Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, January 20, 2019
Blessings on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity continues through Friday, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, with the theme: Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue (Deut. 16:20). Learn more at geii.org

Monday is the national holiday celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This commemoration reminds all of us to seek non-violent solutions to conflict as we continue to pray for the end of racial discrimination.

Tuesday, the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision, is observed as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The following instruction is from #373 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal:

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right of life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the Mass “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” celebrated with white vestments or the Mass “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice” celebrated with violet vestments.

This week (January 22-27) pilgrims will gather in Panama City with Pope Francis for World Youth Day. We take this opportunity to pray for all young people:

God our Father, be with us on our pilgrim journey of faith. Give us the grace and courage to step forward in faith and hope on the road ahead. Open our eyes to see your face in all those we encounter. Open our ears to hear your voice in those who are often ignored. Open our hearts that we might be faithful disciples of mercy and truth. Transform us. Empower us to give of ourselves to the poor; to welcome the lost; to forgive those who hurt us; to comfort those who suffer and are marginalized. Like the disciples who journeyed up the mountain to witness the Transfiguration, may this experience be an encounter that strengthens us for our work in the world. Through the intercession of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, patroness of our nation, may we be worthy witnesses of our faith, humble representatives of our country, and inspired missionaries bringing peace, hope, and mercy into our communities. We ask all this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

Father Reszel

Sister Anastasia/Support-A-Student Fund
2nd Collection January 27

The Sr. Anastasia Fund, named in memory of our first school principal, is dedicated to educating our parish children in the faith. Begun when the convent building was sold to the IBVM community, it functions like an endowment fund in distributing funds to both the school and the YC program as reported in the Annual Report. The Parish Finance Committee administers the annual distribution. As always, your generosity to support the mission of our parish is most appreciated.

About Sister Anastasia O’Connor IBVM

In 1961 with five IBVM Sisters, Sister Anastasia became the first principal and trailblazer who launched our parish school on its way to becoming the highly respected Catholic elementary school it is today. In 1967 Sister Anastasia left SJC to serve in an administrative position within the IBVM Community. Delighted to return in 1973, she served eleven more years as the educational leader of our school and parish community.

Sister Anastasia cherished the children, the parents, the faculty and staff, the parishioners and the many priests she met during her days at St. John of the Cross. Love, lived in service to others, enabled her to live her motto, “To do your will, O God, is my desire.” Sister passed away on Easter Sunday 2011.

Let us look at our hands, often so empty of love, and today let us try to think of some gift we can offer freely. Pope Francis Jan 14
It is not life that is a reference point for eternity; rather, it is eternity which illumines and gives hope to the earthly life of each of us! We say one’s journey moves from life to death. Jesus turns this perspective upside down and states that our pilgrimage goes from death to life. That fullness of life illumines our journey! Therefore, death stands behind us, not before us. – Pope Francis

With this hope in the fullness of life for my father, I thank each of you for illuminating his journey and mine, especially over these past two years of his final Advent. I am grateful for all your prayers, words of comfort, hope and gestures of consolation. You have been a source of strength and presence of the Risen Lord for me. Thank you for being present to and with me as we see him through to the beginning.
In gratitude and love,
Fr. Bill

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your Christmas cards and notes. I have enjoyed reading each one. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me.

Although I feel fatigued, I am trying to stay active. As many of you know, doctor appointments take up quite a bit of time! I am grateful to my siblings for stepping up to help—they are keeping a careful eye on me.

Hope you are enjoying the New Year and the snow! I love it.
Keep me in your prayers as I keep you in mine.

Blessings of health and happiness to you in 2019.

Fr. David

Holy Spirit,
help us share the Good News of Jesus Christ in our own unique ways.
Empower us to develop our gifts and talents for the service of God's kingdom.
Prayer from Finding God: Celebrating Church

Pope Francis echoed Jesus’ call for us to encounter one another and to experience the beauty of the Church. Young people are the future of our Church. We have a responsibility to support them as they grow in faith. Pope Francis concluded his message by saying: “WYD is for the courageous! Not for young people who are searching only for comfort and who withdraw whenever difficulties arise. Do you accept the challenge?”

Through your ongoing support for the Collection for the Church in Latin America, you have helped young people accept the challenge to grow in faith. Your generosity is helping the young people of the Archdiocese of Panama build relationships with one another, with their peers throughout Latin America, and with the rest of the world as they prepare for World Youth Day 2019. This is a tremendous event in the life of the Church, and young people are now experiencing it to the fullest. You have given these young people the opportunity to grow as leaders and to develop missionary hearts. For more information about the Collection for the Church in Latin America, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.
God Is There All the Time
Becoming aware that we have been divinized by Jesus Christ, invited into the Trinity family, is a felt realization of the numinous presence of God not only all around us but also within us. God is there all the time, waiting. But, like God’s forgiveness, God’s will to share the divine aliveness with us can’t activate until we invite it. It is the heart-stopping understanding that despite our shortcomings, despite our seeming insignificance to most of those around us, the God who dwells in unapproachable light dwells within us. As he did in a Bethlehem stable.

—Excerpted from God: The Oldest Question by William J. O’Malley, SJ

The Time Is Now
Somewhere nearby—perhaps a co-worker in the next cubicle; a friend across the room; a stranger in the chair next to you; a spouse beside you in bed; a child clawing at your leg for attention—there, now, is an opportunity for love.

Before you is God’s invitation to know him. Do not delay; do not postpone love. Reach for it; give your whole self to it. Use your imagination, for love is not for the sluggish. Surprise him with love; overwhelm her with love— and be surprised and overwhelmed. God is nearby.

Tim Muldoone, Ignatian Spirituality

Time to Pray
The best time to pray is when I feel the least inclined to do so. For instance, if I’m upset with my husband or wrangling online or over the phone with some nameless, faceless, nonhuman entity that’s after my money, then I am not thinking about my conversation with God. Also, if I’m feeling guilty, I find it difficult to glide into ceaseless prayer.

However, in the same way that Jesus said he came for those who need a doctor, not those who are already well, I believe that prayer is first of all for those who need it most. Prayer is for those very times when we avoid talking to God because we’re having a tough time and are not behaving well.

Don’t we still harbor this idea that we must be in a certain blameless and loving condition before we approach Almighty God? If I just cursed the driver who swerved into my lane, am I not disqualified somehow from having God’s ear? If I just failed utterly to love and cherish the person I vowed to love and cherish for a lifetime, isn’t the Lord too disappointed in me to be interested in what I have to say?

If God were like me, then the above would be true. God would give me the silent treatment and teach me a lesson. Or God would block out my cries until I “settled down.” But God (Thank you, God!) is not a bigger and badder version of me, or you, or anyone. God’s love and mercy do not depend on any action or non-action of mine. Thus, God waits for my prayer at every moment.

God also understands that sometimes when I need to pray, I cannot do it with words. I am too hurt or exhausted or anxious or scattered or furious. I believe that, at those very times, the Holy Spirit turns my sighs and groans and even my frustrated exclamations into some form of need and desire that reaches God at that instant. God hears us as we are, not as we think we should be.

I’m not always inclined to pray when things are going well, either. This indicates that I still think of prayer more in terms of asking for things rather than spending time with One who loves me. When I am not compelled by acute need, then my prayer can be gratitude and joy and song.

So, the time to pray is when life upsets us too much to pray. And the time to pray is when life is going so well that we are tempted to think we’ve achieved such a miracle on our own. May we pray whenever . . . and always. Ignatian Spirituality

Time to Slow Down
Dear Lord, help me to remember that you gave me life. Thank you for the gift of life. Teach me to slow down, to be still and enjoy the pleasures created for me. To be aware of the beauty that surrounds me: the marvel of mountains, the calmness of lakes, the fragility of a flower petal. I need to remember that all these things come from you.

—Excerpted from Sacred Space: The Prayer Book 2019
Even Busy People Can Find Time to Pray

James Martin, SJ, shares ideas for “How Even the Busiest People Can Find Time to Pray” in a recent article for *Crux*. When we think we’re too busy to pray, part of the problem is our attitude, writes Martin:

- Often we have unrealistic expectations about how much time we will spend in prayer. Busy people usually like to get a lot “done.” So we frequently set goals that are out of line with what we are realistically able to do.
- To be blunt, many people assume that if they’re not praying for an hour a day then it’s not worth it. Or they assume that if they’re not praying every single day there’s no point. “Why even bother?” they think.

So first, try being reasonable. Start with ten minutes in the morning or evening. Surely you can spare that for the Creator of the Universe! It needn’t be anything more than that, to begin with. You don’t run a marathon before you’ve run around the block.

**Story Time**

Ignatius wanted people to use all their senses when contemplating the gospels. Stories are a powerful way for children to do this.

- Don’t just teach forgiveness; tell the story of the Lost Son and then practice forgiveness—really practice it—at home. Take time when they are calm, teach the meaning of saying “I forgive you” (instead of the more bland “it’s okay”), and then walk them through the action of forgiving someone. Find ways to celebrate forgiveness in your family. The father of the lost son threw a party. Your family might celebrate by making a special dessert when you have been able to show forgiveness after a difficult conflict.

**Four Ways to Find and Keep Your Peace in Tumultuous Times**

In 1871, Spafford was a successful Chicago lawyer. He had it all: money, power, fame, and a beautiful family. However, in October of that year, he lost most of his business to the Great Chicago Fire. Two years later, he lost his four beautiful daughters in a shipwreck.

In the weeks after his daughters perished, Spafford wrote the hymn “It is Well with My Soul.” Learning the tragic story of how it came to be, I couldn’t help but wonder how this 19th-century Job figure could find it within himself to pen the words of this hymn right after such tremendous losses? “When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, ’It is well, it is well with my soul.’”

What is this “peace” of which he speaks in the midst of such sorrow?

Everywhere we turn—television, radio, newsfeed—there is news of strife, tragedy, and devastation. The more news we hear, the more it steals our peace. So how can we keep our peace during these tumultuous times? How can we find the strength to sing, “It is well with my soul,” when it seems that things just aren’t well at all?

1. Dwell on the good: One of the easiest ways to dwell on the good is to just shut off the stream of bad news. Shut off the TV. Shut off the radio. Shut off the newsfeed. Monitor what you allow into your mind. Guard your peace. If you keep the channel on or keep checking that newsfeed, more likely than not, you will find yourself saddened, angry, and stressed. Instead, dwell on the good. Wherever you find God in your day—in a pleasant exchange, the beauty of a flower, the glint of the sun, a beautiful seascape, or a child’s laugh or smile—stop and acknowledge the beauty and the goodness around you, and take a moment to thank God.

2. Have a “heart-to-heart” with Jesus: St. Ignatius urged his followers to envision themselves sitting with Jesus and conversing just as one would with a friend. So talk with him; go to Adoration, go to Mass, and pray during the day. Wherever you are, take your concerns to Jesus. All that bad news is not for you to shoulder. He’s got it. Talk about what’s going on in the world, the nation, your home, and your life, and how it makes you feel. Let it all out and be honest! Why not? He already knows what’s in the depths of our hearts, right?

One of my frequent personal prayers these days, recalling Ignatius’s advice about prayer as conversation, is: “Really, God? Again? I thought we were done with this! I need your help. We need your help. God, please help us.”

3. Embrace peace: As you talk with Jesus, let go of fear and trust that he has it all covered. When you do this, you make room for him to fill you with “the peace the world cannot give.”

4. Spread peace: Pope Francis reminds us that when we know Jesus, “Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep; arm in arm with others, we are committed to building a new world” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 269). Centered in the love of Christ and the peace that he gives, each one of us has the power to change the world, one small action at a time.

Once we regain our peace, we are impelled, as stewards of his peace, to share it. All it takes is one flame to break through the darkness. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that” (*A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and Other Preachings*). It is up to each one of us to share of that light and that love that inspired the anthem, “It Is Well with My Soul,” so that, together, we may again find our peace.

Rebecca Ruiz, Ignatian Spirituality
Background on the Gospel

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us. Loyola Press

Jesus you are the Son of God, the Word made flesh. Your words are life eternal.
Come Follow Me…

Just as that first community of disciples, we are called to follow Jesus, the Lamb of God — to learn from him, be inspired by him, to live in him. We are all called by Jesus to share his word—not only in our speech, but in our daily actions; when we love our enemies, extend our generosity to those in need, and become sources of mercy and compassion. A practical way that we can proclaim the Gospel and Spirit of Jesus Christ is through our support of the Annual Catholic Appeal which enables us to reach out to parishes, individuals, and communities in need.

In the coming weeks many families in our parish will be receiving the Annual Catholic Appeal request mailing from Cardinal Cupich. On behalf of those served by the ministries and services funded by the ACA, we thank you for your generosity.

In February our parish will have an opportunity to make a commitment to the Appeal and all the important endeavors it supports. The Appeal helps to sustain Catholic schools and parishes, support programs of religious education, ministerial formation and the many initiatives for the protection of life and the promotion of peace and justice. Through Catholic Relief Services, the Appeal also funds loving help to neighbors who are far away but who are our neighbors in need.

Responding to his call to live as authentic disciples, together may we live in prayer, love, good works, and compassion eager to do God’s will. No money donated to the Annual Catholic Appeal has been or will be used to defray expenses related to misconduct issues.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Son of Mary, you came that we may have life, and have it more abundantly. You are the Word through whom we were made. Teach us to live the Gospel of Life. Soften our hearts that we may be compassionate toward the most vulnerable. Embolden us to be voices for the voiceless. Help us always to remember that what we do for the least ones, we do for you—never to forget the incomparable value of every human person.

In your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer by: Father William Dailey, CSC; University of Notre Dame
We pray...

May every expectant mother encounter loving support as she awaits the birth of her child;

For civic leaders, that by their words and actions, they might defend life and work to preserve respect for the life of every human being;

May we live out our baptismal call to proclaim the Gospel and be messengers of God’s love for every human life;

For all women with difficult pregnancies: Through the intercession of Our Lady, may they be lovingly supported in welcoming the mystery of life within them;

For the legal protection of unborn children and for loving support for mothers before and after birth;

For all who suffer from participation in abortion: May they find healing and peace in God’s loving forgiveness;

We pray to the Lord:

Lord hear our prayer

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me
Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.
O LORD, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinize; with all my ways you are familiar.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.
Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.
My soul also you knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to you, When I was made in secret, when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.
PSALM 139:1B-3, 13-14AB, 14C-15

Mother Teresa’s Words of Wisdom

It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish. How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers. The first person in the world to welcome Jesus, to recognize Him in the womb of His mother was a child: John the Baptist. How wonderful, God chooses an unborn child to announce the coming of His redeeming Son. - Mother Teresa

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.

- Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart"

Thurman who was born in 1899 and raised in the segregated South. He is recognized as one of the great spiritual leaders of the 20th century renowned for his reflections on humanity and our relationship with God. Thurman was a prolific author (writing at least 20 books); perhaps the most famous is Jesus and the Disinherited (1949), which deeply influenced Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. Thurman was the first black person to be a tenured Dean at a PWI (Boston U). He also cofounded the first interracially pastored, intercultural church in the US.
Dear Parishioners,

Once again your generosity to people in need through Share Christmas was incredible. Here we share just some of the beautiful thank you notes our parish has received. (Some of the typos were left in for you to enjoy!) The notes came on printed Christmas cards covered in glitter, some written on lined school paper as well as beautifully drawn homemade cards as pictured below. Their thanks were written in Spanish and others in English. All communicated their gratefulness for your love and care.

It was a privilege to deliver your gifts to the many recipient parishes and agencies through Share Christmas. May each of you know the difference your generosity continues to make in the lives of others.

Bill Bright, Director of Outreach

Merry Christmas! I hop you have a jolly Christmas and a happy new year. I hop you have a good time and hop you are healthy and warm and hop you eat a lot so every one is happy and full.
Love Emily

St. Juan de la Cruz, We would like to thank you from the bottom of our heart for this precious gift cards. This year has been a difficult year and with these gift card gifted to us has been a huge blessing. We will be able to have a nice dinner and provide Christmas gifts for our daughter. Thank you very much for having a great hear and blessing us with love.

Thank you for making this Christmas even more special for my daughter and I. The gift brought a huge smile on both of our faces. My daughter and I are always looking for ways to pay it forward and God has always blessed us in one way or another. I thank you for the note you took the time to write and also for the ornament. I am humbled and extremely grateful. God bless you and have a Merry Christmas.

Thank you for the gift cards for my mom and me. These gifts will help my family. It made our Christmas merrier. It was very considerate of you and we will use it wisely. The holidays are a hard time so it made all the difference for us. Thank you for taking the time to read this card.

St. John of the Cross Parish

Thank you so much for your generosity. It has been 2 years since my husband suffered an accident and hasn’t been able to work. Meaning long hours for me to try to cover basic household expenses. Your generosity not only brought a smile to my face, but also a relief in knowing that I would be able to give something to my children for Christmas. May God bless your heart and others that desire to help others.

Thank you so very much for the gift cards for me and my family. It will be a Merry Christmas indeed for us as we get to see our son’s face light up with the gift he asked for this year. We wouldn’t have been allowed that pleasure without your generosity. Blessings to you all.

Thank you so very much for the gift cards for me and my family. It will be a Merry Christmas indeed for us as we get to see our son’s face light up with the gift he asked for this year. We wouldn’t have been allowed that pleasure without your generosity. Blessings to you all.

Where to begin? Your love and generosity for St. Gall School is truly immeasurable. The experience you provide for our students and the care and generosity you share with our families is truly a gift from God. Thank you so much for all you give— you are making such difference in our children’s lives.

Bill Bright, Director of Outreach

Thank you for everything you gave us and the prayers you gave us to say to God. Bless all of you.
The best legacy children can receive from parents is faith.

YC: EXCELLENCE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YC Schedule
January 27 K-6: 10:15-11:30am
January 27 7th & 8th Grades: In Homes
January 27 Adapted Catechesis: 9-10am
January 28 K-6: 6:15-7:30pm
February 1 Confirmation Rehearsal
February 2 Confirmation
February 3 K-6: 10:15-11:30am
February 3 Adapted Catechesis: 9-10am
February 3 FFC Noon-1:30pm
February 4 K-6: 6:15-7:30pm
February 3-4 Super Bowl Food Collection
February 10 K-6: 10:15-11:30am
February 10 7th & 8th Grades: In Homes
February 11 K-6: 6:15-7:30pm
Feb 10-11 4th Grade Parent Attends with Child

Souper Bowl Food Collection
Every year on Super Bowl weekend our YC students take time to celebrate “Souper Bowl Sunday” by collecting food for people in need. In sharp contrast to football parties filled with abundant food and friends, students learn that many people right in our area worry about staying warm, finding shelter and feeding their family a warm meal.

Students are asked to bring non-perishable food to their class on Super Bowl Sunday/Monday, February 3-4. Parishioners can help too by bringing food donations to the YC office or the Parish Center before February 2. All food donated will be delivered to the food pantries at our neighboring parishes, St. Cletus and St. Francis Xavier.

The following items are suggested. Please remember to check code dates as the food pantries cannot accept expired food.

- Cereal (hot or cold), boxed pasta, dry pinto beans (2-3 lbs bags only), soup, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta sauce (no glass jars please), peanut butter and jelly, canned chili, chicken, tuna, ham, box meals (Potato Buds, Beefaroni, Betty Crocker complete meals)

All are invited to join YC by placing an “O” in Super for Souper Bowl Sunday

708-246-6760 yc@sjcross.org
www.stjohnofthecross.org
Women’s Club Event

Women’s Club Annual Dine & Demo Night
Thursday January 24, 2019
7:00-9:00pm
Parish Center
Welcoming back Dee Dee Saracco of

But adding a different flare this year!
Join us for a...

Dee Dee will also have containers available for purchase at this event and will be donating 10% back to the Women’s Club for anything purchased or ordered Tuesday evening. Dee Dee’s specialties include: Vodka Sauce, Bolognese Sauce, Turkey Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup & Sausage Bread

Wine provided by County Wine Merchant
Wine will also be available for purchase and County Wine Merchant will also be donating 10% per bottle/15% per case back to the Women’s Club for anything purchased at the event through Sunday, January 27.

RSVP by January 22nd - ONLINE ONLY
$20.00 per person
Please stop in at the Parish Center for online registration assistance.
Payment is online by credit card or check.
Please No Walk-Ins. Limited seating is available.
QUESTIONS? CONTACT: MARY PAT SCHMIDT
AT MARYPATSCHMIDT@HOTMAIL.COM

NACHO ORDINARY DINE & DEMO!
GOOD FOOD,
GOOD WINE &
GOOD FRIENDS!

SJC AA Men’s Social

SJC Athletic Association 2019
Men’s Social
Friday, February 1, 2019
7pm until Midnight
Village Club of Western Springs
Cost: $65
Includes Pizza and Beverages

All men of the parish are invited to a night of fun and friendship benefitting SJC Parish School athletics. All will enjoy a night of food, beverages, cards, and great conversation. Invite friends, neighbors and relatives. Meet dads from your children’s grades too.

For information and to RSVP contact:
Tom O’Malley
5217 Harvey, WS
Email: omalleytom15@gmail.com
Phone: 708-203-5196
OR
Mike Murphy
5109 Woodland, WS
Email: mike@murphysealcoating.com
Phone: 630-675-4609
RSVP with this form below and send to Tom, Mike or Laura Nemecek at school.

Name:
Email:
I will be attending the SJC Social for $65
Name of additional guest:
I would like to make an additional contribution to the SJC Athletic Association:
$100 ______ $250 ______ $500+ ______
I cannot attend but would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of $__________.
Enclosed is my check for $________ made payable to SJC.
Men’s Club Trivia Night

SJC Men’s Club Hosts

SJC Trivia Night VIII

Saturday, January 26th
(The Weekend Before Super Bowl)

SJC Parish School Gym

Doors open at 6:00pm ~ Games begin at 6:45pm

All are invited to come to Trivia Night! It’s fun and it’s a great way to meet fellow parishioners. Here’s how it works:

• Organize a group of up to 10 people (ages 21 and over only) to form your team. Name your team.
• Brush up on your trivia knowledge.
• Send in your table reservation with a check(s) totaling $200 for each table of ten to the Parish Center office. Note: cost per table is $200 even if there are less than ten participants on your team. Make all checks payable to St. John of the Cross. Seating is limited so RSVP early.
• Drop an envelope with the reservation form including the name of your team, captain and team member names along with your check(s) to SJC Parish Center attention Men’s Club. Or sign up on our parish website.
• That night, bring your own appetizers, food and your favorite beverages. Alcoholic beverages are permitted.
• Winning Team will receive fabulous prizes and many accolades!

Questions? Dan Montgomery @ 312.952.1435 tdm30550@gmail.com or John Cisek @ 312.327.1295. More info on the parish website.

ALL MEN OF THE PARISH – SAM IS CALLING!  Spirituality Among Men (SAM) is an SJC Men’s Club program that provides a regular forum for men of the parish to meet and openly talk about contemporary topics related to our faith. We focus on dialogue – there are no debates, there are no losers and no winners in our discussions. Our objective is to provide both spiritual and practical perspectives on the challenges each of us face as husbands and fathers. We try to help each other grow our faith through these encounters in small ways that we can take home to our families and out into the world. In the past we have discussed topics such as: Contemplative Prayer, Christian Meditation, the death penalty, bold discipleship, and the perspective of 20-somethings on the Church in the 21st century.

The SAM core group is currently working on plans for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We will be holding a series of short (no longer than 60 minutes) conversational meetings at 7:30pm on 3 consecutive Tuesdays in February: February 5th, 12th, and 19th all in the Parish Center Room 3. We invite all men of the parish to join us for any one or all three of the meetings. You don’t have to be a current member of the Men’s Club and it is OK if you never have attended a SAM Gathering. Just come along and bring your thoughts on the challenges that dads and husbands face today – your challenges. We’d love to have your input. If you don’t like the idea of coming alone, bring a friend!

For more information, please contact Dick Halm at 630.240.2955 (dhalm1018@gmail.com) or John Cisek at 312.327.1295

St. John of the Cross Parish

January 20, 2019

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Confirmation Doves

All are invited to take a white dove off the prayer tree in the church narthex this weekend. Each dove holds the name of one of our Confirmation candidates who is preparing to be confirmed on Saturday, February 2. Please pray for this YC or parish school student by name in the coming weeks. Use the prayer below or one of your own.

May God’s light and the gifts of the Holy Spirit shine on every path N. follows. May Christ’s love guide them through all their tomorrows. And may N. always seek to grow deeper in the faith they have embraced. Amen.

We are glad you are here! Welcome to SJC!

Elizabeth Russell-Jones, our Welcome Center Coordinator, welcomes all of our new members, sharing details about ministries, activities and ways to become involved. If you would like to join or learn more about our parish please contact Elizabeth in the Parish Center. New member registration forms can be obtained in the Parish Center office or on our website.

New members will be welcomed after morning Masses on Sunday, January 27 in the church narthex.

We welcome suggestions, questions, & comments from all parishioners which can be directed to MJ Martin, Director of Operations 708-246-4404 or mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org

Baptism is the best gift we have received. Through it, we belong to God and we possess the joy of salvation. Pope Francis Jan 13
Parish News

SJC Wednesday Morning Bible Study  Letter of James  January 23 to April 10

Presented by Fr. Scott Courtney, Commentary by Dr. Scott Hahn and Mark Shea

You are welcome to join the Wednesday Morning Bible Study for a 12 week video instruction on the Letter of James. Have you ever faced a trial that seems pointless? Have you ever felt tempted beyond your strength? The Apostle James knew the feeling, he saw it in the hearts of the early Christians in his charge and understood their anguish as a brother. He was devoted to the ultimate example of redemptive suffering and encouraged his listeners to follow his advice even in their darkest days. The Study begins Wednesday, January 23 from 9:30-11:30am in the Parish Center. Please contact Joan Willems 708-352-8628 to reserve your study guide($25).

The Well

The Well Spirituality Center located at 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park is offering the following programs in January. The program on January 26, Midwinter Reprieve and Restoration, is sponsored by our parish and is free for our parishioners. Call the Parish Center office to register. Midwinter Reprieve and Restoration ~ Saturday, January 26 from 9:30am–12:30pm, Facilitators: Kate Wester and Bridget Sperduto. Do you feel a little blue facing the grey, cold, dark days and nights of January and February in Chicago? Rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit in this morning of meditation, reiki, restorative yoga and movement.

Tax Statements

Thank you for your generous contributions to our parish. Tax statements will be mailed at the end of the month to parishioners who have received them in past years. If you have not received one in the past and would like one this year, please call Christina in the Parish Center office.

Counseling Services

Partnered with the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (Carol Stream), SJC is offering counseling services at the parish in the rectory offices. Both Dr. Sr. Ann Letourneau and Kristen Ras, MA are available to work with clients. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please call 630-752-9750 and indicate you would like to see Ann or Kristen at SJC.

Summer Work Tours

Starting to make summer plans? Join Crossroads Teen Ministry on our Summer Work Tours! This year teens will be serving in St. Louis with Young Neighbors in Action and locally in Cicero at Our Lady of Charity. For more information and to register go to www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads.

Job Search Assistance:

Career Search & Development Boot Camp - Week 2: Join us on Tuesday, January 22 from 7-9 pm for the second of a 5-week workshop at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Co-facilitator, Dennis Hamilton, will provide a presentation on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments which are the keys to preparing a compelling resume and elevator speech. There is no cost to attend and you are encouraged to attend every session to make the most of this training. Please enter the church on Catherine Avenue. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com.

Join Us for Coffee after Mass

All are welcome to gather for coffee in the church community room after morning Mass on the first Friday of each month. It’s a great way to connect with fellow parishioners. Join us on Friday, February 1.

Fr. McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship Applications

Each year through fundraising efforts, the Women’s Club is able to offer scholarships to 8th grade students in YC and our parish school and current high school students of our parish to help defray Catholic high school tuition costs. Applications are due February 11th and can be found on the home page of the Parish website.

Consider Alpha: Faith, Fellowship, Food

Alpha is a series of small group interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian Faith without dogma and without judgment. Alpha is for everyone. Whether you have a lot of faith to share or not sure if you have any, if you are curious about life’s questions, Alpha is for you! Each session includes a short film and a discussion where you are welcome to share your thoughts. Take a chance and see what happens. Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Parish Center.
Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

Monday, January 21  St. Agnes
7:45am Gene Springer; Walter Kamholz

Tuesday, January 22  Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
7:45am Jerry Albertson; Gloria Dolce

Wednesday, January 23  Weekday; St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope
7:45am Mary Jane Vollmer; Dick Potokar

Thursday, January 24  St. Francis de Sales
7:45am Don Spiering; Franca Gismondi

Friday, January 25  Feast of St. Paul the Apostle
7:45am Joan Abernethy; Paul Marcellino

Saturday, January 26  Sts. Timothy and Titus
8:00am Timothy McCarthy; John Connolly
~ Confessions after Morning Mass ~
5:00pm Raymond Kenny; Sue Lentini

Sunday, January 27  Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Barbara Braunstein; Anne Murphy
9:00am Joe Majerick; Albert Januska
10:45am John & Joan Kravcik; Lawrence Korenchan
12:15pm Tom McGorey; Joseph Munch
5:00pm Eunice Lis; Mary Cunningham

Pray for Our Sick
Bill Baxter
Beth Beutell
Margaret Brooks
Sam Cibula
Amanda Cook
Mary Crescente
Frances Domanski
Fr. David Dowdle
Aggie Frolik
Laurian Gawron
Dianne Grant
Fran Halisz
Diane Hennessy
Linda Hillsman
Karen Hult
Peggy Koucky
Eric Martinson
Bobbie Misiora
Ernie Misiora
Janet Palko
Peggy Pellegrino
Judi Perziko
Jeff Reitmeier
John Ryan
Ron Sablik
Rachael Schopp
David Sipek
Shawn Sweeney
Dominic Yocius

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Msgr. John Dalton, brother of Joanne Callahan
Ian O'Donohue, brother of Terry, Tim, and Mary
Deacon Robert Mueller, brother of Anne Shannon
Robert Arbulke, husband of Victoria
Christine Goralka, daughter of Lois, sister of Katie Zimmerman

Lord, N. is gone now from this earthly dwelling, and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence. Grant that we may hold his/her memory dear, never bitter for what we have lost nor in regret for the past, but always in hope of the eternal Kingdom where you will bring us together again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 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 LeFeuvre and Schillaci families
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
pgalek@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Assoc Pastor
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. David P. Dowdle, Senior Priest
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Senior Deacon Joe Pepitone,
joepepitone@comcast.net
Deacon John Schopp
john.schopp@sbcglobal.net
Bill Bright, Director of Outreach
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Cascetta, Director of YC
jcaschetta@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
2019 Catholic Schools Week
Visit Our Open House at the Parish School on Sunday, January 27th

For over forty years, Catholic school communities across the nation have celebrated Catholic Schools Week. At St. John of the Cross Parish School we observe the week with Masses, an Open House, and many other activities recognizing our school, community, and parish. Each of these events focuses on the value of Catholic education. This is a time for everyone in our community to join together in celebration of faith, service, and education.

On Sunday, January 27 we celebrate our parish. Our parish school students will speak at all Masses and greet our parishioners. We will host an Open House in the parish school immediately following Mass, and we invite everyone to attend from 1:30-2:30pm.

On Monday, we attend an all school liturgy together as we celebrate community. The liturgy is at 9:15am and we invite all to attend.

On Tuesday, we celebrate our families and each family will receive a special gift from the school.

On Wednesday, we celebrate our teachers, students, and volunteers. This is a day for our teachers to have a duty free lunch and enjoy a special lunch provided for by our Parent Association.

On Thursday, we celebrate our nation, careers and vocations. We will say a special prayer for our nation, our leaders on this day.

On Friday, we celebrate our students and have quite a few great activities planned for them, not only games, but guest speakers who are called to serve our parish.

Learn more about St. John of the Cross Parish School:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/school