Let the risen Jesus enter your life—welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life!
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 the Gospel, Pope Francis
Dear Parishioners,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the holy anthem rise. From the viewpoint of the lectionary the octave of Easter, which includes today, is all one day, the first day of the week. At daily mass this week some of the most beautiful images from the Gospel feed us at the Table of the Word. In these Scripture passages women play a critical role in being the first to preach the resurrection. The men are still frightened about what might happen to them and get hidden away. The end of the Easter season will find the men and the women together, in an Upper Room, and we'll find out then the full consequence of our faith that Jesus is raised from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia!

It literally took hundreds of people to be the ministers of our liturgies. I want to send a special note of appreciation to the music ministry under the direction of Jessica Koch accompanied by Ann Maney. Everyone who served helped to make SJC a place of welcome and hospitality. Thank you, one and all.

The Easter season is also the time of year when we hear from the Acts of the Apostles. It replaces the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) as the first reading on the Sundays of Easter. It's good that we do for a number of reasons.

First, because the Acts of the Apostles shows how the apostles become those sent into the world to witness to the resurrection. Chosen and called, formed and sent, they face into the real problems of daily life in the community and begin the journey to the ends of the earth.

Which is the second reason why it’s important we hear from Acts. The Scripture can be almost harsh in trying to prevent us from turning the Gospel into some sweet, saccharine message of wanting us to be good little boys and girls. Jesus came to light a fire and we are called to be the torch bearers, like the first apostles and disciples. Most of us will never be missionaries in the sense of physically travelling to other parts of the world to preach. But we can be present to other parts of the world in our prayer, our consciousness, our politics, in our hearts and in our financial support. This brings us to the third reason it is important that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season.

Everything wasn’t just hunky-dory after Jesus died. His disciples had to feel real grief and sorrow. Jesus died a real death and was buried. The disciples banded together but they were without a leader. When you are grieving, as I’m sure you have experienced, your nerve endings can become hyper sensitive to the smallest word or gesture. Something objectively minor becomes a huge issue. Issues of power and authority, perq and privilege, creep back into our motivation and identity. We want to impose our ‘authority’ on others, we want things the way we want things. In the turmoil of losing a loved one we want to impose order on the spiritual and secular chaos that our lives have become. We want to be the admired one without being the crucified one.

So pay attention and listen to how the early Church wrestled with who is in (everyone) and who is out (no one). See how they begin to distinguish the power of God (learning to prayerfully discern) from human imposition of traditions and preferences (like circumcision). The Spirit will guide us. Alleluia!

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David

P.S. On a personal note, I am overwhelmed by all your prayers and support during these past several months. Last week, finally, the radiation treatments ended, although it keeps ‘cooking’ for another couple of weeks. Then the healing begins. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Filled with the joy of our Easter Alleluia, we ask God’s blessing on the newest members of our Church!

At our Easter Vigil Gil Clark celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and Kaitlyn Acosta celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist completing her initiation. We are blessed as the Body of Christ and filled with joy!
A Prayer of Thanks

God of our many journeys,
we give you thanks for the gift of new life
won for all people
through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Our celebration of the Triduum, the Three Days,
remind us of our own participation in the life,
passion, death and resurrection of Christ.
In the season of new life, we pause
to share our gratitude for the dedication of many people
who helped to make these liturgies both prayerful
and spiritually nourishing so as to live the liturgy in our lives.
We are grateful to the Lectors – proclaimers of your living word,
whose proclamation of salvation history was filled with conviction and faith.
Instruments of your voice, they spoke to us those words
which are indeed stronger than a two edge sword.
We are grateful to our Communion Ministers who so reverently gave to others
what all of us have become – The Body of Christ – food for our journey.
We are grateful to our Altar Servers – the young people of our parish
who with great dedication in these special liturgies
aided to the flow of the celebrations.
We are grateful to Mary Claire Zurowski, who like a shepherd
guided the altar servers in their duties.
In gratitude to our Ushers – who welcomed all who crossed through
the threshold of the doors of church – as if they were welcoming Christ himself.
We are grateful to those who shared their gifts of creativity
in making the environment of our sacred spaces beautiful
in imitation of your creation.
In gratitude for the gift of music that filled our space
with hymnody, song and shouts of praise, lament and joy.
Their gift led us into deep prayer with you and each other.
We are grateful to Jessica Koch and Ann Maney,
the choirs filled with your people of all ages, the cantors,
the instrumentalists and accompanists – whose musical talents
joined with those of all so that heaven and earth
sang out together the praise and glory of your mighty works.
We are grateful to the RCIA team, who like Christ on the road
to Emmaus walked with Gil and Kaitlyn, our newest members in the faith.
We are grateful to those who like Christ
humbled themselves by having their feet washed.
In gratitude for all the Oil-Bearers who processed carrying
the Oils blessed and consecrated by the gift of your Spirit,
for our use in the sacramental moments of our lives.
Generous God, giver of all gifts, we are so grateful to all
who made our liturgies of Easter inspire us
to live the Paschal Mystery in our lives.
Loving and merciful God, may the joy of the Resurrection
of Christ your Son, continue to fill our lives
with hope and joy.
In gratitude – Fr. Bill
A Parent's Prayer
Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.
We thank and praise you.
Thank you for the gift of our children.
Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.
May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.
May their ears hear your voice.
May their eyes see your presence in all things.
May their lips proclaim your word.
May their hearts be your dwelling place.
May their hands do works of charity.
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

Loyola Press
Elections for positions on the three consultative bodies, the Parish Advisory Council, the Youth Catechesis Council, and the School Advisory Board will be held on May 13-14 before and after all Masses in church. Ballots can be found at each exit. Please affirm the following parishioners who have submitted applications to serve our parish. Parishioners may also vote on the home page of our parish website between May 12-15.

Parish Advisory Council At Large Parishioner Rep: Terry Stadler
Terry has been a SJC parishioner for 34 years. He has been married to Mary for 49 years, and together they have five children, ten grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter. He left the phone company in 1996, after almost 27 years, to pursue his new vocation as a Lay Minister. Terry graduated from Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago in 1997 with a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies degree. With his degree in Theology, he first ministered as a Pastoral Associate for five years in a parish in Berwyn and then went back to CTU to be the Director of the Lay Formation Program. Terry grew up on the southeast side of Chicago, graduating from Mount Carmel High School in 1965, the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana with a BSEE in 1969 and Northwestern University in 1974 with an MBA degree. Finally, Terry is a dual American – Irish citizen, cherishing his 22 visits to Ireland.

Parish Advisory Council At Large Parishioner Rep: Kerri DiMonte
Kerri DiMonte resides in LaGrange with her husband, Jim, and their three teenage children. A SJC parishioner for over 15 years, she has volunteered and served the parish in various roles such as a Crossroads Leader, SJC Fest Committee Chairperson, current YC teacher and ongoing SJC school parent volunteer. Along with her volunteer activities, she also owns a small accounting business. Kerri greatly admires the vibrancy and intellect of the parish community and would be honored to serve as an SJC representative-at-large.

School Advisory Board: Kevin Phelan
With four children enrolled in the school and a future Wildcat at home, Kevin is excited to serve on the School Advisory Board to help continue the excellent education that the school currently provides and plan for its future. Kevin hopes to provide insight and advice from lessons learned from his work experience, having worked in the finance industry his entire business career, currently as Chief Operating Officer at LSV Asset Management. Kevin and his wife attended local Catholic grade schools so they feel that they understand the importance of a strong Catholic education, both academically and spiritually. They have enjoyed being actively involved with the school, including coaching and serving as Parent Association Coordinator, and Kevin looks forward to serving on the School Advisory Board.

School Advisory Board: Kim Sarros
Kim and her husband, Mark, have 5 children; 4 children currently attend SJC and their oldest, also a SJC graduate, is at Benet Academy. The Sarros family have been active volunteers in both the school and wider parish community for 20 years. Kim and Mark have had the privilege of being Crossroads home group leaders, and Kim has enjoyed co-chairing the Crossroads Harvest Saturday food collection. Kim volunteers as a track coach, Cubmaster for the Cub Scouts, and is also active in the Parent Association, serving recently as a P.A. Chair. Her work experience includes 20 years in various leadership positions in banking and public accounting and currently, as a co-founder of a boutique consulting firm working with clients in a variety of industries. Kim is a Certified Public Accountant and graduated from Indiana University.

Kim and Mark have always felt that the SJC community is a special place to raise and educate their family. Kim would love the opportunity to serve on the Advisory Board to help maintain our school’s academic standards and to continue to promote the benefits of a Catholic education.
School Advisory Board: Mike Francis

Shortly after moving to Western Springs, Mike Francis and his wife, Jeannie, became parishioners of St John of the Cross Parish. Now 10 years later, they feel blessed to have found such an amazing parish and school for their three children, Michael (3rd), Caroline (2nd), and Danny (K). Having both attended Catholic schools, Mike and Jeannie believe in the value of the opportunity for their children to receive a great education in a Christ-filled environment.

Mike is interested in joining the School Advisory Board to contribute to the continued success of our school, which he believes is critical to the overall health of the parish. Given the many good education options in our neighborhood, the school must continue to promote the value of a Catholic education, enhance the curriculum and attract the best teachers.

For the past 22 years Mike has worked as a management consultant, nine years with PwC and the past 13 years as a partner with a much smaller and more focused firm. He hopes to utilize what he has learned in his career, along with his recent experience with the Family Fest to contribute to the Advisory Board, and more broadly, the school.

Youth Catechesis Council: Sara Norgle

Sara Norgle lives in Western Springs with her husband Greg and their four children, Grace (14), Molly (13), Tommy (10) and Danny (7). The Norgle family joined St John of the Cross Parish 12 years ago when they moved to Western Springs from the city, and Sara has been teaching YC for the past 9 years. Prior to staying at home with her four children and running their busy household, Sara was a VP, Account Director at Leo Burnett, USA. In her spare time, Sara loves to work out, garden and spend time with her family and friends. The Norgles will be celebrating their youngest child’s First Communion this May, and Sara is excited to continue her commitment to the YC program in this new capacity.

Youth Catechesis Council: Collene Mear

Collene Mear and her family have been parishioners of SJC since 2014. She has been married to Bill for 20 years. They have six children, Liam LT Jr., KK LT Freshman, Aidan 7th grade McClure, John E. 5th, Gemma 2nd are at Laidlaw, and the late Sean. The Mear family relocated from River Forest where their children attended St. Luke School. Her previous career included 23 years as a bank/compliance officer. Collene currently teaches 7th grade YC. Having experienced her children attending both Catholic and public school, she is passionate about religious education. The Mears knew they were home at SJC when their children became involved with all the parish has to offer our youth as they grow, especially in service for HS students.

Youth Catechesis Council: Karyn Schuler

Karyn Schuler and her husband, Adam, are active in YC’s Family Faith Connections (FFC) Program with their children, Emily (9) and Lena (6). They are new parishioners at St. John of the Cross and live in LaGrange. Karyn is a graduate of DePaul University and has worked as a Relocation Specialist relocating expats to the Chicagoland area. Karyn is currently a stay-at-home mother who previously was involved at St. Francis Xavier Parish, ministering in SPRED, St. Vincent DePaul Society and Religious Education. She is a member of P.E.O., Philanthropic Education Organization, helping women finish education with grants and scholarships. Karyn enjoys being in the FCC Program, as it has been very rewarding to be closely involved in their children’s religious education. Karyn believes that serving on the YC Council will give her an opportunity to further her involvement with the YC Program as well as learn from others on the Council.

Youth Catechesis Council: Mary Kate Merna

Mary Kate has been parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish since 1993. She lives in Western Springs with her husband, Michael, and their 3 boys MJ (7), Sean (5) and 7 month old Mac. She is a graduate of SJC, Benet Academy, and University of Dayton. Mary Kate, who has previously taught 3rd grade in the Chicago Public Schools, is a stay-at-home mom, a freelance makeup artist, and also tutors for the HSPT/ Catholic High School entrance exam. She is looking forward to becoming more involved with YC and creating more outreach and service opportunities for YC children and families. Mary Kate welcomes the opportunity to enrich a most important part of our parish family's future: Youth Catechesis.
Living the Gospel

The absent Thomas could not bring himself to rejoice in Jesus’ being alive, for he had not yet encountered the risen Jesus. Thomas insists on seeing and touching Jesus before he can believe that he is truly alive and well. A week later, confronted by the risen Jesus, Thomas’ obstinate doubt becomes unwavering belief: “My Lord and my God!” From this gospel we can tease out myriad shifts: mourning to joy, fear to peace, sinfulness to forgiveness, being behind locked doors to being sent out, inertia to empowerment by the Holy Spirit, not seeing to seeing, obstinate disbelief to acclamation of faith, life before Jesus’ resurrection to new “life in his name.” For those who believe, Jesus’ resurrection shifts their self-understanding and their purpose in life, enabling them to see all things as new. Not just Thomas, but all the disciples came to believe because they had “seen the Lord.”

Yet we are not disadvantaged because we have not seen or touched him as did the disciples long ago; the advantage of encountering Jesus comes not from seeing and touching but from believing. Because of believing we can say we “have seen the Lord.” One way that we might say that we have truly “seen the Lord” is in the good works performed by those who claim his name. Jesus’ risen Presence was different from his physical presence before the resurrection (the gospel makes a point about Jesus coming through a locked door). Therefore, even though we are removed from the historical reality of Jesus’ Presence, we are no less able to “see” and be present to the risen One. The challenge for Gospel living, of course, is that we see the risen Jesus in the goodness of others.

Background on the Gospel

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus’ Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John’s Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke’s Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn’t recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today’s Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas’s doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus’ appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas’s human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are “blessed” because we believe without having seen. Loyola Press

May we be open to how the Holy Spirit leads us to encounter the risen Lord and come to deeper belief in him. May we grow in believing in the goodness and forgiveness of God and come to salvation.

Monday
Acts 4:23-31
Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9
John 3:1-8

Tuesday
1 Pet 5:5b-14
Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17
Mark 16:15-20
John 3:16-21

Wednesday
Acts 5:17-26
Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
John 3:31-36

Thursday
Acts 5:27-33
Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20
John 6:1-15

Friday
Acts 5:34-42
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
John 6:16-21

Saturday
Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Pet 1:17-21

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Parish News

Lector Training
Sunday, April 30, 2:30 – 4:00pm
Any adult or student of high school age wanting to serve as a Lector at Sunday Mass is invited to attend an upcoming training session. Registration is not required. Training will begin promptly in church. Scheduling is based on your availability. For more information contact Fr. Bill at the Parish Center office.

Upcoming Women’s Club Events
Spring Drive April 22-May 11 to benefit Pajama Program and Sharing Connections: Donate new children’s pajamas (all sizes), new storybooks (all ages), toiletries, diapers, paper products and common household cleaning supplies. Find Drop Boxes in church, Parish Center and school.
Flower Sale:
Order by April 27 online or use a paper from in the Parish Center office. Pick up May 3 from 2-6:30pm in north parking lot.
Shop, Sip & Share Boutique Night Thursday, May 11 from 7-10pm at The Village Club in WS
Annual Garage Sale
Donate items beginning June 10.
Sale Date: Saturday, June 17
1/2 Price Sale: Monday, June 19

St. Gall Choir Visit
Please join us as we welcome the choir from our sharing parish, St. Gall. They will join voices with our SJC Choir as we celebrate the 10:45am Mass next Sunday, April 30. Songs will be sung in English and Spanish, some featuring the St. Gall Choir and others with the combined choirs. It is sure to be a marvelous celebration featuring musicians with guitars, a mandolin, violin, clarinet, and percussion! We hope to see you there.

First Communion Choir
All SJC Music Ministers and any child, second grade and older, are invited to sing with the Combined Choirs of St. John of the Cross Parish for our upcoming First Eucharist liturgies on May 7 and 14 at 11am and 2pm. Rehearsals for this choir will be Wednesday and or Thursday, April 26 and 27 from 3:45-4:30 in church.
For more information, contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at bourjman@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for sharing the gift of song with our little ones!

Spirituality for Men: May 20 @ 8:45am
Save the Date on your Calendar: Congressman Dan Lipinski will speak on the challenges and blessings of being Catholic in the US Congress. All men of the parish welcome.

The Dating Game Workshop
Wish dating was easier? Learn 40 years of love lessons from Gottman trained facilitators in under 2 hours on May 17 from 7-9pm in the Parish Center. For singles or couples ages 18 to 30. Sign up on our parish website.

Catholic Charities
Mother’s Day Collection
No one should know the pain of losing a child to violence or the darkness of gang life. Struggling families have the right to raise healthy children, safely. Catholic Charities brings grace and dignity to the most troubled neighborhoods in the city and suburbs, healing deep-seated wounds and providing alternatives for a better way of life. There will be a special collection on Mother’s Day. Your gift will help people live productive, secure, and fulfilling lives.

Virtus Training at SJC
Our last Virtus Training held at SJC before the summer will be on April 27 at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. All parish volunteers who work with children are required to attend a workshop. Go to Virtus.org to register.

Grant us, O Lord, your peace:
The peace that enables us to constantly discover your joy;
The peace that impels us to seek your justice in all things;
The peace that allows us to suffer for what is right and good;
The peace that invites us to call every man, woman, and child “friend.”
Hear the prayers we offer for peace -
The peace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Risen Savior,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

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Jesus’ public ministry had elements to it that were based in the message of mercy, such as:

- Seeing with compassionate eyes
- Choosing faith over law
- Healing
- Reading human hearts
- Responding to deepest needs

Jesus’ model of mercy is one that is not outdated and only for the past. It is the same ministry of mercy that we are invited to be part of as Jesus’ disciples today. As we encounter others, we might ask ourselves:

- Who do I encounter that needs compassion?
- Who challenges me to put down the law and look at them with the eyes of faith?
- Who in my life is desperate for healing?
- Who are the brokenhearted around me?
- Who do I see mourning?

Jesus didn’t just see and notice people, but he also responded to the deepest needs in human hearts. How might I not only see but respond to the needs around me and further Jesus’ ministry today?

**Ignatian Spirituality**

**Become a Minister of Care**

There is a great need for additional parish Ministers of Care. Ministers of Care visit the homebound and 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. Training fees are covered by our parish.

New Minister of Care Training: Saturday, May 6 and Saturday, May 13 from 9am-1pm.

Experienced Ministers of Care are invited to a renewal workshop to remain current with standards and practices. The next renewal session at the Carmelite Center will be held on: Saturday April 29, 10-11:30am.

- Call our Pastoral Associate, Steve Weigand, in the Parish Center to learn more or to register for either training sessions.

- Hines VA Hospital is looking for Ministers of Care to serve in the main hospital, extended care center and residential care facility every day of the week. If you would like more information on how you can become involved, please contact parishioner, Mike Moran at 708-738-2550 or moran123@ameritech.net.

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**SJC’s Food Collection**

Every month our parish partners with an area food pantry by providing much needed nonperishable food. During the month of April the food collected in our church narthex will be delivered to St. Cletus’s food pantry. Please remember to check code dates on food you donate. Nonperishable food items needed include: no sugar cereal, pasta, mac n cheese, rice, potatoes, tomato sauce, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, low sugar canned fruits and low sodium canned vegetables, soup, and beans.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Create Artwork**

Gather your family to work on creating a colorful spring collage to brighten a patient’s room at area care centers. Size should be 11 x 17 or 8.5 x 11. Drop off at the Parish Center or YC office.

**Wellness House Walk**

Many volunteer opportunities are available for the annual walk on May 7 from 7am-11am. Work in the t-shirt tent, as a course marshal, at the water station or food tent. See sign up for details. Go to walk@wellnesshouse.org to sign up.

**Pray for Kolbe House Jail Ministry**

Pray a 9 day novena to St. Maximilian Kolbe. Go to our parish YC website for a guide to the novena.

**Gardening Angels**

Parish gardeners are needed in spring, summer and fall to weed, mulch, plant and water. Please volunteer to help keep our gardens and planters looking beautiful. Contact Jan Grabacki at beaconjan@aol.com or 331-903-3135.
This year over 200 volunteers helped form the youth of SJC. Our volunteer catechists foster and cultivate a love for Jesus through prayer, scripture lessons and active learning. Volunteers are needed as YC office aides, class aides, catechists, and YC Council members. Consider being part of this amazing community and volunteer for the coming school year.

Sgt. Albrecht of Western Springs will discuss keeping your kids safe on the internet. He will outline specific software to protect and monitor children’s activities on the internet. He will also provide tips for keeping children safe online. This program is free and open to all parishioners. Tuesday, April 25 at 7pm in the Parish Center.

**Religious Goods Sale**
We will be selling a variety of religious items including Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets, rosaries and more in the Parish Center before and after all Masses this weekend and next. Shop for beautiful Mother’s Day and First Communion gifts! Proceeds support Crossroads summer Work Tours.

**Parent Volunteer Opportunity**
Parents of Crossroads teens are invited to help us thank our terrific leaders for their dedication to our ministry by volunteering at our end of year leaders’ brunch on May 7. Contact Katie Hayes at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org to learn how you can help out.

**Work Tour Opportunity for All Parish Incoming 7th & 8th & 9th Graders**
Monday June 19 - Friday June 23 - Serve at our parish by cleaning up after the Garage Sale and setting up for SJC Fest, and spend time learning about our local sharing parishes and serving their communities. A minimum commitment of three days is required. See our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/work-tours/ for details and a registration form.

**Easter Basket Project for Off the Street Club**
Thank you to the parish 3rd and 4th graders who worked with the Crossroads teens on Palm Sunday to make Easter baskets for children in shelters and in the Off the Street Club. This is one of our favorite service projects of the year!
VBS! June 26 - 29, 2017
9:00 AM to Noon

Come join us as we learn that God's Love
is a GIFT * CHANGES us * is ALWAYS with us * SAVES us * is worth SHARING

VBS is interactive, filled with prayer, games, skits, crafts, and snacks.

All while learning about God's Love!!

All children entering kindergarten through 5th grade in the fall are welcome to join us!
Space is limited, registrations cannot be accepted after May 31, 2017.

Registration fee of $50.00 and liability waiver can be turned in to the YC Office

If you have questions, contact the YC office at 708-246-6760 or email at yc@sjcross.org

High School and Adult Crew Leaders also needed and greatly appreciated! Volunteer today!

JOIN US at St. John of the Cross for a GREAT TIME this summer!
The *Crossroads Youth Ministry Group* needs **YOU TO**

**SPRING INTO ACTION**

We’ve come to realize that the local food pantries supply the poor and needy with food items, but they have need for personal hygiene products and paper products as well. Won’t you **SPRING INTO ACTION** and donate any of the items below?

- Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner
- Shaving Cream, Razors
- Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Paper Towels
- Paper Plates
- Tissues

**Bring your items when you come to church NEXT Weekend,**

**Saturday, April 29th or Sunday, April 30th.**

The teens will be collecting the items outside the Parish Center before and after all the Masses that weekend with the exception of the 5PM Sunday Mass. We will be transporting all goods that afternoon to needy parishes. Anyone wishing to assist the teens can contact Meghan King at mking17@nazarethacademy.com
The Week Ahead
Monday, April 24
2:30pm Adoration
YC Classes
7:00pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday, April 25
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
12:00pm School Day of Preparation
3:30pm 4th Grade Girl Scouts
7pm Family Internet Safety
7:00pm RCIA
7:30pm Christian Meditation
Wednesday, April 26
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:45pm Cherub Choir Practice
6:30pm SPRED
7:00pm Chgo Catholic Scripture School
7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice
Thursday, April 27
3:45pm Youth Choir Practice
4:00pm Leadership Interviews
6:30pm 6th Grade Pre-Confirmation Meeting
7:00pm Divorce & Beyond
7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble
Friday, April 28
7:30pm School Fortnightly
Saturday, April 29
7:00am Christian Meditation
9:00am Science of a Happy Workshop Marriage
10:00am Illinois Women Religious
11:00 am Used Uniform Sale
Sunday, April 30
YC Classes
11:30am YC Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
11:45am St. Gall Choir Luncheon
1:15pm Crossroads Leadership Meetings
1:30pm Baptism Prep Sessions

Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross faith community. If you recognize the name of a friend or neighbor be sure to extend a welcome and encourage them to become involved at SJC.

Elizabeth and Brian Webb and Family
Michelle and Kevin Luke and Family

If you would like to register to become a member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center or visit our website at: www.stjohnofthecross.org/welcome. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org or stop in the Parish Center.

On Sunday, May 7 new parishioners are welcome to come to a parish orientation in the Parish Center following the 9am Mass. We look forward to seeing you there!! Bring the family! Meet other new families!
Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

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<th>Monday, April 24</th>
<th>St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Deceased members of Klein &amp; Sullivan families; Robert Iovino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, April 25</th>
<th>St. Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Lucille Santagata; Mary Inendino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, April 26</th>
<th>Easter Weekday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Gerald Lepinske; Our Beloved Dead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, April 27</th>
<th>Easter Weekday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Fred &amp; Tom Baer; Mary Jane Rodberg Italics: Living Intention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, April 28</th>
<th>St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Patrick Ryan McNaughton; Thomas McCarthy Jr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, April 29</th>
<th>St. Catherine of Siena</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Adele Zurowski; Anne Meyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~ Reconciliation Follows Mass ~</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Edward Hoffman &amp; Joe Dattilo; Hugh Palmer; Bob Feldmeier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, April 30</th>
<th>Third Sunday of Easter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Francis Thomas Circo; Barbara Hodock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Daniel O’Brien; Thomas O’Donnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45am</td>
<td>Bernard Bock; George Jakicic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Maria Knizner; Violet Medenilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Mary Szyblowski; Martha Ecklund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pray for Our Beloved Dead

- Mary Scally, mother of Mary Kay Ryan
- Frances Skemp, mother of Joan Binder, grandmother of 2
- Evelyn Murphy, mother of Russ, grandmother of 6

Pray for Our Sick

- Rosemary Balazs
- Cheryl Bartz
- Jerry Benesh
- Joseph Bovenzi
- Paul Cervony
- William Cochran
- Tim Crain
- Fr. David Dowdle
- Mildred Fitzgerald
- Colleen Franke
- Lynn Freking
- John Gannon
- Jack Gibbons
- Erin Gibbons
- Dan Haske
- Kathy Holden
- Mary Horvath
- Karen Hult
- Bob Karpik
- Lucine Kassis
- Curtis Kerzich
- George Kojima
- Carrie Kowalski
- Melody Maly
- Bobbie Misiura
- Phyllis Myrmal
- Michael O’Brien
- Jeanne Pinner
- Frank Pipal
- Helen Ragus
- Leona Shell
- Deloris Simonek
- Ray Simonek
- Peter Smykowski
- Brendan Steward
- Brooks Tonn
- Don Vollmer
- Monica Westell

A safety reminder from our Western Springs Police:
When you park at SJC remember to close car windows, lock car doors and ensure valuables are out of sight. On Easter Sunday, the police found about 30% of cars parked here were not locked and had valuables in sight.

O Cross of Christ, teach us that the rising of the sun is more powerful than the darkness of night, and God’s eternal love wins always.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Apr 14

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 & Mary Tischler
- Lance Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stimetz
- Capt. James Malick, grandson of Phil & Mike Malick
- Sgt. Robert Marburger, son of David and Kathleen Marburger
- Staff 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
- PFC Michael Frazee, grandson of Kay and John Johnson
- Spc. Douglas Junius, grandson of Ann Junius and son of Sue Junius

Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org

Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc Pastor
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Rev. Elliott R. Dees, Assoc Pastor
dees@stjohnofthecross.org

Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com

Bill Bright, Director of Outreach
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Janet Caschetta, Director of YC
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Kathleen Gorman, Principal
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Katie Hayes, Dir of Crossroads
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Jessica Koch, Director of Music
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MJ Martin, Director of Operations
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Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord
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Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
Easter Season Taizé Prayer Service

Tuesday, May 2 at 7pm
St. John of the Cross Church
All Are Welcome

Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé is an ecumenical form of prayer modeled after the Taizé community (an ecumenical Christian monastic community of brothers) founded in the 1940’s by Br. Roger in Taizé, France. The purpose of the prayer is to foster reconciliation and peace among all people. Christians of all traditions share in this ecumenical prayer. The simple service consists of song (using the simple chants of the Taizé community), scripture, a service of light, an extended period of silence for meditation concluding with prayers for the world. Instruments, including flute, oboe and cello, make this a truly prayerful experience.