Pentecost Sunday  June 4, 2017
Dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of June 10-11, 2017, we will take up a special collection for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese.

In May of 2016, I ordained five men to the priesthood. This May I ordained another five men. Thirteen priests retired at the end of June 2016. By the end of this coming June, an additional twenty priests will retire. These retirements will bring our total of retired priests to 230. This will mean that close to 30% of our clergy will have reached retirement status. 35 of our retired priests are either in nursing homes or are receiving home care. I am very grateful to our retired priests who are able to continue to share their priestly ministry in our parishes. I realize that many parishes depend upon their service for daily and Sunday Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals and countless other good works of the Church. Without the help of our retired priests many parishes would have to reduce Mass schedules and other sacramental services.

Our retired priests rely upon your help now. The Priests’ Retirement and Mutual Aid Association (PRMAA) cares for our retired priests. As you know well, the cost for health care, prescription drugs and nursing home care continues to increase. This special collection in June is different from Retirement Fund for Religious collection in December. That collection supports retired men and women in religious orders. Retired archdiocesan priests do not receive any funds from that collection, which is why I am asking you to support them with this Fund for Retired Priests.

This letter give me the opportunity to share my heartfelt appreciation for the ministry and devotion of our retired priests. I also want to remember all the faithful priests who have gone to their eternal reward, and I commend them to your prayers as well.

Please know of my gratitude to you for your most gracious generosity in this collection last year and I ask that you repeat your kindness this year. Your donations, your prayers, and your good wishes are an affirmation of our retired priests and the good they have accomplished in service to the people of the archdiocese.

With every good wish, I remain,
Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

Loving God, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ your Son. Help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence. Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Background on the Gospel

The Season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough that we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

We already heard today’s Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter this year (Lectionary Cycle A). That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus’ appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led reflect on belief and unbelief.

In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus’ act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God’s act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for “spirit” can also be translated as “breath.”

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church’s sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

Living the Gospel

In John’s Gospel Pentecost takes place on Easter evening. The giving of new Life on Easter and the giving of the Spirit on Pentecost coalesce in the one Body of Christ, the church. Something entirely new has happened. This Body is filled with the joy of divine Presence, the grace of risen peace, the eagerness of being sent forth, the breath of new creation, the power of forgiveness. Each day when we—Christ’s Body, the church—allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, Easter-Pentecost happens anew. Each day when we open ourselves to the breath-life of the Holy Spirit, we ourselves are made anew. There is no end to the new Life that the risen Jesus and his Spirit breathe into us. There is no end to our re-creation in the Spirit, in the Body of Christ.

Pentecost is more than celebrating the “birthday” of the church—it celebrates our “birth” into risen Life (“he breathed on them”; cf. Gen 2:7) and being sent forth armed with peace to forgive others. We can speak of a “birthday” of the church (the church being the Body of Christ) only when we make the church a reality through forgiveness of one another. Then every day is a “birthday”—a birthing of the risen Life of Christ in each other. Forgiveness is sometimes the most difficult thing we do; so many simple acts in our everyday living demand that we seek and give forgiveness. This is why Jesus sent the Spirit: to empower us, through the common risen Life we share, to forgive, to heal divisions in the community, to be peacemakers. We overcome our fears and unlock the doors of our closed relationships when we reach out to others in forgiveness.

©Living Liturgy
A fundamental element of Pentecost is **astonishment**. Our God is a God of astonishment; this we know. No one expected anything more from the disciples: after Jesus’ death they were a small, insignificant group of defeated orphans of their Master. There occurred instead an unexpected event that astounded: the people were astonished because each of them heard the disciples speaking in their own tongues, telling of the great works of God (cf. Acts 2:6–7, 11). The Church born at Pentecost is an astounding community because, with the force of her arrival from God, a new message is proclaimed—the resurrection of Christ—with a new language, the universal one of love. A new proclamation: Christ lives, he is risen. A new language: the language of love. The disciples are adorned with power from above and speak with courage. Only minutes before, they all were cowardly, but now they speak with courage and candor, with the freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Thus the Church is called into being forever, capable of astounding while proclaiming to all that Jesus Christ has conquered death, that God’s arms are always open, that his patience is always there awaiting us in order to heal us, to forgive us. The risen Jesus bestowed his Spirit on the Church for this very mission.

—Excerpted from *Walking with Jesus* by Pope Francis

**Prayer for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in Your name. Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts. Give us light and strength to know Your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives. Guide us by Your wisdom, support us by Your power, for You are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son. You desire justice for all: enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor. Unite us to Yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true. As we gather in Your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to You, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants. You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

—Second Vatican Council

**A Light Unto My Path: Pentecost Sunday**

Bishop Robert Barron

From all eternity, the Father looks at the Son and the Son looks at the Father. What each sees is utter perfection and beauty. And so each, as Venerable Fulton Sheen said, sighs his love for the other. This shared breath is what our tradition calls the *Spiritus Sanctus*, the love breathed back and forth between the Father and the Son.

This is the same Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaotic waters at creation, that spoke through the prophets and patriarchs, that overshadowed the Virgin at the Annunciation, that drove Jesus into the desert, and that the Lord breathed (appropriately enough) on his disciples the night of Easter. How marvelous that this sacred breath is associated with the forgiveness of sins: *Receive the Holy Spirit*, Jesus said. *Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*.

In an acrobatic act of love, the Father sent the Son all the way to the limits of godforsakenness, all the way to the furthest end of our rebellion and isolation. This is the central drama of the cross. Then in the Holy Spirit, he drew the whole fallen world, which the Son had embraced, back to himself. And this is precisely why the Spirit is the great principle of mercy. In the words of absolution, the priest prays, “God the Father of Mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to him and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sin.”

On the feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the fact that this breath, this wind, this hurricane of mercy has been loosed upon the world.


**Light**

Dawn breaks
when I come back to
the real world -
where God is creator
and sustainer and I
am only called upon
to be a
co-creator
but not responsible
for it all -
Then I am freed from
the intolerable burden
of my own yoke -
and instead hitch up as
yoke-mate
with Jesus -
where He pulls
most of the weight
and I am not alone -
Then the yoke
becomes sweet
the burden light -
and there is space
for love and joy and laughter -
and hope -
since He will be there
when my own strength fails
and we
can put the yoke aside
and rest...
- Ted Tracy, S.J.

**A Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come Spirit of God,
grant us
The power to be gentle,
The strength to be forgiving,
The patience to be understanding,
The endurance to
Accept the consequences
Of holding on to what is right.
Come Spirit of God,
Help us to
Put our trust in
The power of good
To overcome evil,
The power of love to overcome hatred.
Come Spirit of God,
Enlighten us
With the vision to see and the faith
To believe in
A world free from violence,
A new world where fear will no longer
Lead us to commit injustices,
Nor selfishness cause us to
Bring suffering to others.
Come Spirit of wisdom and love,
Source of all good,
teach us Your truth
And guide our actions
In Your way of peace.
Amen.

- Pax Christi, USA

**Darkness**

Darkness comes
when I overbook -
get lost in compulsive
activity -
grow overtired
weary
frustrated with
my own limitations -
when I
become too important -
take responsibility
for everything
in the universe -
too serious
humorless
overburdened
anxious -
then
I lose God
and Jesus
in a
self-encapsulated
world
where I am
totally responsible
but lacking
in the resources
to handle it all -
and
I am alone...

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them
the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you will renew
the face of the earth.
Lord,
by the light
of the Holy Spirit
you have taught
the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish
what is right
and always rejoice
in your consolation.
We ask this
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

- Pax Christi, USA
Counseling Services

Partnered with the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (Carol Stream), SJC is offering counseling services in the Rectory offices. Both Dr. Sr. Ann Letourneau and Kristen Ras, MA will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Dr. Letourneau, a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, believes therapy is the best gift we can give ourselves because when we process past and current struggles we open ourselves to live more fully as the people we are created to be. She meets her clients where they are and seeks to provide a safe, comfortable space in which they can take a risk and grow. Dr. Letourneau enjoys working with individuals of all ages. Her interests include the integration between psychology and spirituality, utilizing dream work for personal and spiritual growth, and using mindfulness techniques to relieve daily stress. Dr. Letourneau graduated from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in 2015 with her doctorate in clinical psychology.

Kristen Ras, parishioner since 2004, is interested in working with people who are going through transitions or feeling stuck—whether due to depression, anxiety, life changes, grief, or stress, Kristen is committed to working with clients so they may gain a healthy perspective on life and develop positive coping skills so they may live the best life possible. Kristen has worked extensively with teenagers, young adults, and families through her work as high school teacher for fourteen years. As a student of acceptance and commitment therapy, Kristen is devoted to working with clients on creating a hopeful perspective through understanding one’s values. Kristen is practiced in mindfulness techniques and meditation. She holds a master’s in pastoral studies from the Catholic Theological Union and is finishing her master’s in clinical mental health counseling from Concordia University.

If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please call 630-752-9750 and indicate you would like to see Ann or Kristen at St John of the Cross. Ann accepts insurance, and Kristen will work with clients to negotiate a cash fee.

Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB at SJC
Director and Spiritual Guide of the World Community for Christian Meditation
Thursday, June 8 in the Parish Center
‘Christian Identity and the Contemplative Experience’

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 in the Parish Center.

Week-long Summer Retreats
June 4-9 or June 11-16
The Quiet Corners of our Lives

This retreat, offered in two different weeks, is given in a truly traditional retreat-style schedule. The week begins with a casual Sunday evening welcome and concludes with lunch on Friday. There is plenty of time for prayer, contemplation, quiet, gentle input, and relaxation along with twice-daily presentations by either Fr. Bob, Fr. Glenn, or Marianne. Prayer services and Mass are offered every day, and some video/movie evening relaxations are planned during the week.

The theme for the week focuses on quiet and contemplation. Most of us grew up thinking that prayer was “talking to God.” The Carmelite tradition holds that deep prayer is more listening than talking. This week will be an opportunity to learn, or be reminded of, some of the ways which we can learn and practice listening to God in the quiet corners of our lives.

The retreats are presented by Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., Fr. Glenn Snow, O. Carm., and Marianne Firlit, M.D., PhD., M.S. Marianne Firlit is a parishioner and a spiritual director with an office in our parish rectory. Contact Marianne at mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org.

Cost: $395 - for private room, meals, snacks, movies, and all programs or $200 commuter rate Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Road in Darien For reservations, call (630) 969-4141.

Spiritual Direction

God is in every part of your life, gifting, guiding, delighting, challenging and presenting you with opportunities to mature, deepen and broaden. God is continually creating you. Marianne Firlit is a certified Spiritual Director at our parish. Her office is in the rectory. Contact Marianne to learn more about how she can help you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and in your quest for holy living. Email: mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org or Call: the Parish Center office.

A Prayer to Begin Summer
For more light in the day, we thank you,
For gentle mornings, we thank you,
For nighttime conversations, we thank you,
For friends and family, we thank you,
For gardens and all manner of creatures, we thank you.
Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.
Help us love this earth.
Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.
Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest, and create. Amen.

Ignatian Spirituality
**Family News**

**Incoming 8th graders and graduating 8th graders: Summer Fun**

**13 REASONS WHY you are awesome**

Come and find out why God’s love for you is amazing!

Choose either

Tuesdays from 10-11:30am
or Tuesday from 7-8:30pm
5 Weeks for $25.00 – beginning June 12
Discover the Power in You!

**XTREME TASTE OF FAITH**

**FIND HIM, FIND YOU**

Saturday, June 24, 2017
10:00am – 2:00pm

X-treme Taste of Faith is an incredible opportunity for your junior high youth to experience national youth ministry speakers/musicians at the local level! Presenters use music, games and more to ignite the fire of faith in your middle school youth. Sign up by May 31st for this Rock’n time at Lewis University—only 20 minutes away $25.00.

Incoming Freshman & HS teens are invited to the larger conference with 700 HS teens at Lewis University June 23-25 – THREE FUN- PackEd DAYS of YLC!!
Youth Leadership Conference is 25+ years strong!
Best time you will have all summer – GUARANTEED!

**Serving our Community**

Our youth & families LOVE to serve!

So for the first time, SJC is excited to offer a Local Work Tour for all incoming 7th, 8th & graduating 8th graders.

Serve with our Crossroad teens to help local charities – sign up for 3, 4 or 5 days and make an impact in the lives of others.

June 19-23

We also love parent volunteers for a few days too!
$150.00 for 5 days, transportation, lunch & supplies.
Details can be found on the Crossroads website under Work Tours or contact the Youth Ministry office at 708-246-4404.

**Fest Family Banners**

Decorate an 8.5 x 11 sheet of white paper and we will create a 2 foot banner of your family’s artwork. Use your computer or markers. It’s a great way to support SJC. After the Fest families get to keep their banner. Email finished copies to adreamzimmer@yahoo.com or drop off at the Parish Center by June 14th. Cost: $150.
Pray for one another.

Since December of 2008, when St. John of the Cross began a sharing parish relationship with the Kolbe House Jail Ministry, the number one request of Fr. Arturo and Deacon Pablo was for prayer. Last year, after Fr. Arturo retired, Fr. Mark took on the role of Director of Kolbe House, and he too had the same fervent request – our prayers.

Most of us tend to think of Outreach as doing for others. We at SJC do support Kolbe House with monetary and material donations and through many cross-parish relationships. SJC provides clerical help; we have built and organized storage space for KH; and we have assisted several former inmates upon their release from Cook County Jail. All these means of outreach are needed and appreciated.

Yet, our outreach must be covered in prayer – shared and frequent prayer.

• A petition for Kolbe House Jail Ministry is offered at our weekend liturgies, as are prayers for SJC at Assumption Parish.
• Fr. Arturo and Deacon Pablo have come to SJC several times to pray with us.
• Time for prayer is an important part of visits groups or individual make to KH.
• Over 50 SJC parishioners regularly offer a Prayer for Peace for those involved with Cook County Jail.
• There is a standing invitation to attend the monthly Holy Hour at Assumption parish to pray for the incarcerated.
• Last November, 220 men, women and children of SJC became a Prayer Partner for a specific CCJ inmate.
• Many SJC parishioners have participated in the Kolbe House online retreats.
• Our YC children made a Novena to St. Maximilian Kolbe for the intention of Kolbe House Jail Ministries.
• Twice Kolbe House has brought their traveling Santuario to SJC so we could learn of their work and leave our own prayer petitions.

…we do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding to live in a manner worthy of the Lord.

1 Col 1:9

Please pray for the people involved with the Kolbe House Jail Ministry. Kolbe House prayer cards are available - contact Rose Horvath 708-246-8633 or rohorvath@ameritech.net

Thank You Note to SJC

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent sharing gift to Kolbe House. Your gift helps us represent you—the Church, the Body of Christ in Cook and Lake Counties. Through Kolbe House, the Church meets the men, women and children in the country jails. Each one is unique, and each one is infinitely loved by God, who is our Father. God loves them through you; you love them through me and the other staff and volunteers of Kolbe House.

Please continue to give what you can to support our ministry to the detained, their families and those who work in the jail. One by one, we’re introducing them to you, and you to them.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Mark Bartosic, Director

Kolbe House at Assumption Parish

Read the Kolbe House mission and learn more at http://www.kolbehouseministry.org/index.html

PRAY St. John of the Cross parishioners are welcome to the monthly Holy Hour held on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm in Assumption Church. This prayer service is for all who have been touched by crime, violence and its aftermath.

Prayer cards Prayer cards with the Prayer for Cook County Jail are available. Contact Rose Horvath at 708-308-8633 or rohorvath@ameritech.net

Read more about PRAYER to the left.

DONATE Kolbe House is grateful for donations of any of the items listed below to assist them in their ministry. Due to Cook County Jail restrictions, only these items can be accepted. If you prefer, a check can be made out to SJC or Kolbe House and left at the Parish Center, and the shopping will be done for you.

Personal Hygiene Items Small sizes (not travel size) of Shampoo, Body Wash, Shaving Cream and Laundry Soap, Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Stamps Kolbe House is always in great need of postage stamps. Incarceration often places stress on family relationships and opportunities for communication can help bring healing. Books of stamps can be dropped off at the parish center

Gift Cards for Office Depot, OfficeMax or Staples Gift cards and/or monetary donations aid Kolbe House in producing their publication, Making Choices; 84 cases of copy paper are needed each year. Direct donations of cases of copy paper (8 ½ by 11 and 11 x 17) are also appreciated.

CTA Transit Cards Transit cards (7-day passes) help individuals and families with transportation to/from work, court and jail visits. Donated passes or checks made payable to SJC or Kolbe House may be dropped off at the Parish Center.

St. John of the Cross Parish  June 4, 2017  Pentecost  Page 8
Volunteers Needed
It’s once again time to think about this year’s school supply recycling project. With the help of many of you last year in collecting, sorting and packing supplies more than three hundred fifty boxes were distributed to the following organizations all of whom were most grateful for what they received:
Bellwood Public Schools
Catholic Charities in Chicago
Catholic Charities in Cicero
Chicago Public Schools
Gift of Hope/Guatemala
Girl Forward
Global Youth Leadership
Harvest Hope
Kolbe House Prison Ministry’s Children of the Incarcerated
Off the Street Club
People’s Resource Center
Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Refugee One
St. Leonard Prison Ministry
St. Malachy School
SCARCE
School on Wheels
St. Vincent DePaul Settlement House, St. Louis MO
Teach America
Helpers of all ages are needed to sort and pack this year’s supplies on
Monday June 12 from 9am until Noon
at Mary Lee and Jim Larsen’s home, 4521 Harvey in Western Springs. Please come for as little or as long as you would like. There will be a pizza lunch and a chance to swim afterwards for those that can stay. If you know of any additional schools or organizations that might be in need of supplies this year or you have any gently used school/art/office supplies that you would like to donate, please call Mary Lee and Jim at 708-246-3987.

Food Pantry Collection
Help us feed those in need at Mary Queen of Heaven in Chicago during the month of June. Bring nonperishable food and household paper products to the church narthex. Check code dates! A favorite at MQH Food Pantry is canned cream corn—"golden nuggets!" Thank you!!!

We are called to live not as one without others, above or against others, but with and for others.
Pope Francis@Pontifex May 22

Summer Work Tour Opportunities
A formation meeting for those attending a Summer Work Tour will be held Thursday, June 8 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Parish Center.
There’s still time sign up! See our website for a registration packet.
Jr. High and High School Teens Local Work Tour
June 19-23
High School Teens Our Lady of Charity, Cicero July 24-28
Two female adult chaperones needed for Habitat for Humanity, Franklin WV July 16-22

Life Love & Theology of the Body
Teens and parents! YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body presents teenagers with a vision of who they are: a unique, unrepeatable creation of God. This program offers teens an opportunity to hear from respected Catholic leaders about life, sexuality, and what it means to be a person created by God for love. The 5-week program for high school teens begins next week on Thursday, June 15 from 7-8:30pm. Registration and a FAQ page can be found on our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads.

SJC Fest Silent Auction
We are looking for parishioners to donate event tickets for the silent auction at this year’s Family Fest. Tickets to sporting events (Cubs, Sox, Hawks, Bulls) as well as other theater or social events this year would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Larry Krema at 312.925.5027 with any questions or ideas that you have. Thank you!!
SJC Local Work Tour 2017
All Incoming 7th, 8th & 9th Graders Welcome!

Community, Service, Prayer & Simplicity
Monday, June 19—Friday, June 23

Serve at SJC & Local Sharing Parishes—with your friends
♦ Meet each morning at SJC at 7:45am Mass—Start with Prayer
♦ Serve at SJC and local Sharing Parishes—Be the Hands of Christ
♦ End with prayerful reflections by 5pm—Share with Friends
♦ One night—we will hang out together for a Social Event!

We want you to join us for all 5 days but understand schedules are busy, so to be flexible we ask that you commit to at least 3 days of the 5.
Cost: $150
Adult Volunteers Needed: 1 Adult per group of 5 Youth

Register NOW!
Forms available on our Crossroads Ministry website.
44th Annual Garage Sale

Donate items beginning June 10

Sale Date: Saturday, June 17 9am-2pm

1/2 Price Sale: Monday, June 19 9am-1pm

SJC Parish School

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

Room Chairs are needed for Lamps/Rugs, Dishes/Glassware, Baggage Check, & Children’s Books. Call Chairperson, Marybeth White today to volunteer. 708-246-6339.

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.

**Help us feed our wonderful volunteers. Donate baked goods during item drop off and on sale days.**

See our website for more information.

www.sjcgaragesale.com

Call Chairperson Marybeth White with Questions 708-246-6339
Seasons of Hope Grief Support
Seasons of Hope is for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or loved one. Seasons of Hope is a six-session series designed to help participants work through the grieving process. Each meeting presents a faith-based topic and includes small and large group discussion, use of Scripture, prayer, journaling and other resources to create an atmosphere of healing, consolation, support and hope. It is recommended that participants allow 3-6 months from time of loss before attending, however no one is excluded. The summer session runs from Monday, July 10-August 14 (7:00-8:30 pm) and is facilitated by experienced and caring adults who are familiar with all stages of the grief process. Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/grief-ministry/ or call Steve Weigand.

‘We know the path on which you are walking because we have walked it too. Our prayers are with you.’

Divorce and Beyond Support
Thursday Evenings~(7:00 – 8:30 p.m.) July 13, 20, 27 and Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
The Divorce and Beyond Ministry provides support, healing and guidance to the recently divorced or those in the process of divorce. It is a faith-based, Catholic Christian support ministry that also welcomes other faith traditions. Each session highlights a different aspect of the divorce-healing process. Session topics include: Managing anger, blame, loneliness, and achieving growth and personal happiness. Sessions are led by Divorce and Beyond graduates who are committed to fostering the personal and spiritual growth of all participants. Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond or Call Steve Weigand. Cost: $10.00 Participant Manual (may be picked up prior to or at the first session).

Volunteer Opportunity with Ignatian Volunteer Corps
Retired? Semi-retired? Open the Doors of Your Heart! 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 including monthly community meetings, individual spiritual reflection, and retreat experiences.
Please visit www.ivcusa.org/chicago  Learn more and meet current IVC volunteers. Attend an information session at St. Francis Xavier Rectory (Courtyard Room) on Thursday, June 15 at 2pm, 124 North Spring Avenue in LaGrange. Register by contacting Jacqueline Fitzgerald 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.

Learn about IVC from SJC Parishioner, Susan MCHugh:  Dear SJC: I am assigned to the Trinity Volunteer Corps and currently work at Dominican University in River Forest. Trinity is an agency that encourages meaningful volunteerism for adults with disabilities. At Dominican I assist with partnering students with the adult Trinity Volunteers to do tasks around campus or in the local community. Although I have a nephew with physical disabilities, I had never previously worked with people with developmental disabilities. We all may feel that we would have no difficulties working with people with disabilities, but there are periods of frustration; situations cannot always be controlled. I feel I have grown in acceptance and admiration for the true resilience and fortitude of those with disabilities and their parents. Their struggles are their way of life and we cannot turn away, but need to take their struggles into our hearts. I try to be present, listen and appreciate all they can give to others and me. I remind myself to remember God’s message of welcoming all and to see him in my Trinity Volunteers. I see the true gift they are to me and to others. They make those around them better people, to see them more clearly and to grow in acceptance of all.

Learn from SJC Parishioner, Andy Gore:  Dear SJC: I volunteer at Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago, a 2 year college for students with limited financial resources and an interest in transferring to a 4 year college after graduation. I have served in various roles in the last year and a half, helping out in English and Math both inside and outside of the classroom. I assist with financial aid applications and also help students get past academic probation. I have come to appreciate that our primary and secondary schools seem to be failing in efforts to provide adequate education to many in our low income population. My experience highlights a lack of equal educational opportunity in our society.
There are different ways to be present or absent to each other.

For example, when Jesus is saying farewell to his disciples he tries to explain to them some of the deep paradoxes inside the mystery of presence and absence.

He tells them that it is better for them that he goes away because, unless he does, he will be unable to send them his spirit. He assures them too that the heaviness and grief they will feel at his leaving is really the pain of giving birth and that this heartache will eventually turn warm and nurturing and bring them a joy that no one can ever take from them.

That is the language of Ascension and Pentecost, not just as it pertains to Jesus leaving this earth and sending his spirit, but it is also as it pertains to the mystery of giving and receiving spirit in all our goodbyes.

Among other things, it points to that perplexing experience we have where we can only fully understand and appreciate others after they go away, just as others can only fully understand us and let themselves be fully blessed by us after we go away. Like Jesus, we can only really send our spirits after we go away.

We experience this everywhere in life: A grown child has to leave home before her parents can fully understand and appreciate her for who she really is. There comes a day in a young person’s life when she stands before her parents and, in whatever way, says the words: “It is better for you that I go away! Unless I go you will never really know who I am. You will have some heartache now, but that pain will eventually become warm because I will come back to you in a deeper way.” Parents say the same thing to their children when they are dying.

We only really grasp the essence of another after he or she has gone away. When someone leaves us physically, we are given the chance to receive his or her presence in a deeper way.

And the pain and heartache we feel in the farewell are birth-pangs, the stretching that comes with giving new birth. When someone we love has to leave us (to go on a trip, to begin a new life, or to depart from us through death) initially that will feel painful, sometimes excruciatingly so. But when that leaving is necessitated by duty or by life itself then, no matter how hard it is, even if it is death itself that takes away our loved one, eventually he or she will come back to us in a deeper way, in a presence that is warm, nurturing, and immune to the fragility of normal relationships.

Many of us, I suspect, have experienced this in the death of someone whom we loved deeply. For me, this happened at the death of my parents. My mother and father died three months apart, when I was twenty-three years old. They were young, too young to die in my view, but death took them anyway, against my will and against theirs. Initially, their death was experienced as very painful, as bitter. My siblings and I wanted their presence in the same way as we had always had it, physical, tangible, bodily, real.

Eventually the pain of their leaving left us and we sensed that our parents were still with us, with all that was best in them, our mum and dad still, except that now their presence was deeper and less fragile than it had been when they were physically with us. They were with us now, real and nurturing, in a way that nobody and nothing can ever take away.

Our presence to each other physically, in touch, sight, and speech is no doubt the deepest wonder of in all of life, sometimes the only thing we can appreciate as real. But wonderful as that is, it is always limited and fragile. It depends upon being physically connected in some way and it is fragile in that separation (physical or emotional) can easily take someone away from us. With everyone we love and who loves us (parents, spouse, children, friends, acquaintances, colleagues), we are always just one trip, misunderstanding, accident, or heart attack away from losing their physical presence.

This was the exact heartache and fear that the disciples felt as Jesus was saying goodbye to them and that is the heartache and fear we all feel in our relationships. We can easily lose each other.

But there is a presence that cannot be taken away, that does not suffer from this fragility, that is, the spirit that comes back to us whenever, because of the some inner dictates of love and life, our loved ones have to leave us or we have to leave our loved ones. A spirit returns and it is deep and permanent and leaves a warm, joyous, and real presence that nobody can ever take from us.

Ron Rolheiser
Unwrapping the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

On Pentecost Sunday, God breathed the Holy Spirit into the apostles to remind them that they were not alone. Jesus had died, risen from the dead, and ascended into heaven. Jesus’ followers were afraid and unsure of their future. The Holy Spirit came to comfort them even though Jesus wasn’t there to physically comfort them any more. What does the Holy Spirit mean to us today? Much the same thing it meant for the apostles. We too are recipients of the Spirit, given to help us in our lives. According to Judeo-Christian tradition there are seven Gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgement, knowledge, courage, reverence, and fear of God. The best part is that you don’t have to be religious to use them. These gifts are not beyond us or waiting to be found. They lie within each person waiting to be retrieved and used. And they can be reordered to act as a kind of guide to living out one’s life and making decisions. Who doesn’t need a little help with that?

Awe (Fear of God) This is the gift that comes to us when we see the beauty of God’s creation around us: a child splashing in a puddle on a sun soaked day, the beauty of nations coming together in peace at the Olympics, the grandeur of a snow-capped mountaintop. The gift of awe lets us see God in all things. It gives us that feeling of hope for our life and world. Maybe I get that feeling when I hear a good song, and I sigh feeling grateful for all God has given me. This is where our lives should start.

Reverence That awe brings me to my knees in reverence. It’s a moment of surrender, like sharing a moment of awe with a friend — words fall quiet. There are no words to describe what you’re experiencing. With the challenges of everyday life, the gift of reverence places God immediately in our lens. “Do not let your hearts be troubled,” Jesus said. Suddenly we can find in our hearts a real trust and reliance on God. We want to be holy and live a better life! Anxieties and fears seem to melt away. Remember, this gift exists within us already. The only way to let it emerge is by pausing and being attentive to how awe-some creation can be (see previous gift). When this happens, reverence moves us to desire something greater, beyond us, and to find deeper meaning. It’s like falling in love.

Knowledge The first step in finding deeper meaning in our lives is gathering knowledge. As with someone we’re falling for, we want to know more about them, to go deeper. We have late nights on the phone asking questions and getting answers. Humans are information gatherers. Some might Google for answers to hard questions: How do I find my purpose? How do I decide on a school or job? How do I meet new people? In our knowledge gathering we might tend to ask “how” questions and be bombarded with many different answers. Knowledge in some sense lets us see things the way God sees them. Consider the Tree of Knowledge in the Genesis story. By eating the apple Adam and Eve gain raw, un-sugar-coated knowledge. The harsh realities of the world come into focus.

Wisdom But so much data and knowledge can seem like a lot to sort through. That’s only half of the picture. The gift of wisdom is not about the head; it’s about the heart. The Book of Wisdom says, “She is a breath of God’s power ... She is a reflection of eternal light, a perfect mirror of God’s activity and goodness ... she enters the souls of holy people ...” (Wisdom 7:25-27) Wisdom is about seeking the deep Spirit within, breathed into us at the beginning of our lives. She reveals our inner talents and desires and lets us pause discerningly. If I’ve gathered knowledge about a particular life decision I can now look deeper and let Wisdom show me what my inner feelings say.

Understanding Knowledge and wisdom work together to inform the gift of understanding. After being bombarded by conflicting messages in our world we can use what knowledge and wisdom showed us to begin to understand the right way to live. What do we do when we hear things like, “Use contraception!” “Don’t use contraception!” “Go to church!” “No, pray at home!” “Spend!” “Save!” The gift of understanding is a blessing and allows us to know, at least on the surface, the right way to live out our lives — in a way that is life giving.

Right Judgement Understanding needs a final check though. We may have listened to our head and our heart and made an initial decision. The gift of right judgement is true guidance by the Spirit. It helps us make prudent decisions, like Jiminy Cricket:

The Blue Fairy: You must learn to choose between right and wrong.
Pinocchio: Right and wrong? But how will I know?
Jiminy Cricket: How will he know?
The Blue Fairy: Your conscience will tell you.
Pinocchio: What are conscience?
Jiminy Cricket: What are conscience? I’ll tell ya! A conscience is that still small voice that people won’t listen to. That’s just the trouble with the world today.
There’s a Jiminy Cricket within each of us, guiding us.

Courage Once you’ve tapped into the gifts of knowledge and wisdom, gained greater understanding, and listened to the inner voice of right judgement (all this can be called discernment), nothing will happen without the gift of courage. Courage is required to make hard decisions. Life has many challenges and the Spirit gives us the gift of courage to overcome fear and obstacles, to take risks, and move forward. Consider the courage required by those risking death to stand up for religious freedom around the world. Or the risk Jesus took to stand up for what is right and true. Courage is our advocate, pushing us to put our discernment into action. And sometimes we have to accept rejection when we stand up for what the Spirit has revealed to us through the previous six gifts.

God has given us the Gifts of the Spirit not as some distant idyllic treasure, but as practical abilities built into our souls. They help us live and act and move through our lives every day with the guidance of God, always making careful choices, always striving to be the person God wants us to be. By A. Otto. bustedhalo.com
### Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, June 5</strong></td>
<td>St. Boniface, Bishop &amp; Martyr</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Muriel Albertson; Donald Chopp</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, June 6</strong></td>
<td>St. Norbert, Bishop</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Virginia Rachford; Richard Burke</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, June 7</strong></td>
<td>Weekday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Deceased members of Hickey &amp; Sweeney Families; Our Beloved Dead</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, June 8</strong></td>
<td>Weekday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Walter Cebula; Bill Heinzen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, June 9</strong></td>
<td>St. Ephrem, Deacon &amp; Doctor of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Kyle Lane; Lorraine Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, June 10</strong></td>
<td>Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Catherine &amp; George Blakely; Tony Partipilo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reconciliation Follows Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Joan Hilton; Janet Gustafson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, June 11</strong></td>
<td>Most Holy Trinity</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Vito Anthony Partipilo; Bruno Shukis</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Marie &amp; Daniel O’Brien; Bonnie Wingert</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45am</td>
<td>Gene Gallagher; John Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Summer Mass Schedule—No 12:15 Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Dan Curran; Martin Papoiccia</td>
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### Pray for Our Sick
- Thomas Barber
- Fr. David Dowdle
- Lynn Freking
- Alice Hogan
- Deacon Tom McGorey
- Sr. Jane McKirchy
- Bobbie Misiorsa
- Deacon Pablo Perez
- Don Vollmer
- Marty Wehner
- Sharon Wildman

### Fr. Bill is looking for a person who is a carpenter or does woodworking. Please stop him after Mass or call the Parish Center.

### Pray for Our Beloved Dead
- Geraldine Forsyth, mother of Kim Forsyth Sullivan, John, and Pam LaMantia, many grandchildren and great grandchildren
- Dorothy Lorden, mother of Mary Doepke, grandmother of 3
- Eileen Runge, sister of Mary Novotny
- Cade Spartz, son of Christopher and Samantha Spartz

### Job Search Assistance
Please join us on Thursday, June 15 from 7-9 pm in the Parish Center. Speaker, Abby Kohut, also known as Amazing Abby, will give you insight into what HR recruiters look for when they are evaluating your qualifications. In 2017, you must do more than applying on job boards. There are far more candidates applying for the same positions, so you have to differentiate yourself. You will learn what to write in your cover letter, why keywords really matter and how to choose them, secrets about thank you letters, and what to say during a phone screen to get a “yes.” Plus—get to know your fellow participants by networking after the presentation. Did you know...most jobs are generated through networking, meeting others and exchanging useful tips and information. interfaithcareernetwork.org

### 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 LeFevour and Schillaci families
- PFC Michael Frazee, grandson of Kay and John Johnson

### Marriage Banns
- Lauren Kazmierczak & Frank Kotas
- Gabrielle Dumasius and Alan Fredian
- Sarah Swiontek & Benjamin Kielbasa

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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
edees@stjohnofthecross.org
Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright, Director of Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta, Director of YC
jcassdetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman, Principal
gorman@sjc.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
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord
knichsone@stjohnofthecross.org
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
Discounted Mega Passes Now On Sale!

Advance Purchase Price: $50

Good for unlimited rides all four days of SJC Fest!
Mega Passes will be sold during the Fest for $65. Purchase Your Mega Passes Now Online at www.sjcfest.com. Or at the Parish Center Office Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

Carnival Rides * Live Music * Great Food * Beer Garden

Early Bird Cash Raffle:
You can win an extra $500 just by sending back your ticket stubs and check payable to St. John of the Cross by June 10. The Early Bird drawing will take place on Sunday, June 11.

Special Needs Event:
Friday, June 23 from 10am – 12pm
Open only to all special needs children, adults and their families. Closed to the public. If you have questions or wish to register a large group please call (708) 292-1100.