Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. 

COLLECT
November 2016
Jubilee of Mercy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As the Jubilee of Mercy concludes, I invite you to reflect on opportunities to continue accompanying the poor in our midst, including through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). For over forty-five years, CCHD has been a living example of our Church’s social teaching, offering a ‘hand-up’ to empower the poor to help themselves improve their lives and the livelihood of their families and others. This year, CCHD is funding twenty-eight organizations that are addressing the roots causes of poverty with seniors, youth, immigrants, people with disabilities and workers in Cook and Lake Counties.

This year a collaborative effort by several CCHD grantees helped pass the Illinois Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights (HB 1288). This law grants domestic workers – caretakers, housekeepers, those who clean and do household maintenance – the same legal protections as other workers. This victory directly lifts up the poor.

Please make a special effort during this Thanksgiving season to give generously to the CCHD Collection the weekend of November 19-20. Your contribution will enable the poor to achieve greater dignity and all of us to work together to build God’s kingdom of justice.

To learn more about CCHD in the Archdiocese of Chicago, parish resources, and the groups it funds, please visit www.ChicagoPeaceAndJustice.org/CCHD.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Origins
CCHD was founded in 1970 by the Catholic bishops of the United States as their domestic anti-poverty program. They realized that established charitable services alone were not creating the changes people needed to stay out of poverty. With a goal of creating sustainable systems, the bishops worked to address the policies and structures that perpetuate poverty. CCHD seeks to eliminate poverty by building solidarity in communities.

Impact
CCHD brings Catholic social teaching to life by funding community and economic development programs across the United States that help poor and marginalized people join together to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. Economic development initiatives help create new businesses and jobs. CCHD also provides educational opportunities for Catholics to learn about poverty, stand in solidarity with those affected by it, and reflect on their own responsibility before the great need of others.

Progress Center for Independent Living
Today at all Masses we welcome Horacio Esparza from the Progress Center in Forest Park. The Progress Center is one of the organizations that receives funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The Center, a nonprofit, nonresidential community based center, that directly assists people with disabilities helping them increase and maintain their independence. Services provided include assistance with personal management and living skills, help finding jobs, referrals/access to available resources, and peer counseling aimed at solving day to day issues faced by people with disabilities.

Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development next weekend.

We are disciples, but also missionaries, bringing Christ wherever he asks us to be present. 

Pope Francis @Pontifex Oct 23
Living the Gospel

In the beginning, all things came to be. At the end, things as we know them will cease to be. Does anything really last forever? Certainly not temples, not nations, not even the foundations of the earth. So, what does last forever? God, the wisdom of Jesus, divine Life. And, yes, the lives of those who persevere in fidelity to the name and mission of Jesus and who “will secure” a share in divine Life. At the end . . . a new beginning.

The signs of the end of time alert us to the fact that our striving to be faithful disciples has cosmic proportions. Living the Gospel doesn’t just have consequences for ourselves, but also for all others. When we break out of a chronological understanding of time (that is, time as duration with past, present, and future) and break into God’s eternal time (time without duration in which everything just is), we can begin to understand how even the little acts of kindness and self-sacrifice we perform each day affect all that is. Our unity with Jesus is deepened by striving to care for others, help others, shower others with dignity and respect. Here is a sobering thought: the way we care for the children, are honest at the workplace, take leisure time to care for ourselves affects our whole world and everyone in it. This is the privilege of discipleship: we can make a difference! This is the effect of faithful discipleship: the world is a better place—we have readied it for Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time by our faithful and grace-filled living now. ©Living Liturgy

Gospel Summary

It is clear from this passage in Luke’s Gospel that when the world ends, some terrifying events will occur. The clear message, however, is that we should not face these events with apprehension, but rather with trust — trust that God wants us to have everlasting life with him. Instead of being afraid, we are called to find strength and courage in God's love and persevere in our faith.

Reflection for Families

Today's Gospel makes it clear that we should persevere in our faith and be faithful disciples. We are most responsible for evangelizing our own children. There is an expression, “Faith is caught, not taught.” How do our children see us live out our faith? How do we witness the greatness of God’s love and our personal response to that love? Share with your child (ren) what it means for you to walk with Jesus.

Discussion Starters

1. Once I was really afraid, but I found comfort when . . .
2. The most challenging part of my witnessing for Jesus was when . . .
3. My faith is strongest when . . .

RCL Benziger

May we grow in the wisdom of Jesus and persevere in fidelity to his name. May we embrace each day as a new beginning, making choices that will secure for us eternal Life.

Stand up and go. Live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. Do something beautiful today. Respond to God’s presence by taking a chance and living life to the full. Enjoy the most amazing gift that the Lord has given to you.
Background on the Gospel

In the context of Luke, today's Gospel appears near the end of Jesus' teaching in Jerusalem, just prior to the events that will lead to his crucifixion. His warnings and predictions are ominous but can be read in many ways.

To those who first heard Luke's Gospel, those may have been words of encouragement. The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans was history (70 A.D.); Luke's Gospel, Catholic scholars propose, was written between 80 and 90 A.D. His audience was probably Gentile Christians. Luke here tries to interpret the fall of Jerusalem for them and to locate it in God's plans for humankind (salvation history). At the same time, Luke is suggesting to his audience that there will be a considerable elapse of time before Jesus' final coming. Luke's listeners have likely seen much upheaval and are anxious to know if these are the signs of Jesus' coming. Luke is urging greater patience.

In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus warns that his followers will face persecution for their beliefs. Luke presents persecution as an opportunity for the followers of Jesus for "It will lead to your giving testimony" (Luke 21:13). In persecution God's wisdom and power will be shown in the example of followers of Jesus. Perseverance in the face of persecution will lead to their salvation.

Here Jesus is assuring his followers that God is present to all believers, even in times of trouble. Ultimately, Jesus will witness to this with his own death. As disciples of Jesus, we try to follow his example, trusting in God's mercy and protection, even when we are facing difficulties. Loyola Press

Recognizing our Gifts

Most of the time, we think of our gifts—our contributions to the body of Christ and to the world—as those abilities we're born with, or the abilities bestowed on us by the Holy Spirit. We're born with a gift of artistic expression; the Holy Spirit gifts us to teach or to show hospitality.

Some gifts, though, come to us out of necessity. We learn how to care for physical and medical needs when a family member goes through cancer treatment. Ever after, we will be more comfortable around medical equipment and situations—which may put us in a position to minister to others.

Some gifts come to us as opportunities. While coaching a daughter's soccer team, we become part of a little community that revolves around the team. Before long, we are able to offer friendship and its gifts to people we would not even know except for our connection to our child's sport.

This week, look back over your history of the past few years. What gifts developed in your life because they were necessary? What do you know how to do that you never dreamed you would learn?

And what opportunities—situations and friendships—have opened up your life so that its gifts have a wider range of influence? Of course, this goes both ways; you don't do all the giving but also receive gifts and graces from other people. For now, though, concentrate on how your own gifts have been developed.

Vinita Hampton Wright

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Justice

Most merciful mother, you came to tell us of your compassion through St. Juan Diego, whom you called the littlest and dearest of your sons. Give your strength and protection to all who live in poverty today, especially the young, elderly, and vulnerable. Plead for them to the Father, that they might experience the Divine Love tangibly in their daily lives, and that all who work for justice on behalf of the poor might grow in fortitude and humility. In these ways, manifest your charity and concern in our lives, that the weeping of humanity may be heard, and all our suffering, pain, and misfortune may be filled with divine comfort and healing. May we always know the peace of being in the cradle of your arms, and bring us safely home to your son, Jesus. Amen.
Today, I will dwell neither on yesterday’s events nor tomorrow’s maybes, but rather the still, perfect moment that is the present.

Today, I will take each moment one at a time. I will sit still and look around me. I will accept every situation I find myself in.

Today, I will appreciate the richness of every season. I will celebrate the spirit of every circumstance, mood, and archetype.

Today, I will cultivate a spirit of gratitude by recognizing the countless blessings in my life. I will offer up continual thanks.

Today, I will seek the beauty in every person I meet and dwell on the good in them. I will build them up and do everything I can to make their day a little better.

Today, I will look each person I talk to in the eye. I will listen to him or her with all of my attention and energy.

Today, I will be kind to myself. I will be gentle yet disciplined, and I will be ready to laugh at myself and my situation at all times.

Today is God’s day. I am alive for it, and I have a purpose.

Father in heaven, you sent us your only Son to redeem us and to build your kingdom on earth. Please give us the wisdom and strength we need to follow His call.

Grant to the faithful a spirit of generosity, that Church vocations may flourish.

Bless our priests with holiness and courage, that they may lead your people to Christ.

Help all sisters and brothers to fulfill their sacred promises and so be effective signs of your kingdom.

Lord, invite more men and women to your service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The blessing of God, whose breath gave life to the world, be in all you speak this day.

The blessing of God, whose love reconciles all who are divided, be with you as you seek to heal the brokenness around you.

The blessing of God, whose Spirit sanctifies life, be with you as you go forth into the world to bless others with God’s love.

So be it! Amen.

-Vienna Cobb Anderson
The Second Coming of Christ

*Christ is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of God’s nature, sustaining the universe by God’s powerful command.* —Hebrews 1:3, Jerusalem Bible

Christ is not Jesus’ last name. The word *Christ* is a title, meaning the Anointed One, which we so consistently applied to Jesus that to us it became like a name. But a study of Scripture, Tradition, and the experience of many mystics reveals a much larger, broader, and deeper meaning to “the Christ.” Frankly, it is a metaphysical concept more than a religious one, although almost all people today would see it as a religious name for Jesus.

The above passage from Hebrews says that Christ “sustains the universe.” Christ is a religious concept because it can be used to describe reality in an archetypal, symbolic, and profound way. But it names the shape of the universe before it names the individual who typifies that shape, the one we call Jesus Christ. All of creation first holds God’s anointing (“beloved” status), and then Jesus brings the message home in a personal way thirteen billion years later!

This is a different way of thinking for most of us. The three Synoptic Gospels are largely talking about Jesus, the historical figure who healed and taught and lived in human history; whereas John’s Gospel presents the trans-historical “Christ” (which is why so very few stories in John coincide with Matthew, Mark, and Luke). This Christ is frequently making universal “I AM” statements and claims (see John 6:35, 48; 8:12, 24, 58; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1), mirroring the unspeakable name of the Holy One in Exodus 3:14. This is very different than the Jesus of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Among the four Gospels, we have both Jesus and Christ.

Paul also never met the historical Jesus and hardly ever quotes Jesus directly. In almost all of Paul’s preaching and writing, he is referring to the Eternal Christ Mystery or the Risen Christ rather than Jesus of Nazareth before his death and resurrection. The Risen Christ is the only Jesus that Paul ever knew! This makes Paul a fitting mediator for the rest of us, since the Omnipresent Risen Christ is the only Jesus we will ever know as well (see 2 Corinthians 5:16-17).

Jesus’ historical transformation (“resurrected flesh”) allows us more easily to experience the Presence that has always been available since the beginning of time, a Presence unlimited by space or time, which is the promise and “guarantee” of our own transformation (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-53). In Jesus the Timeless Christ became time bound, so we could enjoy the personal gaze, as it were (see 1 John 1-2).

*Whenever the material and the spiritual coincide, there is the Christ.* Jesus fully accepted that human-divine identity and walked it into history. Henceforth, the Christ “comes again” whenever we are able to see the spiritual and the material coexisting, in any moment, in any event, and in any person. All matter reveals Spirit, and Spirit needs matter to “show itself”! I believe “the Second Coming of Christ” happens whenever and wherever we allow this to be utterly true for us. This is how God continually breaks into history—even before the first Stone Age, humans stood in awe and wonder, gazing at the stars.

**Gateway to Silence:**
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Today (as) we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints ...we remember not only those who have been proclaimed saints through the ages, but also our many brothers and sisters who, in a quiet and unassuming way, lived their Christian life in the fullness of faith and love. Surely among them are many of our relatives, friends and acquaintances.

Ours, is a celebration of holiness. A holiness that is seen not so much in great deeds and extraordinary events, but rather in daily fidelity to the demands of our baptism. A holiness that consists in the love of God and the love of our brothers and sisters. A love that remains faithful to the point of self-renunciation and complete devotion to others. We think of the lives of all those mothers and fathers who sacrifice for their families and are prepared to forego – though it is not always easy – so many things, so many personal plans and projects.

Yet if there is one thing typical of the saints, it is that they are genuinely happy. They found the secret of authentic happiness, which lies deep within the soul and has its source in the love of God. That is why we call the saints blessed. The Beatitudes are their path, their goal towards the homeland. The Beatitudes are the way of life that the Lord teaches us, so that we can follow in his footsteps. In the Gospel of today’s Mass, we heard how Jesus proclaimed the Beatitudes before a great crowd on the hill by the Sea of Galilee.

The Beatitudes are the image of Christ and consequently of each Christian. Here I would like to mention only one: “Blessed are the meek”. Jesus says of himself: “Learn from me for I am meek and lowly in heart” (Mt 11:29). This is his spiritual portrait and it reveals the abundance of his love. Meekness is a way of living and acting that draws us close to Jesus and to one another. It enables us to set aside everything that divides and estranges us, and to find ever new ways to advance along the path of unity. ...The saints bring about change through meekness of heart. With that meekness, we come to understand the grandeur of God and worship him with sincere hearts. For meekness is the attitude of those who have nothing to lose, because their only wealth is God.

The Beatitudes are in some sense the Christian’s identity card. They identify us as followers of Jesus. We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus, to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus. Thus we ought to be able to recognize and respond to new situations with fresh spiritual energy. Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others, and forgive them from their heart. Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closeness. Blessed are those who see God in every person, and strive to make others also discover him. Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home. Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others. Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians. All these are messengers of God’s mercy and tenderness, and surely they will receive from him their merited reward.

The call to holiness is directed to everyone and must be received from the Lord in a spirit of faith. The saints spur us on by their lives and their intercession before God, and we ourselves need one another if we are to become saints. Help one another to become saints! Together let us implore the grace to accept this call with joy and to join in bringing it to fulfilment. To our heavenly Mother, Queen of All Saints, we entrust our intentions and the dialogue aimed at the full communion of all Christians, so that we may be blessed in our efforts and may attain holiness in unity. Pope Francis Homily Nov. 1
Please join us for a night of laughter hosted by Chicago comedian Pat McGann with special guests Andy Woodhull and Dwayne Kennedy. All proceeds will benefit SJC athletic programs. Tickets are $60.00 per person. Please bring your favorite food and beverages to share. Please send your ticket requests and checks to St. John of The Cross Parish School, 708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL 60558, Attn: Kathy Stillo. Thank you for your continued support of SJC Athletics!!

Name _______________________________________

Email _______________________________________

I will be attending the SJC Comedy Night for $60_______ Additional Guests: ________________________

I would like to make an additional contribution to the SJC Athletic Association

____$100 ____$250 ____$500 AND ABOVE

I can’t attend, but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $________

Enclosed is my check for $__________made payable to SJC.

St. John of the Cross Parish School is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year.

St. John of the Cross Parish School provides a dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows. We offer unique educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student. If you are interested in visiting the school, please call Jennifer Jermano Miller, Director of Advancement at 708-246-4454, to set up an appointment or visit our website at http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/school/apply-today/

Monday, November 14
Speech Pizza Party 11:30am

Thursday, November 17
School Service Projects
Welcome

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their infants baptized on October 16. Pictured from the left with their godparents are: Quinn Colleen Dieckmann with parents Trevor & Katherine, Madelyn Marie Greco with parents Thomas & Brooke, Sophia Grace Hunt with parents Andrew & Lauren, and Erin Lydia Mysz with parents Thomas & Maureen.

God of all creation, we are made in your image and are signs of your love. Bless these children who were given new life as your adopted sons and daughters through the waters of Baptism. May they grow up to know your name and give you praise. Bless the mothers and fathers of these children. Fill them with your strength so that they will be models of faith for their children, nurturing and teaching by word and example to know you and walk in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

New to SJC?
If you would like to learn all about our parish contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Parish Center Welcome Office. Call or email erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org.

New Baby? Ready for Baptism?
Learn about infant baptism at our parish. Call the Parish Center office weekdays from 9am-4pm or go to our parish website under Sacraments.

Welcome!
Help us welcome our newest parishioners to SJC! If you recognize a neighbor or name, be sure to reach out and connect with them.

Jennifer and James Marketti and Family
Sarah and Andrew Suma
Melissa and Michael Durkin
Jackie and Chet Stuut
Krista and Patrick Murphy and Family
Cindy and Thomas Hayes and Family
Men’s Club SAM Discussion
Come to our next SAM for men on Saturday, November 19 at 8:45am in the Parish Center.
“Does modern science challenge our faith beliefs?”
If you have an opinion on this, please come to the next Men’s Club SAM Gathering. We will gather over coffee and bagels in fellowship and to discuss aspects of this issue. Among us, we will deepen our shared understandings and further build friendships! We hope to see you there!

Scout Pancake Breakfast
Enjoy the Boy Scout-Men’s Club annual Pancake Breakfast next Sunday on November 20 from 8am—12:30pm in the Parish Center. All proceeds benefit programming and training for our Parish Boy Scouts in Troop 117. Tickets are $7 for adults, $4 for kids ages 5-10, and kids under 5 are free. Tickets purchased this week will be $1 less. Drop off your check and contact info in an envelope to the Parish Center before Sunday.

Program at The Well
Come, O Christ, Do Not Delay
Monday, 9:30-11am November 28
Facilitator: Pat Bergen, CSJ
In the midst of the seeming chaos in our world, something new is coming to be! Can you sense it? Can you see it? Can you give yourself to it so that hope can be enkindled, love can be ignited and Christ can be born among us in a whole new way? The world is dying from lack of love. There is no time to waste. Come; join us as we give ourselves with great intention to the season of Advent that a new birth of Christ (Love) among us will echo throughout the land!
Cost: $15 Register at The Well 708-482-5048.

Thanksgiving Day Mass Choir
All singers in the parish are invited to join voices with all of our parish choirs at our Thanksgiving Day Mass on November 24 at 9:30am. Please come at 8:30am on Thanksgiving for warm-ups and rehearsal. There will not be a 7:45am Mass that day.

Lighting our Parish Advent Candles at Mass
The Advent Season begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving on November 27. All parishioners, parishioner groups and ministry groups are invited to carry the Advent candle as part of the opening procession at each Sunday Mass throughout the season. Please sign up on the home page of our parish website.
Harvest Saturday a Success!

Our annual food drive was once again a huge success!! Thank you to everyone who either donated food, or helped sort, pack and deliver it.

Your donations were delivered to grateful recipients at St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Gall, St. Barbara, Precious Blood Prison Ministries, St. Francis Xavier, St. Cletus, Port Ministries and LaGrange Area Transitional Housing. Thank you for helping to feed the hungry!

A big thank you to dedicated parishioners Wendy Duquette, Fran Karas and Kim Sarros, who did a terrific job coordinating the Harvest Saturday events.

Home Group Leaders Needed!

Our Crossroads Youth Ministry Coordinator, Katie Nicholson, spoke at all Masses last weekend. She is excited to serve our parish teens alongside of Katie Hayes, Director of Crossroads. Katie N also spoke of the great need for home group leaders for our freshmen class.

As a leader you host twice monthly meetings in your home, November—May. You can partner with your spouse, a friend, neighbor or adult son or daughter. Please prayerfully consider sharing your faith and time with our teens. To learn more call or email Katie Hayes khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or Katie Nicholson knicholson@stjohnofthecross.org or call them at the Parish Center office.

Retreat and Experience God’s Mighty Grace

The Holy Spirit filled St. John of the Cross last month on Saturday, October 22nd! All our Confirmation Candidates were uplifted!

217 high energy youth converged onto the Multi-Purpose Room with open hearts for their Confirmation Retreat. Many I am sure would have preferred to stay home and relax, but the Holy Spirit had bigger plans for them. The afternoon was filled with activities to learn about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit ~ Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety, Understanding, Counsel, Wisdom, and Fear of the Lord! After reflecting on how the Holy Spirit works in their lives through these gifts, the youth created a flame to be part of a display at their Confirmation. They also experienced the mercy of Jesus during the Sacrament of Reconciliation and attentively listened to two High School teens witness to them about their faith life. After Praise & Worship which prepared them for Mass, all the teens joined the 5:00 Mass with high energy which filled the Church. The Youth Catechesis Office is deeply grateful to all the parents for their support and those who were able to help prepare for the day and serve pizza during the day!

YC Schedule

Classes K-6
10:15-11:30am Sun, Nov 13, Dec 4, 11, 18
6:15-7:30pm Mon, Nov 14, Dec 5, 12, 19

FFC
Noon to 1:30 pm Sun, Dec 4 (begin in MPR)

Jr Hi Sm Groups Buddy Event on campus Nov 13 or 14

Adapted Catechesis 9:00-10:00am Sun, Nov 13
Volunteer at BEDS
This fall BEDS Plus began its 29th season of sheltering individuals facing the crisis of homelessness in the western suburbs. Operated by a dedicated staff and a large group of volunteers, BEDS Plus has helped guide thousands out of crisis and back to stable, independent, and healthy lives. BEDS Plus operates its nightly emergency shelters in seven community churches that serve two dozen western suburb Cook and DuPage County municipalities.

Volunteers are needed to help as cooks, shift volunteers and laundry helpers. Volunteer orientations are held the second Monday of each month at 7-8pm at our administrative offices in the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. For more information, visit www.beds-plus.org. For information on volunteer opportunities please contact Tina Rounds at rounds@beds-plus.org or 708-354-0858.

Food Pantry Collection
During the month of November the nonperishable food donations brought to the church narthex will be delivered to Mary Queen of Heaven. Thank you for helping us feed the hungry.

Kolbe House Stamp Collection
Each year SJC parishioners donate postage stamps enabling inmates to send a Christmas card home. Drop off your donation to the Parish Center office.

Making Halloween Sweet!
A few days before Halloween, students from St. John of the Cross Parish School donated candy and decorated treat bags for children at St. Gall, Helping Hand, St. Mark and Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. The students filled two cars full of candy donations for children who cannot trick or treat in their neighborhoods. This project was coordinated by the School Student Council.

Sign Up for Share Christmas begins next weekend, November 19. Come to the church narthex before or after Mass to select a family or individual for whom you can buy a Christmas gift and/or food card(s) or an unwrapped gift for a child.

To those who are new to SJC….. Share Christmas has been a beautiful annual tradition at our parish for over thirty years. Through Share Christmas, generous parishioners have made Christmas special for thousands of individuals in the Chicago area who would otherwise not have gifts to open or be able to share a Christmas Day meal with their family.

This year sign up for Share Christmas is from November 19 through early December in the church narthex. You can sign up to purchase a gift card for an individual or a whole family or provide both food and gift cards for a family. Then our gifts are brought to the Parish Center on December 5, 6 or 7 and are delivered on December 8-9 to grateful recipients at Blessed Sacrament Church, Santa Maria Addolorata, St. Thaddeus, St. Agatha, BEDS, and Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly, St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Gall Parish.

Providing food and gift cards allows our recipients to select the sizes and colors that best meet their needs and choose food that they like and can eat. Gift cards should be from Jewel, Walmart, Kohl’s, JC Penny or Target. You can also choose to purchase an unwrapped gift for a child aged newborn to 18. Donations can also be made on our parish website. Click on the Giving Tab and go to Special Collections-Share Christmas.

Forgiveness is the essence of the love which can understand mistakes and mend them. Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 5
In 2011, a book by a young writer, Bieke Vandekerckhove, won the award as The Spiritual Book of the Year in her native Belgium. Entitled, *The Taste of Silence*, the book chronicles her own struggles after being diagnosed at age nineteen with ALS, commonly called Lou Gehrig’s disease, a degenerative neurological condition that always results in a massive debilitation of one’s body and almost always results in death not long afterwards. Not an easy diagnosis for a vibrant young woman to accept.

But, after a deep, initial depression, she found meaning in her life through meditation, silence, literature, art, poetry, and, not least, through a relationship that eventually led to marriage. Unexpectedly too her disease went into remission and she lived for another twenty years. Among the many rich insights she shares with us, she offers an interesting reflection on boredom.

Discussing the prevalence of boredom today, she highlights an irony, namely, that boredom is increasing among us even as we are daily producing every kind of gadget to help us avoid it. Given that today we carry in our hands technological devices that link us to everything from the world news of the day to photos of our loved ones playing with their children, shouldn’t we be insulated against boredom? Ironically, the opposite seems true. All those technological gadgets are not alleviating our boredom. Why not? We still wrestle with boredom because all the stimulation in the world doesn’t necessarily make for meaning. Meaning and happiness, she suggests, do not consist so much in meeting interesting people and being exposed to interesting things; rather they consist in taking a deeper interest in the people and things.

The word interest is derived from two Latin words: *inter* (inside) and *esse* (being) which, when combined, connote being inside of something. Things are interesting to us when we are interested enough in them to really get inside of them. And our interest isn’t necessarily predicated on how naturally stimulating something is in itself, though admittedly certain events and experiences can be so powerful as to literally conscript our interest. That’s what explains our strong interest in major world events, championship sports matches, Academy Award celebrations, as well as our less-than-healthy obsession with the private lives of our celebrities. Certain persons, things, and events naturally interest us and we want to be on the “inside” of those lives and events.

But major world news stories, championship sporting events, the Academy Awards, and the private lives of our celebrities are not our ordinary fare, our family dinner table, our workplace, our commute to work, our church service, our neighborhood bake-sale, our daily routine, our daily bread. And it’s here where we tend to suffer boredom because it’s here that we tend to not be deeply inside the reality of the people and events with whom and with which we are interacting. It’s here that we often feel life as flat, dull, and routine. But, at the end of the day, we wrestle with boredom not because our families, workplaces, colleagues, neighbors, churches, and friends aren’t interesting. We’re bored because we’re too internally impoverished, distracted, or self-centered to take a genuine interest in them. *Experience is not what happens to us, it’s what we do with that happens to us.* So says Einstein.

Vandekerckhove highlights yet another irony: It’s ironic that we tend to wrestle with boredom and dullness when we are in the full bloom of our lives, healthy and working; whereas people like her, who have lost their health and are staring death in the face, often find the most ordinary experiences in life exhilarating.

Her insights bear a lot of resemblance to those of Rainer Maria Rilke in his, *Letters to a Young Poet.* Like Vandekerckhove, he too suggests that boredom is a fault on our side, a disinterested eye. In his correspondence with an aspiring young poet, he takes up the young man’s complaint that he, the young man, wasn’t enough exposed to the kind of experiences that spawn poetry because lived in a small town where nothing exciting ever seemed to happen. He went on to confess that he envied Rilke who traveled extensively throughout Europe and met all kinds of interesting people. For him, Rilke’s poetic insights were very much predicated on the fact that he hung out in big cities, met interesting people, and was stimulated in ways that a young man in a small town could never hope to approximate.

Rilke’s reply to this young man has become a classic answer to the question of boredom: “If your daily life seems poor, do not blame it; blame yourself, tell yourself that you are not poet enough to call forth its riches; for to the creator there is no poverty and no poor indifferent place.”

Finding life interesting isn’t dependent upon where you are and who you meet but rather on your own capacity to see deeply into things. Life everywhere is rich enough to be interesting; but we, on our part, have to be interested.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser

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Boredom – A Fault within Ourselves

**Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser**
The Christian Churches of Western Springs invite you
to a
THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE
In “Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who
dwelleth in the Heavens.” – President Abraham Lincoln

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
7:00PM
The sanctuary of the
First Congregational Church
1106 Chestnut Street, Western Springs – (708) 246-1900 – www.wscongo.org

Reception to follow.
You are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for donation.

All are welcome!

All Saints Episcopal Church
Grace Lutheran Church
Christian Reformed Church of Western Springs
Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

First Congregational Church
St. John of the Cross Catholic Church
First United Methodist Church
Western Springs Baptist Church

“In Him you are built Together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” - Ephesians 2:22
Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, November 14  
7:45am  Thomas Albertson; Marguerite Schroder  
Tuesday, November 15  
7:45am Helen Bukovsky; Patti Johnson  
Wednesday, November 16  
7:45am Dario Pierotti; Our Beloved Dead  
Thursday, November 17  
7:45am Ted & Tom Baer; Joseph Gowgiel  
Friday, November 18  
7:45am Frances Albertson; Guy Pertile  
Saturday, November 19  
8:00am Frank Weitz; Estella Cronk  
5:00pm Kevin Gumin & Patrick Grogan; Margaret Nash Burke  
Sunday, November 20  
7:30am Mildred Bylund; Lois Flavin  
9:00am Anthony & Bridget McVady; Eileen Quinn  
10:45am Casimir Bonkowski; Charles Macke  
12:15pm Chester Cebula; Lois Flavin  
5:00pm Chucky Ingles; Lois Flavin

Pray for Our Beloved Dead  
Linda Auer, mother of Matthew  
Peggy McCarron, sister of Terry Stadler  
Leonard Maliszewski, father of Tom, David, and Jim

Marriage Banns  
Caitlin Dentamaro & Timothy Andersen

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country  
Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Sandra Foody  
Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki  
Sr A. Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler  
A Navy Seal, a relative of our parishioner & Mary Tischler  
Lance Corporal 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  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Mathew Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci  
Lance Corporal David Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci  
Sgt. Michael Grabarek, relative of the LeFevour and Schillaci families

Pray for Our Sick  
Gary Berger  
Katie Berger  
Glori Ann Bird  
Christina Carinato  
Paul Cervony  
Nancy Cottone  
Alexander DelosReyes  
Mildred Fitzgerald  
Lynn Freking  
Kathy Gros  
Karen Hult  
Curtis Kerzich  
George Kojima  
Athie Lanahan  
Erin Lively  
Cooper Mann  
Warren McGee  
Bobbie Misiora  
Jennifer Ochino  
Patrick O'Donnell  
Mary Ann Piwowar  
Gail Schmidt  
Deloris Simonek  
Ray Simonek  
Don Vollmer  
Eric Wilson

Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor  
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org  
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc. Pastor  
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org  
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Associate  
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org  
For a full list of staff members see our website.
All women of the parish are invited to a festive evening

advent by candlelight

Join us at the Parish Center for a memorable evening filled with Joy & Hope as we prepare for the Holiday Season.

Tuesday, November 29th 7-10pm • $10 per person

Table Coordinators for 8 or 12 are needed. As a coordinator add a special holiday touch using your linens, candles and centerpiece decorations - keep it simple and share the responsibility with the women at your table. (Note: dishes, flatware and stemware will be provided in addition to coffee, soda and dessert)

For questions and to reserve your table please contact:

Lee Rosenberg at fletchrosen@gmail.com or 708.269.6046

RSVP by Wednesday November 23rd to reserve your seat

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Phone: ______________________________________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________________

I am coordinating a table: please circle yes no

If you have a table/seating preference, list here: ________________________________________________________________

Mail your RSVP and $10 per person (checks payable to SJC Women’s Club) to:
Lee Rosenberg • 4540 Woodland Avenue • Western Springs, IL 60556
708.269.6046
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