Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Sunday, November 25, 2018
Blessings
as we begin the final week of the liturgical year.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This feast was established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, in response to the secularization of the European countries. The Holy Father sought to seek peace through a worldwide rededication to Jesus as the King of all the nations. The biblical image of the Shepherd King, who provides for and cares for his subjects, echoes the model of the young David and at the same time challenges the example of the king as a warring tyrant. The Pope’s strategy has not yet achieved its desired goal, but the idea of seeking peace by subjecting oneself to the will of God as taught by Jesus continues to ring true. For that reason, today’s feast was maintained and during the liturgical reforms of Vatican II was placed as the crown of the Church year.

On Saturday, December 1 many of our young parishioners will receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. This opportunity for Reconciliation is made available to those in the second grade and others who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in May. Kindly pray for them, their parents, godparents, catechists, and teachers. Pray too for the priests who will serve as Confessors that we may be effective ministers of God's mercy.

A new year of grace begins next weekend with the First Sunday of Advent. Universally this includes a change to the C cycle of Lectionary readings meaning that on most Sundays we will proclaim the Gospel according to Luke. Locally, beginning with Advent, our Profession of Faith will return to using the formula of the Nicene Creed. A worship aid will be provided to make that transition as smooth as possible.

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

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.

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”
St. Maximilian Kolbe
Greetings from Fr. Bill Part 2

What I have found paradoxical about the desert and its beauty and peace, is that its silence is broken by military aircraft flying over head. The other great place of awareness and spiritual awakening has been in the mountains that fill the Arizona landscape. As a life-long citizen of the second flattest state, I have found the journey up and down the tops of mountains to be mesmerizing. The journey takes you through several changes in topography - desert, alpine, deciduous aspen trees whose leaves have turned a golden yellow. Riding slowly up the road filled with switch back after switch back, I suddenly became aware that my own life’s journey is exactly like that. I became quite aware on this foreign terrain of the love of God. Hoodoos, rock formations crafted through rain, wind and snow are pieces of creation that God has carefully placed to be admired and gazed upon. Cool and breezy winds make known the Spirit’s presence inside and outside of me. On top of the mountain - a mile and a half up, like James, John and Peter I experienced transfiguration and transformation in the glory of God.

I look forward to the remainder of my sabbatical time and returning home to SJC on January 1 to gather with you again to celebrate the great liturgy of Thanksgiving, the Eucharist.

I remember all of you each and every day in prayer and spirit, and in the unfolding awareness of God. Happy Thanksgiving. May God continue to bless and enrich our lives together. Fr. Bill

Hoodoo in Chiracahua National Monument

Aspen Trees on summit of Mt. Lemmon - around 9,000 ft.

Here is a Gila monster. I will bring him home as a parish pet.
Background on the Gospel

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church’s liturgical year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read a portion of the passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday.

In John’s Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favorable light than in the other Gospels. In today’s reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John’s Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; he is not a Jew, and he seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair.

In his responses to Pilate’s questions, Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus’ mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be.

Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John’s Gospel. Recall that in his prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see John 17:6-18), Jesus prayed for his disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world’s salvation. In today’s reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that his kingdom is not of this world: If his kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save him. Again we hear echoes of John’s theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John’s Gospel to understand the context for Jesus’ words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John’s language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Truth has been another important theme in John’s Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as king and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus’ kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as king. Today’s Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through his crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Savior of all. Loyola Press

May we make Christ’s reign visible through our loving care of others. May we make Christ’s reign visible in our daily choices to be faithful to his kingdom rather than to the kingdom of the world.

Lord God, may the prayers we offer and our commitment to their fulfillment lead to the realization of your kingdom in our time and place, until the coming of our Redeemer and King, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers. Amen.

Readings for the Week

Monday
Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5
Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday
Rev 14:14-19
Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday
Rev 15:1-4
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9

Thursday
Rev 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a
Ps 100:1b-2, 2-3, 4, 5

Friday
Rom 10:9-18
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Matt 4:18-22

Saturday
Rev 22:1-7
Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab

1st Sunday of Advent
Jer 33:14-16
Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thess 3:12-4:2
Do you ever have a moment when God speaks clearly to you through another person? I had one of those moments recently during lunch with friends. As is often the case, our conversation wove in and out of parenting woes and joys, to our children, to what was going on in our faith lives, to our hopes and our struggles, to what was going on in the world.

My friend, Kelly, asked me at some point what was new in my ministry. I shared with her how there were some new invitations coming for retreats and speaking that I was not sure if I would say yes to or not. She paused for a few seconds and then questioned me further about my hesitations. I shared with her my fears of being in front of a larger audience, the questions I often get about being a younger woman talking about prayer and spirituality, and my own self-doubt.

She listened to me for a bit and then got quiet. Then Kelly looked me straight in the eye and said, “Becky, do you know how often we talk about wanting to hear from someone who is living our lifestyle and incorporating faith into our lives, our marriages, our work, and our parenting? Every time we get together, our conversation turns to how we long to hear from someone who lives a life like we do.”

I nodded my head in agreement. Before she spoke again, Kelly raised her finger, pointed it straight at me, and said, “God is giving you, a woman who is living our lifestyle, who is married, who has children, and who has your ministry experience, the chance to speak about it, and you are considering turning it down? I can’t believe it.”

Her words pierced right through my heart and made my heart skip a beat. I froze and sat there stunned. As I came out of my stupor, I stammered a bit and tried to respond, but I couldn’t. I realized that her words were the voice of God to me. She was right. Many times, I shared how I wanted to hear from someone juggling the roles I do and seeking to incorporate faith into all aspects of life. And honestly, there were stirrings within my heart of God nudging me to write and speak more about how to make room for God in the busyness of life. The truth was, I thought God would ask someone else, not me. Kelly’s words, though, shifted everything in me and opened my eyes to see and hear what God had been trying to speak to me for months. I knew I could not ignore the invitations before me, even if I was afraid to say yes.

Lunch with my friends that day reminded me of how often God speaks to us through people—someone saying just the right thing to affirm what God is doing within us or what God is inviting us to do or maybe to teach us something new about God. Since Kelly’s courageous words to me, I have been listening more to others I encounter not only to listen for what God might be saying to me, but also for what God might be teaching me about God at work in the other person.

What about you? How might you listen to God in other people?

After an encounter with one of our family members, friends, colleagues, or even strangers, we can pause, turn our hearts and minds to God and ask, “God, what went on in my time with this person? How did I experience you in this moment?”

Perhaps we might come to a new understanding of the other person or ourselves. Maybe the conversation opened our eyes to understanding a topic in a new way. Whatever arose in our encounter with the other person, we can stop and consider it listening for God in the people in front of us. Becky Eldredge. Ignatian Spirituality.
Praised be God who has created us to sing the music of divine love in the world, and to give shape to the unspeakable treasure that is the diving presence in and among us. May our joyful living out of this knowledge be to the greater glory of God, that the song of God’s praise may resound to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Let us pray to God a litany of thanks for all the blessings and goodness in our lives. For knowing love in our lives, for the security and confidence and joy it brings; and for the capacity to love that we have kindled within us. For the knowledge of you O God, whom we discover in so many ways throughout our lives; and for the passion for your truth that you have kindled within us. For the experiences of life, those that strengthen and those that stretch us, for in all of them we are learning to see you working for the good. With heartfelt thanks bless us O Lord.

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider, whose guidance and care go before us... and whose love is with us forever.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the changes, to remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another.

Thanksgiving is a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden in Autumn’s wake and apples are crisp in the first chill breezes of fall.

Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. As we see the beauty of Autumn, let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours... let us think of our families and friends... and let us give thanks in our hearts.

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer’s spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest And we bless each other That the beauty of this world And the love that created it Might be expressed though our lives And be a blessing to others Now and always Amen.

Creator God, for the many wonders of our lives we bless your name and find, in turn that we are blessed. Guide and strengthen us on life’s journey, so that we may be the voice and face of Christ in the world, through our actions, attitudes and presence. Give us the desire to be instruments of your blessings in the places of our hearts and homes, both now and tomorrow. Amen.
Outreach News

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 in the church narthex!

Sign-Up for Share Christmas 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.
As we all wait patiently for the birth of Jesus, during this Advent season, the Outreach Team at St. John of the Cross Parish hopes you will consider shopping for gifts at Loom Chicago at our Parish Center. Loom is a group of Refugee Women Artisans who create functional art, one-of-a-kind objects, clothing and accessories among other things. These are women who have fled war and violence from around the globe (many with their children) and have resettled in Chicago; at Loom, they get the opportunity to form a supportive community, learn from each other and from local artists, earn an income and empower themselves in their readjustment in a new country and culture different from the ones they come from. The women, who meet weekly to work on ongoing projects or attend workshops to learn new skills, will be at the Parish Center on Sunday, December 2 after morning Masses selling their beautiful creations. Each purchase goes directly back to supporting these women and their children creating new lives for themselves locally.

**LOOM SALE**
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**
**AFTER MORNING MASSES**
**SJC PARISH CENTER**
Loom Sale: woven wearable art made by and benefitting refugee women living in Chicago.

**FILL A CHRISTMAS MUG WITH LOVE**
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.

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.

**Friday Date Night**
Experiencing holiday stress yet?? The Seven Principles Marriage Workshop Leaders, Bill and Theresa Simantirakis, are offering a free Relationship Check-up for any couple on Friday evenings in December. Watch for more in upcoming bulletins.
Little Blue Books for Advent Prayer
Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. Once again SJC is offering Little Blue Books as a prayer companion for Advent. The right hand side of each page will cite a part of the Gospel for the Mass each day followed by a reflection. The left hand side has timely thoughts, quotes and information. You might want to share some of it at dinner with your family. It should not take more than 6 minutes each day—an easy commitment. Let the Little Blue Book slow you down and let you be with Christ in a special way each day this Christmas season. Give them to your family members as a personal invitation to pray this Advent. Reflections begin on the First Sunday of Advent and end on the Baptism of the Lord. The Little Blue Books will be available at the exits of church after all Masses this weekend and next. Extra copies will be available in the church or Parish Center Office during the week. Suggested donation $1.

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

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 & the recipe to share. Watch the bulletin and website for more exciting ENCORE events.
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.
Light the way for family & friends this Christmas ... Begin a holiday tradition your children will love!

**LUMINARIA KIT FUNDRAISER**

Each Luminaria Kit is $10 and includes 5 white bags, 5 long burning candles (10+ hours) and enough sand to assemble your luminarias.

Order Deadline: Sunday, December 9
Pick Up Date: After Masses on December 15 or 16 in the back hall of the Parish Center. Kits will be labeled with your name. Order online at www.stjohnofthecross.org or by cash or check (made out to SJC Women's Club) with payment to the Parish Center.

Name: _____________________________________________________
Phone:_____________________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________________

___________Luminaria Kits x $10 ____________ $ Total

NEW THIS YEAR: Purchase a luminaria in Honor of/in Memory of a loved one for just $5. Their name will be displayed on a lit luminaria outside of church on Christmas Eve. One name per luminaria.

Luminaria in Honor of: _______________________________________

___________ $ Total Enclosed for Luminaria(s)

Outside Church on Christmas Eve

Sponsored by the SJC Women's Club
in partnership with Village True Value Hardware and Mariano's.
Please contact Christina Howard or Cindy O'Malley with questions. sjcluminariasales@gmail.com

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**Parish News**

**Monday, November 26**
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am 11th Step Christian Meditation
1:00pm Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30pm Adoration
7:30pm Boy Scout Meeting
7:30pm Play Parent Meeting

**Tuesday, November 27**
9:00am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
9:30am Pillar III- Life in Christ
4:00pm Play Auditions
6:30pm YC Cluster Volunteer Meeting
7:00pm RCIA
7:00pm School Board Meeting
7:30pm Christian Meditation

**Wednesday, November 28**
9:30am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm Christian Meditation Study Group
3:45pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm SPRED

7:00pm Advent Cantor Meeting
7:30pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 29**
8:30am SJC Study Group
3:45pm Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Play Auditions
7:00pm Advent Cantor Meeting
7:00 pm Outreach Committee
7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal

**Friday, November 30**

**Saturday, December 1**
7:00am Christian Meditation
1st Reconciliation for Second Graders
11:00am Preschool Ornament Party

**Sunday, December 2**
7:00am Christian Meditation
10:15am YC
12:00pm YC Family Faith Connections
1:00pm Frosh/Soph Retreat Leader Meeting
1:30pm Baptisms
6:00pm Crossroads Freshmen Experience

**YC SCHEDULE**

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<th>10:15am/6:15pm K-6</th>
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<td>First Grade Parent Attends with Child</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>7th-8th Grades in Homes</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>Family Faith Noon-1:30pm</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>Adapted Catechesis 9-10am</td>
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**EXCELLENCE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
St. John of the Cross Parish School
Accepting Applications for the 2019-20 School Year

St. John of the Cross Parish School provides a dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows. We offer unique educational experiences that foster, success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student. If you are interested in visiting the school, please call Jennifer Jermano Miller, Director of Advancement at 708-246-4454, to set up an appointment or learn more about St. John of the Cross Parish School at our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org/school.

Father Bennett founded St. John of the Cross Parish School in 1961 with the idea that a school would be the foundation of the parish. Our parish school prides itself on multi-generational Catholic traditions and achievement alongside a challenging educational experience that fosters long-term student success. We integrate faith into every area of our curriculum as our students focus on the three R’s: Ready Respectful Responsible. Each day begins with an all-school prayer written and read by students followed by the Prayer of St. Francis, setting the tone for our day. For more than fifty years our school community has continued to provide a safe, dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows: we are rooted in faith, growing in knowledge.
Parish News

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their infants baptized by Deacon Rich Voytas on November 4, assisted by Baptism Team Leaders, Jeannie and Mike Francis. Pictured from the left are: Daniel and Jodie Santucci with Cole Phillip, Daniel and Maggie Philips with Evelyn Carol and Tara and Mark Reynolds with Matthew James.

Congratulations to Kate & Christian Arquilla with Finn (2) who had their infant, Elizabeth Emelia, baptized by Fr. Wayne Watts assisted by Baptism Team Leaders, Sean and Betsy Sullivan, on November 3.

FILLED WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Sign Up for Share Christmas in the church narthex
- November 24 & 25, December 1 & 2
- Little Blue Books for Advent Prayer
- After Masses December 1-2
- LOOM Sale
- December 2 Parish Center
- Advent by Candlelight for Women
  - Monday, December 10
- Luminaria Kit Sale
  - Order by December 9 ~ Pick up December 15-16
- Advent Taizé Prayer
  - Tuesday, December 11 7pm in Church
- ENCORE Christmas Luncheon
  - Tuesday, December 18 Noon-2pm
- Advent Parish Reconciliation Service
  - Tuesday, December 18 at 7pm
I live on both sides of a border. Not a geographical one, but one which is often a dividing line between two groups.

I was raised a conservative Roman Catholic, and conservative in most other things as well. Although my dad worked politically for the Liberal party, most everything about my upbringing was conservative, particularly religiously. I was a staunch Roman Catholic in every way. I grew up under the papacy of Pius XII (the fact that my youngest brother is named Pius, will tell you how loyal our family was to that Pope’s version of things). We believed that Roman Catholicism was the one true religion and that Protestants needed to convert and return to the true faith. I memorized the Roman Catholic catechism and defended its every word. Moreover, beyond being faithful church-goers, my family was given over to piety and devotions: we prayed the rosary together as a family every day; had statues and holy pictures everywhere in our house; wore blessed medals around our necks; prayed litanies to Mary, Joseph, and the Sacred Heart; and practiced a warm devotion to the saints. And it was wonderful. I will forever be grateful for that religious foundation.

I went from my family home to the seminary at the tender age of seventeen and my early seminary years solidly reinforced what my family had given me. The academics were good and we were encouraged to read great thinkers in every discipline. But this higher learning was still solidly set within a Roman Catholic ethos that valued all the things religiously and devotionally I’d been raised on. My studies were still friends with my piety. My mind was expanding, but my piety remained intact.

But home is where we start from. Gradually through the years my world changed. Studying at different graduate schools, teaching on different graduate faculties, being in daily contact with other expressions of the faith, reading contemporary novelists and thinkers, and having academic colleagues as cherished friends has, I confess, put some strain on the piety of my youth. It’s no secret; we don’t often pray the rosary or litanies to Mary or the Sacred Heart in graduate classrooms or at faculty gatherings.

However academic classrooms and faculty gatherings bring something else, something vitally needed in church pews and in circles of piety, namely, wider theological vision and critical principles to keep unbridled piety, naïve fundamentalism, and misguided religious fervor within proper boundaries. What I’ve learned in the academic circles is also wonderful and I am forever grateful for the privilege of higher education.

But, of course, that’s a formula for tension, albeit a healthy one. Let me use someone else’s voice to articulate this. In a recent book, Silence and Beauty, a Japanese-American artist, Makoto Fujimura, shares this incident from his own life. Coming out of church one Sunday, he was asked by his pastor to add his name to a list of people who had agreed to boycott the film, The Last Temptation of Christ. He liked his pastor and wanted to please him by signing the petition, but felt hesitant to sign for reasons that, at that time, he couldn’t articulate. But his wife could. Before he could sign, she stepped in and said: “Artists may have other roles to play than to boycott this film.” He understood what she meant. He didn’t sign the petition.

But his decision left him pondering the tension between boycotting such a movie and his role as an artist and critic. Here’s how he puts it: “An artist is often pulled in two directions. Religiously conservative people tend to see culture as suspect at best, and when cultural statements are made to transgress the normative reality they hold dear, their default reaction is to oppose and boycott. People in the more liberal artistic community see these transgressive steps as necessary for their ‘freedom of expression’. An artist like me, who values both religion and art, will be exiled from both. I try to hold together both of these commitments, but it is a struggle.”

That’s also my struggle. The piety of my youth, of my parents, and of that rich branch of Catholicism is real and life-giving; but so too is the critical (sometimes unsettling) iconoclastic, theology of the academy. The two desperately need each other; yet someone who is trying to be loyal to both can, like Fujimura, end up feeling exiled from both. Theologians also have other roles to play than boycotting movies.

The people whom I take as mentors in this area are men and women who, in my eyes, can do both: Like Dorothy Day, who could be equally comfortable, leading the rosary or the peace march; like Jim Wallis, who can advocate just as passionately for radical social engagement as he can for personal intimacy with Jesus, and like Thomas Aquinas, whose intellect could intimidate intellectuals, even as he could pray with the piety of a child.

Circles of piety and the academy of theology are not enemies; they need to embrace.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
**Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions**

**Monday, November 26**
Weekday/Last Week in Ordinary Time
7:45am Joanne McGovern; William Albertson Sr.

**Tuesday, November 27**
7:45am Don McAuliffe; Deceased Members of O’Malley & Madigan Families

**Wednesday, November 28**
Weekday
7:45am Maria Pertile; Deceased Members of Jennings & Sweeney Families

**Thursday, November 29**
Weekday
7:45am Carole Turlek; Marie Capellani

**Friday, November 30**
St. Andrew
7:45am Theresa Vana; Our Beloved Dead

**Saturday, December 1**
Weekday; Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Rose Ann Pekny; Brooks Tonn
~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~
5:00pm Tom Foody; Therese Jurkacek

**Sunday, December 2**
First Sunday of Advent
7:30am Sharon Miller; Cassius MacDiarmid
9:00am Michael McNamara; Joe Glimco
10:45am Paul Stimetz; Anne Donnersberger
12:15pm Arthur Gahagan; Caroline Conti
5:00pm Curtis Kerzich; Brooks Tonn

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Holy One, I ask you to help each member of our family to be completely humble and gentle in our interactions with each other; and to be patient, bearing with one another’s faults in love - even when we’re tired, frustrated, angry, or hurt. Help us to make every effort to remain united in the Spirit in this home. Please bind us together in peace. Amen.

Gracious God, help us to love each other fervently. Grow our love so deep that it is able and willing to overcome and forgive a multitude of misgivings. Inspire a spirit of hospitality in each of us and enable us to cheerfully share our home. We acknowledge that you have given each of us spiritual gifts. Help us to put our own needs aside and use those gifts to serve one another well. We will rely on the strength and energy You supply. We pray that everything we do within this family unit will bring you glory through the One who lives in us. Amen.

Pray for Our Sick
Karl Andrzejewski
Beth Beutell
Sally Bradley
Margaret Brooks
Megan Corvino
Cheryl Delaney
Kathy Delaney
Fr. David Dowdle
Bill Harley
Sr. Jean Herman
Linda Hillsman
Carlotta Hoffman
Karen Hult
Lucine Kassis
Peggy Kouchy
Lorraine Majerick
Bobbie Misiora
Christine Moran
Eric Martinson
Judie Perzik
Anthony Portillo
Rachael Schopp
David Sipek
Shawn Sweeney
Don Vollmer

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
This bulletin is printed early because of the Thanksgiving holiday. For an updated list of upcoming funerals at our parish go to our parish website.

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 Stimez
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

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
Joe Pepitone, Senior Deacon
joepepitone@comcast.net
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org

708-246-4404 Parish Center
Join us as we wait for the coming light of Christmas in this special Advent session! We hope you can join us as we discover family traditions that help us prepare for the birth of Jesus! Have you experienced Las Posadas? We will also learn about Jesus’ mother, Mary.

Preschoolers and their families are invited to Family-Style Preschool Advent Session

Saturday, Dec. 8 (10:45-noon) at the Parish Center.

Remaining sessions are Feb. 16, March 9 and April 27. A family donation of $10 per session covers costs for the program. Register by calling the Parish Center. Each session includes music, bible stories, prayer, crafts, and games. Ages 2 1/2 to 5 year old PreK.
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