Make your life a total gift to Jesus.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  November 11, 2018
Blessings on the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today our nation honors those who have served as a member of the United States Armed Forces. On November 11, 1918, the First World War, which some called the "war to end all wars," ceased. In commemoration of that day, the United States of America declared Armistice Day, now known as Veterans' Day, a national holiday. Sadly, our history since then has not seen an end to war, but an ongoing plague of violence, terrorism, destruction, and death. Pope (now Saint) Paul VI's challenge to the United Nations, "No more war!" has gone largely unheeded.

In an effort to bring Christ's healing presence and the hope of the Gospel, the Archdiocese developed a website: vets.archchicago.org with helpful information for pastoral ministers, veterans and their families. When 11/11 is not a Sunday it is celebrated liturgically as the memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, a patron of soldiers.

On Tuesday November 13 we celebrate the memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. The youngest of thirteen children, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Patroness of immigrants and migrants, she was the first naturalized United States citizen to be canonized. She died in Chicago on December 22, 1917. A reminder that holiness need not be long ago and far away. A shrine in her honor is at 2520 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago.

November 17 is my inaugural Harvest Saturday. I am looking forward to starting this annual effort to feed the hungry with the 8:00am Mass on the memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, a patroness of Catholic Charities. This bulletin has more information.

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

Father Reszel

66 of our seminarians at St. Mary of the Lake, including Seth Hostetler, celebrated the Institution of Acolytes on Monday, October 29. The seminarians are appointed to the ministry of acolyte as an important step on their journey to receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders.

The acolyte attends to the service of the altar, assisting the deacon and the priest during liturgical celebrations, especially in preparing the altar for the Eucharist at Mass. The role of the acolyte is similar to the duties carried out by an altar server and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, however, as installed acolytes, they now assist at the altar at which they will one day preside.

The reception of this ministry highlights the seminarians’ own devotion to the Paschal Mystery and the Eucharistic sacrifice. The 66 seminarians will now begin serving as acolytes during community liturgies. Please keep our new Acolytes in your prayers.

God of Mercy, through your only Son, you entrusted the bread of life to your Church. Bless our brothers who have been chosen for the ministry of acolyte. Grant that they may be faithful in the service of your altar and in giving to others the Bread of Life; may they grow always in faith and love, and so build up your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pictured above with Fr. Reszel are seminarians, David Nowicki, Dan Korenchan, and Seth Hostetler. David Nowicki of the Diocese of LaCrosse, WI and Seth Hostetler of the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY are part of the Teaching Parish Program at SJC. 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.
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In Pope Francis’s message regarding the Second World Day of the Poor, which will take place on Sunday, November 18, 2018, the Holy Father proclaimed that we must come together to hear the cry of the poor, to answer their cry, and to lift the hearts of those on the margins. He emphasized that “we are in debt to the poor, because, in hands outstretched to one another, a salvific encounter can take place to strengthen our faith, inspire our charity and enable our hope to advance securely on our path towards the Lord who is to come.”

Organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development lead the call to the marginalized in their communities to take heart, rise, and act against injustice on behalf of themselves, their families, and their communities. The Chicago Housing Initiative is, for example, one such organization. With support from a CCHD grant, the Chicago Housing Initiative can work directly with families who are experiencing housing instability or homelessness to create more fair, inclusive, and effective housing and land development policies in Chicago. This, in turn, helps address the lack of affordable housing available to low-income individuals and families.

By emphasizing self-help, participation, and cooperation, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development’s holistic approach leads to increased human dignity and stronger, more economically viable communities. To learn more about CCHD’s impact in our communities or to donate online, please visit www.CCHDChicago.org.

Your generous support of the CCHD Annual Collection, which will take place on Saturday, November 17 and Sunday, November 18, is the primary source of funding for over twenty organizations working to address root causes of poverty and injustice in Cook and Lake Counties. It is my prayer that you consider contributing to CCHD through this secondary collection and outstretched your hands to those on the margins.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

CCHD is working on the margins to...
- Encounter Christ in the poor
- Amplify voices with vision
- Challenge root causes of poverty and injustice
- Break down walls of indifference
- Transform hearts and communities

Your contribution to the second collection on November 17–18 provides direct support to emerging leaders and low-income communities in Cook and Lake Counties.

Please place your donation in the red lined second collection basket at Mass next weekend.

“...we are called to encounter the different conditions of suffering and marginalization experienced by so many of our brothers and sisters whom we are accustomed to label generically as ‘the poor’.”

— Message of Pope Francis
Living the Gospel

Jesus teaches the crowds to beware of the hypocrisy of the scribes who know God’s word and law, yet seek places of honor and hurt those whom the law demands they protect—the widows. Jesus condemns them severely. “Calling his disciples to himself,” he teaches them that they are not to do like the scribes. They are instead to do like the widow in the temple who gives all she has. True disciples give all they have, their whole livelihood—not goods, but themselves. The amount of what we have and give is really not important at all in the long run. What is important is how we regard and care for others; how we fulfill our responsibilities in the community; how we embrace the unlimited possibilities of deeper relationships, new riches, everlasting Life.

We learn how to be good disciples from others who follow Jesus faithfully, who contribute to the good of all out of the surplus with which God has blessed them. The Gospel holds up the poor widow as a model for the total self-giving of the true disciple. We need but look around us to find strong models for true discipleship. Nor is it a matter of these disciple-models giving large sums of money. Giving a bit of time each week for the good of another, participating in at least some parish activities beyond going to Mass and contributing to the collection basket, signing up when volunteers are needed are all ways of contributing a little, which makes a huge difference in overall parish life and community life. Even “something” can be our “all.” So, are we true disciples?

Background on the Gospel

The context for today’s Gospel continues to be mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish authorities. Mark reports some of Jesus’ teaching in the Temple area in today’s reading and in the preceding verses not included in our Lectionary sequence. In the first part of today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus warn the crowds not to follow the example of the scribes in seeking honor and attention from others. It is important to recall that Mark indicates that Jesus taught these things while in the vicinity of the Temple in Jerusalem. Mark is setting the stage for Jesus’ passion.

Jesus then observes how Jewish pilgrims are making their contributions to the temple treasury. The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish worship in the time of Jesus. It was expected that observant Jews would make pilgrimages to the Temple to offer prayer and sacrifices. Pilgrims were also expected to make a financial contribution to the temple treasury.

As we would expect to be the case, Jesus observes that those who were rich contributed large sums to the treasury. Those with less means made smaller contributions. Jesus calls attention, however, to a poor widow who makes the smallest of contributions—two coins of little value. Jesus upholds the poor widow’s offering for his disciples’ consideration, commending her because her small offering was an act of profound generosity, giving from her livelihood rather than her surplus.

To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, it is also an act of trust in God. We can only give from our need if we trust that God will provide for us. Jesus himself demonstrates the ultimate act of generosity and trust in God as he gives his life for us on the cross.

May we be generous in giving self to God and others wholeheartedly. May we continue to learn from Jesus and grow in true discipleship.

Picture on the bulletin cover: The lesson of the widow’s mite is presented in today’s Gospel and also in Luke 21:1-4 in which Jesus is teaching at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel of Mark specifies that two mites (Greek lepta) are together worth a quadrans, the smallest Roman coin. A lepton was the smallest and least valuable coin in circulation in Judea, worth about six minutes of an average daily wage.

Loyola Press

Lifelong Learning

Monday
Titus 1:1-9
Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14
Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29
Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday
Titus 3:1-7
Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6
Luke 17:11-19

Thursday
Phlm 7–20
Ps 146:7, 8–9a, 9bc-10
Luke 17:20-25

Friday
2 John 4–9
Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18
Luke 17:26-37

Saturday
3 John 5–8
Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Luke 18:1-8

33rd Sunday in OT
Dan 12:1-3
Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Heb 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32
Discerning How God Wants You to Spend Time Together

As we set out to make intentional time for God in our lives, it is important to consider not only our time, place, and space to be with God, but also to discern how God is inviting us to spend time together. Like any relationship, what we do together and how we spend time together changes over time based on what is happening in life.

Looking at my friendships in my own life, I can name many that started out as social friends I met at gatherings or parties in my early twenties. As life evolved and we got married and had children, how we spent time together changed. Our life circumstances did not alter our desire to spend time together, but it did require us to be more intentional about how and when we spend our time together.

The same is true with God. Our relationship with God needs this same type of freedom and organic growth to allow for the ongoing shifts and changes of life. At the same time, our relationship with God requires intentional commitment to decide not only when we will be together, but also how we will spend our time together.

As I look at my own history of prayer, I see a wide array of prayer methods that supported me in certain seasons of life to grow in God. Each were gift. One not better than the other, and the variety of ways to be with God adds to the beautiful repertoire of prayer methods available to us. With every season of life, I am invited to consider how God wants to spend time with me and how I can realistically give time to God.

Having an arsenal of prayer methods helps this process!

Build an Arsenal of Prayer Tools

- **Worship:** Weekly and regular attendance at Mass.
- **Traditional Prayers:** This includes the traditional prayers we were perhaps taught as a child, as well as other ways that might nurture us along in our faith journeys such as, Novenas, Devotions, Adoration, the Rosary, Litanies, Meditation and other memorized prayers.
- **Bible Studies & Prayer Groups:** Praying with others, sharing faith and life moments, allows us to know Christ in community, and in the lived experienced of laying down your life for another.

Each of these types of prayer has their place and gift in our faith journey. There are many options for prayer, and I am a firm believer in being open to the many ways to be with God. What might some of your prayer tools already be?

Committing to One Prayer Method

To make space for prayer in a busy calendar, though, I suggest you pick **ONE** prayer method for you to use in your daily time, place, and space of prayer. Stick with your place, posture and method of prayer until it no longer works for you. Stay with your prayer method until it exhausts itself and you feel God inviting you to another way of being together.

That is not to say that on any given day you might engage in multiple prayer methods, but like an exercise routine, it helps to have consistency and repetitiveness so that you get acclimated to your prayer routine.

What is the **ONE** way you most feel called to be with God in this season of life?

Commit to using this prayer method daily in your time of prayer, place of prayer, and space of prayer.

What other prayer tools do you want to have in your tool box?

Used with permission. Becky Eldridge.
Youth Catechesis Family Event

St John of the Cross Parish presents a Family Event on Sunday, November 18 3:00 pm or 6:30 pm in the Church hosted by SJC Youth Catechesis

Mike Patin uses energy, humor and stories to affirm the goodness of God's presence among us while inviting others to take the "next step" in our journey with God. Mike has worked with teenagers and adults in a variety of settings since 1984. He has been blessed to be a high school teacher, coach and youth minister at local and Diocesan levels since 1990. He speaks around the country to young people and adults on issues of Catholic faith, positive attitude, using your gifts and living life fully. Mike has had the privilege of speaking to more than 1000 groups in over 115 dioceses in diocesan, regional, national and international settings. He has led retreats, parish missions, leadership institutes, and in-services.

He uses his gift of southern charm to engage and is very, very entertaining. Mike Patin is a husband and a dad, residing in Lafayette LA. mikepatin.com

All parish families are welcome to join us for the powerful high energy of Mike Patin!

YC families pick up your Reflection Sheet in the church narthex before the event to mark your family in attendance!

Sunday, November 18
Choose 3:00-4:30pm or 6:30-8:00pm

This program is a required ATTENDANCE event for all YC Families: Kindergarten thru 8th grade, YC, FFC and AC
Congratulations to the following families who had their infants baptized on October 21 by Deacon John Schopp assisted by Baptism Team Leaders, Mary and Bob Dorsey. Pictured from the left with their godparents are: Nicholas and Ann Zostautas with Emerson Quinn, David and Julie Mallen with John Paul, Anthony and Meredith Chavez with Violet Nova, and Michael and Amanda Barbush with Benjamin Paul.

Pictured above on the left are YC second graders listening to a parent Mystery Reader who recently visited their class to share a book. Also pictured are YC first graders learning how Halloween connects to our Christian faith. Watch for pictures of our YC students growing in their faith throughout the year!

YC Schedule

November 11-12  10:15am/6:15pm K-6
November 11      Adapted Catechesis 9-10am
November 18      Family Event 3pm or 6:30pm
Dec 2-3          10:15am/6:15pm K-6
                 First Grade Parent Attends with Child
December 2       7th-8th Grades in Church 6:30pm
December 2       Family Faith Noon-1:30pm
December 2       Adapted Catechesis 9-10am

YC: Excellence in Religious Education
Comboni Missions
The Comboni Lay Mission Program in La Grange Park is looking for volunteers and board members. The CLMP is a local program that sends lay missionaries to work in Africa and Latin America. They also have a possibility for local people to get involved in international work as board members, as volunteers, as presenters during our training program. If you'd like to live out our faith in practical ways, if you'd like personal contact with young Catholic leaders, if you'd like to be involved in the international work of the church, the CLMP would have a way to work with your available time and talents, in a friendly and welcoming community setting. Contact Paul Wheeler, Director, at 630-607-9566. The program is located next door to St. Louise de Marillac, at 1615 E. 31st St., La Grange Park, and their website is laymission-comboni.org.

SJC Food Pantry Collection
Thank you! During September and October close to 300 bags of groceries, baby food, toys, wipes and over 2,000 diapers, in addition to $250 in food gift cards, were delivered to our neighbors at St. Cletus Food Pantry. Your support has provided necessities to over 489 families in Lyons Township. Thank you for your incredible generosity!!

During November our donations brought to the church narthex will be brought to Mary Queen of Heaven Parish’s Food Pantry located at 5313 W. 24th St., Cicero. The pantry serves the parishioners of MQH who visit the third Wednesday of each month. Items most needed are canned goods and other nonperishable foods and toiletries.

"A life isn't significant except for its impact on others' lives."

Save the Date!
Loom Sale: woven wearable art made by and benefitting refugee women living in Chicago.
December 2 Parish Center
Give mentally handicapped young adults attending Ray Graham Training Center in Chicago a treat this Christmas. Fill a Christmas mug with candy, put it in a bag or wrap your mug in cellophane and add a ribbon. Our treats will be distributed at their annual party. Please drop off donations at the Parish Center by December 13.

Fill a Christmas mug with LOVE

Precious Blood Ministry
Through your Gold Envelope Sharing Parish donations, St. John of the Cross and the Trane Corporation donated the materials for a refrigerated storage unit at PBMR. Under the leadership of parishioner, Chris Comperchio, a team of workers constructed the unit that will hold fresh produce from their Community Garden. Pictured with the shed are Sr. Carolyn and Sr. Donna from PBMR and volunteers from the community.
Outreach: Share Christmas

Share Christmas has been a beautiful annual tradition at our parish for over thirty years. Through Share Christmas, generous parishioners make Christmas special for thousands of individuals in the Chicago area who would otherwise not have gifts to open or be able to share a Christmas Day meal with their family. Sign Up begins next weekend in the church narthex!

Sign-Up for Share Christmas begins next Sunday and runs through early December in the church narthex. You can sign up to give:

- An unwrapped gift for a child (infant to 18 years old)
- A food gift card from Jewel or Walmart for a Christmas meal
- Gift cards for families from Sears, Walmart, Kohl’s or Target
- Food and gift cards for a Christmas meal and presents for a family

Bring your gifts to the Parish Center on December 3, 4 and 5 from 9am until 6pm. They will be delivered to grateful recipients at Blessed Sacrament Church, St. Agatha, BEDS Plus, and Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly, St. Gall Parish, Helping Hand, and SJC.

For your convenience our parish Scrip reps will be available in the church community room for you to purchase food and gift certificates. Cash, checks or credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover) will be accepted. A 3% convenience fee will be applied to credit card purchases.

Providing food and gift cards allows our recipients to select the sizes and colors that best meet their needs and choose food that they like and can eat. Gift cards should be from Jewel, Walmart, Kohl’s or Target. You can also choose to purchase an unwrapped gift for a child aged newborn to 18. Donations can also be made on our parish website. Click on the Giving Tab and go to Special Collections-Share Christmas. Your donations will be used to buy Share Christmas food and gift cards.

At Sign-Up, along with the names and ages of your recipient(s) and an instruction page, you will receive a blank card that will be delivered along with your gift. We invite you to write a warm, personal note in the Christmas card, decorate it as you can, and make a point to pray for your recipient(s) daily. It may not be within our power to change the situation of those helped by Share Christmas, yet your encouragement, prayers, Christmas wishes and gifts let them know that they are not alone or forgotten. Thank you for participating in this work of mercy.

Volunteers are needed to help with Share Christmas Sign-Up before and after Masses in the coming weeks. Sign-Up on our parish website home page.
Parish School: Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention program. This week gives young people the opportunity to pledge to live a drug-free life and focus on healthy lifestyle choices. SJC students participated in many activities to celebrate their healthy choices. They had the opportunity to wear gym shoes all week to note that they "run away" from unhealthy behaviors. They wore bracelets and ties to symbolize not letting poor choices "tie" you down. A favorite day is when the kids style their hair in a silly way to show they don’t let unhealthy deeds mess with their heads.

Learn more about St. John of the Cross Parish School:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/school
Navigating Senior Care
A Caregiver’s Journey

Jane Sanchez, a St. John of the Cross Parishioner, has experienced caring for family members. Please join us as she takes us on her journey, which included securing appropriate legal advice and arranging for additional care.

Join us for this inspirational and educational journey as our presenters will explore the continuum of care.

Presenters
- Eileen Fitzgerald - Elder Law Attorney
- Maureen Wood - Home Care Representative
- Theresa Kenaga - Memory Care Family Advisor
- Kerry Quirin - Senior Living Advisor

Monday, November 12 from 7-9pm
St. John of the Cross Parish Center

Please RSVP to Elizabeth Russell-Jones
708.246.4404

Thanksgiving Choir
All singers of the parish are invited to join voices with the combined choirs of St. John of the Cross as together we give thanks for our many blessings! Mass on Thanksgiving Day Mass is at 9:30am on Thursday, November 22. Warm-ups and rehearsal begin at 8:30am All are welcome!

“I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Corinthians 1:3-5

Join the Choir for Christmas!
This Christmas, all singers are invited to join one of the choirs at St. John of the Cross to help make our Christmas Masses extra special! The commitment is minimal – only 4 weeknight rehearsals (Contemporary Ensemble meets on Thursdays, Traditional Choir meets on Wednesdays). No further commitment is required. For details, please contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries. jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org

Job Search Assistance
Want to make sure your resume gets into the right hands? Join Interfaith Career Network on Thursday, November 15, 7-9 pm and find out what trips up applicants the most and how you can avoid those mistakes. 50-75% of applicants’ resumes are never seen by a human, and the reason has nothing to do with skills or qualifications. Our speaker, Lauren Milligan, has interviewed multiple people who work with ATS systems and will share what she has learned from them with us. Get a much better grasp of how to work the online application system at the St. Cletus Parish Center, 700 W. 55th Street in La Grange. There is no cost to attend this meeting and everyone is welcome.
Parish News

Mary Mother of Jesus Statue
Our parish is home to a special prayer garden called the Garden of Mary, Mother of Jesus. The focal point of the garden is a beautiful statue of a young Mary at the Annunciation. Mary has one hand over her heart and the other over her womb, physically symbolizing where she accepted the will of God.

In 2014 our parish commissioned a replica of our Mother of Jesus statue. Handmade, each cold cast statue is made from Carrara marble and other materials. The statue stands 18 inches tall. It is recommended that it be placed indoors to preserve its coloring and natural beauty.

A limited number of statues will be available for sale for $150. To purchase, drop off an envelope with your contact information at the Parish Center with a check to SJC or order on our parish website. Mary will make a perfect gift for anyone on your list.

Mary the prayers we offer, O God, not be for greater things and talents to astound the world, but for greater love and compassion to enrich the world. Hear our prayers for the peace of our human family—prayers we offer to you in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. John of the Cross Parish is excited to announce ENCORE
a social group catering to the mature members of the parish who are 60 + years.

Our first event will be a Christmas Luncheon on
Tuesday, December 18th
from 12:00 – 2pm
in the Parish Center.

This catered event will provide an opportunity to celebrate the holidays, reconnect with old friends and meet some new friends. Tickets are available in the Parish Center for $20. Parishioners and Guests are welcome. Attendees are asked to bring a plate of their favorite Christmas cookies and the recipe to share. Watch the bulletin and website for more exciting ENCORE events.

Annual Scout-Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast:
Sunday, November 18
from 8:30-Noon
Adults $8, Kids aged 5-10 $5, kids under 5 are free. Pre-purchase your tickets to receive a $1 discount. Drop a check with your contact information in an envelope at the Parish Center.
All women of the parish are invited to a festive evening

**Advent by Candlelight**

Join us at the **Parish Center** for a memorable evening filled with Joy & Hope as we prepare for the Holiday Season.

**Monday, December 10th 7-10pm**

**$10 per person**

Table Coordinators for 8 or 12 are needed. As a coordinator you can add a special holiday touch using your linens, candles & centerpiece decorations - keep it simple & share the responsibility with the women at your table. Candles must be enclosed in glass. Optional black linens are available.

Please note: dishes, flatware, stemware will be provided. New this year is a Coffee Bar.

*For questions & to reserve your table please contact:*

Lisa Dunneback  
*or Ginny Grecco at*  
*SJCWomensClub@gmail.com*

**RSVP by Tuesday December 4th to reserve your seat**

Name:__________________________________________________________

Phone:________________________ Email:__________________________

I am coordinating a table: please circle  Yes  No

If you have a table/seating preference, list here: ________________________________

Drop off your RSVP and $10 per person (checks payable to SJC Women’s Club) to the Parish Center. Or RSVP/Pay on the home page of our parish website.
I do not want to die from some medical condition; I want to die from death!

Ivan Illich wrote that. What’s meant here? Don’t we all die from death? Of course, in reality that’s what we all die from, but in our idea of things, most often, we die from a medical condition or from bad luck through cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, or as the victim of an accident. Sometimes, because of how we think of death, we do die from a medical condition.

That’s what Ivan Illich is trying to highlight here. Death is meant to be met and respected as a normal human experience, not as a medical failure. Death and its inevitability in our lives are to be understood as a growth point, a necessary maturation, something to which we are organically and spiritually destined and not as an aberration or unnatural intrusion into the life cycle (an intrusion that could have been avoided except for an accident or failure of medicine.) We need to understand death the way a woman carrying a child contemplates its delivery, not as some aberration or risky medical procedure but as the full flowering of a life process.

We pay a price for our false idea on dying, more than we imagine. When death is seen as a medical failure or as tragic bad luck, its threat then becomes a menacing specter and a threatening darkness inside that cauldron of all those other energies and fears we do not consciously deal with and into which we dare not venture.

Ernest Becker speaks of something he calls “the denial of death” and suggests that our refusal to meet and respect death as a natural process rather than as an aberration impoverishes us in untold ways. When we falsely fear death then the inchoate sense of our own mortality becomes a dark corner from which we stay away. We pay a price for this in that, paradoxically, by falsely fearing death we are unable to properly enter into life.

Martin Heidegger affirms much the same thing in his understanding of life. He suggests that each of us is (in his words) a “being-towards-death”, that is, from the second we are born we already have a terminal condition (called life) and we can only be free of false fear if we consciously live out our lives in the face of that non-negotiable truth. We are dying. His language around this can leave us depressed but, like Illich, he makes a positive point. For Heidegger, in the end, we don’t die because of bad medicine or bad luck. We die because nature has its course and nature runs that course and we will, in fact, enjoy our lives more if we respect that natural course because that acceptance will help us to value more how precious our moments of life and love are.

Ironically, euthanasia, for all its sophisticated claims to be something that lets us control death, would have us die precisely from a medical condition and not from death (which is a natural process). Of course, wanting to die from death and not from a medical condition does not mean we do not value medicine and what it offers for our health and the preservation of our lives. We are obliged by our nature, by our loved ones, by common sense, and by an inalienable principle right within the moral order itself to take all ordinary medical measures available to preserve our health. Modern medicine is wonderful and many of us, including myself, are alive today thanks only to modern medicine. But we must be clear too that when we come to die it won’t be because of a medical failure but rather because death is our natural end. Just as we were once born from our mother’s womb, there comes a time when we need to be born again from the earth’s womb.

Moreover accepting death in this way is not a negative stoicism which robs life of delight and joy. To the contrary, as anyone who has ever had a health crisis the brought him or her close to death will tell you, facing death makes everything in life all the more precious since it is no longer taken for granted.

One cautionary flag: This kind of talk is not necessarily for the young in whom the denial of death is, for a good reason, very powerful. While young people should not be willfully blind to their own mortality or live their lives as if life here were to go on forever, they shouldn’t yet be focused on death. Their task is to build a future for themselves and the world. Death can be dealt with later. Metaphorically speaking, they need to be focused more on nurturing the embryo than worrying about its delivery.

At the center of Jesus’ teaching lies a great paradox: Whoever clings to life will lose it and whoever lets go of life will find it. Ivan Illich, it would seem, agrees.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Pray for Our Sick
Karl Andrzejewski
Beth Beutell
Sally Bradley
Margaret Brooks
Cheryl Delaney
Fr. David Dowdle
Bill Harley
Sr. Jean Herman
Linda Hillsman
Carlotta Hoffman
Karen Hult
Lucine Kassis
Peggy Koucky
Lorraine Majorick
Christine Moran
Bobbie Misiora
Judy Perzik
Anthony Portillo
Rachael Schopp
David Sipek
Shawn Sweeney
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 Slimetz
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 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

Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions
Living Intentions in Italics

Monday, November 12 St. Josaphat
7:45am Mary Piszczor; Jack Lenahan

Tuesday, November 13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
7:45am Thomas Albertson; Marilou Kuczmiencyc

Wednesday, November 14 Weekday
7:45am Sixta de Ardila; Deceased Members of O’Malley & Madigan Families

Thursday, November 15 Weekday; St. Albert the Great
7:45am Charles Macke; John, Virginia & Claudia Shellar

Friday, November 16 Weekday; St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude
7:45am Paul Carrier; Our Beloved Dead

Saturday, November 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
8:00am Joseph Wintz, Tim Guth
~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~
5:00pm Robert Plechaty; Patrick Grogan

Sunday, November 18 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Genrose Hlavin; John Clancy
9:00am Patrick McNaughton; Bridget & Anthony McVady
10:45am Margaret & Freda Jandris, Carmen Tanana; Deceased Members of Dziubla Family
12:15pm Mary Jean Longueil; Anthony Foderaro
5:00pm Dale Snow; Marty Attaway

~ All are welcome to our Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:30am in church on November 22. Advent Little Blue Books will be available after Masses next weekend. Lectors: 2019 workbooks are now available for pick-up in the sacristy. ~

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Jane Domagala, mother of Patricia Corson & Joseph, grandmother of 5, great grandmother of 7
Tommy O’Grady, nephew of Colleen & Joe Brosnan
Anne Owens, sister of Margaret & Kathleen
Robert Hutchison, husband of Patricia, father of 7, grandfather of 7

We pray for those who have served in the military: for veterans and for those still in combat, for their safety, healing, and peace.

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St. John of the Cross Parish  32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  November 11, 2018  Page 15
Harvest Saturday is Coming!!

November 17th

On November 17 our Crossroads Youth Ministry will lead our community in a wonderful mission of service by collecting and delivering over 1,000 boxes of food to local pantries that serve families in our area. Many hands are needed to get the food to those who need it. Come enjoy this fabulous day!

Box Night:  Friday, November 16 6pm  
(Confirmation Candidates)  
Harvest Saturday: Saturday, November 17  
8am Mass in Church  
8:30am Driver & Teen Check-in

We are in need of volunteer drivers for Flyer Day and Harvest Saturday, as well as teens for Box Night and Harvest Saturday. To sign up as a volunteer, please visit the home page of our parish website.

Western Springs residents can put their nonperishable food donations on their front porch on Saturday morning. Our parish teens will come by to collect your food between 9am and 2pm on Saturday, November 17. If you live in Burr Ridge or Indian Head Park or another nearby town, bring your donations to the Parish Center before 2pm or any time during the coming week.

Be a part of something great