I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Fourth Sunday of Lent      May 7, 2017
Next weekend there will be a second collection to benefit the work of Catholic Charities. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a special year for the Archdiocese of Chicago as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities’ centennial year is truly a celebration for all of us because its great tradition of charitable care has included the support of volunteers and donors from every parish in the archdiocese. For 100 years, through every era of war, peace, poverty and prosperity, Catholic Charities has worked together with the faithful to fulfill the Gospel mission to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, comfort the afflicted, and bring hope to the hopeless.

Each year on Mother’s Day, we have an opportunity to make a financial contribution to the Catholic Charities Mother’s Day Collection. This year, as we face increasing violence in our communities, it is a critical time for us to come together to support Catholic Charities. With more than 150 locations throughout Cook and Lake Counties, Catholic Charities’ services are intentionally located in the most troubled areas.

Through food and nutrition programs, early childhood education, alternatives for at-risk youth, trauma and grief counseling, job training, domestic violence programs, and substance abuse treatment, Catholic Charities’ services are a powerful antidote to the culture of drugs, gangs and violence that takes root in desperate areas.

Your donation to Catholic Charities will help the Church’s efforts to promote peace, restore human dignity, and bring hope to those living with brutal violence and poverty. Please contribute as generously as you are able during Catholic Charities collection on Mother’s Day. Or, make your donations directly to Catholic Charities at 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60654, www.catholiccharities.net/donate. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears; grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus among the thousands of words of this world; grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live, to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship. Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitating, the word of your Son Jesus; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life. Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move “with haste” toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did. Amen. Pope Francis
Dear Parishioners,

This Saturday and next are big days in the lives of our second graders and their families. These first two weekends in May have long been the time of celebrating First Communion here at SJC. There are four liturgies, two on each Saturday. Family has gotten so complicated that a few years ago we switched to a ‘family friendly’ scheduling format for first Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Families decide what day and time is most convenient for them and then use an on-line program to schedule it. Sometimes friends want to be together so each family chooses the same day and time and it works. That way we can honor the wishes and values of everyone as best we can.

That is especially important the second weekend which is always Mother’s Day weekend. Some families travel so the first weekend is more convenient for them to have First Eucharist. Some have parents (who are second graders’ grandparents) travelling to be with them so the second weekend is more important for them as a family to be all together. Some families have issues of which parent has custody which weekend. And for many families it really doesn’t make much difference which weekend they have. Like I said, it gets complicated, so why not let families signup for whatever weekend works best for them?

The obvious consequence of switching to that way of scheduling means that no one day or time is exclusively for the YC program or for the school. Children from both programs are at each of the masses. Each celebration reflects the diversity (and the complexity!) of the parish make-up. The celebrations of the sacraments are truly parish celebrations. Confirmation has been celebrated that way for longer than most can remember. It’s getting to be like that now with First Eucharist.

I am so proud of how we celebrate the sacraments. The choirs and musicians really shine in those moments. People come from literally all over the country to be with family and are blown away by the quality of our music ministry. Ushers come forward when they might not even know anyone in the program. Believe it or not, some volunteers, whether choir, usher or Eucharistic minister, are at all four celebrations. It’s another one of those moments when I am so grateful to belong to this amazing community.

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David

PS I guess I didn’t tell you when I left my sister’s house and moved back into the rectory. That happened some weeks back. I’m just beginning to turn the corner on recovering from the side effects of chemo and radiation which ended two weeks ago and am feeling better every day. I’m anxious to get back to the stage of when I can ‘voice’ using the voice prosthesis as I could for a little while after the surgery and before the chemo/radiation treatments. Then we’ll begin to see what I’m capable of doing. I keep repeating, ‘One day at a time’.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed on Sunday, May 7th, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publically fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray for young men and women that God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life and for the gift of courage to follow His call.

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son’s Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Following the reception of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, the post baptismal formation and education of our RCIA elect, who are now referred to as neophytes, joyfully continues over the coming weeks.

This period of catechesis is called mystagogy. Mystagogia comes from a Greek word meaning a time of entering into mystery. It is during this time that the newest members of our Church learn what it means to be disciples. Reflecting on their experiences at the Vigil, they continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Catholic Church and will reflect on how they will serve Christ and help in the Church’s mission and outreach activities.

Bread and Wine

It is the nature of food that it should be eaten. It is the nature of food that is should be consumed. Food exists only that it may be devoured. Drink exists only to be poured out. Food is food, not for its own sake, but to give life to the hungry. Drink is drink, not for its own sake, but to give joy to the drinker. Food and drink are creatures which achieve fulfillment in being put at the disposal of others: they exist to serve the needs of others; their destiny is met in their destruction. When the Lord Jesus, shortly before he was betrayed, took bread and wine, and gave them to his disciples he expressed himself perfectly; bread that we might have life, wine that we might be glad; one bread, broken and shared in friendship, one cup, pledge of common destiny. This bread is my body, which is for you; this cup is my blood, poured out for you. He is for us. It is the story of his life.

Mark Searle
Liturgical Gestures, Words Objects

Liturgical Gestures, Words Objects
Background on the Gospel

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be “robbers and thieves” because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd. Loyola Press

Living the Gospel

There is only one true Shepherd. This “shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out”—nay, he drives them out. Moreover, the shepherd “walks ahead” of the sheep, leading and guiding them. Thus, we have a two-way relationship with our Shepherd. On the one hand, he drives us out of our comfort zone to risk being his disciples. When we are reluctant to go, he gives us a push, sometimes prodding us to go even where we do not wish. Taking up our Shepherd’s mission can be as dangerous for us as it was for him. On the other hand, the Shepherd goes before us with guidance and care. Even when we face danger—face ridicule, rejection, denial—he is there to protect us and keep us faithful to his mission. Do we hear him calling us by name? Are we willing to be driven by him? to be led by him?

We know our true Shepherd from strangers or “thieves and robbers” by the sound of his voice calling each of us by name. Yes, he calls each of us by name. Each of us has something unique to give to the church to build up the Shepherd's Body and continue his saving mission. If we refuse to hear his voice (as did the Pharisees in this gospel), his mission does not move forward as quickly and surely as it might. Each of us is important. Each of us has a name. The Pharisees refused to listen, refused to be driven to fulfill their true mission to God’s people. Unlike the Pharisees, we are to heed our Shepherd’s voice driving each of us out personally to continue his saving mission, his voice guiding and leading each of us personally to abundant life. ©Living Liturgy

May we truly hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and faithfully lead others to abundant life.
May we follow the Good Shepherd wherever he may lead us.

Lifelong Learning

Monday
Acts 11:1-18
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4
John 10:11-18

Tuesday
Acts 11:19-26
Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7
John 10:22-30

Wednesday
Acts 12:24-13:5a
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8
John 12:44-50

Thursday
Acts 13:13-25
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27
John 13:16-20

Friday
Acts 13:26-33
Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab
John 14:1-6

Saturday
Acts 13:44-52
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
John 14:7-14

5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Pet 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

Oh God, God of all there is and that which ever will be, God who knows my every thought, my every wish, hear my wishes, but grant my needs, and teach me to know the difference. Give me understanding of Your plan for me, and give me the gifts, including courage that I need to achieve Your plan. Speak to me not only in my most difficult moments or at times of my greatest fears, but also when I am strong and assured. Help me to know that I am never alone and that You are with me always. Amen. William R. Kaufman, S.L.U
Prayer

Christ our Shepherd, hear our prayers. Help us to hear your voice calling us to compassion and humility, enabling us to bring the life of the Easter promise into our homes and communities. Amen.

Good Shepherd,
You who rests not until each of your sheep is counted,
You have willed us to do in your name what you have done for us.
But we are reluctant, we are afraid, and we long to hear your voice.
And so we pray... Call us forth.

Lord, who stands amid the violence and deprivation of war...
Call us forth.

Lord, who stands amid the rising waters of floods...
Call us forth.

Lord, who walks upon the parched land of droughts...
Call us forth.

Lord, who stands with the victim of every type of disaster, remaining through every dark night, beside them till morning...
Call us forth.

Lord, who walks the long walk with the refugee, calling the crude shelter in a strange land “home”...
Call us forth.

Lord, who remains with the sick, reaches out to the crippled, comforts the dying...
Call us forth.

Lord, who calls himself brother to the persecuted, the enslaved, the scourged and the marginalized...
Call us forth.

Call us forth to bless. Call us forth to heal.
Call us forth to speak your Word, To feed your sheep, Into encounter, Into solidarity, Into love.
Call us forth from our comfort, from our indulgence, from our doubt, from our fearful blindness, our willful deafness.

For the sake of our sisters and brothers, for the sake of our world, for the sake of Your Kingdom, we pray... Call us forth.

Amen

St. John of the Cross Parish
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2017

The goal of our life is to live with God forever. God who loves us, gave us life. Our own response of love allows God’s life to flow into us without limit. All the things in this world are gifts of God, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.

As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us develop as loving persons. But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives, they displace God and so hinder our growth toward our goal.

In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance before all of these created gifts insofar as we have a choice and are not bound by some obligation.

We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life in God. Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to the deepening of God’s life in me.

St. Ignatius Loyola, paraphrased by David L. Fleming, S.J.
Women’s Club Spring News

SHOP, SIP & SHARE
BOUTIQUE NIGHT
THURSDAY
MAY 11
7-10PM

VILLAGE CLUB
4221 LAWN

For information on all our events go to
www.stjohnofthecross.org/womensclub

If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: ‘Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.’ I must admit, this prayer has never failed me.
- Blessed Mother Teresa

GARAGE SALE VOLUNTEER MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 15
PARISH CENTER
6:45PM ROOM CHAIRS
7:30PM ALL VOLUNTEERS

SHOP, SIP & SHARE
BOUTIQUE NIGHT
THURSDAY
MAY 11
7-10PM

VILLAGE CLUB
4221 LAWN

For information on all our events go to
www.stjohnofthecross.org/womensclub

If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: ‘Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.’ I must admit, this prayer has never failed me.
- Blessed Mother Teresa

GARAGE SALE VOLUNTEER MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 15
PARISH CENTER
6:45PM ROOM CHAIRS
7:30PM ALL VOLUNTEERS

44th Annual Garage Sale
Donate items beginning
June 10 at the School
Sale Date: Saturday, June 17
1/2 Price Sale: Monday, June 19

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

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*
Monday June 19 8:30am-3pm* *Let a Room Chair know which hours you can work on June 17 & 19
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.

See our website for more information.
www.sjcgaragesale.com
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 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.

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.
Second Annual Chicago Catholic Church Tour and Pilgrimage
Wednesday, May 24
Go on a church tour and pilgrimage on Wednesday, May 24. Leave SJC at 9:45am; return at 4pm. The cost of the tour and bus is $45. To register, please leave a check in that amount payable to St. John of the Cross Parish at the Parish Center no later than May 10. Learn more on our website. Please contact Madonna Muscarello at 630.325.7990 or by e-mail at gracicakes@gmail.com with questions.

Free Program at The Well for SJC Parishioners
The Questions of John’s Gospel
Wednesday, May 10 from 7 - 8:30 pm
Speaker: Sallie Latkovich, CSJ
The fourth gospel has a number of important questions, asked in the context of the various stories. Some of these are: “What are you looking for? Do you believe? Do you realize what I have done for you? Why are you weeping?” This presentation will look at these questions and others, and make connections to the questions of our lives. Call the Parish Center to sign up.
Sallie Latkovich is a faculty member at Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park and has a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Scripture and Spirituality, Graduate Theological Foundation.

Spirituality for Men:
Join us on May 20 @ 8:45am
Our guest speaker will be Congressman Daniel Lipinski, an SJC parishioner and a member of the US House of Representatives for Illinois’s 3rd congressional district, serving since 2005.
Congressman Lipinski will share his thoughts and experiences with a small group of men about some of the challenges of being a Catholic in the U.S. Congress. All Catholics grapple with issues regarding how to best live their faith in their profession. Being in a public role as a legislator presents some unique challenges. Dan will discuss the difficulties of trying to live out Catholic faith as a representative in a world that is more and more hostile to public policy views informed by faith. Dan will also discuss the challenges and blessings of serving in Congress.

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. Contact Steve Weigand for more information.

NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness
New Location in Western Springs
NAMI is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI Family Support Groups are free, confidential and safe groups of families helping other families who live with mental health challenges. In NAMI Family Support Groups, families join a caring group of individuals helping one another by utilizing their collective lived experiences and learned wisdom. Family members can achieve a renewed sense of hope for their loved one living with mental health challenges.
Beginning May 11 the LaGrange Family Support Group has a new location: First Congregational Church of Western Springs at 1106 Chestnut in Western Springs. A group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30pm. Please call Angela Suarez at 408-524-2582 for more information.

In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear. -Saint Therese of Lisieux
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!
Family News: YC ~ Parish School ~ Crossroads

Parish School
This week, many of our eighth grade students attended Lyons Township High School Fitness Day. Fitness Day is a day set aside at LT for local eighth grade students to compete against other schools in various events. This is a great opportunity for kids of all schools to strengthen their physical education skills.

This weekend also marks a milestone for our second graders. They will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Communion. Prior to receiving the Sacrament, they spend an afternoon in a very special retreat to help prepare them for receiving the Blood and Body of Christ. Our prayers are with all of these children as they celebrate this most Blessed Sacrament.

Crossroads News
Summer Work Tours
There is still time to join a summer work tour. Serve on a local tour, or travel to WV to help build a home. Sign up today for one of the following:

- SJC and local sharing parishES, June 19-23. New this year, incoming 7th, 8th & 9th graders are invited.
- Habitat for Humanity, in WV, July 16-22 (must be at least 16 years of age).
- Our Lady of Charity in Cicero, July 24-28.

Get all the details and a registration form on our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/work-tours/

Thanks for Your Support
Thank you to everyone who donated to our Spring Into Action paper goods collection. Grateful parishioners from St. Mark Parish helped to sort, pack and load the

Family Connection
Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd’s job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday’s Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today’s psalm, Psalm 23. Loyola Press
God Bless Our First Communicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Adler</td>
<td>Sean Francis</td>
<td>Maeve McClure</td>
<td>Violet Rogulic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Araujo</td>
<td>David Frehner</td>
<td>William McCormick</td>
<td>Michela Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloe Ariens</td>
<td>Anna Enriquez Garcia</td>
<td>Molly McMahon</td>
<td>Maeve Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Austin</td>
<td>Kara Gawne</td>
<td>John McNamara</td>
<td>Fiona Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Benjaminson</td>
<td>Sarah Gilmartin</td>
<td>Hayden McTigue</td>
<td>Dillon Sackley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Blake</td>
<td>Carolina Gonzalez</td>
<td>Gemma Mear</td>
<td>Elizabeth Salerno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devin Blake</td>
<td>Grace Greifenkamp</td>
<td>Grayson Medley</td>
<td>Aidan Salvatori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellasyn Boshardt</td>
<td>James Griffin</td>
<td>Maya Mendez</td>
<td>Molly Sanchez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Braithwaite</td>
<td>Aoife Griffin</td>
<td>Manuel Menendez</td>
<td>Nathan Sanchez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Brubaker</td>
<td>Sofia Grossman</td>
<td>Noah Merz</td>
<td>Christian Sarros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadie Bruns</td>
<td>Avery Hamilton</td>
<td>Morgan Metzger</td>
<td>Sienna Schaller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawid Bucko</td>
<td>Luke Hartman</td>
<td>Jamison Miller</td>
<td>Frank Schimmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francesca Cahill</td>
<td>Robert Hayes</td>
<td>Antonino Mistretta</td>
<td>Brendan Sexton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Cannon</td>
<td>Peyton Heathery</td>
<td>Aidan Mitchell</td>
<td>Erin Sheehan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Carithers</td>
<td>John Hepokoski</td>
<td>Cormac Monahan</td>
<td>Timothy Sloan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conor Carolan</td>
<td>Finn Hunek</td>
<td>Kerryn Monohan</td>
<td>Sophia Smykowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norah Cassidy</td>
<td>Christian Jaimes</td>
<td>Megan Morrissey</td>
<td>Franklin Squillace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Chambers</td>
<td>Kevin Jancewicz</td>
<td>Ronan Morrissey</td>
<td>Abigail Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hank Clark</td>
<td>Mark Johannes</td>
<td>Claire Mortonson</td>
<td>Matthew Szmyczak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Clark</td>
<td>Gillian John</td>
<td>Giancarlo Munaretto</td>
<td>Zachary Tallard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Coglianese</td>
<td>Peyton Johnson</td>
<td>Ryan Murray</td>
<td>Colin Thiede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finley Collins</td>
<td>Ashley Kenna</td>
<td>Sienna Musachio</td>
<td>Sophia Towne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Collins</td>
<td>Cameron Kennedy</td>
<td>Michael Narbone</td>
<td>Lukas Vamvlas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Conkin</td>
<td>Easton Kenny</td>
<td>Jack Nash</td>
<td>Charles van Alphen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rory Coyne</td>
<td>Chloe Kotynek</td>
<td>Catherine Nelson</td>
<td>Jack van Alphen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colm Cuttica</td>
<td>Lilian Kotynek</td>
<td>Elizabeth Nelson</td>
<td>Olivia Van Wyck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Dabrowski</td>
<td>Michael Kotynek</td>
<td>Ella Nielsen</td>
<td>Reinis Velkme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Dalgety</td>
<td>Anna Krawczyk</td>
<td>Parker Ninesling</td>
<td>Zane Velkme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elijah Decker</td>
<td>Luke Krema</td>
<td>Bella Nolan</td>
<td>Avery Verrecchia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Dillon</td>
<td>Isabella Lam</td>
<td>Daniel Norgle</td>
<td>Alejandro Villavicencio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Dobry</td>
<td>Grayson Lee</td>
<td>Beckham Oakey</td>
<td>Leonardo Villone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Donnelly</td>
<td>Matthew Leonard</td>
<td>Brady O’Connell</td>
<td>Daniel Waddell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Dorsey</td>
<td>Isabella Limoges</td>
<td>Jack O’Gorman</td>
<td>Ryan Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Dunneback</td>
<td>Cameron Linn</td>
<td>John Oleniczak</td>
<td>Jack White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reagan Ellis</td>
<td>Gordon Linn</td>
<td>Lyla Ormsby</td>
<td>Emmett Whittingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Ellis</td>
<td>Jacob Lopez</td>
<td>Daniel Phelan</td>
<td>Connor Wilfenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chika Ezike</td>
<td>Isabelle Luna</td>
<td>Maximil Piotrowski</td>
<td>Noah Wingert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joaquin Fabara</td>
<td>Lilyona Lupo</td>
<td>Olivia Podczerwinski</td>
<td>Payton Wulf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faye Ferrell</td>
<td>Charlotte Magda</td>
<td>Ella Poliquin</td>
<td>Andrew Zander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Finn</td>
<td>Ryan Mahler</td>
<td>Julian Ptasinski</td>
<td>Gabriel Zarycki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Alina Malinin</td>
<td>Emma Quinn</td>
<td>Charlotte Zator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Flavin</td>
<td>Lucy Mason</td>
<td>Thomas Quinn</td>
<td>Patrick Ziarno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Forrest</td>
<td>Grace Mathey</td>
<td>Chase Reepmeyer</td>
<td>Sinclair Zieba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Forst</td>
<td>Evan McCargo</td>
<td>Santiago Regan-Rojas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Francis</td>
<td>William McCargo</td>
<td>Maddie Rehor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collin Francis</td>
<td>Sophia McCarthy</td>
<td>Liam Remedi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. John of the Cross Parish  Fourth Sunday of Easter  May 7, 2017
Parish News

The Week Ahead
Monday, May 8
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
4:00pm Pre-Confirmation Meeting
YC Classes
7:00pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
6:30pm PAC Meeting
7:00pm RCIA
7:30pm Christian Meditation
Wednesday, May 10, 2017
9:30am Bridges Faith Sharing
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm School Band
3:45pm Combined Children's Choir
7:00pm Chgo Catholic Scripture School
7:00pm Grecco Faith Sharing
7:00pm Spotlight on SJC / STEM
7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice
Thursday, May 11
8:00am School Youth Initiative
10:00am Archdiocese Renew My Church
2:00pm Seasons of Hope Staff
6:15pm Communion Rehearsal
7:00pm Memorial Games Practice
7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble
7:30pm SAM Core Group Meeting
Friday, May 12, 2017
3:45pm School Piano Recital
Saturday, May 13, 2017
First Holy Communion 11 & 2
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, May 14, 2017
1:30pm Baptisms
4:00pm YC BEDS Meal Prep

SJ C's Food 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.

Putting Mercy in Action:
- This week, what can I do to provide the basic sustenance needed to one of my neighbors?
- How can I use less so my neighbor can have more?
- How can I take part in advocating for people and for programs that help provide food and meals for those in need?
- Is there an organization I can get involved in that helps provide the most basic needs to others in my local community?

To give worthy praise to the Lord's mercy, we unite ourselves with Your Immaculate Mother, for then our hymn will be more pleasing to You, because She is chosen from among men and angels. Through Her, as through a pure crystal, Your mercy was passed on to us. Through Her, man became pleasing to God; Through Her, streams of grace flowed down upon us. - Saint Faustina

Retired? Semi-retired? Open the Doors of Your Heart!
Founded in 1995 by two Jesuit priests, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps offers men and women, age 50 and older, the opportunity to engage in direct, hands-on service with the materially poor while growing in their Christian faith through personal and shared reflection.

IVC members commit to 600 hours of service per year (2 days/week, Sept.-June) and participate in a comprehensive spiritual formation program in the Jesuit tradition including monthly community meetings, individual spiritual reflection, and retreat experiences.

Currently, 60 IVC Chicago members are serving throughout Cook, Lake and DuPage counties in a wide variety of volunteer settings. Consider using your talents to experience making a difference with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Please visit www.ivcusa.org/chicago

Learn more and meet current IVC volunteers. Attend an information session here at St. Catherine on Tuesday, June 20 at 2pm. Register by contacting Jacqueline Fitzgerald 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Leader</th>
<th>Intentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 8</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Muriel Albertson; Aquila Bartucci</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 9</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Marion McGuire; Francesco Brotto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 10</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Connie Ptak; Thomas Foody</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 11</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Timothy Schick; Our Beloved Dead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 12</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Irene Liskovec; Kevin McGuire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 13</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Miroslav Chybik; Dave Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>~ Reconciliation Follows Mass ~</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Susanne Walsh; Richard Myers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 14</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Irene Liskovec; Deceased members of Krupski family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Charlotte Meany; Catherine Boyle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45am</td>
<td>Lorraine &amp; Bob Brandt; Martha Ecklund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Patricia Cebula; Bonnie Wingert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Hansa Patel; Betty Napleton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pray for Our Sick
Rosemary Balazs
Cheryl Bartz
Jerry Benesh
Joseph Bovenzi
Paul Cervony
William Cochran
Tim Craim
Fr. David Dowdle
Mildred Fitzgerald
Colleen Franke
Lynn Freking
John Gannon
Jack Gibbons
Erin Gibbons
Dan Haske
Kathy Holden
Mary Horvath
Karen Hult
Bob Karpiak
Lucine Kassis
Curtis Kerzich
George Kojima
Carrie Kowalski
Melody Maly
Bobbie Misiora
Phyllis Myers
Michael O'Brien
Jeanne Pinner
Frank Pipal
Helen Ragus
Leona Shelk
Deloris Simonke
Ray Simonke
Peter Smykowski
Brendan Stewart
Brooks Tonn
Don Vollmer
Monica Westell
Sharon Wildman

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Ron Tamer, brother of Ginny Grecco
Roy Muchna, father of Nancy Dougherty and Mark, grandfather of 8
Nancy Cottone, mother of Frank
Harry Abbott, husband of Gail, father of Gabriella Ravani, Frank and Gregory, grandfather of 3
Francisco Lopez
Edward DeRosa, father-in-law of Rich Dastice

So your strength is failing you? Why don't you tell your mother about it?...Mother! Call her with a loud voice. She is listening to you; she sees you in danger, perhaps, and she--your holy mother Mary--offers you, along with the grace of her son, the refuge of her arms, the tenderness of her embrace...and you will find yourself with added strength for the new battle.

-Saint Josemaria Escriva

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

Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc Pastor
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. Elliott R. Dees, Assoc Pastor
dees@stjohnofthecross.org
Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright, Director of Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta, Director of YC
jcascchetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman, Principal
gorman@ejc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes, Dir of Crossroads
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch, Director of Music
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin, Director of Operations
mmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord
knicholson@stjohnofthecross.org
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
Women’s Club Annual Spring Collection Drive
Now through May 11 the Women’s Club will be collecting items for Sharing Connections in Downers Grove and The Pajama Program. Drop boxes will be located in the church narthex, Parish Center lobby, and the school. Thank you for your generosity!

The Pajama Program’s goal is for every child to feel the love and security that ensures peaceful sleep — and to awaken with the energy and spirit to make every day positive, happy and hopeful. Giving children new pajamas and books will help transform their bedtimes into comforting rituals of love, support and fun, changing their lives for the future.

Pajama Program Collection:
- New Pajamas for infants up to 18 years
- New Books for infants up to 18 years

Sharing Connections in Downers Grove provides furniture and household items to families coping with a crisis like domestic violence, returning or homeless veterans, job loss, or financial hardship. Items being collection for Sharing Connections:
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream / Razors
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers (all sizes)
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Laundry Soap
- Paper Towels
- Dusting Spray