Pour into our hearts the love of your name.

Sunday, September 2, 2018    22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Creator God,  
thank you for providing us  
with the gift to share our talents.  
Provide our community,  
our nation, and our world  
the fortitude to provide work for all  
which is decent and fair.  
Make us faithful stewards  
of your creation to enhance  
the human dignity of our global family.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit now and forever.  
Amen.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING  
The Dignity of Work and  
the Rights of Workers  
The economy must serve people,  
not the other way around.  
Workers’ basic rights to fair wages, productive  
work, organize and join unions, own  
property, and safe working  
conditions must be respected and protected.  
Go to our parish website to read  
about Arise Chicago, a multi-faith  
non-profit workers’ rights  
organization as well as the USCCB  
Labor Day statement.

Job Openings @SJC  
St. John of the Cross Parish has openings for two high school teens to work Sunday maintenance. The job involves  
setting up/taking down tables and chairs for events, moving the Parish Center walls, cleaning, and other tasks.  
Applicants should be able to follow directions, be responsible, and be able to lift 50 pounds. Please contact Frank  
DiPompeo, Plant Manager, for an interview and immediate start.

Blessings  
on the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Thank you to all who helped make the installation rites (or in the vernacular of Father Banzin: the entrustment) both  
beautiful and prayerful.

Although it remains summer until the autumnal equinox on September 22, this holiday weekend has traditionally  
been associated with the end of summer and the start of the academic year.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday September 5, 1882 in New York City. In 1884 the first  
Monday in September was selected as the holiday with the Central Labor Union urging similar organizations to  
celebrate a workingmen’s holiday. It became a Federal Holiday in 1894. The holiday Mass on Monday  
September 3 will be celebrated at 9:00am.

In my remarks at the end of the Installation Mass, I announced that Saint John of the Cross will become a  
Teaching Parish for seminarians from Mundelein. On the weekend of September 22-23 we will welcome David  
Nowicki of the Diocese of LaCrosse, WI and Seth Hostetler of the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY to our  
community. David is in his second year of Pre-Theology  
and is a classmate of our parishioner Daniel Korenchan.  
They are on pace to be ordained to the priesthood in the  
spring of 2023. Seth is in his first year of Theology, the  
ordination class of 2022. Learn more about the Teaching  
Parish program at https://usml.edu/teachingparish/.

Let us continue to pray for one another and for our  
parish.

Father Reszel
Choir rehearsals resume soon!

Children’s Choirs
Did you know that SJC has two choirs available to all children in the parish? Mark your calendars as you schedule your kids for fall activities!

Cherub Choir (Boys and Girls Grades 1-3)
Weekly Commitment:
Wednesday Rehearsals 3:45-4:30pm
Sing Monthly at 9:00am Sunday Mass
First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 5 in Church

Youth Choir (Boys and Girls Grades 4-8)
Weekly Commitment:
Thursday Rehearsals 3:45-4:30pm
Sing Monthly at 9:00am Sunday Mass
First Rehearsal: Thursday, September 6 in Church

Registration available online or at the first rehearsal. There will be a parent/guardian meeting at 4:20pm the day of each choir’s first rehearsal. For more information, contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney 708-246-4171, bourjman@sbcglobal.net

Adult Choirs
Traditional Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 5. The Traditional Choir sings at the Sunday 10:45am Mass.

Contemporary Ensemble rehearsals resume Thursday, September 6. The Contemporary Ensemble sings at the Saturday 5pm Mass.

Refreshment and fellowship at 7:00pm and rehearsal begins at 7:30pm in church.

Respect Life Informational Meeting
“If you want peace, work for justice. And if you want justice, defend life!” Saint Pope John Paul II

The St. Cletus/St. John of the Cross/St. Francis Xavier Respect Life Ministry is committed to a culture of life: a world that joyfully sees God in every human person in all stages and in all conditions. We seek to encourage others to see the divine nature of all human life through prayer, education and charity. All are invited to join us at an informational meeting on Tuesday, September 18th at 7pm in the St. Cletus Parish Center-Fr. Gallagher Meeting Room. We will use this time to discuss upcoming opportunities and share ideas for this year. Please contact Kendall Grant with any questions kgrant@stcletusparish.com or 708.215.5418

Frequently, the decision to enter into the RCIA process is the result of a spouse’s or friend’s invitation to consider becoming Catholic. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is open to adults (baptized in another faith tradition or unbaptized) who wish to become a fully initiated member in the Roman Catholic faith. The RCIA is also ideal for already baptized Catholics who, for whatever reason, have not been confirmed or celebrated First Eucharist.

Interested or want to know more? Call Pastoral Associate, Steve Weigand, in the Parish Center. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7pm beginning September 18.
Background on the Gospel

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark’s Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John’s report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark’s report of this event.

In today’s Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark’s community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus’ teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God’s Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees’ language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person’s life.

If we read today’s Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus’ teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus’ first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus’ words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today’s reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today’s Gospel are addressed to Jesus’ disciples. Mark’s narrative shows several audiences for Jesus’ teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus’ disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus’ words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus’ words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God’s Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God’s ways. Loyola Press

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Monday
1 Cor 2:1-5
Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday
1 Cor 2:10b-16
Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday
1 Cor 3:1-9
Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday
1 Cor 3:18-23
Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

Friday
1 Cor 4:1-5
Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40

Saturday
Nativity of BVM
Mic 5:1-4a
Ps 13:5ab, 6c
Matt 1:1-16, 18-23

23rd Sunday in OT
Isa 35:4-7a
Ps 146:7, 5-9, 9-10
Jas 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

St. John of the Cross Parish  Sunday, September 2, 2018  22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  Page 4
Dear God, sometimes I get so angry at your church.

I know that I’m not alone. So many people who love your church feel frustrated with the Body of Christ on earth. Priests and deacons, and brothers and sisters, can feel frustrated, too. And I’ll bet that even bishops and popes feel frustrated. We grow worried and concerned and bothered and angry and sometimes scandalized because your divine institution, our home, is filled with human beings who are sinful. Just like me.

But I get frustrated most of all when I feel that there are things that need to be changed and I don’t have the power to change them.

So I need your help, God.

Help me to remember that Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of time, and that your church is always guided by the Holy Spirit, even if it’s hard for me to see. Sometimes change happens suddenly, and the Spirit astonishes us, but often in the church it happens slowly. In your time, not mine. Help me know that the seeds that I plant with love in the ground of your church will one day bloom. So give me patience.

Help me to understand that there was never a time when there were not arguments or disputes within your church. Arguments go all the way back to Peter and Paul debating one another. And there was never a time when there wasn’t sin among the members of your church. That kind of sin goes back to Peter denying Jesus during his Passion. Why would today’s church be any different than it was for people who knew Jesus on earth? Give me wisdom.

Help me to trust in the Resurrection. The Risen Christ reminds us that there is always the hope of something new. Death is never the last word for us. Neither is despair. And help me remember that when the Risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he bore the wounds of his Crucifixion. Like Christ, the church is always wounded, but always a carrier of grace. Give me hope.

Help me to believe that your Spirit can do anything: raise up saints when we need them most, soften hearts when they seem hardened, open minds when they seem closed, inspire confidence when all seems lost, help us do what had seemed impossible until it was done. This is the same Spirit that converted Paul, inspired Augustine, called Francis of Assisi, emboldened Catherine of Siena, consoled Ignatius of Loyola, comforted Thérèse of Lisieux, enlivened John XXIII, accompanied Teresa of Calcutta, strengthened Dorothy Day and encouraged John Paul II. It is the same Spirit that it with us today, and your Spirit has lost none of its power. Give me faith.

Help me to remember all your saints. Most of them had it a lot worse than I do. They were frustrated with your church at times, struggled with it, and were occasionally persecuted by it. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake by church authorities. Ignatius of Loyola was thrown into jail by the Inquisition. Mary MacKillop was excommunicated. If they can trust in your church in the midst of those difficulties, so can I. Give me courage.

Help me to be peaceful when people tell me that I don’t belong in the church, that I’m a heretic for trying to make things better, or that I’m not a good Catholic. I know that I was baptized. You called me by name to be in your church, God. As long as I draw breath, help me remember how the holy waters of baptism welcomed me into your holy family of sinners and saints. Let the voice that called me into your church be what I hear when other voices tell me that I’m not welcome in the church. Give me peace.

Most of all, help me to place all of my hope in your Son. My faith is in Jesus Christ. Give me only his love and his grace. That’s enough for me.

Help me God, and help your church.

Amen.

James Martin, S.J.
Read over the many adult faith formation programs that will be offered in the Parish Center this fall! Unless otherwise noted, please register on the home page of our parish website or at the Parish Center office. Materials fees may be dropped off at the office in an envelope marked with the name of the program and your contact information.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am beginning September 5
Study and discuss the Letter to the Hebrews, a masterfully-written work with a fascinating point: the New Covenant of Jesus Christ perfectly fulfills the Old and only the New Covenant can free us from sin. Discover why the first Christians persevered through crushing sacrifices to guard our faith. Session runs 16 weeks. Cost $30.

Little Rock Scripture Study
Mondays at 1:00pm beginning September 10
Through dvd learning and group discussion, the group will study key biblical passages from the early Church’s most influential evangelist and discover the rich spiritual tradition of Paul that continues to influence believers today. The Spirituality of Paul is a 7 session study which will be followed by a 4 week study of The Infancy Narratives of Jesus preparing your heart for Emmanuel, God with us. Cost $32.

Study of the Third Pillar of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30am beginning September 11
“Christian, recognize your dignity…” It is with this noble exhortation that the Catechism of the Catholic Church introduces its third section entitled Life in Christ. This 15 week intensive study of the Catechism of the Church’s moral teachings will shed light on what it is to live a life “worthy of the Gospel of Christ.” Presented in the context of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, the teachings are rooted in the dignity of each human person based upon his or her creation in the image and likeness of God and the vocation of each human being to true happiness. The theme of God’s mercy to sinners runs throughout this portion of the Catechism. Sessions will include videotaped lectures, workbooks with explanatory text and questions for at-home preparation, as well as supplemental readings. Program materials include the encyclical Veritatis Splendor (which can be purchased in booklet format ($8) or downloaded and printed from the internet, the Catechism of the Catholic Church ($12), and the book, Where Did I Come From; Where Am I Going; How Do I Get There? by Charles Rice ($13). Register by September 1.

Chicago Catholic Scripture School
Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm beginning September 12
Deepen your faith through a 4 year in-depth study of the Bible. This study offers many lasting benefits that will help you apply the Bible to life events; interpret the Bible and its social justice dimensions; and enrich your personal spiritual and liturgical life. The Year I study begins this fall through Loyola University Chicago Institute of Pastoral Studies. You may register for one unit at a time or one year. The first two years (6 units) focus on methods of biblical study and prayer with the Bible in the Roman Catholic tradition, including a comprehensive study of some major books of the Old and New Testaments. Students who fulfill the requirements of the first two years receive a Certificate of Basic Biblical Studies from the IPS of Loyola. Review all the study options and register at www.luc.edu/ips/ccss or call Kevin Pease at 312-915-7485.

Book Study on Communication Skills
6 Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm beginning September 13
Do you find yourself frustrated in understanding others or being understood? Do you want to learn communication skills which foster dialogue and understanding? If so, an upcoming six week study group on the book Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life might be for you. The group will pray, read, reflect, discuss, and practice communication that supports the principles of compassion, collaboration, courage, and authenticity. The study group will run Thursday nights from 7-8:30pm beginning September 13th and ending October 18th. Kristen Ras, MA and Sr. Ann Letourneau, PsyD, the counselors who see clients at SJC, will be facilitating the group. Cost $25.
A Look at Fall Offerings

SAM Spirituality Among Men: The Death Penalty and the Catholic Church in America
Saturday, September 15 at 8:45am
On Aug. 2, 2018 Pope Francis ordered a change to the catechism of the Catholic Church altering existing language to read “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.” It vows that the church will work “with determination for its abolition worldwide.” As American Catholics, what does the change in Church teaching mean to our personal spirituality, to our identity as both Catholic and American, and to what moral decisions we must make in our voting decisions and political engagement to abolish the practice in our country and around the world? Where do you stand on this important issue? Come to listen, come to share, come to explore your own views with other men in the parish. No registration.

Transition to Parenthood ~ A Program for New Parents
Wednesday, September 19 from 7-8:30pm
Even the strongest relationships are strained during the transition to parenthood. Lack of sleep, never-ending housework and new fiscal concerns can lead to stress and a decline in marital satisfaction – all of which can affect the care of a newborn. Not surprisingly, 69% of new parents experience conflict, disappointment or hurt feelings. Foster a healthy, vibrant and supportive family environment. This is a free workshop open to new and expecting couples.

Smart Relationships Workshop
Wednesday, September 26 from 7-8:30pm
How smart is your relationship? Over 40 years of research by the Gottman Institute has demonstrated that relationships where the characteristics of emotional intelligence/quotient (EQ) are present, are 20% more likely to thrive than those that do not. Not surprisingly, partners with a high EQ were better at reading and responding appropriately to the emotions of the other, resulting in a de-escalation of conflict. So how smart is your relationship? This a free workshop where you will learn how emotionally aware couples integrate the skills into their relationship that lower the rate of divorce and lead to a more fulfilling marriage.

Thursday Morning Study Group
Thursdays from 8:30-9:30am beginning September 27
Beginning on Thursday, September 27 and continuing on Thursday mornings throughout the year, a study group will focus on union with God according to St. John of the Cross. The group will meet in the Parish Center from 8:30am to 9:30am. Come deepen your Catholic/Christian faith grounded by St. John of the Cross’s teaching in his understanding of the Scriptures. Please register by calling Sr. Joyce at 708-599-2954 no later than September 6 so that books can be ordered. Cost: $20.

Pastoral Care: Seasons of Hope Grief Support
6 Monday evenings beginning September 10 from 7-8:30pm
Sooner or later all families face the loss of a loved one and our parish is committed to helping families work through each step of the grief process. Our Seasons of Hope Support Group and the resources it provides can nurture and enrich one’s faith regardless of Christian denomination. Scripture assures us that those who mourn are blessed, and that they shall be comforted. Seasons of Hope offers an opportunity to come together with the support of the faith community, so we can give voice to our unique journey, as well as find healing and spiritual growth. Weekly sessions explore topics related to the grieving process and include scripture, prayer, reflection activities and faith sharing. Seasons of Hope is centered on Jesus Christ and grounded in the healing wisdom, traditions, and practices of the Catholic Church. No fee.

Pastoral Care: Divorce & Beyond Support Group
8 Thursday evenings beginning September 20 from 7-8:30pm
The Divorce and Beyond process provides emotional and spiritual support to those who have experienced divorce or those in the dissolution process. It is a faith-based, Catholic Christian support ministry that welcomes other faith traditions as well. Each session highlights an aspect of the divorce-recovery process. Topics include: Healing, managing emotions, blame, loneliness, and achieving growth and personal happiness. Sessions are led by experienced Divorce and Beyond graduates committed to fostering the personal, emotional and spiritual growth of all participants. Cost $10.
In Search of the Beloved: A New 8 Week Journey Towards A Deeper Prayer Life

September 11 Fruits and Gifts of a Deeper Prayer Life  
Facilitators: John Holmes and Phil Jackson
In this introductory session we will help you to experience the movement from being acquainted with our God to a more intimate relationship, which expands our life and vision of the Kingdom, meant to be lived joyfully with those around us.

September 18 Walking the Labyrinth  
Facilitators: Eugenia Callison and Jill Bates
Early Christians were known as Followers of the Way. Walking the ancient prayer practice of the Labyrinth is a way for us to connect our internal faith journey with our journey in life.

September 25 Taize Prayer  
Facilitators: Eugenia Callison, Jill Bates and Christine Grano
Taize Prayer is a quiet meditative way of interior prayer that invites one to rest in God as they savor the words and music of Taize.

October 2 Meditative Practices  
Facilitator: Bob Frazee
Meditation is an element or dimension of prayer deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. It is a form of mental prayer initially practiced by the early desert fathers and mothers going back to the third century.

October 9 Lectio Divina  
Facilitator: Bob Frazee
Building on the previous session, this section will introduce Lectio Divina as a method of prayer that includes both Scripture and Meditation. Lectio Divina is an ancient method of prayer in the Christian tradition.

October 16 Ignatian Imaginative Prayer  
Facilitator: Joanne McElroy
This method of prayer taps into our creative imagination. Through guided imagery, participants are offered a way to deepen their relationship with Christ by placing themselves in the pages of scripture stories.

October 23 Contemplative Prayer  
Facilitator: Phil Jackson
How can silence lead us to the heart of Christ? In this session we will explore the Catholic/Christian tradition of Centering Prayer as a way to deepen our relationship with Jesus.

October 27  
Fall Conference featuring Fr. Ronald Rolheiser  
(Admission included)
October 30 Integrating Meditative Practices in a Modern World  
Facilitator: Fr. Larry Dreffein, OFM
As deer longs for running water, so my soul longs for you O Lord!" There are some aspects in life that are just natural to us, i.e. breathing, eating, drinking and sleeping. Deep down there is a longing for a completeness. Having experienced various aspects in our Christian/human experiences we will seek out the NOW moments that reach down for those depth filled moments in our life.

Does your faith life feel empty?  
Are you searching for a deeper relationship with Jesus?

Mayslake Ministries is excited to offer a new 8 week course entitled,  
In Search of the Beloved.
Participants will experience traditional methods of interior prayer which opens new pathways for individuals to deeper their relationship with Jesus.

Location:  
Sacred Heart Monastery  
1910 Maple Avenue  
Lisle, IL 60532  
Time:  
Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00pm  
Price:  
$275 (for 8 week series)  
Includes free admission to our Fall Conference with Fr. Ronald Rolheiser on October 27, 2018
Single Sessions are $50 each.
Call Dr. Mary Amore for more information  
630-852-9000  
or to register visit mayslakeministries.org
Parish School News
This week at SJC we welcomed our youngest children. Preschool began on Monday for our three and four year old children. We look forward to watching them grow and learn in our community.

This Week at SJC Parish School
Monday, September 3 No School Labor Day
Tuesday, September 4 Parent Association 9 am

Help Our Parish School
When you dine out at Aurelio’s Pizza in LaGrange on September 13 from 4-8:30pm 20% of your purchases will be donated back to our parish school. Download the flyer on the home page of our parish website.

YC Open House
Parents are welcome to join their child for the first session on September 16 or 17.

10-12 Co-Catechists are still needed for YC Grades K-5th. Please pray about sharing your faith with the children in our parish.
All are welcome.
Contact Janet Caschetta, Director of YC, 708-246-6760
jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org.
Leaders Needed
As a believer and disciple, how are you called to live your faith? The Outreach Advisory Committee, under the direction of Bill Bright, is planning ahead and looking for some committed individuals to serve as representatives to various ministries/organizations supported by SJC such as Helping Hand, Immigration and Refugees, Catholic Charities, etc. A volunteer is also needed to coordinate and help communicate all local service opportunities for SJC adults and families. Please call Bill Bright in the Parish Center to learn more!!

Volunteer to Make Lunch for BEDS Plus Care Support Center
Volunteers are needed to make lunch for the homeless in our community on the first and third Fridays of each month from September through May. A simple lunch is ideal: sandwich, chips, soft fruit (no apples) and one of the following treats: soft granola bar, pudding or jello cup. Volunteers deliver the lunches for 20-30 people to the new Ogden Avenue Supportive Housing in LaGrange. (An exact number of lunches will be emailed to you one week in advance.) This volunteer opportunity is perfect for confirmation candidates, families or adults. Please sign up on our parish website and be sure to look at all the terrific volunteer opportunities available to you on our Outreach page:

www.stjohnofthecross.org/volunteer-opportunities/

Growth at our Sharing Ministry: Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
SJC parishioner Chris Comperchio is pictured visiting the Precious Blood Community Garden last week. Chris was finalizing plans for two new cold and dry storage units that volunteers will build at PBMR this fall. The storage units will hold produce harvested from the garden. The shed built two years ago by SJC is used for garden equipment storage. SJC began a sharing relationship with Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in 2013. PBMR works as agents of reconciliation and healing for at risk youth and youthful offenders and their families.
**SJC WOMEN’S CLUB INVITES YOU TO OUR MOTHER-SON CAMPOUT**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**
**6:30-9:30PM**

Bring your tent and gear (optional) for a night of fun! We will supply the food, drink and games! $10 per person. RSVP by September 19. Walk-ins are welcome, but price increases to $15.

Join us for hot dogs, chicken tenders, s’mores and beverages for the boys. Great treats for the moms too!

Don’t Miss...
Laser tag, Raffle, Inflatable Fun and a Movie on the Big Screen!

**Many parishioners care for elderly or ill loved ones. Watch the bulletin for articles specifically geared to you.**

Most caregivers struggle with asking for help and receiving help. Learn why and how accepting help is important to your mental, physical and spiritual health.

**How do I get comfortable asking for help and best ways to go about it?** There are many times when we need help. As a caregiver our responsibilities are great, and at times it can become overwhelming. But how do we ask for that help?

**What Do You Need?** First take some time and consider what type of help you need. Do you need help with food, shelter, housing, medicine? Do you need help with house cleaning, shopping, fixing meals, dressing, bathing? Do you need someone to sit with your loved one so you can get away for a while? Do you need someone to talk with, discuss your situation with or a friend that can lend a shoulder to cry on?

- Make a list of the things you need trying to include everything.
- Prioritize your list. Ask yourself what do you need help with the most and which is most pressing.
- Perhaps talking with your doctor, relative, friend or a therapist will help you clarify what your needs are.
- Figuring out your needs and asking for help can be scary. Don’t be afraid to take that first step!
- Take it one step at a time – look at your needs, one at a time, and see how that one need can be met.
- If you can, arrange for help ahead of time.
- Keep a list of telephone numbers handy for unexpected needs.
- Who to Ask?
  - Family and close friends are often the people we turn to first in asking for help. But consider asking your neighbors and acquaintances as well.
  - There are various community clubs and organizations such as churches, community centers or support groups that can help during times of need.

**It Takes Courage to Ask for Help** We must admit we need help. We cannot do everything by ourselves. Overcome false ideas that it is weak or you can’t take care of yourself if you ask for help. Dismiss negative feelings that there’s no point in asking, or there is nothing anyone can do. Don’t assume that people don’t want to help. Take the first step, be positive, and ask for help. Asking for help takes practice. By learning to ask, you can get the help you need when you need it.

*Area Agency on Aging – Southwest Kansas*
All parish teens are welcome to take part in any of our Crossroads activities where faith, friendship and fun are a must! See a full schedule for the fall on our parish website. Come to one event or every event. Choose what interests you and fits with your schedule. Sign up to receive details on all the exciting activities planned throughout the year at https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/crossroads-sign-up/ or email Katie Nicholson at knicholson@stjohnofthecross.org. Invite your friends to join you!

Flourish in relationship with other freshmen as you begin a new chapter in your life. Freshmen Experience meets two Sunday evenings each month in the Parish Center. All are welcome on Sunday evening September 9 at 6pm.

As you mature grow in relationship to God. Teens gather to praise and worship God at prayer services and at Mass. Take part in retreats geared to Freshmen and Sophomores and Kairos for Juniors and Seniors. Share your faith with 8th grade Confirmation candidates at the Day of the Spirit Retreat.

Live out your faith by serving others through Harvest Saturday, Easter Basket Project and other local outreach opportunities at Ronald McDonald House, Inspiration Café, Helping Hand, and at our Sharing Parishes. Walk with the under-resourced near and far through summer work tours.

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are invited to explore their faith and Catholic values through small faith sharing communities that promote fellowship with other teens. The groups meet twice a month at leaders’ homes. Register online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads. New faces always welcome.

Build community and have fun with fellow teens. Teens can enjoy Church Basketball League and other great activities planned throughout the year. Watch for adventures at the Go Ape Tree Top Camp and National Museum of Mexican Art and Laser Tag.
SJC Ministry of Care
Ministers of Care bring Holy Communion and visit with the sick and elderly in hospitals, nursing homes and at home. Training for new Ministers of Care consists of two parts. The first training sessions, held at the Carmelite Center in Darien, cover pastoral and practical aspects of Ministry of Care as well as information on aging, death, prayer and Eucharistic Ministry. Upcoming training sessions will be held on Saturday, September 22 & 29 from 9am-1pm. The $50 fee for this training is covered by our parish. The second part of training is held at our parish and will cover specifics as to where we serve and scheduling. Please consider being a part of this rewarding ministry. Please call the Parish Center office for more information or to register.

St. Thomas Hospice Volunteer Training
Extend the healing ministry of Jesus by providing compassionate care and support to patients at the final stage of life and their families. Volunteers attend an 18 hour—2 week intensive training program on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, September 10-21 from 9am to noon at Amita Health in Hinsdale. Call Sophia Foley, Volunteer Coordinator at 630-856-6998 or email sophia.foley@amitahealth.org.

Grief Support for Kids, Teens and Adults
Family Night is a monthly grief support program open to children, teens and their families through Amita Health. Family members work together on a memory activity and then break into small groups facilitated by experienced professionals. The next Family Night is Thursday, September 13 from 6-7:30pm in Hinsdale.

6 week grief support groups for children and teens will be held on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30pm from October 4 through November 8. Children will meet in age appropriate groups to participate in art, talk and expressive activities. A support group for parents/caregivers meets at the same time the children are meeting, giving adults the opportunity to understand a child’s grief and to experience support and encouragement for themselves. There is no cost to attend the groups but group size is limited.

Register for either program: Rosie at 630-856-6993 or email her at rosemarie.cohen@amitahealth.org

The Week Ahead
Monday, September 3
Labor Day
Tuesday, September 4
9:00am Parent Association Meeting
11:00am YC 6th Grade Catechist Meeting
7:00pm YC Council Meeting
7:30pm Christian Meditation
Wednesday, September 5
9:30am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
2:30pm Christian Meditation
6:30pm YC 7th Grade Catechist Meeting
7:30pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 6
6:30pm YC 8th Grade Catechist Meeting
7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal
Friday, September 7
6:00pm Men's Club BBQ & Bags Tournament
Saturday, September 8
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, September 9
1:30pm Baptisms
6:00pm Crossroads Freshmen Experience

Please help us welcome new members to our SJC parish faith community.
Kathleen and John May and Family
Wendy and Brent Doctor and Family
Carole and Robert Standring
Jill and Jason Sunderson and Family
Elzbieta and Dawid Grzesnikowski and Family
Jessica and Bruce Hofsteader and Family
Jennifer and Rick Del Giudice and Family
Jenna and James Rogers and Family
Bridget and David Van Eekeren and Family
Elizabeth and Anthony Harms and Family
Bonnie Huber
Joanne and Hugh Jarvis
Jacqueline and John Starr and Family
Kate and Kevin Ryan and Family
Nancy and Charles Hollinger
If you recognize the name of a friend or neighbor be sure to extend a welcome and encourage them to become involved at 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.

Please note for Labor Day:
• Morning Mass on Monday, September 3 is at 9am.
• No parish babysitting on holiday weekends.
• The 12:15pm Mass is back next Sunday, September 9.
How to Respond

Sometimes all you can do is to put your mouth to the dust and wait. That’s a counsel from the Book of Lamentations and while perhaps not the best response to the recent revelations of clerical sexual abuse and cover-up in the Roman Catholic Church, it seems the only helpful response available to me as Roman Catholic priest today. Beyond prayer, I’ve been hesitant to respond otherwise to this current situation for three reasons.

My first hesitation has to do with the seeming futility of yet another apology and breast-beating. Since the report on sexual abuse and clerical cover-up was released in Pennsylvania a few weeks back, there have been apologies issued by virtually every diocese, every parish, and every priest in America, including one from the Pope himself. While these apologies have been almost universally sincere, non-defensive, and rightly focused on the victims, they’ve also for the most part not been well-received. More generally the response has been: “What good does that do now? Where were you when this was all happening?” The apologies have generally met with more cynicism and anger than acceptance. And yet it’s important that they be made, though I’m not sure my adding another one will be helpful.

My second hesitancy stems from the fact that there’s so much anger and grief around this issue right now that words, even the right ones, generally don’t hit their mark, akin to telling someone freshly grieving the death of loved one that “she’s in a better place.” The words are true, but moment’s too raw for the words to be heard. They only become effective later. And that’s the situation now; we’re in a time of raw anger and dark grief. These are in fact the same emotion (just that one’s hard and the other soft) and so for many people dealing with the revelations of clerical sexual abuse and cover-up right now, apologies, while necessary, are not being heard. The moment is too raw.

And, one last hesitation: As a priest with a vow of celibacy I’m painfully aware that right now I’m at an understandable disadvantage to speak out on this. Victims speak from a position of moral privilege, rightly so, their voices carry extra authority; but those who stand symbolically connected to the perpetrators, and that’s me, are understandably heard with suspicion. I accept that. How could it be otherwise? At this particularly charged moment, what moral authority can my voice carry on this issue? What does my apology add?

But, for what it’s worth, even given those caveats, I do offer an apology: As Roman Catholic priest, I want to publicly say that what’s happened in the church in terms of sexual abuse by the clergy and cover-up by the hierarchy is inexcusable, deeply sinful, has harmed thousands of lives irrevocably, and needs radical redress in terms of reaching out to the victims and of prompting structural change in the church to ensure that this will never happen again.

Let me add something else: First, as a Roman Catholic priest, I do not distance myself from this by morally separating myself from those who have done wrong by declaring: “They’re guilty and I’m not!” The cross of Jesus doesn’t allow such an escape. Jesus was crucified between two thieves. He was innocent, they weren’t; but he didn’t protest his innocence, and those looking at three crosses that day didn’t distinguish between who was innocent and who was guilty. The crosses were all painted with the same brush. There are times when one does not protest one’s innocence. Part of Jesus’ mission, as our liturgy puts it, was “to become sin for us”, to risk having his innocence mixed in with guilt and be perceived as sin so as to help carry darkness and sin for others.

Beyond our apologies, all of us, clergy and laity alike, are invited to do something for the church right now, namely, help carry this scandal as Jesus did. Indignantly separating ourselves morally from this sin is not the way of Jesus and the cross.

Like Mary standing under the cross, we must not replicate the anger and darkness of the moment so as to give it back in kind. Instead, like her, we must do the only thing possible sometimes when standing beneath the consequence of sin, that is, let our posture, like Mary’s, speak deeply through a voice that, unlike bitterness or collapse, says: “Today, I can’t stop this darkness, nobody can. Sometimes darkness just has its hour. But I can stop some of the sin and bitterness that’s in the moment by absorbing it, not distancing myself from it, and not giving it back in kind.” Sometimes darkness has its moment and we, followers of Jesus, may not self-servingly distance ourselves from the sin but need to help absorb it.

Sometimes all we can do is put our mouths to the dust … and pray … and wait. Knowing that, at some future time, the stone will again roll away from the tomb.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Pray for Our Sick
Julia Barnicle
Gianna Bonafila
Margaret Brooks
Patricia DeLong
Lynn Freking
Janet Fry
Brenda Gallagher
Rich Gamache
Linda Hillsman
Karen Hult
Mary Jamrozik
Cheri Jeffrey
Josh Kaiser
Lucine Kassis
Rita Koziel
Eric Martinson
Christine Moran
Eileen Nape
Andrew Nixon
Gail O’Toole
Lucille Paliatka
Gigi Picciolini
Anthony Portillo
Joe Pustejovsky
Suzanne Reecer
Ruth Richards
Betty Rosenberger
Trudy Schmitt
Kenneth Schuster
Rachael Schopp
Shawn Sweeney
Mike Thuma
Don Vollmer

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country
Staff Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Sandra Foody
Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki
Staff Sgt. Joshua Tischler, USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler & Mary Tischler
Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stimetz
Capt. James Maiche, 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 2nd Class Matthew Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
Lance Corporal David Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
Seaman Emily Strafaci, granddaughter of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
Sgt. Michael Grabarek, relative of the LeFevour and Schillaci families
Spc. Douglas Junius, grandson of Ann Junius and son of Sue Junius
PFC Kevin Lawinger, grandson of Roe and Bob Lawinger
Lieutenant James Viano, grandson of Lorraine Wolfe

Pray for Our Sick
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Linda Hillsman
Karen Hult
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Anthony Portillo
Joe Pustejovsky
Suzanne Reecer
Ruth Richards
Betty Rosenberger
Trudy Schmitt
Kenneth Schuster
Rachael Schopp
Shawn Sweeney
Mike Thuma
Don Vollmer

Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Living Intentions in Italics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 3</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>St. Gregory; Labor Day, Arlene Bishop; Dorothy Van Winkle</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 4</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Weekday, Ted &amp; Leona Rompala; David Maddux</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 5</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>St. Teresa of Calcutta, Donald Parker; Our Beloved Dead</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 6</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Weekday, Harry Abbott; Phil Carollo</td>
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<td>Friday, September 7</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Weekday, Dorothy &amp; Joe Surdyk; Ingrid Prangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 8</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dorothy Hartman; Margaret Nash Burke</td>
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<td>~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Robert Strzyz; Robert Plechaty; Charles Macke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 9</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, John Pecis; Marge Anderson</td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Betty Cook; Patricia Ross</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45am</td>
<td>Gene Mazurek; Deceased members of Gora &amp; Maier Families</td>
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<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Elaine Jodlowski; Walter &amp; Patricia Cebula</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Cade Spartz; Catherine Piszczor; Bruno &amp; Lucille Shukis</td>
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Marriage Banns
Domenica Russo & Thomas Uckerman
Elizabeth Lutzow & Douglas Bucholz

All are invited to St. Constance Parish on Sunday, September 16 at 1:30pm as Fr. Rich Milek is installed as the new pastor.

Rev. for Our Beloved Dead
Rev. Thomas J. Purtell, uncle of MJ Martin
Jeffrey Dopper, son of Evelyn Dopper
Ron Nowicki, husband of Mary, father of Dawn Capizanno, grandfather of 1

Rev. Marc W. Reszel, Pastor
mreszel@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. Peter P. Galek, Assoc Pastor
galek@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc Pastor
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. David P. Dowdle, Senior Priest
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
john.schopp@sbcglobal.net
Bill Bright, Director of Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta, Director of YC
jcascchetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman, Principal
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Jessica Koch, Director of Music
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin, Director of Operations
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord
knicholson@stjohnofthecross.org
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
Come on out for our Kick-Off Event of the Year!

SJC Men’s Club
10th Annual

BBQ & Bags Tournament
Friday, September 7th at 6pm

Parish Center East Lawn

Food and Beverages are provided by the Men’s Club
Bring a lawn chair ~ Invite a neighbor ~ Connect with other men in our parish

RSVP to Dan Montgomery at tdm30550@gmail.com or call 312.952.1435