Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2016
Dear Parishioners,

With all the attention caused by the translations when the Roman Missal was published a few years ago, I was surprised/disappointed that at least one major correction was overlooked. The translation that comes out as ‘ordinary’ would be better translated as ‘ordinal’, or again, as ‘counting’. For most native English speakers the title “Ordinary Time” would lead one to believe that this means that we are in the time of year that is not special. That is true once you understand the significance of the liturgical seasons. But it could not be further from the truth when you understand the focus being on the life and ministry of Jesus. Perhaps our Protestant brothers and sisters title the Sundays of the year in a more helpful way.

The liturgical seasons are the highest priority of the liturgical year, with Holy Week and the Triduum being the highest priority of all. Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter are the primary liturgical seasons. Sunday ranks as the high priority of the week following in the tradition handed on from the early Church as the day of Christ’s resurrection. With this special importance, Sundays in Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter take precedence over solemnities and feasts of the Lord. Sundays in Ordinary time yield to feasts and solemnities. A quick example: when December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday in Advent it is moved to the next day, Monday, December 9th. The Advent Sunday takes precedence. On the other hand, when the Feast of the Dedication of St. John Lateran (November 9th) falls on a Sunday, it takes precedence over the Sunday in Ordinary time. With good pastoral reason, the readings can be changed on Sundays in Ordinary time but cannot be changed during Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

So how do we refer to the times in between the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter? We use the unfortunate phrase of ‘ordinary time’ but what we mean is ‘ordinal time’, or ‘counting time’. So we have the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time today. Some Protestant denominations have a more liturgical way of counting and a more descriptive method. Today would be referred to as the ‘Second Sunday after the Epiphany’ and so on as time passes until we get to the First Sunday of Lent. The same is true after the Easter Season, which ends with the Feast of Pentecost. The designation becomes the ‘Fifth Sunday after Pentecost’ and so forth. IMHO it would be a worthy change to imitate the way other Christian churches mark the progress of the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the year.

There is nothing ‘ordinary’ about the second Sunday in Ordinary time, but it is a way of counting time. Neither should there be anything ‘ordinary’ about our discipleship. It is up to each one of us and all of us to be the light and love of Christ in the world today. How extraordinary!

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David
Living the Gospel

What is Jesus’ “hour”? It is a time of the revelation of God’s immense gift of abundance. In this gospel, not one jar of water became wine, but six. Not a little bit of wine, but over a hundred gallons. Not partially filled jars, but “to the brim.” Not inferior wine, but “good wine.” Not just one sign, but “the beginning of his signs.” More is yet to come. In the “more” is God’s abundance—a sign of the fullness of life and love God offers us.

The epiphany of Jesus’ glory is a sign of the persistence of God’s overtures of love to us, a love so immense that it is not measurable, not able to be contained, not ever exhausted. There are signs of God’s abundant love—God’s most lavish gift to us—all around us. What are the signs? Obvious miracles, yes, in Jesus’ time. But many miracles are still happening today: the gift of life at the birth of a baby, the peace of reconciliation, the warmth of faithful love, the satisfaction of success, the beauty of a sunrise or sunset. God’s glory is revealed in many signs of abundance. Abundance, ultimately, is a sign of messianic times, of God’s fullness of salvation offered to us. This is why Jesus came. In the abundance of who he is, Jesus reveals the fullness of who we might become. God’s glory is God’s Presence. Yes, God’s glory is revealed in many signs of abundance. Most fully in Jesus himself. Most fully in us, the Body of Christ, as we come to deeper belief and continue his ministry. ©Living Liturgy

Readings for the week:

Monday
1 Sam 15:16-23
Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday
1 Sam 16:1-13
Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28
Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday
1 Sam 17:32-33, 37, 40-51
Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday
1 Sam 18:6-9, 19:1-7
Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13
Mark 3:7-12

Friday
1 Sam 24:3-21
Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11
Mark 3:13-19

Saturday
2 Sam 11:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27
Ps 80:2-3, 5-7
Mark 3:20-21

3rd Sunday in Ord. Time
Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15
1 Cor 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4, 14-21

Background on the Gospel

In the Church’s liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus’ divinity. Yet awareness of Jesus’ impending passion and death is ever present in John’s Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus’ first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus’ passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John’s Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John’s Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus’ first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John’s Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus’ identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus’ identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciplers are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God’s salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, John’s Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh’s promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus’ miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God’s kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us.
Richard Rohr Meditation: Journey to the Center

Both God’s truest identity and our own True Self are Love. So why isn’t it obvious? How do we find what is supposedly already there? Why should we need to awaken our deepest and most profound selves? And how do we do it? By praying and meditating? By more silence, solitude, and sacraments? Yes to all of the above, but the most important way is to live and fully accept our present reality. This solution sounds so simple and innocuous that most of us fabricate all kinds of religious trappings to avoid taking up our own ignorable, mundane, and ever-present cross of the present moment.

As James Finley says, “The greatest teacher of God’s presence in our life is our life.” For some reason, it is easier to attend church services than quite simply to reverence the real—the “practice of the presence of God,” as some of our saints have called it. Making this commitment doesn’t demand a lot of dogmatic wrangling or managerial support, just vigilance, desire, and willingness to begin again and again. Living and accepting our reality will not feel very spiritual. It will feel like we are on the edges rather than dealing with the essence. Thus most run toward more esoteric and dramatic postures instead of bearing the mystery of God’s suffering and God’s joy inside themselves. But the edges of our lives—fully experienced suffered, and enjoyed—lead us back to the center and the essence, which is Love.

We do not find our own center; it finds us. Our own mind will not be able to figure it out. We collapse back into the Truth only when we are spiritually naked and free—which is probably not very often. We do not think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking. In other words, our journeys around and through our realities, or “circumferences,” lead us to the core reality, where we meet both our truest self and our truest God. We do not really know what it means to be human unless we know God. And, in turn, we do not really know God except through our own broken and rejoicing humanity.

In Jesus, God tells us that God is not different from humanity. Thus Jesus’ most common and almost exclusive self-name is “The Human One” or “A Son of Humanity.” He uses the term seventy-nine times in the four Gospels. Jesus’ reality, his cross, is to say a free “yes” to what his humanity daily asks of him. It seems that we Christians have been worshiping Jesus’ journey instead of doing his journey. The worshiping feels very religious; the latter just feels human and ordinary. We are not human beings on a journey toward Spirit, we are already spiritual beings on a journey toward becoming fully human, which for some reason seems harder precisely because it is so ordinary.

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

“May it be done to me according to your word.”
Luke 1:38

People are often reluctant to deny others. We want to say yes to the requests of others because if we don’t they might think less of us. Perhaps we want to control the outcome when we say yes. Mary’s “yes” to God was one of complete surrender. There is no hint of wanting and expecting control. It is that yes that God wants from us. It is that yes which we should strive for in our relationship with God.

What is it that keeps me from handing over my life to God like Mary did?
What grace do I need to surrender these obstacles to God and say “Yes” as Mary did?

Mary, you uttered the perfect yes. Intercede for me with your Son, that I might stand and say a whole hearted and real yes. Amen.

Time Taken Out

Prayer is time taken out of the linear journey of our days, and it is also our most profound reality. When we pray, we move inward to our God center. Then we move out again. . . to our situation in the world. This movement into the center and out again brings about an act of transformation. This is not to say that we will come out of prayer transfigured, like Jesus on the mountain (though our prayer experience may sometimes be dramatic). Nothing so spectacular! Usually there is a subtle, gentle, almost indiscernible change in our way of being that will carry its healing, changing power out through the layers of our lived experience and infuse the Where of our lives with its Kingdom values. This happens every time we pray, whether we are aware of it or not.

—Excerpted from Inner Compass by Margaret Silf

Prayer for A Working Mother

My Loving Creator, You know how really tired I am. On days when things are really frantic, I consider how you made the world in seven days -- and then I try to remember that you aren’t asking me to re-create that feat.

Please help me to remain a loving mother to my children and to keep some balance in my life. Help me to remember that you are with me in every packed hour of every day. As I am finishing a work project or making dinner or buying the kids shoes, (sometimes all at the same time) help me to remember your loving care for me.

Most of all, my caring Father, let me remember to ask for help and to rely on you for strength when I have none left; for patience when mine is gone; and for the wisdom and endless well of care and love I need in my role as mother.
Practical Suggestions on Visiting the Imprisoned:

- Support or participate in ministries to those who are incarcerated;
- Support programs sponsored by agencies that advocate on behalf of those who are unjustly imprisoned;
- Support job training and educational programs designed to rehabilitate prisoners;
- Pray for the families of inmates; pray the prayer of peace on this page for those imprisoned at Cook County Jail;
- Attend the monthly Santuario Liturgy held on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm in Assumption Church/Kolbe House (our sharing parish) in Chicago. This Mass is for the intention of all who have been touched by crime, violence and its aftermath;
- Support SJC parish collections for inmates at Kolbe House such as postage stamps, clothing: jeans, work shirts and gift certificates to Payless Shoes, CTA cards and office supplies;
- Support efforts that seek the abolition of the death penalty.

Prayer for Peace at Cook County Jail

Gracious God, when St. Maximilian Kolbe was imprisoned at Auschwitz, your Holy Spirit gave him the grace to endure his circumstances with peace-filled dignity, and he became an example of calm and acceptance of Your will. I ask you now to bless the men and women of Cook County Jail with Your peace, particularly during shift changes, when both detainees and staff are under high levels of tension and stress. Heavenly Father, help those involved with the Cook County Jail system to come to a place of inner calm that they might know the words of the Apostle John: “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God, and so we are” (1 John 3:11). We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
How Your Gift Is Used
2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

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

St. John of the Cross Parish celebrates with the following families who had their children baptized in December and January:

A. Fr. Bill baptized Archer Edward on December 20, 2015. Pictured holding Archer are his parents, Kelley and Gil Clark with his brothers.

B. Garrett and Jennifer Fitzgerald hold their infant, Neve Margaret, with her godparents on December 27, 2015.

C. Pictured from the left on December 27, 2015 are Carmen and Dane Gudziunas with baby Audrina Leila, Jessica and Isidro Herrera with baby Jasmyn Ilsse, and Mary and Joseph Malfeo with baby Camille Marie.

D. Pictured from the left are Anthony & Nicole Turano with Sabrina Ariel and Emily & Joseph Turano with infant Matteo Anthony who were baptized on January 2, 2016.

E. Pictured from January 10, 2016 are Eric and Gina Wong with Brandon Michael and his big sister on the left and Febie and Alain Meana with son, Keanu Alapag are on the right.

Have a New Baby? Ready for Baptism?
Learn about infant baptism at our parish. Call the Parish Center and ask for Theresa or Mary Beth weekdays between 9am and 4pm. Or go to our parish website under Sacraments.
Thanks to all who made our celebration of Christmas prayerful and beautiful.

On behalf of the Parish Staff, I want to express our deepest gratitude to the many volunteers, ministers and staff who helped to create and celebrate all of our liturgies of the Advent and Christmas Seasons, especially those on Christmas Eve and Day. Through the many hours of planning and efforts of many dedicated individuals, the liturgies were prayerful and inspiring.

The celebration and the serving of so many who came to the Masses throughout Advent and Christmas would not have been possible without the assistance of our many liturgical ministers. Thank you to our ushers, greeters, sacristans, lectors, communion ministers, and servers.

The music of the seasons was wonderful and helped us all to pray twice. (St. Augustine wrote that when one sings, one prays twice.) Thank you to Jessica Koch, our Director of Music, Ann Bourjaily-Maney, and the choirs, cantors, instrumentalists and accompanists who shared so generously their musical talents and gifts.

The beautiful environment created in our worship space in Advent and Christmas helped to create an inviting and prayerful tone. Thank you to Heidi Drescher, our Church Art and Environment Coordinator, and team who shared their artistic talents in decorating our church as well as our school’s gymnasium and multi-purpose room. Transforming these school spaces is no easy task.

Thank you to all, to the many who made our Advent and Christmas liturgies inspiring and beautiful. It would not have been possible without you. We are grateful to you all.

Fr. Bill Vollmer    Associate Pastor

St. John of the Cross Parish thanks and congratulates Ed and Mary Jamrozik who received the Christifideles Award on Sunday, January 10th at Holy Name Cathedral. The annual award is given to Catholic laypeople who through their participation in parish life have demonstrated a personal and ministerial vocation of responsibility for the Church’s life, springing from the gift and mission of their Baptism.

Mary and Ed, who have been active parishioners for 21 years raising their 8 children in Western Springs, have been dedicated to our parish, especially the Youth Catechesis Program for all these years. Mary has worked in the YC Office welcoming and helping families who come to the office and assisting in many, many valuable ways as well as helping in the Parish Center Office. Ed (known to many on the staff as “Religious Ed”) has directed parking lot traffic during drop-off and pick-up ensuring the safety of the 1000+ YC students.

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

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds to your Spirit, the Spirit of holiness and graciousness. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

NAMII (National Alliance for Mental Illness)
Free Education & Advocacy Series
Joe Monahan will speak on Navigating HIPAA & other Confidentiality Laws
from 1:30-3:00pm on Sunday, January 17th.
This event is free and open to the public.
Oak Park Library 834 Lake Street, Oak Park.
Exploring Priesthood Weekend January 22-24
EPW is a free retreat weekend for seniors in college and post-college age men who are interested in learning more about the priesthood. You will have the opportunity to meet Fr. John Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary, along with other priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese. Through prayer, presentations on seminary life and group discussions, men will gain a better understanding of the priesthood and God’s movement in their lives. The retreat begins on Friday, January 22 at 7pm and ends at noon on Sunday. Each attendee will have a private room. Group discussions will be led by seminarians. Contact Fr. Francis Bitterman at 312-534-8298 or fbitterman@archchicago.org to register.

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!

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 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. It’s not too late to join us. Materials fee: $15.

Aid for Women Mass & Brunch Annual March for Life Chicago TODAY
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.

Women’s Faith Sharing: Flourish
Join us every other Thursday for our new bible study from 9-11am in the Parish Center. 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! Our next gathering is Thursday, January 28.

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

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.
**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 Tuesdays, January 26 or February 2 from 3:45-4pm.

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

**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.

**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.

One goal for each day: to convey the tenderness of Christ to those who are most in need.

Pope Francis @Pontifex 14 Dec 2015

---

**A Lenten Journey of Discovery...**

**To find happiness, hope, peace and freedom**

**The 12-Steps for Everyone: A Spirituality for Lent**

This Lent you are invited on a journey from the head to heart. Originally associated with Alcoholics Anonymous, 12-Step Spirituality is now widely recognized as an approach to life applicable to anyone. By their very nature, the twelve steps offer freedom from control and perfectionism while getting to the heart of our need for happiness, hope, and inner peace.

Adapted from talks given by celebrated expert on Christian spirituality, Fr. Anthony Ciorra, The-12 Steps for Everyone Lenten series will help participants identify the unconscious ways we often create false gods that prevent us from experiencing lasting freedom.

*The 12-Steps for Everyone* series will be offered twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays) throughout Lent. Each participant will receive a 12-Step binder that outlines the Step for the week with helpful prayers, resources and room to write.

Embark on a Lenten pilgrimage to Easter joy!

Watch for more information and to register.
We invite you to join us for our annual celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, beginning Sunday, January 31, 2016. This year’s theme is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service,” which highlights our faith development, academic excellence, and dedication to community service. The following events have been planned for Catholic Schools Week:

Sunday, January 31: Faith, Knowledge, and Service in our Parish
Join us after our 9:00am and 10:45am Masses in the Parish Center for a Coffee and Donut reception to thank our all parishioners for your continued support of our school.

Monday, February 1: Faith, Knowledge, and Service in our Community
Please join us for our all school Mass at 9:15am as we celebrate our community and introduce our Catholic Schools Week service project to our students. This year our students will be working with Holiday Heroes, a not-for-profit

Tuesday, February 2: Faith, Knowledge, and Service in our Families
Our students will be bringing home a special gift for their families, decorating our hallways with their family crests, and writing special notes to their families about the impact that attending a Catholic School has on them.

Wednesday, February 3: Faith, Knowledge and Service in our Volunteers, Faculty, and Staff
After morning drop off all volunteers are invited for a Coffee and Donut reception to show our appreciation for all you do. Our Parent Association will also serve a wonderful lunch for our faculty and staff.

Thursday, February 4: Faith, Knowledge and Service in our Occupations and Vocations
Our younger children have special gifts for our priests and our older children will be experiencing a career day! Today is also our Open House. Please join us from 9:30-11am or 1:30-3pm if you are interested in sending your child to SJC!

Friday, February 5: Faith, Knowledge and Service in our Students
This day will be a day full of spirit for our students. We will have a faculty and staff volleyball game, friendly competitions between grade levels, and the teachers will spend time teaching their hobbies to our students.

St. John of the Cross Parish
Second Sunday in OT
January 17, 2016
Page 11
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 Sunday by placing an “0” in Super for Souper Bowl of Caring

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.

YC Schedule

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

When the world slumbers in comfort and selfishness, our Christian mission is to help it rouse from sleep. Pope Francis @Pontifex Jan 8

Parent Book Study Begins January 28
Parents of teens are invited to a book study and workshop using a video curriculum and the book "The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family." We will meet on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the Parish Center beginning January 28. Please contact Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net to register and to receive additional information.

Summer Work Tours
It’s never too early to begin planning for summer! Mark your calendar with these dates for our Work Tours and Conference:

- June 19-25
Habitat for Humanity, Newburgh, NY
- June 27-July 1
Notre Dame Vision Conference, Notre Dame, IN
- July 23-30
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Williamsburg, KY

Dates for our local Work Tour are being finalized and will be available soon.

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

Dee Dee will have containers available for purchase at the event and will be donating 10% back to the Women’s Club for anything purchased or ordered Thursday night. Specialties include: vodka sauce, bolognese sauce, turkey chili, chicken noodle soup and sausage bread.

Mecenat 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, January 24, 2016.

I am so excited to join the amazing community of women of St. John of the Cross's Women's Club for another mouthwatering evening teaching you techniques and tricks for your next dinner party! With a wine pairing presentation hosted by Mecenat in Western Springs, the event is sure to be an enjoyable evening with...

GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE & GOOD FRIENDS!
Space is limited! No Walk-Ins for this Event

RSVP by January 19th to the Parish Center
$15.00 per person

NAME: _____________________________
NUMBER OF GUESTS: _____ GLUTENFree?: __________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
PHONE: ____________________________
E-MAIL: ____________________________
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ ____________

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DENISE SCHULLO AT DEEC7@HOTMAIL.COM OR JEANNE CONKIN AT JCONKIN1009@YAHOO.COM
Sometimes nothing is a helpful as a good metaphor.

In his book, *The God Instinct*, Tom Stella shares this story: A number of men who made their living as porters were hired one day to carry a huge load of supplies for a group on safari. Their loads were unusually heavy and the trek through the jungle was on a rough path. Several days into the journey they stopped, unshouldered their loads, and refused to go on. No pleas, bribes, or threats, worked in terms of persuading them to go on. Asked why they couldn’t continue, they answered: “We can’t go on; we have to wait for our souls to catch up with us.”

That happens to us too in life, except mostly we never wait for our souls to catch up. We continue on without them, sometimes for years. What’s meant by this? Mostly it means that we struggle to be in the present moment, to be inside our own skins, to be aware of the richness of our own experience. Mostly our experiences aren’t very soulful because we aren’t very present to them. For example:

For the past twenty years, I’ve kept a journal, a diary of sorts. My intent in keeping this journal is to record the deeper things that I’m aware throughout each day; but mostly what I end up actually writing down is a simple chronology of my day, a daybook, a bare, no-frills, recounting of what I did from hour to hour. My diaries don’t much resemble Anne Frank’s diary, Dag Hammarskjold’s, *Markings*, Etty Hillesum’s, *An Interrupted Life*, or Henri Nouwen’s, *Genesee Diary*. My journals resemble more what you might get from a schoolboy describing his day at school, a simple chronology of what happened. Yet when I go back and read an account of what I did each day, I’m always amazed as how rich and full life was on those days, except that I wasn’t much aware of it at the time. While actually living through those days, mostly I was struggling to get my work done, to stay healthy, to meet expectations, to carve out some moments of friendship and recreation amidst the pressures of the day, and to get to bed at a reasonable hour. There wasn’t a lot of soul there, just a lot of routine, work, and hurry.

I suspect that this is not atypical. Most of us, I suspect, live most of our days not very aware of how rich our lives are, forever leaving our souls behind: For example, many is the woman who gives ten to fifteen years of her life to bearing and raising children, with all that entails, tending constantly to someone else’s needs, getting up at night to nurse a child, spending 24 hours a day on constant alert, sacrificing all leisure time, and putting a career and personal creativity on hold. And yet too often that same woman, later on, looks back on those years and wishes she could relive them — but, now, in a more soulful way, more deliberately aware of how wonderful and privileged it is to do precisely those things she did with so much dram and tiredness. Years later, looking back, she sees how rich and precious her experience was and how, because of the burden and stress, how little her soul was present then to what she was actually undergoing.

This can be multiplied with a thousand examples: We’ve all read accounts wherein someone shares what he or she would do differently if he or she had life to live over again. Mostly these stories rework the same motif: Given another chance, I would try to enjoy it more the next time, that is, I would try to keep my soul more-present and more-aware.

For most of us, I fear, our souls will only catch up with us when, finally, we are in a retirement home, with diminished health, energy, and opportunity to work. It seems we need to first lose something before we fully appreciate it. We tend to take life, health, energy, and work for granted, until they are taken away from us. Only after the fact do we realize how rich our life has been and how little of those riches we drank in at the time.

Our souls eventually do catch up with us, but it would be good if we didn’t wait until we were in the retirement home for this to happen. Like the porters who dropped their loads and stopped, we need regularly to stop and wait for our souls to catch up.

Early on in his priesthood, when Pope Francis was in charge of school, he would at a certain point each day have the public address system cut in and interrupt the work that was going on in each classroom with this announcement: Be grateful. Set your horizon. Take stock of your day.

We all need, regularly, to lay down our burdens for a minute so our souls can catch up with us.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Mass Intentions

Monday, January 18, 2016  Weekday ~ Martin Luther King Jr.
7:45am Frank Reilly; Marie Coyne

Tuesday, January 19, 2016  Weekday
7:45am Jerry Albertson; Walter Lach

Wednesday, January 20, 2016  St. Fabian; St. Sebastian
7:45am Matthew Flood; Jorge Paez; A. George Zurowski

Thursday, January 21, 2016  St. Agnes
7:45am Catherine Piszczzor; Marguerite McGuire

Friday, January 22, 2016  Day of Prayer for Unborn Children
7:45am Guido Guy Pertile; Roland Mike Marshall

Saturday, January 23, 2016  St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope, Blessed Virgin
8:00am Deceased members of the Robert Cosgrove family;
     Michael Joseph Francis
5:00pm Deceased members of the Cook & Turlek families;
     Russell Soduski

Sunday, January 24, 2016  3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Roland Mike Marshall; John L. Keeley Jr.
9:00am William Boyle; Frances Grady
10:45am Deceased members of the Dwyer family;
     Deceased members of the Millette family
5:00pm Don Winkel; Gary Whitener

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

Don Heldmann
Karen Hult
Lynn Jeffery
Don King
George Kojima
Carol Martin
John Martin

Bobbie Misiora
Dan Mulcay
Alice Myers
Robert Ohiquest
Maria Olson
Marian Pascale
Steve Pechous
Frank Pipal

Maurice Redmand
Keri Rohr
Michael Sullivan
Ron Tamer
Theresa Vana
Robert VanWhye
Don Vollmer

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Dr. John L. Carroll, Jr. father of Christopher and grandfather of Holden and Harper
Jeannine Desmond, mother of Dennis and Michael
Isabel Redling, aunt of Barb Campbell

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country
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 & Mary Tischler
A Navy Seal, a relative of our parishioner

Save the Date!
Saintly Senior Valentine Luncheon at the Parish Center
Friday, February 12 at 11:30am
More Details Next Week!

St. John of the Cross Parish  Second Sunday in OT  January 17, 2016  Page 15
Please join us for the

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH SCHOOL

Winter Gala

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016
6:00 PM

THE HYATT LODGE AT MCDONALD'S CAMPUS
2815 JORIE BOULEVARD
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

$100 PER PERSON

Featuring
DINNER, DRINKS AND DANCING
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLE DRAWINGS

Entertainment by
UNDERWATER PEOPLE AND ARTBEAT LIVE

PARTY ATTIRE