Third Sunday of Easter
April 10, 2016
Parish Support Groups to begin this Week. . .

Seasons of Hope Grief Support Group Begins Tomorrow Evening April 11-May 16—6 Mondays @7pm

Divorce Support Group Begins this Friday April 15@7pm

**Seasons of Hope** is our parish grief support ministry grounded in the healing wisdom, tradition, and practice of the Catholic faith. It is for anyone mourning the loss of a loved one or struggling with the grieving process. With the support of our faith community, Seasons of Hope sessions help us explore our unique journeys of grief and find healing and spiritual growth through scripture, prayer, reflection activities and faith sharing. Sessions are held three times per year; spring, summer, and fall. The 6 week spring session will begin **Monday, April 11 at 7pm.** To register call Steve Weigand at 708-246-4404 or go to the home page of our parish website.

The **Divorce and Beyond Ministry** provides healing and pastoral support to those recently divorced or going through the divorce process. Divorce and Beyond is a faith-based program that includes education, discussion, reflection and prayer. Each session focuses on a different aspect of the divorce-healing process. Topics include: grief, stress, anger, blame, guilt, loneliness, forgiveness, and happiness. Former Divorce and Beyond participants lead each meeting and are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment. ($10.00 manual fee can be paid at first session) Introduction & First Session **Friday, April 15** in the Parish Center from 7:00—8:30pm. Call Steve Weigand or visit: stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond to register online.

**New Liturgical Minister Spring Training Dates**
Parishioners interested in serving as Communion Ministers (must be 16 years of age or older) or Lectors (must be a freshman in high school or older) are invited to church for training on:

**Communion Minister: Sunday, April 10 TODAY!!**
from 2:30-4pm
No Registration Necessary—You may register at training.

**Lector: Sunday May 15 from 2:30-4pm**
Please call the Parish Center to register for Lector Training.
Background on the Gospel
Today's Gospel is one of the post-Resurrection appearances reported by John. Recall that in John's Gospel, Jesus appears first to Mary of Magdala, second to all of the disciples except Thomas, and finally to Thomas and the disciples (which we heard last Sunday). After those appearances, John's Gospel seems to conclude with a reference to other signs that Jesus gave after his Resurrection, which have not been recorded.

Because it follows this apparent conclusion, most scholars believe today's Gospel passage (and all of John 21) to have been an addition to John's original text. Because there are significant differences between this report and the other appearances described in John's Gospel, it is quite likely that this story is from a different source. There are details in the story that recall Jesus' call to Simon Peter and the other fishermen as well as the miraculous catch of fish (found in the Gospel of Luke, with parallels in the other Synoptic Gospels). The end of the chapter, where Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves him, most likely is meant to represent the reconciliation that occurred between the community represented by John's Gospel with the larger Christian community represented by Peter. This Gospel reading is a rich and textured story that speaks of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist and our commission to serve others as Jesus did.

Last week we heard that Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples in a locked room, probably in Jerusalem. In today's Gospel, the disciples are no longer in Jerusalem; they are in Galilee, returning to their work of fishing. Simon Peter is still presented in the role of leader: when he announces that he is going fishing, the other disciples follow. They spend the night fishing but are unsuccessful.

Jesus calls to them from the shore, but just as when Jesus first appeared to Mary of Magdala, the disciples do not recognize him immediately. Still, they follow the stranger's instructions and bring in a large haul of fish. It is at this point that one of the disciples (the "disciple whom Jesus loved") realizes that Jesus is appearing to them. Upon hearing this news, Simon Peter leads the way again, jumping from the boat and swimming to shore. The other disciples follow in the boat, dragging the fish.

The disciples have brought to shore a tremendous catch of fish that Jesus has directed them to find. But once on the shore, they see that Jesus has already prepared fish and bread on a charcoal fire. Jesus directs the disciples to bring their catch of fish as well. Jesus is host at the meal that follows, feeding the disciples the bread and fish. In this detail we see allusions to the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes told in John 6.

There are also allusions in the Gospel to our gathering for the celebration of the Mass. In the Eucharist, we too are fed by Jesus in the bread and wine that have become his very Body and Blood. We also find in this story insight about the Presentation of the Gifts at Mass. The gifts we bring to the altar, bread and wine, are made from gifts that God gave first to us: grain and grapes, the fruit of the earth. God has no need of anything further. Yet God accepts the offering we bring—bread and wine, "the work of human hands"—and transforms our offering into the gift of his very presence.

After the meal, Jesus directs himself to Simon Peter. The community of John's Gospel probably looked down on Peter because of his denial of Jesus. This dialogue with Simon Peter is a reversal of Peter's three denials. Peter is forgiven. Having been restored to friendship with Jesus, Simon Peter is sent on a mission. "Feed my lambs ... Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep." These commands indicate that Peter is to be as Jesus, even unto sacrificing for the flock. As Jesus has fed Peter in this meal and as Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist, so he also sends us to follow him, asking that we offer our lives in service and sacrifice.

May we love the risen Lord with all our hearts and follow him faithfully to abundant Life.
May we live the joy and peace that the gift of Easter Life brings.

Living the Gospel
This Gospel details the transformation made possible by the risen Christ. Disciples net a great number of fish after a catch-less night. Peter jumps impetuously into the sea instead of staying in the boat. Peter thrice declares his love, supplanting his triple denial—a love that is declared "[w]hen they had finished breakfast," after Peter is fortified by the gift of breakfast bread and fish, but even more so by the gift of encounter with the risen Christ. The resurrection transforms the way things are. The risen Christ transforms the way we are, enabling us to obey his ongoing invitation, "Follow me." We are fortified by Jesus' risen Presence, by his invitation to follow, by his own love for us that transforms our love into faithfulness and fruitfulness. Risen Life fortifies us for the transformation needed on our discipleship journey of seeing-believing. Risen Life is given to us by Christ, but we must also seek it. Risen Life is a gift, but we must also grasp it.

Risen Life has its demand—we must eat breakfast with the risen Christ! That is, we must open ourselves to be fortified by all the gifts given to us so that our follow-response is energetic, sustained, and fruitful. Jesus gives us all the nourishment we need in order to meet the demands of daily discipleship. Accepting the nourishment that Jesus offers means that by following him we ourselves become his risen Presence, those who lead others to him. Every day we must take care that our actions announce Jesus' gift of nourishment at the same time that they speak of his goodness and care. No matter what our act of love, or when, it always means saying yes to Jesus and to risen Life.
Outreach: Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation

Planting for Hope

Parishioners of all ages are invited to take part in our Planting for Hope Service Project for our Sharing Parish Precious Blood Ministry.

Simply plant your choice of flower, vegetable, or herb seeds in small cups or pots. Give them plenty of sun and water. (This is a great service project for families.) Bring your seedling plants to the Parish Center the week of May 16. Our plants will be delivered to Sister Carolyn at PMBR. Sister will gather youth in the community to transplant our seedlings in and around Precious Blood.

Questions? Contact Bill Bright at the Parish Center.

Food Pantry Collection
Bring a can of soup or a box of rice with you to Mass next weekend. All of our nonperishable food donations in the church narthex will be delivered to St. Cletus in LaGrange. Thank you for your commitment to feed those who are hungry in our community.

Shepherd and spirit of love, I listen for your voice, warm, familiar and loving. I hear you call my name as you guide me in life. Help me always to recognize your voice leading and guiding me. Help me also to see the stranger you lead me to love and serve. I beg your Holy Spirit to set my heart on fire. Like the deer longs for water, I long for you, my God.
Fr. Arturo to Retire

This summer Fr. Arturo Perez-Rodriguez will be retiring as the Director of Kolbe House Jail Ministry and pastor of Assumption Parish. For over seven years, our parish has had the privilege of working with Fr. Arturo. Both SJC and KH/Assumption have received many blessing from our special relationship.

Please join us next Saturday, April 16 at our 5pm Mass as we celebrate Fr. Arturo’s years of devoted ministry and offer prayers of blessings for him on his retirement.

Learn about Kolbe House

- On any given day an estimated 9,125 adults are locked up in Cook County Jail, another 630 adults in Lake County Jail, and approximately 250 juveniles at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center.
- Kolbe House is an agency of the Department of Parish Life and Formation of the Archdiocese of Chicago and deals directly with those involved in the criminal justice system.
- Since 1983 Kolbe House has provided one-to-one visits, pastoral counseling, religious services and other social services. Kolbe House listens to and stands with the family members, provides emergency services to the incarcerated, their families and other families in similar situations. Kolbe House recognizes that the incarcerated are often victims themselves and that the "system" is larger than any of the individuals in it. Kolbe House networks with like-minded agencies and groups and seeks to work for change in unjust situations. Fr. Arturo is Director of Kolbe House Jail Ministry.

Pictured to the right are Bill Bright, Outreach Committee Chairperson, Rose Horvath, Outreach PBMR Rep, Shawn Sweeney and Fr. Arturo on the steps of Assumption Parish.
Prayer

Let the risen Jesus enter your life—welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk; you won’t be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don’t be afraid. Trust him, be confident that he is close to you, that he is with you, and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.

—The Joy of Discipleship by Pope Francis

Recall the last time you had a heart-to-heart conversation with a friend. It required the letting down of guards, and it probably involved the discussion of matters that were intimately personal. Perhaps you were seeking advice, and perhaps advice was given; what mattered at the end was the friend’s presence. Our hearts were exposed, but they were also transformed. The same goes for our friendship with God. It will change us, and changes can be intimidating. But God isn’t intimidating, and love always transforms us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen me in …
Holy Spirit, guide me in …
Holy Spirit, comfort me in …
Holy Spirit, enlighten me in …

I’ve always struggled with the mystery of the cross. It’s a bizarre part of our faith. The mystery lies in the seeming needlessness of it. How can such a tortuous murder give way to our redemption? Richard Rohr says that struggle and incomprehensible mystery are the way to transformation. If you avoid such tensions, you learn nothing new and become stagnant in the spiritual life.

The way I see the cross—and much of the spiritual life—is as a blessing and a curse. The cross symbolized the curse of sin and brokenness, yet the action on the cross blessed humanity with healing, redemption, and divine love. The mystery of the cross may never be understood except in the context of the blessing-curse paradox. Interestingly, we find this paradox throughout life.

How many of us have been through an extremely trying event only to emerge stronger and better off on the other side? St. Paul speaks about his weakness making him strong. Stephen Curtis Chapman, in his song “Beautiful Scars,” sings about the painful “stories that make us who we are” and the wounds of Christ that helped heal and set us free. Much of life seems cursed with suffering and sacrifice, which upon struggle and reflection turn out to be blessings that build our identity and help us to face life in new ways.

Ignatian Spirituality
Mary Magdalene stands at the empty tomb: how could she not weep, filling the well of her sorrow that capped her grief over the last three days?

She notices a figure nearby, someone she can hardly see through her tired and streaming eyes. Humbly she pleads with him to be shown where the precious body of her Lord has been taken.

As this stranger speaks her name, she is wild with the joy of recognition: it is he, here, in front of her! She throws herself at his feet—not that she needs to touch him to prove that he is real and in the flesh, but because she never wants to be separated from him.

No, you mustn’t cling, you mustn’t hold me back. I’m not going anywhere yet, for we still have work to do. Go to my brothers to tell them I’m alive and that I’ll meet them in Galilee.

The brothers are incredulous at first: is Mary really trustworthy? Yet they also know of their Lord’s warm friendship with her. But when the Apostles are gifted with seeing him twice in the room where they’re hiding, there’s no more doubt. They obey Jesus’ request to meet him at the Sea of Galilee. Now at the end, they return to his beginning.

They wait on the shore. Nothing is happening. Where is he?

Peter, impatient for action, announces: “I’m going fishing.” The others, including James and John, follow his lead.

Do you remember how it all started? Back then, we were also fishing. He came and called us: “Come with me! I’ll make you fishers of men!” What a glorious future was ahead for us! To become the chosen followers—and even friends of the Messiah himself! What great hopes we had. And look how it has all ended. He’s arrested, condemned, and crucified. There’s nothing more for us. Our dreams of glory are dead. His dream of glory is dead. Our lives are nothing, nothing but fishing. And we can’t even catch fish today, much less admiration from others.

A voice calls across the water: “Young men, have you caught anything?”

No, not a thing all night.

“Try casting your nets on the other side; you’ll find something.”

That doesn’t make sense! What does he know about fishing? Then it dawns on them. That voice, like an echo of a command once heard three years ago, when he had come into their boat to preach from there. That time, he told them the same thing: “Cast your nets on the other side.” And they caught more than they could haul into the boat.

Remembering this event, John takes another look at the man on the shore. It is the Lord!

Why this failure to recognize Jesus? Mary Magdalene and the Apostles had been with him almost daily for over three years. Why didn’t they know him?

Could it be they had other expectations? Maybe they expected that, resurrected, he’d have a glow around him, or some appearance more like what they expected of the Messiah—kingly, perhaps. But here he was, still ordinary looking—if anything, more ordinary than he was before. They had hoped that, now vindicated, he would look powerful and, well, glorious, as he had looked when transfigured on Mount Tabor. If he had looked like that, everyone would know beyond the shadow of a doubt that he was truly the Messiah, the Son of God.

But no. Christ does not make himself known so easily as that. He can be seen only by the eyes of the heart that longs to know him. Like his Father in the old days, Jesus often remains hidden in a cloud or a whisper.

Cast your nets on the other side. Try something different. Stop doing the same old things that never got you anywhere. Change! Try something new, such as what I’ve been teaching you all these years.

Those who ponder his words, who sincerely follow and rely on Jesus, gradually come to recognize him. They know what he looks like and are not scandalized by his everyday appearance. He looks like you. He looks like me. We recognize him as we care for one another in him.
Richard Rohr Meditation

Paul says some pretty extraordinary things in 1 Corinthians 13. Let's look at some of his points carefully.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

This hits close to home for me. Paul points out that I might give a wonderful sermon, but if I don't do it out of God's love for the people right in front of me, it won't be as powerful as when I'm participating in divine love. God will still use even lesser loves, but Paul recognizes that human feelings and preferences are quite unreliable. Our affections are fickle and will finally change and fall short when our conditions or requirements are not met.

If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge;

Among others, Paul is talking to the intellectuals and the academics, the Greeks of his day—and likely to most of us. This is the common temptation to substitute knowledge for actual love or service.

and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

Here he's challenging religious people who make a task of religion itself, who try to be moral and "believe" through will power. This often passes for religion, but it is faith without love so it is not true faith. Paul might also be criticizing the common mistake of those we call conservatives or "true believers."

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Apparently, you can even be a progressive and generous social activist; but if you're just doing it to be holier than thou, or out of oppositional energy, you are still outside of the Big Mystery. Self-proclaiming heroics on the Left can be just as unloving as self-proclaiming religion on the Right.

Then Paul tries to describe the mystery of love, and he finally has to resort to listing almost fifteen descriptions. He talks about love not as simply an isolated virtue, but as the basis for all virtue. It is the underlying, generous energy that gives itself away through those living inside of love.

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous;

If I'm jealous, then I'm not in love. When you are inside this mystery of love, you operate differently, and it's not in a guarded, protective way.

love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly [it is never rude]; it does not seek its own [advantage], is not provoked [it does not take offense or store up grievances],

So every time you and I take offense (how many times a day is that?), we're not "in love."

[Love] does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness [in the mistakes of others], but rejoices with the truth;

The Germans have a word for delighting in someone else's misfortune---schadenfreude. Maybe we do not have an English word for it because we take it as normal. I hope not.

[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
And then Paul ends with this: Love never fails. [1]

Paul is touching upon something that's infinite; it can therefore include all and has an endless ability to pour itself out. When you're in love, you're operating from this foundational sense of abundance, not from scarcity or fear. There is an inherent generosity of spirit, of smile, of gesture, of readiness, of initial acceptance that you immediately sense from any person who is standing inside this Flow. Honestly, you can tell the difference between someone "in love" and someone "not in love" in the first five seconds of almost any encounter. The all-important point, however, is that if your primary motivation is to love, there is no such thing as failure—except in your failure to draw love from an ever deeper level.
Joy is the Fruit of Mercy

“I felt I’d committed the unforgiveable sin.” So many women with abortion in their past have said things like this. They often feel deep shame, regret, loss, or despair. They may have a hard time accepting that God loves them, and so stay away from the spiritual and psychological help offered by the Church and the healing balm of the sacraments.

Pope Francis has a message for these suffering mothers—and all others who have been involved in an abortion: Great joy can be found in Christ’s unfailing mercy and love for us sinners.

In his Easter Vigil homily, Pope Francis reflected on the challenge of finding joy despite the experience of sin. He described how the women who entered Jesus’ tomb that Easter morning entered into the mystery of Christ’s suffering, death, and Resurrection. They came face to face with the reality of death and of their own existence as sinners in need of God’s forgiveness. At the same time, they encountered His love, which is greater than the greatest of sins. The power of the Resurrection gives us the courage to face our sins, confess our mistakes, and then humbly receive God’s forgiveness and accept the joy that comes with new life in Christ.

Accepting God’s mercy brought happiness to “Sophia” in her healing journey from abortion. “As the mystery of God’s way unfolded, I recovered peace. That sense of peace has brought with it for me real joy and new hope for the future,” she said.

Pope Francis’ focus on mercy challenges us to not only accept Christ’s mercy ourselves like “Sophia” did, but also to be merciful to others. A beautiful way to answer his call is to be aware of and address the particular needs of those who suffer from abortion. Offer your attentive listening and non-judgmental attitude to someone you know who is suffering after abortion. Pray that you will see Christ in the mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, and others who have been affected by abortion, and tell them about God’s mercy with love and tenderness. Offer them hope for relief of their pain and suffering, and provide information on nearby help. Project Rachel, the diocesan-based post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States, offers confidential, non-judgmental help.

Throughout this Easter season and the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy, may each of us find the hope and consolation we need in the mystery of God’s mercy. And may we be empowered by Him to be merciful ourselves and share the hope and help that are available, so those who suffer abortion’s aftermath might also find joy in the great gift of mercy.

Mary McClusky, USCCB

Help
If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available: Call Project Rachel National toll-free number: 888-456-HOPE (4673) or in Chicago call 312-337-1962.

Upcoming Rachel Vineyard Retreat in Chicago area May 13 - 15
Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreats are a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. The retreat is a very specific process designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. It is also an opportunity to surface and release repressed feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief. There are many exercises to help you grieve the loss of your unborn child and to receive and accept God’s forgiveness. The retreat concludes with a Memorial Service. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into love and hope. Call Kay at 866-99-4-GIVE (4483) for additional information.

If we open ourselves up to welcome God’s mercy for ourselves, in turn we become capable of forgiveness.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Mar 30
Looking for a Job?  
**Career Transition Boot Camp**  
First Presbyterian Church of La Grange  
5 week workshop at beginning on Tuesday, April 12 from 7-9 pm  
— Week one will kick off with a list of things to do to prepare your career search strategy. Our Boot Camp facilitator, Jim Peterson, will describe how “Generational Differences” can impact that strategy and Dr. Yount will deliver a special presentation on how approaching your job search with a good mindset will make you more successful.

**Networking for Leaders**  
Thursday, April 21 from 7-9 pm at SJC Parish Center—Learn how to network successfully: what “paying it forward” is all about; the importance of being specific when asking for help; what your business card should/should not have on it; how to explain what you do so people will remember you; and how to turn your networking magic into long term relationships. Our dynamic speaker, Abby Kohut, (aka Absolutely Abby) will provide powerful information about the job search process that others won't. Come hear her for yourself, you'll be Absolutely Amazed!

**Substitute Ushers**  
Consider being a substitute usher at Sunday Mass. Serve once a month as your schedule allows. Training provided. Call Steve Weigand to learn more.

**Minister of Care Renewal Training**  
Every 3 yrs., Ministers of Care are required by the Archdiocese to attend a ‘Renewal’ Workshop in order to remain current with standards and practices for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. St. Louise de Marillac Parish in La Grange Park is hosting a Renewal Workshop on Saturday, May 14 from 9am to noon in the Marillac Center. Save the date now…registration information coming soon!

**Become a Minister of Care**  
There is a great need for more Ministers of Care. Ministers of Care visit the homebound or hospitalized bringing Holy Communion, praying and visiting. Training for new ministers will be provided at the Carmelite Center in Darien and will be followed up by an information session at our parish. Fees will be covered by SJC. Call or email our Pastoral Associate, Steve Weigand, at the Parish Center for more information.

**Child Abuse Prayer Service**  
April marks the beginning of National Child Abuse Prevention Month and, in observance of this, the Annual Prevent Child Abuse Prayer Service and Pinwheel Planting will be held at the Healing Garden of the Archdiocese of Chicago located at Holy Family Parish in Chicago, on Friday, April 15 at 11:30am. The outdoor service will be led by Rev. Lawrence Dowling, Pastor of St. Agatha Parish, and will include a reflection from Michael Hoffman, Chairman of the Hope and Healing Committee. Students from St. Ignatius College Prep will perform music at the service.

**Gardening Angels**  
Consider joining the parish Gardening Angels this season. There are many ways and different times you can help with watering, weeding and working on special projects. Confirmation candidates and Crossroads teens are welcome too. Call or email Jan Grabacki at beaconjan@aol.com or 331-903-3135.

**SAM Spirituality Among Men:**  
Gather with other men from the parish next Saturday, April 16 at 8:45am in the Parish Center as we explore:  
- Who/What is God to you?  
- What is it you expect or would like from that God?  
- What do you feel that God expects or would like from you?  
- Come and explore what's truly in your heart.  
No need to register. Just come!!
Petitions Brought to Lourdes
Each spring members of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (a Catholic lay religious order who work with the sick and poor) from all over the U.S. travel to Lourdes, France with 40-45 ill people to pray for renewed health at the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette. Several of our parishioners who will be traveling to France on their 10th pilgrimage invite you to submit petitions or intentions which will be blessed and presented at the Grotto altar during a special Mass.

- Hand written or typed petitions can be mailed to Order of Malta, Federal Association, Lourdes Prayer Requests, 10815 Beaver Dam Rd. Ste. D, Cockeysville, MD 21030 before April 15.
- Confidential prayer petitions may also be submitted electronically at http://theorderofmalta.wix.com/lourdes-intentions by April 15.
- If you miss this deadline, you are invited to bring your personal prayer petition to the Parish Center by April 24 in a sealed envelope marked Lourdes Petitions. These will be hand delivered by one of our parishioners.

To receive an acknowledgment of your petition include your name and address with your petition. This year, the Mass in the Grotto will be broadcast live via webcam at 2:45am CST Saturday, April 30 at http://en.lourdes-france.org/tv-lourdes.

Catholic New World
Stay on top of the news in our archdiocese. Subscribe online or by email circulation@catholicnewworld.com (312) 534-7777 www.catholicnewworld.com for only $25 per year.

Community Events
St. Cletus Fundraiser
Our neighbor parish, St. Cletus, invites all to hear Fr. Ken in a special Fiddler on the Roof Concert next Sunday, April 17 at 4pm at LT North.

Go to our Parish Website under Community to learn about other community events important to parishioners and neighbors.

To those in our society who have lost all hope and joy in life, to the elderly who struggle alone and feel their strength waning, to young people who seem to have no future, to all I once more address the words of the Risen One: “See, I am making all things new... To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life” (Rev 21:5-6). May this comforting message of Jesus help each of us to set out anew with greater courage to blaze trails of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters.

Conclusion of Pope Francis’s 2016 Easter Message. To read the entire text go to our parish website home page.

All parishioners are urged to complete the Renew My Church Survey. Go to our parish website home page or pick up a paper copy in the Parish Center Office.
St. John of the Cross Parish School is excited to announce the performance of this year’s school play, *Guys & Dolls, Jr.*, on April 29 through May 1. The students are working hard on the play, and we are looking forward to a great performance!

We are reaching out to our school community and the local businesses surrounding areas to place ads in our program book. These ads would help offset the costs of our production and start at only $30.

Pay tribute to your favorite cast or crew member, or simply promote your business while supporting the SJC’s production of *Guys & Dolls, Jr.* this spring. Every contribution makes a difference!

All ads must be placed by FRIDAY, APRIL 15 to ensure that they are included in the program book. If interested, please contact Jackie Paez-Goldman at 708-837-2260 or jackiepaez24@yahoo.com.

**This Week at SJC**
- **All Week** Aspire Testing Grades 3-8
- **Friday, April 15** Eighth Grade Retreat 10:30am Parish Center
  - Fortnightly 7:30pm Gym

**SJC Basketball Camps** are designed for all parish boys & girls entering grades 2–8. Coach John Quinn and his team will provide instruction on basketball fundamentals, proper techniques and advanced skills. There will be competitions and contests too! Session Dates: July 18–July 22 and July 25–July 29. Time for all grades: 8:30-11:30am. Fee: $100.00 per session if registered by July 6. $110.00 per session at the door. Includes a T-shirt water bottle and basketball. Camps will be held at our parish school. Register on the school website.

Loving God, we rejoice now in the glory of your resurrection, celebrating your life with Easter joy. We are filled with confident hope and feel our spirits renewed within us. Our hearts burn with a new depth of love as we see your light shine in the darkness. Lead us, Lord. We are your people. May we spend this day praising your glory and being filled with confident hope as you hold out your wounded hands to us with joy.

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**YC Registration**

**Now Open!**

*All youth Kindergarten through 8th grade!!*

New families, please bring a copy of each child’s baptismal certificate if not baptized at SJC.

**Youth Catechesis** is SJC’s religious education program for children. Our volunteer Catechists and Catechist Aides are engaging and inspiring as they lead your children to a closer relationship with Our Lord, Jesus.

“Catechists discover with their witness of life, the joy of helping others meet and fall in love with Christ.”

Pope Francis

To get priority session placement, please pray about sharing your time & talents in a classroom!!

All are encouraged!

We have parishioners without YC students, high school teens and parents spreading the love of Christ to our students - JOIN US!

**VOLUNTEER!!**

**YC Schedule**

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<td>6:15-7:30pm</td>
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<td>Jr Hi Sm Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adapted Catechesis</td>
<td>9:00-10:00am</td>
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**St. John of the Cross Parish**

April 10, 2016

Third Sunday of Easter

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In the movie based upon Jane Austen’s classic novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, there’s a very poignant scene where one of her young heroines, suffering from acute pneumonia, is lying in bed hovering between life and death. A young man, very much in love with her, is pacing back and forth, highly agitated, frustrated by his helplessness to do anything of use, and literally jumping out of his skin. Unable to contain his agitation any longer, he goes to the girl’s mother and asks what he might do to be helpful. She replies that there’s nothing he can do, the situation is beyond them. Unable to live with that response her says to her: “Give me some task to do, or I shall go mad!”

We’ve all had the feeling at times when in the face of a dire situation we need to do something, but there’s nothing we can do, no magic wand we can wave to make things better.

But there is something we can do.

I recall an event in my own life several years ago: I was teaching summer school in Belgium when, late one evening, just as I was getting ready for bed, I received an email that a two friends of mine, a man and a woman recently engaged, had been involved that day in a fatal car accident. He was killed instantly and she was in serious condition in hospital. I was living by myself in a university dorm, thousands of miles from where this all happened, and thousands of miles from anyone with whom I could share this sorrow. Alone, agitated, panicked, and desperately needing to do something but being absolutely helpless to do anything, I was literally driven to my knees. Not being able to do anything else, I picked up the prayer-book that contains the *Office of the Church* and prayed, by myself, the Vespers prayer for the dead. When I’d finished, my sorrow hadn’t gone away, my friend was still dead, but my panic had subsided, as had my desperate need to do something (when there was nothing I could do).

My prayer that night gave me some sense that the young man who’d died that day was alright, safe somewhere in a place beyond us, and it also relieved me of the agitation and panicked pressure of needing to do something in the face of agitated helplessness. I’d done the only thing I could do, the thing that’s been done in the face of helplessness and death since the beginning of time; I’d given myself over to prayer and to the rituals of the community and the faith of the community.

It’s these, prayer and ritual, which we have at our disposal at those times when, like the man in *Sense and Sensibility*, we need to do something or we will go mad. That’s not only true for heavy, sorrowful times when loved ones are sick or dying or killed in accidents and we need to do something but there’s nothing we can do. We also need ritual to help us celebrate happy times properly. What should we do when our own children are getting married? Among other things, we need to celebrate the ritual of marriage because no wedding planner in the world can do for us what the ritual, especially the church-ritual, of marriage can do. Weddings, just like funerals, are a prime example of where we need ritual to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Sadly, today, we are a culture that for the most part is ritually tone-deaf. We don’t understand ritual and therefore mostly don’t know what to do when we need to be doing something but we don’t know what to do. That’s a fault, a painful poverty, in our understanding.

The Trappist monks who were martyred in Algeria in 1996 were first visited by the Islamic extremists who would later kidnap and kill them, on Christmas Eve, just as they were preparing to celebrate Christmas mass. After some initial threats, their eventual murderers left. The monks were badly shaken. They huddled together as a group for a time to digest what had just happened. Then, not knowing what else to do in the face of this threat and their fear, they sang the Christmas mass. In the words of their Abbott: “It’s what we had to do. It’s all we could do! It was the right thing.” He shared too, as did a number of the other monks (in their diaries) that they found this, celebrating the ritual of mass in the face of their fear and panic, something that calmed their fear and brought some steadiness and regularity back into their lives.

There’s a lesson to be learned here, one that can bring steadiness and calm into our lives at those times when we desperately need to do something, but there’s nothing to do.

Ritual: It’s what we have to do. It’s all we can do! It’s the right thing.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.
Women's Club News

Annual Flower Sale
Spring is here...and so is the Women's Club Annual Flower Sale! We have a huge list of gorgeous flowers that will make your yard the best on the block! Grab a form at the Parish Center or order online.

Orders due
April 23
Pick up is on May 4
Just in time for Mother's Day! Look for pictures on our parish website too!

Annual Women’s Club Spring Drive:
A Baby Shower to benefit Teen Parent Connection. Donate any of the following items between
April 2 – 17
to the drop boxes in the Parish Center, church or school.

Onesies, diapers sizes newborn, 4, 5 and 6, child and adult fever reducer, safety items such as outlet covers and gates, formula, nonperishable finger food, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothpaste, personal products, shampoo, lotion, soap, books for moms and baby-on-board car signs.

All women of the parish are invited to
An Evening of Music, Comedy, and Stories
“That’s What She Said!”
with “Voicebox”
Featuring Maureen Muldoon and Cathy Richardson on
Thursday, April 14
7pm
The Village Club
Western Springs
Appetizers, Desserts and Drinks
Stories and songs that get woven together into an amazing show that will have you laughing, tapping your feet and singing along. www.voiceboxstories.com

Tickets: $25 in advance
or $30 at the door

Please bring a baby book for our Spring Baby Shower Drive
and get entered into a drawing to win a prize!

Name:
Phone:
Email:
Number Attending:
Amount Enclosed:

Join us for parish hospitality next Sunday after the 9am and 10:45am Masses!
Mass Intentions

Monday, April 11
7:45am Muriel Albertson; Kevin Hansen

Tuesday, April 12
7:45am Bernard Lahart; Kevin Hansen

Wednesday, April 13
7:45am Gerald Jonas; Our Beloved Dead

Thursday, April 14
7:45am Paul Adducci; Stephen Siedlaczek

Friday, April 15
7:45am Alyce Bourjaily; Irma Voller

Saturday, April 16
8:00am James Piszczor; Irma Voller
5:00pm Deceased members of DenBesten and Lukowsky families; Richard Sprague

Sunday, April 17
4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday
7:30am Shirley Kazragis; Irma Voller
9:00am Bob Santucci; Charlotte Shaheen
12:15pm Mike Marshall; Mildred Bubbles Sabath
5:00pm Mildred Bubbles Sabath; Rich Flynn

Pray for Our Sick
Jeanne Allen
Rita Barnes
Anna Marie Berland
Robert Bright
Judy Burke
Bradley John Burton III
Margaret Cochran
Crystal Deters
Mildred Fitzgerald
Lynn Freking
Christopher Gallagher
Kathleen Gros
Robert Hartnett
Randall Hemauer
Alfred Hesse
Karen Hult
John Impens
Ann Kalaska
Curtis Kerzich
George Kojima
Pat Kot
Bobbie Misiora
Ann McGuire
Laura Montana
Frank Mraz
Steve Pechous
Don Palaschak
Anthony Placek, Jr.
Kay Reidy
Kelly Seebruch
Monica Westell

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Robert Iovino, brother of Bill, uncle of Jenny Cunneen and Katie Duncan
Frank Dambra, husband of Joan, father of Frank and Susan, grandfather of 4
Richard Zientkowski, husband of Diane, father of Tara, Kimberly, Brad, Blake, grandfather of 2
Mark Jeffery Heinzel, son of Mildred and Michael Heinzel
Bernard Bock, father of Steve, grandfather of 5
June Guckien, mother of Steve and Bill
Robert Graef, husband of Maude, father of Steve and George, grandfather of 4
James Cox, father of Kathleen Dicken, grandfather of 3
Valeria Stimetz, mother-in-law of Kathryn Stimetz, grandmother of Dana Truesdale
Alice Siorek, mother of Nancy and Greg

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
PFC Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stimetz
Capt. James Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke
Sgt. Robert Marburger, son of David and Kathleen Marburger
Sgt. Larry Waszak, grandson of Bruno and Barbara Gacek

An Update on Fr. David ~
Father continues to recover from his recent surgery. Your thoughts, prayers, and cards are most appreciated. He will be in touch when he can.
Parish Book Study Discussion Series on Rediscover Jesus begins this week on Thursday, April 14 at 2-3pm facilitated by Steve Weigand, Pastoral Associate

or 7-8pm facilitated by Deacon John Schopp in the Parish Center.

This Discussion Series will run for 6 Thursdays through May 19. Come every week or come when you can. No registration necessary.

No time to read? No problem. You will still enjoy the session. No book? Stop by church or the Parish Center to pick one up. Books will also be available at the first session.