Independence Day

Heavenly Father,
on this day of national celebration,as we recall the lives and hopes of our country’s founders,we pray that their vision may inspire us anew to protect the weak,to comfort the fearful, to defend the mistreated, to welcome the stranger, to provide for the needy,to challenge the greedy and hate-filled, to relieve the exploited, to respect the rights and beliefs of others and to hold our nation to its pledge of liberty and justice for all.

For this task we ask your blessing and strength now and forever.

Amen.

Blessings and Prayers through the Year

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
Spc. Douglas Junius, grandson of Ann Junius and son of Sue Junius
Summer Mission Appeal: July 8-9 Weekend

Each summer every parish participates in a Summer Mission Appeal. Next weekend we welcome Sister Katia Alcantar at all Masses. Sister is the Principal of Immaculate Conception School in South Chicago. There will be a second collection at all Masses to support the work of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe.

The Sisters teach and run hospitals in poor nations such as Bolivia, El Salvador and Mexico. The mission of the Sisters is to serve as apostles of Jesus Christ, focusing on the evangelizing work of the Church, bringing people to know and love Jesus Christ through the ministries of community service, education, healthcare and missions. For the past several years in their first mission to the United States, the Sisters have reopened a parish school in a predominantly Mexican neighborhood in South Chicago, a neighborhood considered among the most violent in the city.

_The Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe are thankful to God for the opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Our mission is that our children (young people) consciously live like children of God and live in order that their faith enlightens their lives as human beings. Trusting in God, everyone at Immaculate Conception School is accomplishing our mission with courage and trust while we prepare our students to confront the challenges now and in the future._

Thank you
Thank you for your most generous donation of $27,071 towards the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection in December. Your gift continues to make it possible for religious communities to provide quality care for their retired members who selflessly served the People of God through years of dedicated service.
Prayer

God,
our loving creator and redeemer,
fill our hearts with the life-giving joy-giving, peace-giving Spirit of the risen Jesus.
In the power of the Spirit may we praise you now with our lips and all the day long with our lives.

Bless us O Lord with the life of your Spirit.

If I look to the mountains, will they come to my aide?
My help is the Lord, who made earth and the heavens.

May God, ever wakeful, keep you from stumbling; the guardian of Israel neither rests nor sleeps.

God shields you, a protector by your side. The sun shall not harm you by day nor the moon by night. Psalm 121:1-6

Bless us O Lord with the peace of your Spirit.

God,
our creator and sustainer, breathe your Spirit upon us, into our hearts, into our midst, into our work.
May your Spirit inspire all that we do and the way that we do it.
May your Spirit work through each one of us, to bring harmony among us and joy in our community. Amen.

Bless us O Lord with the joy of your Spirit.

Eternal God of Love,
In you we live and move and have our being. Breathe through us again this day; Give us the courage to be open and welcoming to your Spirit. That we may be led to do your will and follow in your ways, today and tomorrow. Amen.

Prayers from Prayer for Parish Groups
Living the Gospel

Jesus clearly states that he is to be above everyone and everything in our lives—even family. This is a pretty radical single-mindedness! But this does not mean that we ignore others. Jesus also says that whoever receives his followers receives him. Jesus is reminding us that our relationship to him is expressed in our relationship with each other. In giving and receiving we make evident that Jesus is the center and focus of our lives. In giving and receiving we lose our lives for the sake of others. In giving and receiving we find fullness of Life—Jesus himself.

Jesus reminds us that we cannot always be takers. To “take up his cross” and lose our life for Jesus’ sake means that we must be givers as well as receivers. In giving to each other we learn to receive from God. In giving to each other we learn the self-giving that defines a disciple of Jesus. In giving to each other we learn that we are Jesus’ Presence to others, even when we wander. Jesus calls us to form a good habit of thinking about others as we think about him and ourselves. He is not asking us to neglect ourselves, but to become as generous in our self-giving as he is. On our own this would be nigh impossible. We have his assurance that in giving we find life, in giving we find the reward of the righteous, in giving we find him. Every act of self-giving is really an act of receiving! The “reward” we receive is strengthened relationships, being drawn to Jesus so we wander less, the satisfaction of knowing we have lightened another’s burden, the abiding Presence of Jesus himself and the fullness of Life he offers to those who are faithful.

May we lose our lives for the sake of Jesus and in service to one another.

May we center our lives on what has lasting value—giving to others as God has given to us.

Background on the Gospel

Today’s Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew’s audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew’s Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one’s whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. For many in Matthew’s community, this choice brought division to their family.

Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus’ followers. In today’s Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today’s Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus’ name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God’s love.

©Living Liturgy

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

O Lord,
May the crosses we take up in faith bring to fulfillment the prayers we have made to you in the name of our life and hope, Jesus Christ, who live and reigns with you for ever and ever.
Amen.

Monday
St. Thomas, Apostle
Eph 2:19-22
Ps 117:1bc, 2
John 20:24-29

Tuesday
July 4
Gen 19:15-29
Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12
Matt 8:23-27

Wednesday
Gen 21:5, 8-20a
Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Matt 8:28-34

Thursday
Gen 22:1b-19
Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Matt 9:1-8

Friday
Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5
Matt 9:9-13

Saturday
Gen 27:1-5, 15-29
Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6
Matt 9:14-17

14th Sunday in OT
Zech 9:9-10
Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
Rom 8:9, 11-13
Matt 11:25-30
A Spirituality of the Beatitudes

In the Franciscan reading of the Gospel, there is no reason to be religious or to “serve” God except “to love greatly the One who has loved us greatly,” as Saint Francis said. [1] Religion is not about heroic will power or winning or being right. This has been a counterfeit for holiness in much of Christian history. True growth in holiness is a growth in willingness to love and be loved and a surrendering of willfulness, even holy willfulness (which is still “all about me”).

Franciscan spirituality proceeds from the counterintuitive spirituality of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). [2] Read them and see how Francis exemplifies each one so well. While the Ten Commandments are about creating social order (a good thing), the eight Beatitudes of Jesus are all about incorporating what seems like disorder, a very different level of consciousness. With the Beatitudes, there is no social or ego payoff for the false self. Obeying the Commandments can appeal to our egotistic consciousness and our need to be “right” or better than others.

Obedience to the Ten Commandments does give us the necessary impulse control and containment we need to get started, which is foundational to the first half of life. “I have kept all these from my youth,” the rich young man says, before he then refuses to go further (Mark 10:22). The Beatitudes, however, reveal a world of pure grace and abundance, or what Spiral Dynamics and Integral Theory would call the second tier of consciousness and what I call second-half-of-life spirituality. Francis doesn’t call it anything; he just lives it on his path of love. Mature and mystical Christianity is “made to order” to send you through your entire life journey and not just offer you containment.

I hope you can now see more clearly how Francis of Assisi cannot be written off as a mere soft and sweet figure. His actual life and practice show how he deliberately undercut the entire “honor/shame system” on which so much of culture, violence, false self-esteem, and even many of the ministrations of church depends. Doing anything and everything solely for God is certainly the most purifying plan for happiness I can imagine. It changes the entire nature of human interaction and eliminates most conflict.

Gateway to Silence:

I am that which I am seeking.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Matthew 5:3-12
Every Can of Food Makes a Difference

1 in 7 Americans struggles to get enough to eat. In fact, hunger or food insecurity exists in virtually every community in the United States. An average food-insecure family of four may forgo up to 100 meals a month because they lack enough money to buy food. For the majority of people seeking food assistance, pantries are now a part of households’ long term strategies to supplement monthly shortfalls in food. Seniors are disproportionately represented among those visiting pantries. Statistics from Feeding America.

Please bring healthy nonperishable food to the church narthex to help feed those who will visit the St. Barbara Food Pantry in Brookfield during the month of July.

The Least of My Brothers and Sisters

Jesus tells us that, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did for me.”

Who are “the least” in our world today? One can put forward many worthy candidates: fatherless children, the elderly, the infirm, the immigrant and the poor. Of course we should help all of these people.

But it’s hard to be “less” than a child so young he is unable even to cry. The unborn have no ability to plead their own case. No leverage with which to protect themselves. If their natural parents choose to abort them, they have no recourse, and nowhere to run. They are literally voiceless and defenseless.

We have the responsibility to protect those who are most singularly incapable of protecting themselves.

Come, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts, minds, and souls to your presence. Grace us with the strength to follow the examples of Jesus. Like Jesus, may the Spirit provide us with a voice to cry out for justice for the poor. Remind us that what we do to the least of those among us, we do to you. Answering the Voice of the Spirit, The Catholic Campaign for Human Development

How often do we fail to realize that we are called to be Christ’s witnesses to the world? How often do we reach out to our missing brothers and sisters by inviting them to join us at Mass or by asking why they no longer feel welcomed at Church? Did you know that through our baptism, we are called to proclaim the Good News to all people, everywhere and at all times.
In Falling Upwards: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM describes the need we have to construct an identity in the first half of life and then charts the adventures of the second half of life where spiritual maturity is the goal. To put it another way, the first stage is to create a strong container for identity, whereas the second stage is learning to let go of the ego and embrace our truest self, hidden with Christ in God. Copies of the book ($15.00) available in the parish office.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; Announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Alleluia, alleluia.

Ps 89

Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6 Monday Evenings
7:00-8:30pm
Monday, July 10-August 14
Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/grief-ministry/ or call Steve Weigand at x 137.
Cost: None
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 is facilitated by experienced and caring adults who are familiar with all stages of the grief process. “We know the path on which you are walking because we have walked it too. Our prayers are with you.”

Divorce and Beyond Support
8 Thursday Evenings
7:00 – 8:30pm
Thursday, July 13-August 31
Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond or call Steve Weigand in the Parish Center
Cost: $10.00 Participant Manual (may be picked up prior to or at the first session).
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.
Thank YOU!!

Thank you for supporting the 2017 Women’s Club Garage Sale. We could have never done it without your donations and the time, efforts, and energy of every volunteer, especially the room chairs!, our security team, and hospitality committee. Thank you also to everyone who came and bought treasures at the sale. It is always amazing to see the parish come together and organize such a huge successful sale.

A special thank you to the Garage Sale Co-Chairs, Mary Beth White and Laurie Klafta. Every year these dedicated women plan, organize and run the event. Board members and volunteers alike are so grateful to work alongside Mary Beth and Laurie.

Please consider joining us next year for another successful sale. It is a great way to get involved for a good cause and meet fellow parishioners of all ages.

Look for more pictures in next week’s bulletin!
Day of Reflection

On Thursday, June 8 Fr David and the SJC Meditation Groups were privileged to welcome Fr. Laurence Freeman to our parish for “Going Deeper, a Day of Reflection on Christian Identity and the Contemplative Experience.”

Fr. Laurence is the Director and Spiritual Teacher of the World Community for Christian Meditation, an international organization with meditation groups in over 250 countries. Fr. Laurence teaches that the great social and psychological distresses of modern society call for a deep contemplative response. He also stresses that meditation is not the privilege of the cloistered few; each human being, whatever his or her circumstances, is called to this contemplative depth.

Throughout that day and evening, more than 200 people heard talks by Fr. Laurence on various aspects of contemplative living, rooted in the Gospel message of Jesus, interspersed with periods of meditation. To live contemplatively means to become more aware of God’s presence in every aspect of our lives. The fruits of the regular practice of meditation play out in our relationships with ourselves, God and others.

Some reactions from participants:
“it was truly a very special day!!”
“Fr. Laurence beautifully combines the intellectual and spiritual.”
“Great to meet Fr. Laurence after listening to his teaching in meditation group for so many years!”
“Special to experience the silence with such a large group.”

All are welcome at any time to our Meditation Groups which meet four times weekly here at SJC in the Parish Center Room 7. No experience necessary. We listen to a teaching and have 25 minutes of silent meditation. The meetings last less than an hour.

Monday – Meditation as 11th Step Practice 10:30am
Tuesday, 7:30pm
Wednesday, 2:30pm
Saturday, 7:00am

For information, contact Betsy at wccmchgo@gmail.com or 708 246 8315. Pictured below are Mary Novotny and Betsy Spiering, parish meditation group leaders, with Fr. Laurence.
Discipleship

The Church’s Relationship with the World

Kristopher W. Seaman

The Second Vatican Council offered a vision of the relationship of the Church in the world in the document, Gaudium et Spes ("Joy and Hope"), also known as The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

Gaudium et Spes begins by recognizing that the Church and the world can cooperate in helping to promote respect for and peace among all people of the world (3). The Church's ministry is to witness to Christ's love, compassion, and peace in the world.

Because Christ is perfect God and perfect human, his life is the model of being human. His ministry on earth is the model for our way of living in the world (2-22).

The Church encourages the building up of the common good, since all belong to the one human family. This means all people should have access to the basic necessities of life: education, meaningful work, food, shelter, freedom, "right to a good name," and freedom of religion (26). The Church is a sacrament, the Council affirmed. This means that the Church is a visible sign to the world of the love, peace, compassion, and unity (communion) God has made possible in the Church (42). True compassion and peace cannot be found in wealth, power, prestige, conflicts among various peoples and nations, nor in the power of the powerful over those with little power. Here, the Council says, the world can learn from the Church in this regard.

The document also notes that the Church can learn from the world. The changes in social living and the vast array of languages and cultures can help the Church to preach and live Christ's message more fully (44). No matter the exchange between the world and the Church, the Council insists that Christ's vision of peace and harmony is the true calling and mission of the Church (45).

The document then goes into certain problems of the modern world: the family, economic life, cultural life, and political life. The purpose of all of these spheres of life, of course, is to promote the dignity of the person and to build up society and the entire human community. The Gospel guides us to be faithful citizens striving for the common good.

Turning to peace, the document states: "Peace is more than the absence of war" (78). While war is destructive to human life and community, there is a deeper sense that peace is "the love of neighbor" (78). The love of Christ overcomes all violence and hatred, not only war. Violence fractures communities and individuals. Love, particularly the love of Christ, builds peace, justice, and truth.

In Gaudium et Spes, the Church envisions building a more just world through dialogue that is both respectful and prophetic. "Such a mission requires us first of all to create in the Church itself mutual esteem, reverence and harmony and to acknowledge all legitimate diversity. . . . For the ties which unite the faithful together are stronger than those which separate them, let there be unity in what is necessary, freedom in what is doubtful, and charity in everything" (92). All people, of various religions and cultures, can work together for the common good of all.

Gaudium et Spes challenges us to collaborate with others to ensure just practices that promote the dignity of all, especially in the achievement of the basic necessities of human life. Being a disciple, then, is practicing justice, peace, and charity in cooperation with those in the various communities in the one human family.

K. W. Seaman, DMin, is a PhD student at King's College, University of London. He is the former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. He earned an MA in liturgical studies from Saint John's University (Collegeville), an MA in systematic theology from Catholic Theological Union (CTU), Chicago, and a DMin from CTU.
The easy days of summer give families more time together. Use this page as a discussion starter at dinner during the week.

Gospel Summary
While Jesus’ words may seem harsh in this Gospel where he tells his followers to leave their families in order to spread the Good News, he simply stresses the value of being a missionary. Whatever our sacrifice, our reward will be great beyond measure.

Reflection for Families
As parents we spend most of our missionary work offering a cup of cold water to our children. That is to say our actions are not great feats, rather they are the simple and ordinary ways we live our lives doing simple but good deeds that witness the present and coming Kingdom of God. We shouldn’t worry that we don’t know a lot of theology to pass on to our children. What we pass on to them in our everyday living out of our beliefs is far greater.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family
For one week, have each family member keep track of strangers they encounter—either in check-out lines, waiting for something (elevator, bus, to cross the street, etc.). Be proactive in welcoming these people to God’s Kingdom. Maybe you let them in, on, or across first. Perhaps you smiled and greeted them with friendly words. If they needed assistance, you came forward. At the end of each day, share these experiences as a family. Lift up those strangers in your family’s evening prayers.

Discussion Starters
1. One thing our family always does to help people feel welcome is . . .
2. The person I love to visit most is . . . because . . .
3. One person (or group of people) that is hard for me to welcome is . . . because . . .

Eat dinner with your children. There’s perhaps no more powerful ritual in the development of your children’s spiritual capacity than the family meal. Commit to sit down and eat a meal together at least five times a week. There may be days when schedules conflict, but what can be more important in your children’s lives than arming them with the sense that they have a place in this world?

Give each child a great send-off each day. Make it a family habit to bless your children in their comings and goings. A quick tracing of the sign of the cross on the forehead as your child leaves for school or for play conveys your deepest hopes that he or she will remain safely in the sight of God all day. And there’s evidence that such greetings serve to increase family closeness and satisfaction. Make the effort, and the rituals of your life will shape you, change you, elevate you. And they will shape your children as well.
To Whom Can We Go?

“To whom else shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.” Peter says these words to Jesus. But they are spoken in a very conflicted context: Jesus had just said something that upset and offended his audience and the gospels tell us that everyone walked away grumbling that what Jesus was teaching was “intolerable”. Jesus then turns to his apostles and asks them: “Do you want to walk away too?” Peter answers: “To whom else can we go?” But that’s more a statement of stoic resignation than an actual question.

His words function at two levels. On the surface, they express an unwanted humility and helplessness that sometimes beset us all: “I have no alternative! I’m so invested in this relationship that now I have no other options. I’m stuck with this!” That’s a humble place to stand and anyone who has ever given himself or herself over in an authentic commitment will eventually stand on that place, knowing that he or she no longer has another practical choice.

But those words also express a much deeper quandary, namely, where can I find meaning if I cannot find it in faith in God? All of us have at some point asked ourselves that question. If I didn’t believe in God and had no faith or religion, what would give meaning to my life?

Where can we go if we no longer have an explicit faith in God? A lot of places, it seems. I think immediately of so many attractive stoics who have wrestled with this question and found solace in various forms of what Albert Camus would call “metaphysical rebellion” or in the kind of Epicureanism that Nikos Kazantzakis advocates in Zorba, the Greek. There’s a stoicism which offers its own kind of salvation by drawing life and meaning simply from fighting chaos and disease for no other reason than that that these cause suffering and are an affront to life, just as there is an Epicureanism that meaningfully grounds life in elemental pleasure. There are, it would seem, different kinds of saints.

There are also different kinds of immortality. For some, meaning outside of an explicit faith, is found in leaving a lasting legacy on this earth, having children, achieving something monumental, or becoming a household name. We’re all familiar with the axiom: Plant a tree; write a book; have a child!

Poets, writers, artists, and artisans often have their own place to find meaning outside of explicit faith. For them, creativity and beauty can be ends in themselves. Art for art’s sake. Creativity itself can seem enough.

And there are still others for whom deep meaning is found simply in being good for its own sake and in being honest for its own sake. There’s also virtue for virtue’s sake and virtue is indeed its own reward. Simply living an honest and generous life can provide sufficient meaning with which to walk through life.

So, it appears that there are places to go outside of explicit faith where one can find deep meaning. But is this really so? Don’t we believe that true meaning can only be found in God? What about St. Augustine’s classic line? You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until the rest in you. Can anything other than faith and God really quiet the restless fires within us?

Yes, there are things that can do that, but all of them – fighting chaos, curing diseases, having children, living for others, building things, inventing things, achieving goals, or simply living honest and generous lives – leave us, in an inchoate way, radiating the transcendental properties of God and working alongside God to bring life and order to the world. How so?

Christian theology tells us that God is One, True, Good, and Beautiful. And so, when an artist gives herself over to creating beauty, when a couple has a child, when scientists work to find cures for various diseases, when artisans make an artifact, when builders build, when teachers teach, when parents parent, when athletes play a game, when manual laborers labor, when administrators administrate, when people just for the sake integrity itself live in honesty and generosity, and, yes, even when hedonists drink deeply of earthily pleasure, they are, all of them, whether they have explicit faith or not, acting in some faith because they are putting their trust in either the Oneness, Truth, Goodness, or Beauty of God.

Lord, to whom else can we go? You have the message of eternal life. Well, it seems that there are places to go and many go there. But these aren’t necessarily, as is sometimes suggested by misguided spiritual literature, empty places that are wrong and self-destructive. There are, of course, such places, spiritual dead-ends; but, more generally, as we can see simply by looking at the amount of positive energy, love, creativity, generosity, and honesty that still fill our world, those places where people are seeking God outside of explicit faith still has them meeting God.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.
Parish News

Welcome New Parishioners
Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross faith community. If you recognize the name of a friend or neighbor be sure to extend a welcome and encourage them to become involved at SJC.
Jessica and Joseph Staiger and Family
Fernanda and Kevin Krumm and Family
Dana Martin and Michael George and Family
Gail and William O’Toole
Nora and Ryan Westphal and Family
Barbara Lasko
Claire and Scott Will and Family
Amanda and Joshua Luther and Family

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

New Baby? Ready for Baptism?
Learn about infant baptism at our parish. Call the Theresa or Mary Beth in the Parish Center office weekdays from 9am-4pm (3pm during the summer months) or go to our parish website under Sacraments.

Crossroads News

Kairos Retreat
The deadline for Kairos 26 has passed, but if you still want to attend the retreat on July 27-30 please call the St. Francis Xavier Parish Office at 708-352-0168 to check if there are any open spots.

Ignite Faith Sharing Groups
Ignite faith sharing groups for high school and college students meets every Tuesday from 7-8pm in the Parish Center Teen Space. Learn more about your faith and how scripture relates to your life! Ignite will not be meeting on Tuesday, July 4th. Meetings will resume the following Tuesday, July 11th.

Attention Recent High School Grads
Save the date: Thursday, July 20th at 7pm for your awesome college panel. College young adults will share their wisdom and experience with you about how to support and grow your Catholic faith as you head into college life in the Parish Center.

Katie Nicholson and Katie Hayes had a great time at SJC Fest last weekend! Check out our Facebook (Crossroad Youth-Ministry), Twitter (@SJCCrossroads), and Instagram (sjccrossroads) soon for a video about exciting news for the upcoming school year!
Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Intentions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 3</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Francesco Brotto; Thomas Martin</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 4</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Byrd Kelly; Francesco Brotto</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 5</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Anna &amp; Charles Ward; Brendida Guajardo</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 6</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Joan Kravcik; Our Beloved Dead</td>
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<td>Friday, July 7</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>John Jurkacek; Theresa Kitson Williams</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 8</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Antoinetta &amp; Joe Gualtieri; Jim Lahart</td>
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<td>Reconciliation Follows Mass</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Edward &amp; Sophie Ciszek; Tony Partipilo</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 9</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Bruno Shukis; Bernard Doering</td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Joseph Bartucci; Patrick McNaughton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45am</td>
<td>Arthur McClellan; Barbara McDermott</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Summer Mass Schedule—No 12:15 Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Nazareno Marconi; Kyle Lane</td>
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Pray for Our Sick
Thomas Barber
Ginny Beutell
Kathleen Carpenter
Paul Cervony
Crystal Deters
Frank Dine
Fr. David Dowdle
Lynn Freking
John Gannon
Dan Kelly
Alice Hogan
Kay Holden
Karen Hult
Deacon Tom McGorey
Bobbie Misiora
Deacon Pablo Perez
Frank Pipal
Don Vollmer
Marty Wehner
Sharon Wildman

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Sr. Jane McKirchy, IBVM
Kenneth Topolinski, brother of Francine Kadlec
Monica Westell, sister of Aggie Frolik

Prayer For
Renewed Strength
O Lord, my God, Please give me the grace to maintain my hope in you through all of life’s changes and to taste and see your goodness. I praise you for the gifts you have showered on me for so many years. Help me find joy in a renewed strength of spirit. Please bless me with good health, and inspire me to be a good example to others. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

A Blessing Prayer for
Those Who Are Sick
All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God, for you have called us to serve you in love. Bless N., so that he/she may bear this illness in union with your Son’s obedient suffering. Restore him/her to health, and lead him/her to glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing Prayer for
An Elderly Person Who is Sick
All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God, for you have called us to serve you in love. Bless all who have grown old in your service, and give N. strength and courage to continue to follow Jesus your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Week Ahead
Monday, July 3
Parish Center Office Closed
No Adoration
Tuesday, July 4
9:00am Mass
Parish Center Office Closed
Wednesday, July 5
2:30pm Christian Meditation
Thursday, July 6
2:00pm Summer Book Study
7:00pm Crossroads YOU
Friday, July 7
Saturday, July 8
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, July 9
12:00pm Baptisms

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

Summer Taizé Evening Prayer
Sing, Listen & Be Silent
Tuesday, July 18
7pm
St. John of the Cross Church