Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
May 22, 2016
Thank You from Archbishop Cupich

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may we see our support of the Annual Catholic Appeal as one way to reclaim our responsibility to be the hands of God's mercy in the world.

May 9, 2016
Jubilee of Mercy

Dear Fr. Dowdle,

This letter comes with my thanks and hearty congratulations to you, your parish staff and the entire St. John of the Cross community for raising pledges exceeding your 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal parish goal of $141,399.72. You have my deep appreciation and respect, and I wish you continued success.

The people of St. John of the Cross under your dedicated leadership have responded generously to the Annual Appeal, clearly demonstrating their willingness to bring the power of God’s mercy to a world in need. Please convey to your community my admiration for their willingness to sacrifice in a way that benefits others and transforms the world through Christ’s loving presence. I am inspired by their sense of responsibility for others, a sentiment that is shared by all the many beneficiaries of their generosity.

Please let the people of St. John of the Cross know that I am looking forward to continuing this important work with them, and at the same time pledge good stewardship of their sacrificial gifts to the Appeal. I will remember them in prayer and at the Lord’s Table. Their prayers for me are much appreciated, and I am heartened by their remembrance of me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

As announced last November, instead of conducting a 3-5 year pledge drive for the To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign, the amount collected over our Annual Catholic Appeal goal ($141,399.72) will be used as our payment to the TTWCI Campaign to retire our $1.2M TTWCI campaign debt by 2022.

Your donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal and the TTWCI Campaign will help to ensure that those in need in our archdiocese will be able to have what our parish has in education, sacramental life and ministries.

Thank you for your continued generosity,
Fr. David
Congratulations!!

Congratulations to the following parishioners who were affirmed last weekend to serve on the Parish Advisory Council, School Advisory Board, and Youth Catechesis Council.

**Parish Advisory Council**
- Randy Ferrari
- Beth White

**School Advisory Board**
- Agnieszka Bucko
- Julie Krema
- Dan Timotic

**Youth Catechesis Council**
- Maria Young
- Jeremy Decker
- Veronica Puc
- Jennifer Smykowski

Welcome Fr. Chuck Dahm

We are pleased to welcome Fr. Chuck Dahm, a Dominican priest and leader in the archdiocese's effort to address domestic violence in Chicago, who will speak at all Masses today.

Father Dahm, who has been a priest in the Chicago area for over 50 years, was pastor at St. Pius V in Pilsen for 21 years and is currently an associate pastor there. Over the past twenty years Father Dahm has spoken to over 60 parishes in the Chicago area educating Catholics about Church teaching on domestic violence. Father has been instrumental in building the largest domestic violence program of its kind in the country at St. Pius V with counselors, support groups and workshops. He also converted a rectory into the House of Peace shelter for women and children. His goal is to speak to all 350 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Domestic violence happens at the same rate at every economic status with 1 in 4 women having been hit or sexually assaulted by a partner. Church teaching on domestic violence is clear. “No person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage,” the bishops wrote in their pastoral letter, “When I Call For Help.” “Violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified.”

Sign Up Today!! Tee Times Are Filling Up Fast for our Men’s Club Annual Golf Outing Friday June 3rd at Flagg Creek Golf Course

**Cost:** $27 includes golf, cart, 2 beverage tickets and entry into contests.

**Contests:** Low team score, long drive, closest to the pin.

**Tee Times:** 1:00 to 2:17 PM

**Sign-up:** Forms can be found on the Parish Men’s Club Web Site. Please drop off the form or a note with your name and/or name of the foursome, contact information, and a check(s) made payable to the SJC Men’s Club.

**Scramble format.** Each player hits a tee shot on each hole, then everyone plays from the spot of the chosen best tee shot. Continue selecting the best shot until one player hits the ball in the hole. The team score is total of those best shots.

**Questions:** Contact Dan Montgomery (tdm30550@gmail.com/312.952.1435) or John Cisek (312-327-1295).

Mass Schedule

Beginning next weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, (May 28-29-30) through Labor Day Weekend (September 3-4-5) there will be no 12:15pm Mass.

On Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, our morning Mass will be at 9:00am. Please mark your calendar.
SJC Moms’ Club  
Wednesday, May 25
Our SJC Moms’ year-end wrap up party will be at Cafe Salsa. Evite with details to follow. What's better than a Mexican Fiesta to get a break from the kids? We'll talk about what to expect from SJC Moms next year. All ladies of the parish are invited.
Interested in receiving event invites and updates?
Email sjcmomsclub@gmail.com

New Parish Sponsored Program at The Well in LaGrange
“New Perspectives on Coping Spiritually with Illness and Life’s Challenges” on Saturday, June 4 from 9am-4pm. Facilitator, Michael Morwood, is well known for his seminars, retreats and books on “the New Universe Story” in which he explores new insights into our understanding of God, revelation, Jesus, and prayer. Now a cancer patient, he shares – and opens for discussion – how these insights may help people cope spiritually with their experience of illness and how to handle life’s challenges. See Michael’s June 16, 2015 article in the National Catholic Reporter: “What I learned at 3am in a hospital bed after surgery.” Cost: The $75 fee which includes lunch is waived for SJC parishioners. The Well is located at 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange. To register to attend, please call Theresa at the Parish Center office.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
In today’s Gospel it says “But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.” Let the Spirit of truth bring you to the knowledge of God’s plan for your marriage. Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on June 10-12, 2016 or August 12-14, 2016 or October 7-9, 2016, all in Elk Grove Village. Early registration is highly recommended. For reservations/information, call Jim & Kris at 630-577-0778 or contact us through http://wwme-chicagoland.org.

If our hearts and actions are inspired by charity, by divine love, then our communication will be touched by God’s own power.  
Pope Francis @Pontifex  May 13
Living the Gospel

What is the “more” that Jesus has to tell his disciples that they cannot bear? Ultimately, Jesus is speaking of life and death—his own and ours—which are probably the most weighty issues any of us ever faces. Jesus is facing his own imminent death; he is faced with the decision to give over his life. He is preparing his disciples for the same choice.

The Father gives everything to Jesus—all Life, all love, all truth. The Spirit takes from Jesus to “declare to [us] the things that are coming.” Give and take. Such is the dynamic of the inner Life of the Trinity. Such is the dynamic of how the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit engage us in their Life. Give and take. We can “bear” the “much more” the Spirit has to tell us when we surrender more fully to the trinitarian Life within us. What is coming? Full entry into the glory of trinitarian Life. All give and take. It is ours to choose. As difficult as it is to grasp the mystery of God’s triune majesty, it is even more difficult to grasp that God loves us enough to share divine Life and glory with us. God chooses to dwell within and among us. Living the Gospel means that we are faithful witnesses to the God within. The give-and-take necessary for growing in God’s Life is the dynamic rhythm of the give-and-take, the dying-and-rising of the paschal mystery. We give ourselves over for the good of others so that we can take the risen Life God gives us in the Holy Spirit. ©Living Liturgy

Background on the Gospel

This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next Sunday, however, are designated as solemnities, special days that call our attention to central mysteries of our faith. Today, on the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast invites us to consider what we believe about God, who has revealed himself to us in the Trinity—one God in three persons.

The verses of today’s Gospel come near the end of Jesus’ long discourse at the Last Supper. In this section he focuses more on the shape of the future, which will include Jesus’ victory over the world that they will share in. The disciples of Jesus cannot know the future. They can only know that, whatever shape the future takes, they will not have to face it alone. They have the Spirit of Truth, who will continue to provide the teaching of Jesus in the future.

Reading this passage on Trinity Sunday reinforces our understanding of the unity shared by the members of the Trinity. Although the idea of one God in three persons remains a mystery, we have the assurance that, as Jesus and the Father share all, Jesus and the Spirit share all. ©Living Liturgy
Self-Mercy
By Jack Shea

“May the message of mercy reach everyone and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy.”
Pope Francis

The easiest and yet most difficult way for mercy to reach everyone is for us to have mercy on ourselves. This may seem strange, but there is a good reason why this should happen.

We can dream more than we can do. We can commit to spiritually grounded values, but we have trouble enacting them. It is our human make-up.

This means we are built for mistakes, a condition we have to learn to live with. Living with it means mercy begins at home. We have to extend mercy to ourselves.

Look at our wedding vows. We promise to love for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in good times and bad, in sickness and health, until the end of our days. We are convinced our dream of love is stronger than circumstances.

But living this out proves difficult. In concrete situations, the ways of love often elude us. When a spouse irritates us, we do not know whether to blow up or keep silent. When our son informs us he is flunking algebra, we fumble for a response. When our heart is full, we cannot find the words to express it.

In situation after situation, our words and deeds do not measure up to the values we hold and the intentions we have.

No sin here. Just a gap between the desires of the heart and what our words and deeds can pull off. We are not quick enough or consistent enough to always turn our God-connected spirit into flesh and blood.

Therefore, we have to extend mercy to our finite and fragile selves. We have to return to our dreams of love when we have not quite got them right and search for better ways to get them right. We are experiments in incarnation.

Relax.

We will always be more than we can say or do. When we have mercy on ourselves, we will sense a deep truth. The source of our self-mercy is the mercy of God. ©Jack Shea

“God’s mercy is forever; it never ends, it never runs out, it never gives up when faced with closed doors, and it never tires.”
Pope Francis
Becoming aware that we have been divinized by Jesus Christ, invited into the Trinity family, is felt realization of the numinous presence of God not only all around us but also within us. God is there all the time, waiting, Atman. But, like God’s forgiveness, God’s will to share the divine aliveness with us can’t activate until we invite it. It is the heart-stopping understanding that despite our shortcomings, despite our seeming insignificance to most of those around us, the God who dwells in unapproachable light dwells within us. As he did in a Bethlehem stable.  

William J. O’Malley, SJ

The best time to pray is when I feel the least inclined to do so. For instance, if I’m upset with my husband or wrangling online or over the phone with some nameless, faceless, nonhuman entity that’s after my money, then I am not thinking about my conversation with God. Also, if I’m feeling guilty, I find it difficult to glide into ceaseless prayer. However, in the same way that Jesus said he came for those who need a doctor, not those who are already well, I believe that prayer is first of all for those who need it most. Prayer is for those very times when we avoid talking to God because we’re having a tough time and are not behaving well.

Don’t we still harbor this idea that we must be in a certain blameless and loving condition before we approach Almighty God? If I just cursed the driver who swerved into my lane, am I not disqualified somehow from having God’s ear? If I just failed utterly to love and cherish the person I vowed to love and cherish for a lifetime, isn’t the Lord too disappointed in me to be interested in what I have to say?

If God were like me, then the above would be true. God would give me the silent treatment and teach me a lesson. Or God would block out my cries until I “settled down.” But God (Thank you, God!) is not a bigger and badder version of me, or you, or anyone. God’s love and mercy do not depend on any action or non-action of mine. Thus, God waits for my prayer at every moment.

God also understands that sometimes when I need to pray, I cannot do it with words. I am too hurt or exhausted or anxious or scattered or furious. I believe that, at those very times, the Holy Spirit turns my sighs and groans and even my frustrated exclamations into some form of need and desire that reaches God at that instant. God hears us as we are, not as we think we should be.

I’m not always inclined to pray when things are going well, either. This indicates that I still think of prayer more in terms of asking for things rather than spending time with One who loves me. When I am not compelled by acute need, then my prayer can be gratitude and joy and song.

So, the time to pray is when life upsets us too much to pray. And the time to pray is when life is going so well that we are tempted to think we’ve achieved such a miracle on our own. May we pray whenever . . . and always. Vanita Hampton Wright. Ignatian Spirituality
Embodiment

While Paul's writing includes philosophical and poetic passages, it's not esoteric. Paul's teaching is incarnational. He sees that the Gospel message must have concrete embodiment. Concrete embodiment is Jesus' idea of church, too. Jesus' first vision of church is "two or three gathered in my name" (Matthew 18:20). This is why he insists that the message be communicated not by the lone evangelist but sent the Twelve out "two by two" (Mark 6:7). The individual is not a fitting communicator of the core message, and I am not either. (A lovely little team makes these daily meditations possible at several levels!)

During Paul's lifetime, the church was not yet an institution or structural grouping of common practices and beliefs. The church was a living organism that communicated the Gospel through relationships. This fits with Paul's understanding of Christ as what we might call an energy field, something in which you live inside and participate organically.

Paul's brilliant metaphor for this living, organic, concrete embodiment is the body of Christ: "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them" (Romans 12:4-6). At the heart of this body, providing the energy that enlivens the community is "the love of God that has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5).

This Spirit is itself the foundational energy of the universe, the ground of all being. As Barbara Brown Taylor writes, "At this point in my thinking, it is not enough for me to proclaim that God is responsible for all this unity. Instead, I want to proclaim that God is the unity--the very energy, the very intelligence, the very elegance and passion that make it all go." [1] In fact, modern physics and molecular biology are making this quintessentially clear. Union is not just pious rambling or pretty poetry, but the concrete work of God in love-making. Paul writes, "Now you in your togetherness are Christ's Body" (see 1 Corinthians 12:27). In our connectedness with this luminous web, this vibrational state of love, we are participating in the embodiment of God. We witness this every time we see a flower bloom, a horse nuzzle, a dog come to be petted, a research scientist care, or the sun again agree to shine (for no payment or return!).

Paul's communities are the audiovisual aids he can point to, giving credibility to his statements about new life. To people who ask, "Why should we believe there's a new life?" Paul can say, "Look at these people. They're different. They've been changed." As Jesus said, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

For Jesus, such teachings as forgiveness, healing, and justice are the clear evidence of a shared life. When we do not see this happening, religion is "all in the head." Peacemaking, forgiveness, and reconciliation are not some kind of ticket to heaven later. They are the price of peoplehood--the signature of heaven--now.

Gateway to Silence: We are one in the Spirit.
Infant Baptism

St. John of the Cross Parish faith community congratulates the following families who had their infants baptized on May 15 by Deacon John Schopp. Pictured below with their godparents and Deacon John are: Christopher Ing and Michelle Rojas with Cora Aurelia, Christopher and Christine Sykora with William Alexander, James and Elizabeth Chenelle with John Blair, and Daniel and Anne Shovain with Henry Loring.

St. John of the Cross Parish faith community also congratulates Katie and Grant Christenson with infant Sam who was baptized on Mother’s Day by Deacon Joe Pepitone. Sam is the second grandchild of Bill (Sue) Bright, our Director of Outreach.

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.

The gift of the Holy Spirit has been bestowed in abundance so that we may live lives of genuine faith and active charity.
Pope Francis @Pontifex May 16
Becoming a Vessel of God’s Mercy
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ MT (25:34-40)

The first line in the rule of St. Francis of Assisi to his brothers is to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ... This is a tall order for me as a Franciscan of The Eucharist of Chicago. Our life is one of penance as we live and work with the poor on the West Side, constantly striving to imitate Christ. Each day I am reminded of Mt 25 – whatever you do for the least little one, you do for me. Each day I am challenged to see Christ in the poor. How easily I forget that I am bearing Christ to those in need. When I give someone food, clothing, a smile, when I pray for the poor, counsel them or even listen to them, I am this vessel of mercy ... the Father’s Mercy.

It seems at times I can become self-centered and concerned only about my needs. This often leaves my heart unsettled and empty. It is only first when my heart is rooted in scripture, rooted in the Gospel as St. Francis calls us to, that I am then able to give material and spiritual needs to the poor. By Sr. Kate O’Leary Arch Chicago

Step Up Your Job Search
Thursday, June 2 from 7-9 pm at St. Cletus School. Speaker Greg Harnyak, author of Step Up Your Job Search, will address facing emotional fatigue during a job search and other psychological effects of a job search. Greg will also provide guidelines on answering and asking questions during the interview process.

PBMR
Fr. Dave Kelly, Staff members and youth from Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Chicago visited SJC on May 1. Read more about our PBMR on our parish website.

Healthy Aging Program
“Eating for Healthy Aging” All are welcome to join Krista Konecki, PharmD, Pharmacy Manager for Walgreens Co. to explore what happens when we age. Discover nutrition & other tips to help you live well on Wednesday, May 25 from 1:00-2:00pm at Mayfair Recreation in Westchester. For more information, please call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323, ext. 242. Aging Well is a program of Aging Care Connections, La Grange.

Food Pantry Collection
Each month our parish donates nonperishable food to an area food pantry. During the month of May our donations will be give to Mary Queen of Heaven Food Pantry in Cicero. Bring a can to two of soup, tuna or vegetables or a box of macaroni and cheese to the church narthex when you come to Mass.

It is when I recognize the need to go out of myself, to give to those in need, to extend a hand to those suffering either physically or spiritually, that my heart is filled with joy and peace.
Thank you!! I wish to express my thanks to the many people who attended the Dancing for the Priest’s Fundraising Event last Friday evening. Your presence and support of my dancing debut meant so much. Thanks too for those unable to attend the event but sent prayers and best wishes for a great dance. Though I did not win the event, despite seemingly winning the crowd vote –Fr. Adan Sandoval won with his great Bachata moves on the dance floor. But the real winner was the Church – the people of God, especially the faith community of St. Gall in their desire to provide Catholic Education. I am grateful for the wonderful and enthusiastic spirit present at the event. Your presence spoke greatly of your love of the Church and for priests. Fr. Adan Sandoval (Pastor at Our Lady of the Mount in Cicero), Fr. Terry Keehan (Pastor at Holy Family), and Fr. Gary Graf (Pastor at St. Gall) and I had such a great time laughing with, encouraging and supporting one another. On behalf of all of us – thank you for your support you show us as both dancers and as priests serving you and the people of God.

Fr. Bill
The SJC Women's Club is getting ready for our

43rd Annual
Garage Sale!

Saturday, June 18th
9am to 2pm

Monday, June 20th 9am to 1pm Half Price/Bag Sale

The mission of the Garage Sale means giving to those in need, respecting others less fortunate, bringing together volunteers in a Christian spirit, raising funds to support local charities within our community, and supporting our parish.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy your participation is an opportunity to live out the corporal works of mercy. By volunteering and donating items you can make a difference in the lives of others. This is also a wonderful way to meet fellow parishioners.

General Sale / Volunteer Questions:
Please call
Mary Beth White (708) 246-6339

Donate Items

Check your closets, toy boxes, cupboards, basement and garage for items to donate. Please separate and label your bags by contents. Furniture will be accepted this year, but there will be no pick up due to space limitations.

Donations may be brought to the school between Saturday, June 11 and Friday, June 17.

Saturday, June 11: 9am – 2pm
Mon - Thurs, June 13 –16: 10am – 8pm
Friday, June 17: 10am-12pm

Items Not Accepted Include:
ANY items if stained, torn or damaged including clothing, undergarments, linens, stuffed toys, furniture and rugs
Items with missing pieces/parts • console TVs, tube TV's, electric organs, typewriters, trophies, non-motorized treadmills • Bikes not in working condition • Bed Frames or mattresses, traverse drapery rods • cookbooks, Encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines • Large appliances (stoves, microwave ovens,) or old humidifiers • Large artificial Christmas trees/stands • Skis/ski boots, Computers 7 yrs or older, ANY monitor other than flat screen • Construction materials, kitchen cabinets, metal filing cabinets/desks • Tires • food items •drop side cribs • car seats older than 5 yrs.

Volunteer Your Time

Mark the garage sale on your calendar and plan to volunteer. Volunteers are welcome anytime between June 11 and June 20. Come when you can...give an hour or two or more...on any or all days. Specific volunteer hours are:

Friday, June 10 (Rm Chairs Only) 10am to 1pm
Saturday, June 11 9am to 3pm
Mon.–Thurs., June 13–16 9:30am to 8:30pm
Friday, June 17 10am to 3pm
Sale Day** June 18 8:30am to 2pm
Half-Price/Bag Sale Day** June 20 8:30 to 1pm
Clean-Up Day** June 20 12 pm to DONE
**Please let a Garage Sale Room Chair know which hours you can work these days.

Pre-Sale Shopping Special for our Volunteers:
Friday, June 17 from 3 to 5:30 pm
Work 6 or more hours to qualify!

Student Volunteers: Students needing service hours are required to sign-up. 7th graders or older who would like to volunteer or baby-sit, contact Denise Schullo c.312/415-6456.

Free babysitting for children of Garage Sale Volunteers: Call Rita Forster at 708-246-4519.

St. John of the Cross Parish  Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  May 22, 2016  Page 12
A seminarian I know recently went to a party on a Friday evening at a local university campus. The group was a crowd of young, college students and when he was introduced as a seminarian, as someone who was trying to become a priest and who had taken a vow of celibacy, the mention of celibacy evoked some giggles in the room, some banter, and a number of jokes about how much he must be missing out on in life. Poor, naïve fellow! Initially, within this group of millennia, his religious beliefs and what this had led to in his life was regarded as something between amusing and pitiful. But, before the evening was out, several young women had come, cried on his shoulder, and shared about their frustration with their boyfriends’ inability to commit fully to their relationship.

This incident might serve as a parable describing today’s young people in our secularized world. They exhibit what might aptly be called a bi-polar character about faith, church, family, sexual ethos, and many other things that are important to them.

They present an inconsistent picture: On the one hand, by and large, they are not going to church, at least with any regularity; they are not following the Christian ethos on sexuality; they seem indifferent to and even sometimes hostile to many cherished religious traditions; and they can appear unbelievably shallow in their addiction and enslavement to what’s trending in the world of entertainment, fashion, and information technology. Looked at from one perspective, our kids today can appear irreligious, morally blasé, and on a heavy diet of the kind of superficiality that characterizes reality television and video games. More seriously still, they can also appear myopic, greedy, pampered, and excessively self-interested. Not a pretty picture.

But this isn’t exactly the picture. Beneath that surface, in most cases, you will find someone who is very likeable, sincere, soft, good-hearted, gracious, moral, warm, generous, and searching for all the right things (without much help from a culture that lacks clear moral guidance and is fraught with over-choice). The good news is that most young people, at the level of their real desires, are not at odds at all with God, faith, church, and family. For the most part, youth today are still very good people and want all the right things.

But, that isn’t always so evident. Sometimes their surface seems to trump their depth so that who they really are and what they really want is not so evident. We see the surface and, seen there, our youth can appear more self-interested than generous, more shallow than deep, more blasé than morally sensitive, and more religiously indifferent than faith-filled. They can also manifest a smugness and self-sufficiency that suggests little vulnerability and no need for guidance from anyone beyond themselves.

Hence their bi-polarity: Mostly they want all the right things, but, too often, because of a lack of genuine guidance and their addiction to the culture, they aren’t making the kinds of choices that will bring them what they more-deeply desire. Sexuality is a prime example here: Studies done on millennia indicate that most of them want, at the end of the day, to be inside a monogamous, faithful marriage. The problem is that they also believe that they can first allow themselves ten to fifteen years of sexual promiscuity, without having to accept that practicing ten to fifteen years of infidelity is not a good preparation for the kind of fidelity needed to sustain marriage and family. In this, as in many other things, they are caught between their cultural ethos and their own fragile securities. The culture trumpets a certain ethos, liberation from the timidities of the past, complete with a smugness that belittles whatever questions it. But much of that smugness is actually whistling in the dark. Deep down, our youth are pretty insecure and, happily, this keeps them vulnerable and likeable.

Maybe Louis Dupre, the retired philosopher who taught for some many years at Yale, captures it best when he says that today’s young people are not bad, they’re just not finished. That’s a simple insight that captures a lot. Someone can be wonderful and very likeable, but still immature. Moreover, if you’re young enough, that can even be attractive, the very definition of cool. The reverse is also, often times, true: More than a few of us, adults, suffer from our own bi-polarity: we are mature, but far from wonderful and likeable. This makes for some strange, paradoxical binaries.

So who is the actual young person of today? Is it the person who is wrapped up in his or her own world, obsessive about physical appearance, addicted to social media, living outside marriage with his or her partner, smug in his or her own non-traditional moral and religious views? That, I believe, is the surface appearance. The actual young person of today is warm, good-hearted, generous, and waiting, waiting consciously for love and affirmation, and waiting unconsciously for God’s embrace.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Parish School News
This week our eighth graders celebrated their Annual Memorial Games to raise money to purchase a memorial gift for the school. On Monday they participated in our annual May Crowning & Ribbon Ceremony which was followed by a luncheon and fun activities in the Parish Center. At the end of the week they headed to Great America for a fabulous class trip.

SJC Parish School Calendar
Tuesday, May 24
Awards Ceremony, All Grades 9:15am
Awards Ceremony, 8th Grade 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 25
Kindergarten Fun Day
1st and 8th grade Buddy Lunch 11:00am

Thursday, May 26
Graduation 5pm
Last Day for Pre School

Friday, May 27
Kindergarten Celebration 9:15am
Last Day for Pre School

Make God and His Word a Part of Your Summer!
High school and college students often have summers packed with summer school, jobs, internships, family and friends, barbeques and pools, working out… sometimes Jesus and our faith gets pushed aside. We are juggling so many activities – how can we stay connected to God amidst all things competing for our attention? It can be easy to forget what is the most important – building a relationship with the Lord, the one who made us, loves us, and gives our life meaning.

Ignite is a student-led small group discussion that meets one hour each week over the summer. Groups of college or high school students reflect on a Scripture passage and how it is relevant to things we face every day. Anyone and everyone is welcome – you have to start somewhere, so whether this is your first Bible study or you’ve been around the block, Ignite is for you!

Ignite will start Tuesday, June 7 from 7:30-8:30pm in the Parish Center. We will continue to meet every Tuesday throughout the summer, so stop by any time you are available! New members always welcome! Please contact Ashley Klesken at 708-299-1737 or at ashleyklesken@gmail.com with questions.

Spiritual Gifts Workshop for Teens
Join teens from Saint Francis Xavier, St. John of the Cross and St. Cletus as we learn about the gifts God has given us to share with others! Tuesday, June 7 from 10am-4pm at St. Cletus. Email khayes@stjohnofthecross.org if you plan to be there!

Crossroads Calendar of Events
June 2 - 6pm Work Tour Meeting
June 3 - 9am Day of Service

OPEN YOUR HEARTS
Pray about sharing your time and talents with our parish YC students. Stop in and talk with us about how you can help! We also need VBS leaders – mornings the week of June 27-30.

SPECIAL YC REGISTRATION OFFICE HOURS
Register for Kindergarten through 8th grade YC Office (51st St & Caroline Ave) next week:
Monday & Wednesday 8:30am-4:30pm
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-7:00pm (extended!)
Closed Friday-Sunday for Memorial Day
Monday, May 23
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
7:00pm Fest Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 24
7:00pm School Awards Night
7:30pm Christian Meditation
Wednesday, May 25
11:30am School Buddy Lunch
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm John of the Cross Group
Thursday, May 26
5:00pm Parish School Graduation
7:30pm SAM Meeting
Friday, May 27
Saturday, May 28
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, May 29, 2016
Summer Mass Schedule Begins
No 12:15pm Mass
12:00pm Baptism Prep
Monday, May 30
Memorial Day ~
Parish Center Closed
9:00am Mass

Love Each Other
Love each other as God loves each one of you, with an intense and particular love. Be kind to each other: it is better to commit faults with gentleness than to work miracles with unkindness.

Mother Teresa

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Mass Intentions
Italics: Living Intention

Monday, May 23 Weekday
7:45am John Walsh McHugh; Tom Brady
Tuesday, May 24 Weekday
7:45am Margaret Nash-Burke; Andy Dolan
Wednesday, May 25 St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene
7:45am Shirley Connors; Bob Rooney
Thursday, May 26 St. Philip Neri
7:45am Gail Sullivan; Bob Rooney
Friday, May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury
7:45am Donald Dempsey; Our Beloved Dead
Saturday, May 28 Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Walt Sobek; Jerome Donohue
5:00pm Mary Ann & Raymond Jonns; Barbara Kenny
Sunday, May 29 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
7:30am Barry Cicero; Bob Rooney
9:00am Marie Coyne; Michael Hogan
10:45am Sylvester Ptak; Herb Young
(No 12:15pm Mass for the summer months)
5:00pm Bubbles Sabath; Greg Perona
Monday, May 30 Memorial Day
9:00am Bob Rooney; Jerome Donohue

Pray for Our Sick
Jeanne Allen
Rita Barnes
Anna Marie Berland
Robert Bright
Judy Burke
Bradley John Burton III
Crystal Deters
Mildred Fitzgerald
Lynn Freking
Christopher Gallagher
Kathleen Gros
Robert Hartnett
Randall Hemiauer
Alfred Hesse
Karen Hult
John Impens
Ann Kalaska
Curtis Kerzich
George Kojima
Pat Kot
Athie Lanahan
Cathy Laskey
Nancy Lohr
Bobbie Misiora
Ann McGuire
John Morris
Frank Mraz
Steve Pechous
Frank & Marge Pipal
Anthony Placek, Jr.
David Sarros
Kelly Seebruch
Deloris Simonek
Shirley Smith
Monica Westell

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Ashley Jurjovec
Miroslav Chybik, husband of Ingrid, father of Mary Ann, Angela and Rosemarie Long, grandfather of 2
Helen Chruscicki, mother of Joan Chawshaw, Jean, grandmother of 3

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 Stmetz
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

St. John of the Cross Parish
Solemnty of the Most Holy Trinity
May 22, 2016
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Purchase your
MEGA PASS WRISTBANDS
ON SALE NOW
Pre-sale Price: $50
Good for unlimited rides during the entire SJC FEST!
$65 Mega Passes will also be sold at the Fest on June 23rd - 26th

Mega Passes can be purchased at:
the Parish Center Office and School Office (see Val Nelson)
During regular business hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm
Or Order Online (Go to sjcfest.com)
Only a limited number of vouchers will be sold at the reduced price! Cash, Check or Credit Card

MEGA PASSES are non-transferrable, non-replaceable and non-refundable.
For additional information, please call Diane Schick at (708) 292-1100.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Won't you please consider sharing your time and talent by volunteering for this year's Family Festival?
We are in need of food and beverage servers, people to grill hot dogs and hamburgers, security, grounds maintenance, volunteers for setup and takedown and much more.
To sign up, go to www.sjcfest.com and click on the “VOLUNTEER” tab.

THANK YOU!!!