14).

Reflection Questions
1. Where do I see God’s love and mercy acting in my own life? What is one way that I can receive these gifts from God and acknowledge them in my own spiritual life?
2. What does it mean for me, for my family, or for my parish, to be merciful as God is merciful? How can I/we concretely express this merciful attitude that is grounded on the love of God?
Richard Rohr Meditation:
Love Within Me

Great religion seeks utter awareness and full consciousness, so that we can, in fact, receive all. Everything belongs and everything can be received. We don't have to deny, dismiss, defy, or ignore. What is, is okay. What is, is the great teacher.

The purpose of prayer and religious seeking is to see the truth about reality, to see what is. And at the bottom of what is is always goodness. The foundation is always love.

Enlightenment is to see and touch the big mystery, the big pattern, the Big Real. Jesus called it the kingdom of God; Buddha called it enlightenment. Philosophers might call it Truth. Many of us see it as a Foundational Love. Here is a mantra you might repeat throughout your day to remind yourself of this:

God's life is living itself in me.
I am aware of life living itself in me.
God's love is living itself in me.
I am aware of love living itself in me.

You cannot not live in the presence of God. This is not soft or sentimental spirituality, but ironically demands confidence that must be chosen many times and surrender that is always hard won.

Gateway to Silence
God's life is living itself in me.

Instead of complaining that the rose bush is full of thorns, be happy the thorn bush has roses.
—German Proverb

Jubilee of Mercy Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zaccheaus and Matthew
from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness
only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all
by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also
be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion
for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them
feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us
with His anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of
Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father

Can you think of a moment that came as a complete relief? Remember the lightness in your chest, the warmth that filled you? That is what gratitude feels like. —Excerpted from Wholehearted Living by Jennifer Grant
Job Search Help: Interfaith Career Network

**How to Fortify Your Job Search Tactics:**
**Thursday, February 4 from 7-9 pm at St. Cletus**
Mike Vogel, Director of Sales with Indeed.com. will share ideas on utilizing LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor and other sites to improve your chances in the ever-evolving job market.

**Career Transition Boot Camp Week 2:**
**Tuesday, January 26, 7-9 pm at First Presb. Church of La Grange**
Dennis Hamilton will provide a special presentation on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments which are the keys to preparing a compelling resume and elevator speech, as well as how to assess your skills and prepare a strategy to make a job change.

**Free Resume Review:**
**Saturday, February 6 from 9-11 am at St. Cletus**
Come in for a helpful 20-minute one-on-one conversation with a search related professional for help with your resume and elevator speech and discuss search strategies.

**Nurturing Your Child’s Spirituality at The Well in LaGrange**
**Tuesdays 10:30-Noon Feb 9; Mar 8; Apr 12; May 10**
Children come to the planet as spiritual beings. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or teacher, your role is about calling forth and naming children’s experiences of the Sacred. In this safe, interactive circle we will explore and name our understanding of God moving within and among us so that we may do the same for the little people in our lives. Facilitator: Bridget Sperduto Cost: $15/session Go to csjthewell.org

**Adult Confirmation**
Adults who have been baptized, received First Eucharist, and who have participated in religious formation, but who have not been confirmed are invited to attend vicariate confirmation preparation sessions beginning February 15 from 7-9pm at St. Frances of Rome in Cicero. Class dates are February 15, 22, & 29, March 7, 14, 21, & 28 and April 4 & 11. Confirmation will be held at St. Ferdinand Church in Chicago on April 26, 2016 at 7pm. To register contact Javier Castillo at 312.534.8032. Please call or email Fr. Bill Vollmer if you have any questions.

**SJC Sponsored Program at The Well**
“Only the Heart Can Slow the Pace of a Digital Life” on Saturday, February 13 from 9:00-3:00 pm (includes lunch) with presenter, Wayne Muller. Free to SJC parishioners. Call the Parish Center to register.

> The heart needs time, to know what only the heart knows.

> The essential qualities of life we hold sacred or precious, all need time to grow. Love needs time to deepen, find its roots, blossom in fullness of color and fragrance. Wisdom requires time to be tested, challenged, deepening its reliability in seasons of distress.

> As we slowly carve time into smaller and smaller parcels of care and attention, we deny the heart what it needs to actively guide and shape our lives, our choices or decisions. Together, we create a way of life that denies the need for any real wisdom, trust, honesty, community, or love in the world. And, rather than slow down, we choose to do without.

> This is the world we built. This is how we live, but is this the world we want? We cannot fix this alone, we need one another. So let us come together and explore how to save our lives, remember the ancient rhythms of life and time, remember the Sabbath, and claim the unhurried time we need for life, beauty and joy. www.waynemuller.com and www.BreadfortheJourney.org

**Tax Statements**
Tax statements were mailed to those parishioners who have requested them in prior years. If you would like a statement of your donations to our parish please contact Marguerite Chrusciel. mchrusciel@stjohnofthecross.org.

**Lent 2016**
Lent begins in a few short weeks on February 10, 2016. Please note a small change in our Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:
6:30am Mass
7:30am Mass (Note time change)
9:15am School Mass
4:00pm Word Service
6:30pm Mass

**Little Black Books**
**Little Black Books** for Lenten prayer will be available after all Masses the weekend before Ash Wednesday on February 6-7. Also mark your calendar to join Steve Weigand’s Lenten Journey of Discovery 12-Step Spirituality for Everyone Series on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons during Lent. See the back cover of today’s bulletin.

**Food Pantry Collection**
Bring nonperishable food to the church narthex for those in need. During the month of January our donations will go to St. Barbara Food Pantry in Brookfield. Thank you for your continued generosity to the hungry in our midst.

**Livestock for Life**
Thanks to your generosity, the St. John of the Cross Parish community had another successful Livestock for Life holiday campaign for our friends at Holy Cross Parish in Jinja, Uganda. Maureen Boor, Livestock for Life Coordinator

> Every Christian community should be an oasis of charity and warmth in the midst of a desert of solitude and indifference. Pope Francis @Pontifex Jan 15
Spotlight on St. Gall

Our newest sharing parish, St. Gall, is not unlike St. John of the Cross when it comes to worship, activities, and social justice. Our partnership enriches both parishes in these areas.

The altar at St. Gall becomes a striking focal point for each church celebration. Depicted are the transformation of the ordinary time altar for the celebrations of El Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead), The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and The Nativity of Our Lord.

St. Gall School gets in the Christmas spirit just as our students do here at SJC. Festivities included a breakfast with Santa as well as an opportunity for the early education and primary grades to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and an unidentified reindeer one school morning and leave with a goodie bag provided by St. Gall’s business manager.

Food collections from SJC, as well as turkey and ham donations helped to bring much appreciated blessings to the tables of St. Gall families. Collections from YC aided in dressing children in much needed cold weather clothing and provided hats and gloves for the homeless. “Blessing Bags” containing basic hygiene necessities were assembled by SJC preschoolers and kindergarteners which were then distributed by the St. Gall youth group, AGAPE, to the homeless on the street. This is outreach in action!

A pen pal program between volunteer writers at SJC and the 5th and 7th graders at St. Gall was launched in December. Our student correspondents are eagerly awaiting the first response to their letters.

It is quite evident that this is a blossoming relationship between parishes. We welcome what 2016 will bring.

Cathy Pesch, St. Gall Sharing Parish Rep
During the month of January our students celebrate diversity at all grade levels. The Kindergarten children did activities that focused on appreciating that God makes many of us alike and different. Our seventh graders prepared a special all school liturgy for us on diversity. During the liturgy, our students displayed posters with all of the entire schools' thumbprints to recognize we are all different and special. The eighth graders worked on special artwork celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We also had a very special visitor this week. Dr. Jim Rigg, Superintendent of Chicago Catholic Schools, spent Monday with us. He visited many classrooms and even read to some of our students. Dr. Rigg, Mrs. Lombard, and Mrs. Gorman are pictured to the right with students.

This Week at SJC
Monday, January 25   Spelling Bee, Grades 4-8  at 3:45pm
School Multi Purpose Room

Parish School Winter Gala
The Teacher Recognition Trust Fund (TRT) was established 26 years ago by school parents to provide an annual financial gift to the school faculty and staff to supplement their income and lessen the salary gap that exists relative to public school employees. Each year the TRT committee has held a fundraiser that celebrates our teachers and staff for their continued service and commitment to our parish school and supports the fund.

The decision to send a child to a Catholic school is a choice that often comes with financial sacrifice for families. This year, partnering with parents, the Parish School Advisory Board will team up with the TRT to celebrate our joint commitment to providing a premier faith based education in the tradition of excellence that is provided at our parish school. Funds raised at this year’s Winter Gala will be used as an additional revenue source to keep tuition rates as affordable as possible for all families as well as for the TRT Fund to continue to provide a gift to our faculty and staff. Thank you for supporting Catholic education at SJC!

St. John of the Cross Parish

Winter Gala
FEBRUARY 20, 2016
Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook

Featuring
Live and Silent Auction, Dinner, Drinks and Dancing
Entertainment by
Underwater People and Artbeat Live

To sponsor or donate auction items
Contact Mike Hynes at mike.hynes@gc.com

A group rate has been negotiated on rooms at the Hyatt. Visit the School Website for info and book by 1/26/16.

SJC Athletic Association Fundraiser
2016 Men’s Smoker
Friday, February 5
7 until 11pm
Coulter American Legion Post   LaGrange
Join us for a night of fun and friendship benefitting SJC athletics. Enjoy food, beverages, cards, and great conversation.
Cost: $65.00 --- includes pizza, assorted drinks, and a gift!
Return form below to school office. For more information, contact: Phil May pmm10@comcast.net 708-814-7445 or Brian Shannon brianshannon1@att.net 708-494-3333

Name
Email
I will be attending the SJC Smoker for $65
Additional Guests:

I would like to make an additional contribution to the Athletic Association. $100 $250 $500
I cannot attend but would like to make a tax deductible contribution in the amount of $_____

Amount Enclosed $__________  Make checks payable to SJC School.
Students: Earn Service Hours for Helping at Mass

All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in YC and our Parish School are invited to serve our parish as Student Ushers during our Annual Catholic Appeal. Sign up your son or daughter on our parish website home page to be a Student Usher at one of the Masses on the weekends of January 30-31 and February 6-7. 14 students are needed at each Mass to help pass out and collect envelopes during the homily.

Students are expected to attend one fifteen minute practice in church on Tuesday, January 26 or February 2 from 3:45-4pm or 4:00-4:15pm. If your student wants to serve at a Mass but cannot attend a practice, please contact MJ at the Parish Center to make other arrangements.

Helping as a Student Usher will count as 2 Service Experiences for Confirmation. Attending the Practice will count as 1 Experience.

Saintly Senior Valentine Luncheon Reservation

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
Phone: ________________________________
Guest Names: _________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
# Members: ______
# Guests: ______
Amount Enclosed: $______
St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their children baptized last Sunday by Fr. Bill. Pictured with their godparents from the left are Jeremy and Aimee Hojnicki with infant, Julia Kathryn, and Michael and Abbey Schroeder with infant, Savannah Grace.

The Ingles family is pictured with Fr. Bill on the right. Infant, Jack David Ingles, is held by his mother, Jayne, with godparents.

2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated annually from January 18 (traditional feast of St. Peter) through January 25 (feast of St. Paul). The observance is sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the Catholic Church’s Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. During this week-long celebration and throughout the year, Christians are invited to gather with their Christian neighbors and join in prayer for Christian Unity.

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may you give to all Christians, and especially to those entrusted with leadership in your Church, the spirit of wisdom and revelation. With the eyes of our hearts may we see the hope to which you have called us: one body and one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above and through all and in all. Amen.

Mom’s Club News
Friday, February 5 at 9:15am in the Parish Center. Play Date. Snacks and prayer provided. Bring your own coffee.

Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30pm. Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday celebration for the moms!! It’ll be a fun time for a casual get together with a few materials about parenting and praying during the Lenten season. More details to come. Line up your childcare!

Friday, February 19 at 9:15am Parish Center. Babysitting provided with a Speaker arranged for moms. Details to come.

Saturday, February 27 from 4pm-6:30pm at the Village Club in WS. A FAMILY Open House! Food, drinks and fun activities for the kids. It’ll be a fun way to get to know moms, dads and kids that are normally at work or in school.

Thank you again to Carolyn Wyness for hosting the cocktail party last week. We had an excellent turn out and met lots of new women! Great way to kick off 2016! Join our email list at sjcmomsclub@gmail.com
A simple prayer:
"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat," is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

Join YC students during Super Bowl by placing an “O” in Super for Souper Bowl Sunday

In 1990 a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created Souper Bowl of Caring, and have rallied youth across the US to raise over $100 million for people in need. On Sunday February 7th, millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and eating a warm meal.

Please join the young people of our Youth Catechesis Program as they demonstrate God’s love by caring for their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It is a simple, yet significant act. Drop off a can of soup, non-perishable food items or a monetary donation on February 7th and 8th.

Our youth are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Everything collected will be donated to area food pantries chosen by YC Council, Please give generously.

YC Schedule
Classes K-6 10:15-11:30am  Sun, Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 21
6:15-7:30pm  Mon, Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, 22
FFC Noon-1:30 pm  Sun, Feb 7
Jr Hi Sm Groups Jan 24 - all 7th gr in Parish Center 6:30-8:30pm
Jan 24 - 8th gr in home setting
Adapted Catechesis 9:00-10:00am  Jan 24, Feb 7, 24

Calendar of Events
Home Groups meet tonight 1/28 - Coordinator Meeting 7pm

Movie Night
All teens are invited to a movie night at the Parish Center on Saturday, January 30, at 6:00pm. Pizza and popcorn will be served. It will be a lot of fun so bring your friends and join us after 5:00pm Mass

Book Study
Parents of teens will meet to study the book, The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the Parish Center beginning January 28. Join us as we 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! Contact Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net to register.

Want to Get Involved?
Adults are invited to come to our next update meeting and find out what our Crossroads leadership team is all about. Join us on February 7 at 10:00am in the Parish Center.

Summer Work Tours
Summer Work Tour information and registration packets will be available next week on our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/work-tours/
June 19-25
Habitat for Humanity, Newburgh, NY
June 27-July 1
Notre Dame Vision Conference
July 23-30
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Williamsburg, KY
Dates are being finalized for a local work tour.

The Gospel calls us to be close to the poor and forgotten, and to give them real hope. Pope Francis @Pontifex Jan 19

YC Scale
Grace Reflected: The Seeds of Joy
Women’s Club Day Retreat Experience
Welcoming back Laura Field
Spiritual Director at Old St Pat’s
Saturday, March 5
9am-3pm
Morton Arboretum-Lisle, IL
$50
Space is limited.
RSVP marie@gracereflected.com by February 27
Questions Marie Gerken 630-235-7035
Tiffany White 630-745-0474
Checks can be made out to St John of the Cross
Women’s Club and dropped off at Parish Center or
pay on our parish website.

Fr. McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship
Applications Due February 8
Each year through fundraising efforts, the Women’s Club is
able to offer scholarships to 8th grade students in YC and
our parish school and current high school students of our
parish to help defray Catholic high school tuition costs.
Applications, with a current report card, are available in the
Parish Center, YC office, and school office and are due by
February 8th to Katie Hayes, Director of Crossroads in the
Parish Center. Recipients will be notified by mid-March.

SJC Trivia Night V
Saturday, January 30
Parish School Gym
Doors Open @ 6pm
Games Begin @ 6:45pm
All are invited to the 5th Annual
Men’s Club Trivia Night
— an Evening of Fun, Socializing
and Friendly Competition!
Teams of 10 compete
to see who can correctly answer
the most trivia questions.
Each team selects a Theme
for their table and clothing.
Bring your favorite food and drinks.
No kitchen access.
Sign up Today.
Tickets are $200 for a table of ten.
Drop off the form below at the
Parish Center.
More info on the parish website or call
John @312-327-1295 or Dan @ 312-952-1435.

Team Name:
Captain:
Phone/Email:
Team Member Names (9)
At end of every Roman Catholic liturgy, there is an invitation given to the people to receive a blessing. That invitation is worded this way: Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. The idea behind that, obviously, is that a blessing can only truly be received in reverence, in humility, with head bowed, with pride and arrogance subjugated and silent.

A bowed head is a sign of humility and is understood, almost universally, as our proper spiritual posture. Spiritual writers have rarely questioned or felt the need to nuance the notion that spiritual health means a head bowed in humility. But is it really that simple?

Admittedly there is a lot of wisdom in that. A head bowed in reverence is a sign of humility. Moreover pride heads the list of deadly sins. Human pride is congenital, deep, and impossible to uproot. It can be redeemed and it can be crushed, but it always remains in us, necessarily so. There is no health without pride, but pride can also derail health. There is something inside of human nature, inherent in our very individuality and freedom, which does not like to bend the knee before what is higher and superior. We guard our pride fiercely and it is no accident that the archetypal image of resistance to God is expressed in Lucifer’s inflexible, pride-anchored statement: I will not serve!

Moreover we do not like to admit weakness, finitude, dependence, and interdependence. Thus all of us have to grow and mature to a place where we are no longer naive and arrogant enough to believe that we do not need God’s blessing. All spirituality is predicated on humility. Maturity, human and spiritual, is most evident in someone whom you see on his or her knees praying.

But, while pride can be bad, sometimes pride and arrogance are not the problem. Rather our struggle is with a wounded and broken spirit that no longer knows how to stand upright. It is one thing to be young, healthy, strong, arrogant, and unaware of how fragile and finite we are (and that illusion can survive and stay with us into old age); but it is quite another thing to have one’s heart broken, one’s spirit crushed, and one’s pride taken away. When that happens, and it happens to all of us if we are half-sensitive and live long enough, wounded pride does some very negative things in us, it cripples us so that we can no longer truly get off our knees, stand upright, raise our heads, and receive love and blessing.

I remember as a child, growing up on a farm, watching something that was then called “breaking a horse”. The men would catch a young colt which had until then run completely free and they would, through a rather brutal process, force the young colt to submit to halter, saddle, and human commands. When the process was finished, the colt was now compliant to human commands. But the process of breaking the horse’s freedom and spirit was far from gentle, and thus yielded a mixed result. The horse was now compliant, but part of its spirit was broken.

That’s an apt image for the journey, both human and spiritual. Life, in ways that are far from gentle, eventually breaks our spirit, for good and for bad, and we end up humble, but we also end up somewhat wounded and unable to (metaphorically) stand upright. Conscripted humility has a double effect: On the one hand, we find that we more-naturally genuflect before what is higher; but, on the other hand, because the pain of our brokenness, as is so often the case with pain, we focus more upon ourselves than on others and we end up handicapped. Bruised and fragile, we are unable to properly give and receive and are stuttering and reticent in sharing the goodness and depth of our own persons.

Spirituality and religion have, for the most part, been too one-sided on this. They have perennially been vigilant about pride and arrogance (and, admittedly, these are real and are forever the deadly sins). But spirituality and religion have been too slow to lift up the fallen. We all know the dictum that the task of spirituality is to afflict the comforted and comfort the afflicted. Historically, religion and spirituality, while not always being very successful with the former, have been too-negligent of the latter.

Pride and arrogance are the deadliest of all vices. However wounded pride and a broken spirit can equally derail us.

So, perhaps when the church blesses its congregation at the end of a liturgy, it might, instead of saying: Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing, say instead: Those of you who think you are not in need of this blessing: Please bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. Meanwhile those of you who feel beaten, broken, and unworthy of this blessing: Raise your heads to receive a love and gift that you have long despaired of ever again receiving.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Monday, January 25
9:30am Spiritual Journaling
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00pm Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30pm Adoration
3:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
6:15pm York Faith Formation
7:00pm Boy Scouts
7:00pm Consolation Ministry Training

Tuesday, January 26
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
7:00pm RCIA
7:30pm Christian Meditation

Wednesday, January 27
9:30am Gospel of John Bible Study
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:45pm Cherub Choir Practice
7:00pm Chicago Catholic Scripture School
7:00pm Crossroads Coordinator Meeting
7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice

Thursday, January 28
9:00am Flourish
3:45pm Youth Choir Practice
7:00pm Crossroads Parent Book Club
7:30pm Contemporary Choir Practice

Friday, January 29
Saturday, January 30
7:00am Christian Meditation
6:00pm Crossroads Movie Night
6:00pm Trivia Night

Sunday, January 31
10:15am YC Faith Formation
12:00pm Karios 22 Parent Meeting

Pray for Our Sick
Jean Allen
Guido Arquilla
Lorraine Brandt
Judy Burke
Mildred Fitzgerald
Lynn Freking
Christopher Gallagher

John Gazdacka
Karen Hult
Lynn Jeffery
Don King
JoAnn Klein
George Kojima
Carol Martin

John Martin
Frank Pipal
Bobbie Misiora
Frank Mraz
Dan Mulcahy
Alice Myers
Roberta Ohlquist
Marian Pascale

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Laura Murphy,
Guido Arquilla,
Lorraine Brandt,
Mildred Fitzgerald,
Judy Burke,
Lynn Freking,
Christopher Gallagher,

Jean Allen,
Guido Arquilla,
Lorraine Brandt,
Mildred Fitzgerald,
Judy Burke,
Lynn Freking,
Christopher Gallagher,

John Gazdacka,
Karen Hult,
Lynn Jeffery,
Don King,
JoAnn Klein,
George Kojima,
Carol Martin,

John Martin,
Frank Pipal
Bobbie Misiora
Frank Mraz
Dan Mulcahy
Alice Myers
Roberta Ohlquist
Marian Pascale

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country
Sgt. Steven Foody,
Specialist Sebastian Grabacki,
A1C Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue,

Robert VanWhye

Don Vollmer

Suggestions for sharing your faith with family and friends:
- Witness your faith with your own family and friends by gently stating, “I believe…”
- Warmly greet others at Mass whom you do not know.
- Tactfully change the direction of the conversation at home and school when things take an uncharitable or gossipy turn.
- Send a sympathy or get well card to neighbors or friends assuring them of your prayers.
This Lent you are invited to take a journey from the head to heart. Originally associated with Alcoholics Anonymous, 12-Step Spirituality is widely recognized as an approach to life for everyone. 12 Steps for Everyone is a 6 week Lenten journey rooted in Christian spirituality and based on our belief that there is a profound hunger inside each of us that only God can fill.

That desire for intimacy with God is our deepest longing and can only be satisfied in relationship with God. In the attempt to fill the ‘hole in the soul’ with something other than God, we exchange lasting peace and serenity for short-term pleasure.

The Lenten Journey of Discovery is for anyone: Does your faith and prayer life need a jump start? Do you experience increased levels of stress and fatigue? Do you feel weighed down by worry, anxiety or fear? Are you looking for a way to manage unhealthy patterns of behavior?

Adapted from talks by Fr. Anthony Ciorra, Fr. Richard Rohr and others, 12-Steps for Everyone utilizes the spiritual principles of AA so that anyone with a willingness to ‘Let Go and Let God’ can begin to experience lasting peace and serenity.

Participants will receive a binder that includes Scripture references, reflection questions, additional resources and suggestions on how to get the most from each step. All sessions are held in the Parish Center. Each session will be offered twice weekly on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. Register by February 5 for material prep.

Week 1: February 9 & February 11    Week 2: February 16 & February 18    Week 3: February 23 & February 25
Week 4: March 1 & March 3    Week 5: March 8 & March 10    Week 6: March 15 & March 17

Facilitated by Steve Weigand, Pastoral Associate. Call Steve with questions at 708-246-4404.

12-Step Spirituality for Everyone Lenten Registration

Name:  
Email:  
Phone:  
Preferred Day: Tuesday _____ Thursday _____ Drop off at the Parish Center or register on our website.