Cross
The cross
procession leading
to everywhere
birth to death
death to birth
from the moment
gentle fingers
trace a blessing
on the forehead
of the baby newborn
and reborn
from the moment
a young hand learns
to begin a prayer
and make a pattern
“In the name of the Father…”
and to wonder
whether left to right
or right to left
makes a difference
to a God who hears us
even before we speak
The cross
everywhere
for who has not seen
row upon row
of cross upon cross
to tell of one death and many
whether named or unknown
The cross
everywhere
from tenderness
of young fingers
to wrinkles and blisters
that reveal a life
of many more crosses
The cross
everywhere
a touch of jewelry
a meeting of freeways
small and great
seen and unseen
The cross
procession leading
to everywhere
pointing to
the meeting and gathering
of north and south
of east and west
God and God's people
together
a triumph forever

Ronald J. DeHondt (Liturgical Gestures, Words, Objects)
Dear Parishioners,

Have you encountered the Risen Christ in your life over the past week? How? Have you shared your experience with another?

Over the past week, have you reached out with a smile, a kindness, an extra moment of conversation with someone?

Have you taken care of another in need of food, prayer, friendship, or understanding? Have you spent time in relationship with another or within a community?

Have you spent time in quiet prayer with the Lord, not only sharing, but listening to him? What has he said to you?

Over the past 4 months the Pastoral Staff with the Parish Advisory Council (PAC) have been learning about and discussing evangelization, missionary discipleship, personal encounters with Christ and spiritual renewal. We are always challenged to stay focused on our core mission: that we have been called and sent to share the Good News. The never ending challenge is how our parish community and ministries live out that mission in all we say and do.

As we move forward, we expect to learn more from our archdiocese on evangelization, discipleship and renewal. These are vital ways we can grow as a parish to strengthen ministries, build relationships, and fill the needs within our community. Our discussions will continue among parish staff and leadership in order to bring our learning to practical use in the parish.

As we finish the work of the Parish Advisory Council for this year, I thank all of our Council members for sharing their time and talents. We say thank you and farewell to several members: Harry Kannry who has served for over 15 years, Dan Cochran who has served 6 years, and Clare Sullivan who is graduating from high school after 2 years of service. I will hand over the chairperson position to Lisa Geneser who will be assisted by our new vice chair, Beth White. In addition, the following Council members have stepped up to serve an additional term on the PAC as apostles: Heidi Kotynak, Larry Krema, Jim Strafaci and Dave Zich.

Please visit our parish website to read reports submitted from each consultative body and ministry advisory group (communications of what each group has been spending time, effort and energy on) as well as our meeting minutes. A special note of thanks goes to Beth White who serves our archdiocese as Director of Evangelization and Parish Vitality, and Fr. Bob Lombardo, Director of Holy Angels Mission in Chicago, for sharing their thoughts and leading our discussion on evangelization and mission.

Have a safe and restful summer. Look for more from our PAC in the fall.

Brian King
Parish Advisory Council Chairperson

Heavenly Father, we love you with our whole being. Our being is in your being. Our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill us with love. Let us be bound with others in love as we go our diverse ways. Let us be united in this one Spirit which makes you present in the world and makes you witness to the ultimate reality, Love. We pray that love overcomes. That love is victorious. Amen.  Maryknoll. Adapted from Thomas Merton prayer
Lifelong Learning

Living the Gospel

Our love for Jesus is shown in the same way as the early disciples showed their love—by practical doing in our everyday living. We are to proclaim the living Christ by the way we heal hurts in others; bring a caring touch to those who are ailing in any way; strengthen those who are weak or paralyzed by fear, doubt, or selfishness; encourage those weighed down with too much stress, work, or indecision. All this is keeping Jesus’ commandments by living his way of life—a life characterized by deep care for others. The most encouraging aspect of this gospel is that Jesus even sends us the help we need to love, believe, and live in this way. Jesus’ commandments entail much more than doing this or avoiding that. His commandments are to love as he loved, believe as he believed, live as he lived.

Loving Jesus doesn’t require that we pray all the time or that we are consciously aware of Jesus’ risen Presence. Loving Jesus is a simple matter of keeping his commandments—being gentle and reverent toward others, having a clear conscience, doing good. For most of us we are already doing what we need to do to be good Christians; what more is needed is to recognize that these good actions are the way we keep Jesus’ commandments and express our believing in him. In other words, his commandments are pretty simple to know: love as he loved, believe as he believed, be self-giving as he was, do the Father’s will as he did. Most of all, keeping his commandments means opening ourselves to the Spirit who dwells within us and makes us like the risen One.

Background on the Gospel

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today’s Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus’ life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father’s house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples’ reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don’t know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus’ words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus’ work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today’s Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, “I am,” so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today’s reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus’ name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.
**Business Article on Quiet Time**

The title of a recent *Harvard Business Review* article says much: “The Busier You Are, the More You Need Quiet Time.” While this is hardly a new idea, it’s one that seems to need repeating in our tech-driven, overscheduled age.

*When we’re constantly fixated on the verbal agenda—what to say next, what to write next, what to tweet next—it’s tough to make room for truly different perspectives or radically new ideas. It’s hard to drop into deeper modes of listening and attention. And it’s in those deeper modes of attention that truly novel ideas are found.*

https://hbr.org/2017/03/the-busier-you-are-the-more-you-need-quiet-time-for-the-full-article

Being a business article, the focus on novel ideas as the goal is hardly surprising. But those of us who think spiritually will also recognize the need for listening and attention to God’s voice as their own goals. The article suggests four ways for busy people to practice being quiet, all of which have parallels to the spiritual life, starting with “Punctuate meetings with five minutes of quiet time.”

*Come, You Spirit of Quiet.*
*Guide me into your Stillness that I might hear in myself the Word you speak…*
*Come You Spirit of Breath, breathe your breath into my thoughts, into my feelings.*
*Come and take your place in me.*
*My Lord and my God, take from me everything that distances me from you. My Lord and my God, give me everything that brings me closer to you.*

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**How Can I Live Out My Faith At Work?**

When we think of the phrase “faith at work,” some conventional images might come to mind: a priest or nun caring for the poor, a religion teacher explaining the faith. But we don’t need to have an openly religious job for our faith to be relevant. Any honest and upright work is holy and an opportunity to grow closer to God. As Pope Saint John Paul II once reminded us, Jesus himself worked as a carpenter, and “Through their work, people share in the Creator’s work.”

Here are a few ways to keep faith in the picture at your job:

**Start with a prayer**
Before your day begins, take a few moments to ask God to guide you through the day. Here’s a simple prayer you could try: *Guide my hands, God, to work as You would work. Guide my lips, God, to say what You would say. Guide my heart, God, to do what You would do.*

**Recognize what’s holy in your work**
How does your job help others? In ways big and small, how can what you do make someone’s life better? A former bank teller I know always made a special effort to connect with customers, some of whom lived isolated lives. “You might be the only person they see that day,” she said.

**Be an invisible hero**
With a little creativity, it’s possible to avoid or resolve ethical dilemmas without coming across as self-righteous and intrusive. When a staff meeting threatens to turn into a gossip fest, we can subtly redirect the conversation. When a coworker pitches a morally questionable solution to a company problem, we can search for and propose a better alternative. When a project fails, we can own our share of the mistakes instead of throwing a colleague under the bus.

**Invite God into the chaos**
Racing toward a deadline? Facing a daunting meeting? Feeling unmotivated? Sharing our feelings with God and asking for help can give us perspective and calm, not to mention a boost to our spirits.

**Look for God in others**
It’s tough to remember when dealing with an angry customer, irresponsible coworker, or unkind boss, but God is indeed in everyone. Whether or not you find it possible to put yourself in their shoes, ask yourself: *How can the best in me respond to the worst in them?* If they fail to react in kind, you can walk away with your head held high. But sometimes, you’ll have the reward of seeing your efforts restore calm and courtesy to an unpleasant situation.

**Find hidden treasure**
Just because a talent or skill isn’t written up in your job description doesn’t mean you can’t use it. What unexpected opportunities might your job offer to use your gifts and passions? Maybe you have a great sense of humor that’s perfect for diffusing office tension, or a creative flair that could inspire innovation in a depressed company. The more of ourselves we use in our jobs, the more we can find fulfillment no matter where we work.

By Julie Rattey. Busted Halo.com
In times of darkness and turmoil,
    in times when we feel lost and abandoned,
    make your presence known to us,
      O Risen Savior,
    that we may bring your love and truth
    to our hurting world.
    Hear our prayers we ask of you,
    who lives and reigns with the Father
    and the Holy Spirit
    as the one God
    for ever and ever.
Amen.

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we
cannot change, courage to change the things we
can, wisdom to know the difference, patience for
the things that take time, appreciation for all that
we have, tolerance for those with different
struggles, the freedom to live beyond the
limitations of our past ways, the ability to feel
your love for us and our love for each other, and
the strength to get up and try again even when
we feel it’s hopeless.

O Holy Spirit,
    beloved of my soul,
    I adore you.
Enlighten me,
    guide me,
    strengthen me,
    console me.
Tell me
    what I should do;
give me your orders.
I promise
    to submit myself
    to all that you
desire of me and
    to accept all
    that you permit
to happen to me.
Let me only know
    your will.
Cardinal Desire-Joseph Mercier
Summer Basketball Camps for 2nd-8th Graders

The basketball camps are designed for boys and girls entering grades 2nd–8th. Instruction on proper basketball techniques will be emphasized and fundamentals, advanced skills, competitions and contests will be included. 2 Separate Session Dates Grades 2nd-8th— 8:30 – 11:30am July 24 – July 28 and July 31– August 4. For details and to register go to https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/school/st-john-of-the-cross-athletic-association/
This week, we celebrated the Holy Mother, Mary at our May Crowning. The second graders led the procession in church followed by our eighth graders. The prayer service was filled with beautiful hymns and readings honoring Mary. At the conclusion a court of ten eighth grade students elected by their peers crowned the statue of the Virgin Mother.

At the conclusion of the May Crowning our eighth graders received a ribbon to symbolize their time at SJC. Both our teachers and each grade recited wishes to them as they continue onto the next chapter in their lives.

This day culminated in the eighth graders heading to the Parish Center for a luncheon while their mom’s headed to a local restaurant for their special luncheon.

This Week at SJC
Tuesday, May 23 Track Pizza Party 3:30pm
Thursday, May 25 8th Grade Six Flags Field Trip
Friday, May 26 Author’s Day 2:15pm

Come join us as we learn that
GOD’S LOVE
is a GIFT *
CHANGES us *
is ALWAYS with us *
SAVES us *
and 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 and registrations cannot be accepted after May 31, so register today! Registration forms can be printed from our parish website. 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 Are also needed and greatly appreciated! Volunteer today!
Crossroads Youth Ministry needs your help!
We are inviting all graduating 8th graders to be a part of an 8th Grade Focus Group. For one hour we will discuss with your teen their needs, hopes, and desires for their high school experience of youth ministry. This will be a great opportunity for your 8th grader to reflect on how they want to continue growing in their faith throughout high school here at their home parish!

To accommodate busy school schedules, we will be hosting 8th Grade Focus Groups in the Parish Center on: Sunday, May 21st at 10am or 1:15pm, Tuesday, May 23rd at 6pm, and Thursday, May 25th at 3:30pm
We strongly encourage your 8th grader to join us in sharing their opinions! Crossroads is for teens, by teens, and with teens, so these groups will give him/her a chance to let us know what they expect from our ministry.
Please RSVP to Katie Nicholson at knicholson@stjohnofthecross.org with the name of your 8th grader and time!

Summer Activities for Teens & College Students

Going Beyond for Teens
The world has changed. The modern presentation of personhood has challenges that didn’t exist in the past. Today, teens are given conflicting messages on a daily basis, and an approach based simply on rules to be followed is not enough. They need to know that not only is each teenager a unique, unrepeatable gift of God, but so also is their sexuality, and all aspects of their lives. You: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body is an exciting and dynamic program that will give teens the answers and the tools they need to successfully and safely navigate through life. The program is being offered to high school teens on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm, June 15—July 13. The 5-week program costs $30. Register today at stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads.

Summer Faith Sharing Groups
Join us this summer for IGNITE, a student-led small group for college and high school students. We’ll meet weekly to read a Scripture passage and reflect on how it is relevant to things we face every day. IGNITE will meet each Tuesday from 7-8pm, starting May 16 for college students and June 6 for high school students. There is no need to sign up, just come!

Notes from YC 2nd graders to next year’s 2nd graders
"You learn about God and most of all you have fun." Emmett
"When the priest blesses the host it is called transubstantiation. When you receive you will sing the song Jesus be our bread." Leonardo
"You get to receive Jesus for the first time!" Sadie
"2nd grade is really fun. You get to make your reconciliation and your 1st communion. That’s why 2nd grade is fun." Emma

Register your children to experience the love of Jesus through YC catechists! Call 708-246-6760 for more information or stop in Monday-Thursday.
A Look at Grief Support

Moving on with Grace
A spiritual journey for men and women who are grieving the death of a spouse. Join us at The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Chicago on Saturday, June 3 from 9am-1pm. Learn more by emailing Susan at spudelek@ourladyofpompeii.org. Register by May 31.

Camp Erin Chicago
A free, weekend long grief support camp on October 20-22 for children and teens ages 6-17. Enroll a camper or volunteer by contacting Laura at 630.856.6985 or laura.cottrell@amitahealth.org.

SJC Seasons of Hope Grief Support
Six Monday evenings beginning July 10 in the Parish Center. Watch the bulletin for more information in June. Seasons is offered to adults 3 times per year.

Joyful Again Widowed Ministry
Retreats/workshops are held each month for those who have lost their spouse. To register call 708.354.7211 or email joyfulagain7211@gmail.com. Upcoming sessions are July 1-2 at St. Julie’s, July 22-23 Holy Family and August 12-13 at Mary Queen. Register early.

Monthly Domestic Violence
If you or someone close to you is experiencing domestic violence this support group may be very helpful. The objective of the group is to provide all a chance to talk about domestic violence and share questions, concerns and experiences with others who are facing - or who have faced - similar situations in confidence. Please contact Kendall Grant (kgrant@stcletusparish.com) or 708.215.5418 for more information.

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Elections for positions on our three parish consultative bodies, the Parish Advisory Council, the Youth Catechesis Council, and the School Advisory Board are being held this weekend, May 20-21, 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 19-22. Read more on each candidate on our parish website.

Parish Advisory Council (2 year terms)
Kerri DiMonte
Terry Stadler

Youth Catechesis Council (3 year terms)
Collene Mear
Mary Kate Merna
Sara Norgle
Karyn Schuler

School Advisory Board (3 year terms)
Mike Francis
Kevin Phelan
Kim Sarros

What is the image we have of God? Perhaps he appears to us as a severe judge, as someone who curtails our freedom and the way we live our lives. But the Scriptures everywhere tell us that God is the Living One, the one who bestows life and points the way to full ness of life. I think of the beginning of the book of genesis: God fashions man out of the dust of the earth; he breathes in his nostrils the breath of life, and man becomes a living being. God is the source of life; thanks to his breath, man has life. God’s breath sustains the entire journey of our life on earth.

I also think of the calling of Moses, where the Lord says that he is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of the living. When he send Moses to Pharaoh to set his people free, the reveals his name: I am who I am, the God who enters into our history, sets us free from slavery and death, and brings life to his people because he is the Living One.

I also think of the ten Commandments: a path God points out to us towards a life which is truly free and fulfilling. The Commandments are not a litany of prohibitions—you must not do that, you much not do the other; on the contrary, they are a great “Yes!”: a yes to God, to Love, to life. Dear friends, our lives are fulfilled in God alone, because only he is the Living One. Pope Francis
Parish News

44th Annual Garage Sale
Donate items beginning June 10 at the School
Sale Date: Saturday, June 17 ~ 1/2 Price Sale: Monday, June 19
For more Fest information...go to www.sjcfest.com

Carnival Rides * Live Music * Great Food * Beer Garden
Featuring: Chicago Tribute Anthology (CTA), Maggie Speaks, The Breakfast Club, & Tony Ocean

Donations
Donate items beginning June 10 at the School
Sale Date: Saturday, June 17 ~ 1/2 Price Sale: Monday, June 19
For more information: www.sjcgaragesale.com

Volunteer
Volunteer any time you have an hour or two or more on any or all days:
Saturday, June 10 9am-3pm, Monday-Thursday, June 12-15 9:30am-8:30pm, Friday, June 16 10am-3pm,
Saturday, June 17 8:30am-2pm
Free babysitting available for volunteers by contacting Rita Forster at 708-246-4519.
Volunteers who work 6 or more hours are invited to a Pre-Sale Shopping Night on June 16 from 3-5:30pm.
Students in 7th grade and older who would like to volunteer or babysit contact Denise Schullo at 312-415-6456. General sale and volunteer questions can be directed to Mary Beth White at 708-246-6339.

Donate
It is your generous donation of items that keep the sale going year after year. Our success relies on you. Please separate and label your bags by item type. Donate items on June 10 9am-2pm, June 12-15 10am-8pm and June 16 10am-12pm. No large item pick up but furniture is accepted.

St. John of the Cross Parish
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Sixth Sunday of Easter
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Getting Involved
BEDS Plus
Volunteer to help the BEDS Plus Summer Program from mid-June to mid-August at various locations in LaGrange and Western Springs. Contact Erin at 708.354.0858 x3.

Camp Mathieu’s Closet
Donate gently used or new items for Off the Street Club’s Camp Closet through May 22. See the drop box in the Parish Center lobby. Items needed include: twin sheets and pillowcases, bath towels, swim suits, goggles, mosquito repellent, body wash and lotion, and all sizes for boys and girls: t-shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, flip flops and new athletic socks and underwear.

Run with the Nuns
Participate or volunteer for various tasks, set-up, registration, water table, etc. at the Run with the Nuns 5K in Lemont on June 1, 3 and/or 4. Call Carrie at 630-257-7844 X223 to learn more.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps
IVC Volunteers commit to direct, hands-on service with the poor in Chicago 2 days a week during the school year. Volunteers participate in additional spiritual formation opportunities. Learn more on June 15 at 2pm at St. Francis Xavier or call Jacqueline Fitzgerald at 312.961.6206.

SJC’s Food Pantry Collection
Every month our parish partners with an area food pantry by providing much needed nonperishable food. During the month of May the food collected in our church narthex will be delivered to Mary Queen of Heaven 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.

Interfaith Community Partners
Be a volunteer driver for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Call 708-354-9328. Volunteer when your schedule allows.

See the Outreach tab on our parish website for more ways you can be Christ to others.

St. Gall Sharing Parish Visit
On April 30th we were honored to host the St. Gall choir and their family members at the 10:45 Mass. The St. Gall choir included adults and children along with a variety of instruments. St. Gall’s Choir Coordinator, Marieth Quintero, and our Director of Music, Jessica Koch, chose songs for the choirs to sing in Spanish, English, and in combination, making for a beautiful and extraordinary liturgy. Fr. Bill brushed up on his Spanish and graciously welcomed our sharing parish!

After Mass, a luncheon for both choirs was hosted in the multi-purpose room of the school. An impromptu sing-a-long started to the enjoyment of all present. As the celebration concluded, Marieth was presented with a $4,000 check from SJC to be used toward the renovation of the St. Gall Parish offices. What an uplifting celebration!!! Gracias, St. Gall!
My first love was literature, novels and poetry. As a child, I loved storybooks, mysteries and adventures. In grade school, I was made to memorize poetry and loved the exercise. High School introduced me to more serious literature, Shakespeare, Kipling, Keats, Wordsworth, Browning. On the side, I still read storybooks, cowboy tales from the old West, taken from my dad’s bookshelf. 

During my undergraduate university years, literature was a major part of the curriculum and I learned then that literature wasn’t just about stories, but also about social and religious commentary; as well as about form and beauty as ends in themselves. In classes then we read classic novels: Nineteen Eighty-Four, Lord of the Flies, Heart of Darkness, The Heart of the Matter, East of Eden. The curriculum at that that time in Canada heavily favored British writers. Only later, on my own, would I discover the richness in Canadian, USA, African, Indian, Russian, and Swedish writers. I had been solidly catechized in my youth and, while the catechism held my faith, literature held my theology.

But after literature came philosophy. As part of preparation for ordination we were required to do a degree in Philosophy. I was blessed with some fine teachers and fell into first fervor in terms of my love of philosophy. The courses then heavily favored Scholasticism (Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Aquinas) but we were also given a sound history of philosophy and a basic grounding in Existentialism and some of the contemporary philosophical movements. I was smitten; philosophy became my theology.

But after philosophy came theology. After our philosophical studies, we were required to take a four-year degree in theology prior to ordination. Again, I was blessed with good teachers and blessed to be studying theology just as Vatican II and a rich new theological scholarship were beginning to penetrate theological schools and seminaries. There was theological excitement aplenty, and I shared in it. In Roman Catholic circles, we were reading Congar, Rahner, Schillebeeckx, Schnackenburg, and Raymond Brown. Protestant circles were giving us Barth, Tillich, Niebuhr, and a bevy of wonderful scripture scholars. The faith of my youth was finally opening that truth. Theology became my new passion.

But after theology came spirituality. After ordination, I was given the opportunity to do a farther graduate degree in theology. That degree deepened immeasurably my love for and commitment to theology. It also landed me a teaching job and for the next six years I taught theology at a graduate level. These were wonderful years; I was where I most wanted to be, in a theology classroom. However, during those six years, I began to explore the writings of the mystics and tentatively launch some courses in spirituality, beginning with a course on the great Spanish mystic, John of the Cross.

My doctoral studies followed those years and while I focused on Systematic theology, writing my thesis in the area of natural theology, something had begun to shift in me. I found myself more and more, both in teaching and writing, shifting more into the area of spirituality, so much so that after a few years I could no longer justify calling some of my former courses in Systematic theology by their old catalogue titles. Honesty compelled me now to name them courses in spirituality.

And what is spirituality? How is it different from theology? At one level, there’s no difference. Spirituality is, in effect, applied theology. They are of one and the same piece, either ends of the same sock. But here’s a difference: Theology defines the playing field, defines the doctrines, distinguishes truth from falsehood, and seeks to enflame the intellectual imagination. It is what it classically claims itself to be: Faith seeking understanding.

But, rich and important as that is, it’s not the game. Theology makes up the rules for the game, but it doesn’t do the playing nor decide the outcome. That’s role of spirituality, even as it needs to be obedient to theology. Without sound theology, spirituality always falls into unbridled piety, unhealthy individualism, and self-serving fundamentalism. Only good, rigorous, academic theology saves us from these.

But without spirituality, theology too-easily becomes only an intellectual aesthetics, however beautiful. It’s one thing to have coherent truth and sound doctrine; it’s another thing to give that actual human flesh, on the streets, in our homes, and inside our own restless questioning and doubt. Theology needs to give us truth; spirituality needs to break open that truth.

And so I’ve come full circle: From the story books of my childhood, through the Shakespeare of my high school, through the novelists and poets of my undergraduate years, through the philosophy of Aristotle and Aquinas, through the theology of Rahner and Tillich, through the scripture scholarship of Raymond Brown and Ernst Kasemann, through the hermeneutics of the Post-Modernists of my post-graduate years, through forty years of teaching theology, I’ve landed where I started – still searching for good stories that feed the soul.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
The Week Ahead
Monday, May 22
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
3:30pm School Play Party
7:00pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday, May 23
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
3:30pm Brownies
3:30pm School Track Pizza Party
7:00pm RCIA
7:30pm Christian Meditation
Wednesday, May 24
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm School Band
7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice
Thursday, May 25
6:30pm Women’s Club Installation
7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal
Friday, May 26
Saturday, May 27
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, May 28
12:00pm Baptism Prep
Monday, May 29
Memorial Day
9:00am Mass
Parish Center Closed
No Adoration Today

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulate the following families who had their children baptized by Fr. Elliott Dees, assisted by Baptism Team leaders, Meg and Frank Munaretto. Pictured from the left are: Tim and Jade Grimms with Gianna Grace, Merritt and Moira Parham with McCarthy Patricia, James and Lianne Robinette with Patrick Edward, and John and Megan Steigauf with William James.

Men’s Club Annual Golf Outing
The SJC Men’s Club invites all men of the parish to their annual golf outing on Friday, June 2nd
Flagg Creek Golf Course
Cost: $27 includes golf, cart, 2 beverage tickets and entry into contests (low team score, long drive, closest to the pin); Format: Scramble; Tee Times: 1:00 to 2:17pm; Sign-up: Forms can be found on the parish Men’s Club website. 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 to the Parish Center. Questions: Contact John Cisek at 312-327-1295 or jc704@comcast.net.

Thank You
I wish to express our parish’s gratitude to Julie Krema, Jackie Wehner, Laura Ozark, Julie Harding, Loretta Piekarz and Colleen Hackett for sharing their faith and reflections with our parish community at all of the Masses on Mother’s Day. Your words and faith are an inspiration to all of us.
Fr. Bill

Spiritual writer, Kathleen Norris says, “Jesus is ready to calm the storm if only we make ourselves still enough to hear Him.”
**Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions**

**Monday, May 22**  
Easter Weekday  St. Rita Cascia  
7:45am Robert Lovino; Fr. Kieran Kemner

**Tuesday, May 23**  
Easter Weekday  
7:45am Louis Plzak; Helen Marie O’Hara

**Wednesday, May 24**  
St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de’Pazzi  
7:45am Patti O’Donnell; Our Beloved Dead

**Thursday, May 25**  
7:45am Doris Yeast; Mary Julia Ryan

**Friday, May 26**  
St. Philip Neri  
7:45am Thomas Foody; Timothy Schick

**Saturday, May 27**  
St. Augustine of Canterbury  
8:00am Patricia Kot; Donald Dempsey  
~ Reconciliation Follows Mass ~  
5:00pm Miroslav Chybik; Mary Alice Ryan

**Sunday, May 28**  
Ascension of the Lord  
7:30am Walt Sobek; Thomas McGrath  
9:00am Larry Murphy; Lorraine Gagliardo  
10:45am Deceased members of the Macke & Shillim Families; Frank Bilotta  
12:15pm Summer Mass Schedule Begins—No 12:15 Mass Today  
5:00pm Mary Julia Ryan; Edward O’Brien

**Monday, May 29**  
Memorial Day    No Adoration    Parish Center Closed  
9:00am Mass Gerald Lepinske; Thomas Foody

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**Pray for Our Sick**  
Rosemary Balazs  
Thomas Barber  
Cheryl Bartz  
Jerry Benesh  
Joseph Bovenzi  
Paul Cervony  
Tim Crain  
Fr. David Dowdle  
Mildred Fitzgerald  
Colleen Franke  
Lynn Freking  
John Gannon  
Jack Gibbons  
Erin Gibbons  
Dan Haske  
Kathy Holden  
Karen Hult  
Bob Karpiak  
Lucine Kassis  
Curtis Kerzich  
George Kojima  
Carrie Kowalski  
Melody Maly  
Sr. Jane McKirchy  
Bobbie Misiora  
Phyllis Myrmal  
Michael O’Brien  
Jeanne Pinner  
Frank Pipal  
Helen Ragu  
Leona Shell  
Deloris Simonek  
Ray Simonek  
Peter Smykowski  
Brendan Steward  
Brooks Tonn  
Don Vollmer  
Marty Wehner  
Monica Westell  
Sharon Wildman  
Pray for Our Beloved Dead  
William Ritchie Jr., father of Maribeth White, grandfather of 17, great grandfather of 10  
Kimberly Maroney, mother of Kendall and Kaylee, niece of Barbara Cronin  
John O’Malley, father of Carol Johanns, grandfather of 4  
Mary Horvath, sister of Jim, aunt of 2  
William Cochran, brother of Dan

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Our Summer Mass Schedule begins next weekend, Memorial Day weekend, May 27-28. There will be no 12:15pm Mass beginning May 28. On Memorial Day our morning Mass will be at 9am. On holiday weekends no child care is provided during the Sunday 9am and 10:45am Masses. On May 29 there will be no adoration and the Parish Center office will be closed. As always you may reach a priest in an emergency by calling 708-246-4404 and following the voice prompts.

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**Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country**  
Staff 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 Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke  
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 LeFeuvre and Schillaci families  
PFC Michael Frazee, grandson of Kay and John Johnson  
Spc. Douglas Junius, grandson of Ann Junius and son of Sue Junius

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**Marriage Banns**  
Lauren Kazmierczak & Frank Kotas  
Gabrielle Dumasius and Alan Fredian

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Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor  
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org  
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc Pastor  
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org  
Rev. Elliott R. Dees, Assoc Pastor  
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Deacon John Schopp, Deacon  
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com  
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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  
wweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
‘Christian Identity and the Contemplative Experience’

Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB
Director and Spiritual Guide of the World Community for Christian Meditation

Thursday, June 8
St John of the Cross Parish
Parish Center

Daytime Session: ‘A New Holiness’ (10am – 4pm)
For many the meaning of the terms spirituality and religion have changed. Returning to the Gospel after discovering the contemplative experience breathes new life into the Christian identity.

Evening Session: ‘The Inner Room’ (7:30pm – 9pm)
Jesus was - and is - a teacher of contemplation. Our own tradition of meditation shows us what he meant and how we can enter the transformative experience that Jesus opens to us all.

Register Online or at the Parish Center
http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/fr-laurence-freeman/
For more information: Steve Weigand, Pastoral Associate, 708-246-4404 (137)

Please indicate which sessions you plan to attend:

_____ Daytime session $75 (9:30am Registration/Hospitality—4pm Includes lunch)
_____ Evening session $15 (7pm—9pm) _____ Both day and evening $85

Name______________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________ City______________________________
State _______ Zip ________________ Phone______________________________
Email ______________________________________________________________
Luncheon choice: Check here if vegetarian _____