Have you felt the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit calling you to inquire about diaconal ministry?
Explore the Diaconate.
Contact one of our priests or deacons.
Attend an Exploring the Diaconate Night.
Today—Sunday, April 14 at 2:45pm
St. Henry, Chicago
Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30pm
St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein

Lenten Fast & Abstinence
Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The special Paschal fast as well as abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

Blessings throughout our Holy Week.

This sixth Sunday of Lent is given the title Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. With the blessing of and procession with palms we begin our Holy Week recalling the Messianic entrance into Jerusalem that leads to Christ’s Passion.

On Tuesday our Archbishop, Blase Cardinal Cupich, will celebrate the Chrism Mass and bless the oils used throughout our archdiocese during the coming year. Due to construction on the west side of State Street, this Holy Week ritual - usually held at Holy Name Cathedral - has been relocated to Saint John Brebeuf Parish in Niles. The three oils are:

- Oil of the Catechumens – used to anoint those preparing for Baptism
- Oil of the Sick – used to anoint those who are suffering from illness
- Sacred Chrism – used to anoint during Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and to consecrate a new altar

Lent ends and the Paschal Triduum (three days) begins with the evening Mass on Holy Thursday. Because of the importance of these three days, only the Triduum services are permitted. There will be no morning Masses, funerals, or other rites celebrated. The schedule that follows is intended to serve as both an invitation and a reminder to keep holy these days.

Holy Thursday, April 18: Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00pm includes the presentation of the oils blessed at the Chrism Mass, washing of feet, and Eucharistic procession to the altar of repose; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:30pm.

Good Friday, April 19: Teen led Living Stations of the Cross at Noon; Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 3:00pm includes the Adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion.

Holy Saturday, April 20: Blessing of Baskets at 11:00am (in Parish Center); Easter Vigil Mass at 7:00pm includes the Lucernarium (Light Service), Liturgies of Word, Confirmation/Reception into Church, and Eucharist.

Easter Sunday, April 21: Masses on this Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord will be celebrated at 7:30, 9:00, 10:45am and 12:15pm in church and at 9:15 & 11:00am in the School First Floor Multipurpose Room.

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

Father Reszel
Background on the Gospel

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum, three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today’s Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they shouted blessings and praise to God. This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

Luke’s Gospel is the only one to report the exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Jesus’ response shows that this event, and those yet to come, are part of a divine plan. We hear this echoed again in Luke’s description of the Last Supper when Jesus speaks of Judas’ betrayal, saying that the Son of Man “goes as has been determined.”

At the Liturgy of the Word on this Sunday, the events of Jesus’ passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Luke. We will hear these events proclaimed again during the Triduum when we read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

Throughout Luke’s Gospel we see that Jesus’ words and actions proclaim the Kingdom of God. This motif continues throughout Luke’s passion narrative. Jesus appears to be in total command of events at the Passover meal as he hands over the kingdom to his disciples. He welcomes them to the Passover meal announcing that this will be his last until the Kingdom of God is fulfilled.

As throughout Luke’s Gospel, however, the disciples show little understanding of this kingdom that Jesus often announces. Following the meal, the disciples argue about who is the greatest. Jesus takes the opportunity to distinguish the meaning of leadership in the Kingdom of God from the forms of leadership seen in the world.

Jesus initiates a conversation with Simon and predicts his denial. Jesus then instructs his disciples to prepare themselves for the events that will follow. His words reveal an awareness of the challenges that all of them will face in the days ahead. As the disciples and Jesus enter the Mount of Olives, Jesus indicates the importance of the disciples’ time in prayer, telling them that through prayer they will be able to face the challenges ahead.

As he prays, Jesus is tested. In the garden, an angel is sent to strengthen him and to prepare him for the events ahead. After this moment, Jesus is again in charge of the events and circumstances.

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is portrayed as active and vocal throughout his passion. When one of the disciples strikes the high priest’s servant, Jesus heals the man, an event reported only in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus stops the disciples’ protest against his arrest by noting that this is the “time for the power of darkness.” Jesus engages and responds when brought before the Sanhedrin; his words speak about the “power of God” that will bring about the reign of the Son of Man. When questioned by Pilate, Jesus responds with just one phrase; yet before Herod, Jesus refuses to speak.

When Luke describes the Way of the Cross and Jesus’ crucifixion, he calls to our attention many events that are not reported in the other Gospels. Throughout his Gospel, Luke has paid heed to the women who accompanied Jesus. Now, on the road to Calvary, Jesus speaks to the women who walk with him. Only Luke reports Jesus’ words of forgiveness spoken from the cross. And only Luke reports the dialogue between Jesus and the good thief. Finally, in contrast with the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Luke reports no words of abandonment spoken by Jesus on the cross. Instead, Jesus, in full command until his death, commends his spirit to his Father and takes his final breath.

Throughout Holy Week, we will continue to reflect on the events of Jesus’ passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God’s Son and brought to fulfillment the Kingdom of God. Loyola Press

Readings for Holy Week

Monday
Isa 42:1-7
Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14
John 12:1-11

Tuesday
Isa 49:1-6
Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17
John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday
Isa 50:4-9a
Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34
Matt 26:14-25

Holy Thursday
Exod 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
1 Cor 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

Good Friday
Isa 52:13–53:12
Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1–19:42

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
Gen 1:1–2:2
Exod 14:15–15:1
Rom 6:3-11
Luke 24:1-12

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8
John 20:1-9
Today, Palm Sunday, we begin the holiest of weeks, where the central mysteries of our salvation are recalled and made present for us in symbol and ritual. Our Lenten journey ends on Holy Thursday afternoon and the Triduum begins Holy Thursday evening with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper and continues through Easter Sunday.

The Triduum immerses us in the sacred actions of our Savior as we walk with him, not just in present time, but in the eternal time of sacramental mystery, when the past, the present and the future are one.

It is our privilege to be close to our Savior as he walks the road of suffering for our sake and that of the whole world; to gather as his body, the Church, and to welcome new members to our faith community as we remember these great victories he has won on the cross and through his rising from the dead, thus defeating sin and death forever.

It is our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the crowning truth of our Catholic faith, that propels our lifelong conversion to holiness and eternal life. It is our belief in Jesus Christ, fully human and divine, and his love that moves us as disciples called to witness Christ and bring his kingdom of salvation, love, justice, mercy, and peace to fullness.

This year we encourage you to experience walking with Jesus. The schedule for holy week can be found on the back page of today’s bulletin as well as on our parish website. More information is also on the next page.

May your Easter celebrations at Mass and with family and friends next weekend be full of great joy; as you gather, reflect on the most important things in this passing life. Everything we have and are is a gift from God; no one is guaranteed the next day or even the next breath. Live with a profound sense of gratitude to our loving Creator for all that he has given us.

As we strive to imitate Christ, pray every day, attend Mass, live a good and upright moral life, doing good, serving others and avoiding evil, put first things first: God, family, work, parish and community. Let us be grateful to “that tremendous Lover” who through his “yes” has made all things possible, especially the gift of eternal life to those who accept him and follow him.

Prayer before the Crucifix
Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith,
certain hope, and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
Lord that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.
–St. Francis of Assisi

Simple Prayer before the Cross
Lord,
I give thanks to You for Your dying on the Cross for my sins.
–St. Paul of the Cross
Palm Sunday
Holy Week begins today on Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion. At Mass we wave blessed palms in memory of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted by throngs waving branches and shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord: hosanna in the highest.” The Gospel will be St. Luke’s account of the Passion and death of Jesus on a cross.

Chrism Mass
Tuesday afternoon Cardinal Cupich will concelebrate the annual Chrism Mass. The Mass is a sign of the priests’ unity and communion with their bishop. Deacons and representatives from each parish will participate in the Mass and receive the holy oils to present at their parish at the start of the Holy Thursday liturgy.

Easter Triduum
Holy Thursday
The celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper recalls Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist and the priesthood at a meal on the night before he died. The liturgy which begins at 7pm includes the washing of the feet of several community members following the example of Jesus in washing his disciples’ feet. After Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is taken in a simple procession to the “altar of repose,” followed by private prayer and adoration until 11:30pm.

Good Friday
The Passion of the Lord liturgy begins at 3pm with the Liturgy of the Word, including John’s account of the Passion, followed by intercessions, the veneration of the cross and the reception of Holy Communion.

Easter Vigil
This most beautiful liturgy celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the victory over death it promises each of us. Each year the liturgy begins outside at 7pm with the lighting and blessing of the fire and the Pascal Candle, followed by the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, celebration of the Easter sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Following the Vigil there is a reception in the Parish Center for the entire parish community to celebrate this important moment in the lives of the newest members of our Church.

Easter
Masses during the day continue to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection on Easter. Indeed, the Church’s celebration of Easter will continue until Pentecost.

See the Holy Week Mass Schedule on the back of today’s bulletin.

Passionate God, your unconditional love and concern for us is made clear in the birth, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Help me walk the way of the cross with him this week.
Teach me to pray with renewed sincerity and depth,
“Thy will be done.”

Living with the Word
Gracious God, source of grace, mercy, love and life, 
guide Brian, Jason, Erik, and Brad.

Strengthen them on their journey and enfold them in your loving presence.
Inspire them to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith, 
the life of Christ your Son, the way of the Gospel, the call to be servants, 
and the importance of their relationship with you and the Church.

We give thanks and praise for these whom you have called 
and we await their joining us around the table of the Lord.
Through the power of your Holy Spirit, 
assure them of the prayers and support 
of the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community.

Amen.
Reception Following the Easter Vigil

All parishioners are invited to a reception in the Parish Center following the Vigil on Saturday, April 20 as we celebrate with our 4 RCIA elect and their families, the RCIA team of catechists and our whole parish family. As has been our tradition, bakers in the parish are invited to make homemade desserts for the reception. Bring your specialty to the Parish Center lobby on Holy Saturday before noon. Be sure to label anything with nuts or items that are gluten free. Direct any questions to the Parish Center office.

Our Offertory Collection on Holy Thursday & Good Friday

On Holy Thursday (as on Thanksgiving) the offertory collection will support our parish Caritas Needy Family Fund. Using the Latin word for “charity” as its name, this fund provides financial support to our parishioners, who through unplanned circumstances face difficulty meeting a critical financial obligation. If you are unable to attend the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, but still wish to donate to this important collection, you may drop it at the Parish Center marked for Caritas Needy Family Fund or go to the Giving Tab on our parish website.

Once a year on Good Friday we are called to support Christians in the Holy Land as requested by Pope Francis. Our Good Friday donations support the work of the Franciscans in the Holy Land, housing and feeding the poor, providing religious formation and education, maintaining shrines and parishes and conducting pastoral ministry.

RCIA

Are You Someone or Do You Know Someone Who...
- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Wants to return to the Catholic Church?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm, accepting setting. Please contact Steve Weigand in the Parish Center for more information.
While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. -Mark 14:22-26

Reflect
When we receive the Body and Blood of the Redeemer with reverence, we enact a holy yearning. Our reverence and devotion do not make us worthy to have Him under our roof. Yet He comes. So our way of welcoming Him is to keep good order in what’s under the roof.

Give Thanks. I thank God for this day, for my life, for all I am and have, and for His Word.

Pray for Light. I ask the Father to let me see my day as the Holy Spirit sees it, and to show me what I need to see.

Find God. I look at my day in the light of the Spirit. I look at what I have done and not done. Am I putting up with a bad habit? Have I found God in the quiet?

Anything Wrong? Have I ignored God? Have I neglected God’s gifts? Where have I pleased others instead of pleasing God? Before the crucifix, I express my contrition to God and repent of my sins.

What Now? I look forward in hope. What am I to do now? What do I have to avoid?

Prayer
That You would narrow down Your love, Lord God of heaven and earth, and find Your way into a billion souls singly, to visit there and even stay, amazes me and makes me wonder whether my mind and heart can stretch enough to grasp that You are here, and to keep alive to Your steady, unremitting love. My heart is intermittent at best, Lord, so I beg You to help me keep loving You longer and longer, until my whole mind and heart are filled with You, even before You come.

Amen.

Ignatian Spirituality

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.”
Luke 19:38

Blessed are we who live our lives in the name of the Lord. But do we always remember what it means to be a disciple? We must remind ourselves that our lives are about dying as well as rising. There is no resurrection without death. Life in the Lord requires glory one day and dejection the next. As disciples we have hope, because we know that God holds us the entire time.

How do you live your life in the name of the Lord?

How can you bless the dying and the rising of your life, knowing that both are in the name of the Lord?

Gracious God, I bless you. I want to do your will. I freely place my whole being in your hands. Loyola Press
When someone you care about is grieving after a loss, it can be difficult to know what to say or do. You may be afraid of intruding, saying the wrong thing, or making your loved one feel even worse. Or maybe you think there’s little you can do to make things better. But your comfort and support can make all the difference to your loved one’s healing. While you can’t take away the intense pain of their loss, there are many ways to show someone who’s grieving how much you care and to help them through this difficult time.

How to support someone who’s grieving?
The death of a loved one is one of life’s most difficult experiences. The bereaved struggle with many intense and painful emotions, including depression, anger, guilt, and profound sadness. Often, they feel isolated and alone in their grief, but having someone to lean on can help them through the grieving process.

The intense pain and difficult emotions that accompany bereavement can often make people uncomfortable about offering support to someone who’s grieving. You may be unsure what to do or worried about saying the wrong thing at such a difficult time. That’s understandable. But don’t let discomfort prevent you from reaching out to someone who is grieving. Now, more than ever, your loved one needs your support. You don’t need to have answers or give advice or say and do all the right things. The most important thing you can do for a grieving person is to simply be there. It’s your support and caring presence that will help your loved one cope with the pain and gradually begin to heal.

The keys to helping a loved one who’s grieving
- Don’t let fears about saying or doing the wrong thing stop you from reaching out
- Let your grieving loved one know that you’re there to listen
- Understand that everyone grieves differently and for different lengths of time
- Offer to help in practical ways
- Maintain your support after the funeral

Helping a grieving person tip 1: Understand the grieving process
The better your understanding of grief and how it is healed, the better equipped you’ll be to help a bereaved friend or family member:

There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Grief does not always unfold in orderly, predictable stages. It can be an emotional rollercoaster, with unpredictable highs, lows, and setbacks. Everyone grieves differently, so avoid telling your loved one what they “should” be feeling or doing.

Grief may involve extreme emotions and behaviors. Feelings of guilt, anger, despair, and fear are common. A grieving person may yell to the heavens, obsess about the death, lash out at loved ones, or cry for hours on end. Your loved one needs reassurance that what they feel is normal. Don’t judge them or take their grief reactions personally.

There is no set timetable for grieving. For many people, recovery after bereavement takes 18 to 24 months, but for others, the grieving process may be longer or shorter. Don’t pressure your loved one to move on or make them feel like they’ve been grieving too long. This can actually slow the healing process.

Tip 2: Know what to say to someone who’s grieving
While many of us worry about what to say to a grieving person, it’s actually more important to listen.

Things to avoid saying to someone who’s grieving

“IT’S PART OF GOD’S PLAN.” This phrase can make people angry and they often respond with, “What plan? Nobody told me about any plan.”

“LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR.” They know they have things to be thankful for, but right now they are not important.

“HE’S IN A BETTER PLACE NOW.” The bereaved may or may not believe this. Keep your beliefs to yourself unless asked.

“THIS IS BEHIND YOU NOW; IT’S TIME TO GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.” Sometimes the bereaved are resistant to getting on with because they feel this means “forgetting” their loved one. Besides, moving on is much easier said than done. Grief has a mind of its own and works at its own pace.

Statements that begin with “You should” or “You will.” These statements are too directive. Instead you could begin your comments with: “Have you thought about...” or “You might try...”

Source: American Hospice Foundation

Watch for more in the April 28 bulletin.

St. John of the Cross Parish  Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  April 14, 2019  Page 9
It’s a dreary February afternoon in Chicago, but in the Little Village neighborhood, the walls of the buildings now reflect the brightness of life. They are sending a message to the youth of the city: You matter. ~ You are created in God’s image. ~ The world is your canvas.

In this predominantly Mexican immigrant neighborhood, words of peace, religious imagery and colorful expression are everywhere. Doves, hearts, images of Mary with children, and trees represent renewal and unity. Though these street corners straddle gang boundaries, and their walls used to be littered with gang graffiti, today positive murals grace the city landscape thanks to a unique program supported by a neighborhood Catholic parish.

Father Tom Boharic of St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish recalls how parishioners came to him, urging him to help find positive outlets for the young people of Little Village who are vulnerable to gang recruitment and other troubles. The Imago Dei program was soon born. “Even if young people don’t join a gang, many still have some connection to a gang because of someone they know — a family member or even where they live,” says Boharic, who joined the parish as a newly ordained priest in 2012.

“Imago Dei” refers to the imprint God placed upon humanity, identifying people as His special creation, Boharic notes. Recognizing that presence in everyone can promote positive self-image and a sense of belonging. The parish found many young people were interested in art and the culture of graffiti — which often is not gang related or illegal. Over time, their work has become a community movement that values equity, fairness and progress in Little Village. The program is based on the belief that art inspires, encounters and empowers.

Diana Cervantes is familiar with the challenges that youth in this area face; her 20-year-old brother Freddy died at the hands of a gang member in 2012. “We didn’t know what we could do,” says Cervantes, who is now the Imago Dei program director. “We were confused and broken.” But Cervantes says the young people in the parish were inconsolable. “They really needed help more than we did. I believe everything happens for a reason and it’s part of God’s plan. I lived in the community, but wasn’t truly a part of the community until that moment. God has helped my family heal and then give back to the community.”

She says about 50 teens have taken part in Imago Dei since it launched in 2013. For many, these murals are their only form of expression and can be a cathartic experience. “We’re all made in the image of God, and therefore we are perfect,” Cervantes says. “This breaks the barriers. We are trying to boost the youth and tell them they are worth more than they believe or are made to believe by community stigmas.” Imago Dei goes beyond a public arts project; it’s also a mentoring and faith-building program. Its goal is to continue fostering restorative justice and a peaceful, positive environment.

Teens meet with Boharic and Oscar Contreras, the program facilitator, a few times a week. They get a meal, a chance to talk and an open mind. “To me, if a young person loses faith, they go into total darkness. They lose all hope,” Contreras says. “Here we are creating change. But a lot of time society doesn’t understand change doesn’t happen overnight. We see the change when they are willing to give back.” The parish has been recognized by the Archdiocese of Chicago and Cardinal Blase Cupich for using creativity, innovation and partnership in revitalizing the church and Little Village itself.

The mural project in Little Village uses the power of art to overcome challenges and to look ahead. For many, Imago Dei represents renewal, investment, and a positive way to encounter the young people in the community. “It’s beautifying the community and spreading pride and love for where they live,” says Cervantes, who notes that no mural has been seriously vandalized. “There were many years of hopelessness, but now there’s hope. Children feel comfortable again playing outside,” she says. Imago Dei is partly funded by a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl grant. CRS carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable.
How are our CRS Rice Bowl donations used?
Driven by our faith, we are committed to help those in need no matter where they may live. In that spirit 75% of our gifts support CRS’s programs around the world. As we have learned over the last 5 weeks of Lent. Examples include: agriculture projects which help farmers improve harvests, water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities, microfinance projects that support small businesses, mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services and education projects provide resources and training. 25% of our donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in our own community.

Look for the big wicker baskets in church to return your Rice Bowl today at Mass or to the Parish Center during the week.

God of the Resurrection,
You offer us the example of Christ in the desert
who conquered his fears to save us.
As we end our Lenten journey,
may we continue to have the courage
to walk with our brothers and sisters around the world
who are hungry,
with those who must flee their homes
because of war or lack of opportunity and
with all who need our comfort and compassion.
We pray that these, our Lenten sacrifices,
may be an offering of solidarity and a promise
of ongoing encounter with our one human family.
As good stewards of your many gifts,
may we always remember to reach out
beyond ourselves to encounter the needs of all.
And wherever we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty or welcome the stranger,
may we remember that
we are encountering the Risen Christ.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Our second and seventh graders worked together to construct a tower using straws, pipe cleaners, and tape. The tower that could hold the most pennies was declared the winner. The students were given few instructions including the height requirements and time limits along with materials.
Adult Volunteers Needed for SJC Vacation Bible School

Each summer SJC hosts VBS for our youngest parishioners. This year VBS is scheduled for 4 mornings the week of June 24. Please consider volunteering to help with this wonderful program. We can’t offer it without you!! The YC staff provides all materials. Coordinators share their time, energy, and creativity. Please contact Janet Caschetta to learn more.

Help HOPE and KIDS grow stronger with fresh air and sunshine.

Founded in 1900, Off The Street Club is Chicago’s oldest boys and girls club serving more than 3,000 kids in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the country, West Garfield Park. Every child seeking a safe place to go is welcome to OTSC’s after-school programs, tutoring, and mentorship opportunities in addition to a summer camp.

When summer temperatures rise in Chicago, so do violent crimes. Off The Street Club provides a much needed alternative—fresh air and activities at Camp Mathieu in Wheaton. 700 grade school kids who say no to gangs and drugs can trade a summer of dodging violence, drugs and gang activity for all the positive summer camp activities that help shape a young adult. In addition, Camp Mathieu is also able to offer high schoolers a great summer job.

During the month of April SJC will be collecting supplies for OTSC’s Summer Camp's Closet for kids unable to supply their own gear. Drop your donations in the marked boxes in church, the Parish Center, school or YC offices. Most items may be gently used and clean.

- Twin or TwinXL Sheet Sets
- Bathing Suits (Size 6X to Adult, Male and Female)
- Summer Sandals (No Flip-Flops)
- Bath Towels
- New Bug Spray
- New White Athletic Socks
We believe that parents through their word and example are the primary faith teachers of their children. By providing spiritual formation and religious education to families, YC assists parents in their work of raising their children in the Catholic faith and leading them to a closer relationship with Jesus and our parish community. This is carried out not only by classroom discussion, but also through participation in prayer, worship, special sacramental celebrations and service to others.

Register your child in our YC office located in the school building. Our entrance is at the corner of 51st and Caroline. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-4:00pm. New families should bring a copy of each child’s baptismal certificate if not baptized at SJC.

Catechists and Aides teach 10-18 students on Sunday mornings or Monday evenings. Lesson plans and assistance are provided. Volunteers receive priority session placement. Please consider volunteering your time to form our parish children in our faith.

Call Janet Caschetta, Director of YC, with any questions. 708-246-6760
SAM for Men

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.

Join us at our next session on Monday, April 29 at 6:45pm. Our topic will revolve around setting aside our discouragement and overwhelming frustration surrounding the scandal within our Church and moving forward with courage and renewed faith in Jesus. Christopher Gomez, President of Catholic Sports Camps, will lead the group through tactical steps we can take to ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit and begin to transform our community.

Travel with Deacon Voytas

Join Deacon Rich Voytas on a spectacular trip to Portugal, Spain, and Morocco on September 7-18, 2020! Twelve fabulous days visiting: Lisbon, Fatima (including the sight where the Blessed Virgin appeared on May 13, 1917), Barcelona, Costa Del Sol, Madrid and much more! For a complete itinerary and pricing information contact Deacon Rich at 773.537.8834. An information meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00pm in the Parish Center to preview more details on this marvelous trip! All are invited to attend.

NEW SPRING Merton Reflection Group

“New Seeds of Contemplation”

6 Wednesdays beginning May 1 from 7-9pm

Participants may obtain a copy of Thomas Merton’s book, “New Seeds of Contemplation,” in their preferred format. Sections of the book will be assigned for reading and reflecting during the previous week’s gathering. Each session will begin with a short period of meditation/contemplation followed by group reflection of the week’s reading. Though our reading, meditation and reflection, the group will journey together to reconnect with our true selves. More details to come.

Family Style Preschool

Preschoolers and their parents will come together on Saturday, April 27 from 10:45am-Noon in the Parish Center to celebrate the Easter Season and learn how to be a Disciple. Families will hear the joyful story of Easter Sunday. Children will choose new ways to follow Jesus. And everyone will go home with the beginnings of a plant that will grow and change throughout the summer. To register just call the Parish Center Office. All are welcome.

Precious Blood Ministry Benefit

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation invites all to their 8th Annual Gala & Silent Auction “Disrupting Violence” on May 1. Enjoy appetizers, drinks, and a silent auction from 6-9pm at the Floating World Gallery in Chicago. The program: Kinship Award & Storytelling will begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are $50 per person. Call Kathy at 706-399-0581 or kathy@pbmr.org.
Monday, April 15, 2019
Monday of Holy Week
7:45am Mass Remembrances:
Joan & John Kravcik †, Mark Bestler †, Joe Surdyk †
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
Tuesday of Holy Week
7:45am Mass Remembrances:
Joe Majerick †, Anthony Jacyno †, Mary Pacer †
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Wednesday of Holy Week
7:45am Mass Remembrances:
Maryann Stemack †, Patricia Wehner †, Winnie Nuzzo †
Thursday, April 18, 2019
Holy Thursday
Friday, April 19, 2019
Good Friday
Saturday, April 20, 2019
Holy Saturday
Sunday, April 21, 2019
Easter Sunday
7:30am Mass Remembrances:
Bruno & Lucille Shukis †, Marge Pristo †
9:00am Mass Remembrances:
William Cochran †; Galvin & Grogan Families †
9:15am Mass Remembrances:
Peter Shannon Jr. †, Galvin & Grogan Families †
10:45am Mass Remembrances:
Ramon & Gloria Sanchez †, Anthony Jacyno †
11:00am Mass Remembrances:
Rose Nickoloff †
12:15pm Mass Remembrances:
Walter & Patricia Cebula †, Chester Cebula †, John Rupar †
7:45am Mass Remembrances:
Dowdle & McCarthy Families †
10:45am Mass Remembrances:
Ramon & Gloria Sanchez †, Joe Majerick †, Anthony Jacyno †, Mary Pacer †
9:15am Mass Remembrances:
William Cochran †; Galvin & Grogan Families †
9:00am Mass Remembrances:
Bruno & Lucille Shukis †, Marge Pristo †
7:30am Mass Remembrances:
Joe Majerick †, Anthony Jacyno †, Mary Pacer †
6:00pm Mass Remembrances:
Dowdle & McCarthy Families †
5:00pm Mass Remembrances:
Ramon & Gloria Sanchez †, Joe Majerick †, Anthony Jacyno †
4:00pm Mass Remembrances:
Walter & Patricia Cebula †, Chester Cebula †, John Rupar †

Honor a loved one (deceased or living) with a Mass Remembrance. The person’s name will be printed in the Sunday bulletin, mentioned at Mass, and a card will be given to you or sent to the person you designate. The cost is $10 per Mass Remembrance. Call or stop in the Parish Center office for Mass Remembrances in 2019 and 2020.

Prayer Requests
We Pray for Our Sick
Bill Baxter, Sam Cibula, Amanda Cook, Donald Delaney, Helen DiNuzzo, Linda Dorminey, Fr. David Dowdle, Aggie Frolik, Fran Halisz, Karen Hult, Thomas Ivaska, John Kost, Peggy Koucky, Ray Kula, Lorraine Majerick, Sophie Ann McDaniel, Bobbie Misiora, Ernie Misiora, Gail O’Toole, Peggy Pellegrino, Blanche Terry Pepin, Jeff Reitmeier, John Ryan, Rachael Schopp, Shawn Sweeney, Roselynn Wicklander, Dominic Yocius

We Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country

We Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Since this bulletin is printed early, please see our parish website for the most current funerals at our parish.

Easter Monday Closed
Easter Sunday Closed
Holy Thursday 9am
Good Friday Closed
Holy Saturday 9am
Holy Thursday
Friday, April 19, 2019
Good Friday
Saturday, April 20, 2019
Holy Saturday
Sunday, April 21, 2019
Easter Sunday
7:30am Mass Remembrances:
Bruno & Lucille Shukis †, Marge Pristo †
9:00am Mass Remembrances:
William Cochran †; Galvin & Grogan Families †
9:15am Mass Remembrances:
Peter Shannon Jr. †, Mary Jane & Don Vollmer †
10:45am Mass Remembrances:
Ramon & Gloria Sanchez †, Rose Nickolof †
11:00am Mass Remembrances:
Dowdle & McCarthy Families †
12:15pm Mass Remembrances:
Walter & Patricia Cebula †, Chester Cebula †, John Rupar †

St. John of the Cross Parish
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
April 14, 2019
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Holy Thursday
Thursday, April 18
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00pm
Adoration in Church until 11:30pm

Good Friday
Friday, April 19
Living Stations of the Cross 12:00pm
Friday of the Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

Holy Saturday
Saturday, April 20
Easter Basket Blessing 11:00am Parish Center
Easter Vigil 7:00pm

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday, April 21
7:30am
9:00am
9:15am*
10:45am
11:00am*
12:15pm

* Mass is in the School First Floor Multipurpose Room