ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
5005 WOLF ROAD ~ WESTERN SPRINGS 60558 ~ 708-246-4404 ~ WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG

CHRIST OUR HOPE IN EVERY SEASON OF LIFE

OCTOBER 6, 2019
27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Blessings on the Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The first Sunday of October is nationally recognized as Respect Life Sunday and the entire month of October is recognized as Respect Life Month. Weekly Life celebrations throughout this month are: Inclusion Awareness (2nd Sunday), World Missions (3rd Sunday), and Domestic Violence Awareness (4th Sunday).

Once again, my parish email has been hacked. Know that I will never request that you send me gift cards or anything else. Look carefully at the sender address. To verify any suspicious request, reply only to: mreszel@stjohnofthecross.org

Recently, the decision of the parish staff to celebrate first communions as part of the Sunday Masses on April 25-26 and May 2-3 raised some concerns that I am pleased to address below.

This spring will be the fiftieth anniversary of my first communion at St. Francis Xavier Parish in LaGrange. The pastor, Father Joyce, would have used the first version of the translation of the Roman Missal into English. The first communicants knelt at the altar railing. An altar boy held a paten under my chin as I receive the consecrated host on my tongue.

Many of the incidentals of that ceremony have changed. We are now using the third English translation of the Roman Missal, the altar railings have been removed (or never installed in our circa1976 church), altar servers now include girls but not communion patens since most receive the Body of Christ in our hands before receiving the Precious Blood. While some change is inevitable and necessary, there is one thing that never changes: we still receive the Body and Blood of Christ, the Real Presence of Jesus.

The liturgical documents call the Eucharist the source and summit of the Christian Life. By extension then, the Sunday Mass is the source and summit of our parish life. This is the time each week when we are gathered by the Lord in prayer with and for one another. This is St. John of the Cross at our best. The Sunday Mass is what fosters and nourishes the ministries of our parish. Without the sacraments we are merely a club or a social agency. In the face of society’s obstacles, the goal of the pastoral staff is to highlight anew the importance of our weekly Sunday worship.

The Ascension of the Lord used to be a Thursday. In order to make the celebration of this Solemnity of the Lord available to as many as possible it was transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. That move elevated the celebration to our liturgical Prime Time. The same idea is behind the move of first communions to the Second and Third Sundays of Easter. Because the celebration of this sacrament of initiation is so important to the parish community, we want to celebrate it when we are gathered together each week on Sunday.

Let me be clear that this decision was not based, as some have assumed, on the number of priests assigned to our parish. The decision was based on sound liturgical theology to foster a vital and vibrant faith community. The decision was not made, as some insinuated, for my convenience. Since I intend to be present at all of the first communions, moving it to potentially ten celebrations was not done for my personal ease. Furthermore, this decision has nothing to do with school choice, high property taxes, or other alleged reasons for entitlement as expressed in some complaints. However, one practical benefit of this new schedule is that all the first communicants will now be seated in the center pews, no longer in row fourteen on the Caroline Avenue side.

While recognizing that change can be difficult, the members of the parish staff hope that we have merited your trust that first communions will be celebrated in a beautiful and prayerful manner that fosters the life of our parish. To quote Saint John of the Cross: Well and good if all things change, O Lord God, provided I am rooted in You.

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

Father Reszel
We are experiencing a series of spam email issues with an outside impersonator posing as Fr. Reszel. The email address changes over time. Fr. Reszel's correct email is mreszel@stjohnofthecross.org.

Please be assured that we are completely certain that our internal systems are safe, protected, and not compromised. We apologize for any confusion. With an increase in phishing emails, we would like to share a few things to always look for.

1. Never click through a link or send information from a source you do not trust. Often times the link may contain malicious content or steer you to a website in an effort to compromise credentials. You should never enter a username or password if prompted, after clicking in a link.

2. Review the sender's email address for proper spelling. You can hover over an email address to review the full address. Common techniques of this may include a misspelling in the username or the domain instead of our actual domain stjohnofthecross.org.

3. Display names may be changed to impersonate a valid user. For example, anyone can create a random Gmail account and give a name of Fr. Marc Reszel, while the email account would be completely random. There is nothing in the display name that can be validated.

4. Ensure you have strong passwords for your email and computers.

Do Not Send Gift Cards or Codes
Be cautious of emails requesting gift cards. This is a popular piece of spam where a sender pretends they are someone within the parish. They request that you purchase gift cards and send along the codes. These requests should be deleted. Do not buy or send gift cards to someone posing as Fr. Reszel or any other parish employee. If you receive an email that you suspect may be spam, please refrain from responding and let us know at the Parish Center office.

Thank you so much for your understanding and attention.

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Eternal God, Source of life, we implore you to protect all unborn children; guide and support all expectant parents; comfort the aged, the sick and the dying; strengthen prisoners, especially those awaiting execution, and their victims; and bring peace to our world, torn apart by war, terrorism and countless other acts of violence against life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Life Chain Today
Life Chain: Every year people are invited to join hands in towns across the nation to witness our respect of life at all its stages. Join fellow parishioners TODAY Sunday, October 6 along Ogden Avenue between Wolf and Grand from 2-3pm to pray for a culture of life.

Pray the Rosary
Join thousands of people across the nation in praise of God to honor the request of Our Lady of Fatima to pray for peace in our world, in our nation, in our city, and our lives. Come to the SJC parking lot on Saturday, October 12 at noon to pray the Rosary.

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A Reminder About Entering the Parking Lot on School Days
When entering the parking lot for morning Mass please use the north driveway only. There are two lanes of traffic entering the north driveway.

Traffic in the north left lane flows either to the left towards church or the right in front of the Parish Center to the north school door for drop off. This traffic exits onto Caroline Avenue.

Traffic entering in the north right lane travels in the second row of the parking lot towards the front door of school. This traffic exits through both lanes of the center driveway onto Wolf Road.
Respect Life Reflection
Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life

From the time we are knit together in our mothers’ wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope.

Hope is not false optimism or empty positivity. Christian hope is something much more profound and goes to the very depths of our identity as followers of Christ.

Hope is the virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 1817).

Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, “God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end” (Spe salvi 31).

Christians know “they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness” (SS 2).

For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that “the one who has hope lives differently” (SS 2). Christ’s promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.

“To be truly a people at the service of life we must propose these truths constantly and courageously from the very first proclamation of the Gospel, and thereafter in catechesis, in the various forms of preaching, in personal dialogue and in all educational activity.”

Pope Saint John Paul II (EV 82)
What To Do When A Friend Is Considering Abortion

More women and girls consider abortion than we may realize. They are our relatives and friends, our babysitters, teammates, people who work with us or for us, married or unmarried. Even if someone identifies as being pro-life, the shock of an unexpected pregnancy, the devastation of a difficult prenatal diagnosis, shame, pressures, or fears may influence her to consider abortion. If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond? The answer can be summed up in an old adage: We have two ears and one mouth, and should use them in that proportion.

Although the first instinct may be to convince her that abortion ends a baby's life, hearing facts is not the first thing she needs. Research shows that many women in a pregnancy crisis think, "This is the end of my life as I know it." To face the challenges before her, your friend needs to know you care about her for her own sake and she is not alone.

First listening to your friend will help build trust and facilitate openness. Eventually, when she knows you truly care about her and she trusts you, you can share the truth in love. You can share facts about abortion, her own intrinsic worth, and the practical help and support available so she can choose life for herself and her baby.

A truly loving approach reflects St. Paul's description of love in his first letter to the Corinthians: "If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. … Love is patient, love is kind" (1 Cor. 13:1,4).

When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond to our friend in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby? Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™*: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower.

L. Listen and Learn
First, prioritize listening over speaking. You don't have to worry about whether you may say something "wrong," and you don't need to have all the answers. Start by listening to her story.

Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, and wants. Do not interrupt, except to ask her to expound, when appropriate. For example: How did you feel when you first found out? Did you feel abandoned when he said that? What are your feelings now? What did you think about that? What do you think your parents will say or do? What value does that have for you? How does this relate to your religious beliefs? How important is that for you? In your heart of hearts, what do you really want to do? Ask open-ended questions and statements like, "Tell me more..." Interpret and confirm what you think you are hearing: "Did I hear you say..."

Pay close attention to her body language. She may show from gestures of discomfort or a lack of eye contact that what she is saying does not actually reflect her innermost feelings, values, or wants.

Listen for clues to her needs so you can later bring up helpful ways to address those needs. Listen for her strengths and resources so you can later reflect them back to her, building up her confidence and courage.

O. Open Options
When her story is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, always in a loving and caring way. You might share about the reality of abortion and the wounds that typically result. You might share experiences about having a baby, adoption, marriage, and how such things might apply in her situation. It's most helpful to keep the focus on her.

At the same time, avoid using the framework of adoption versus abortion. Research indicates that a woman with an unexpected, unwanted pregnancy often views all the possible outcomes of her pregnancy negatively: keeping her child, abortion, and adoption (which she tends to see as the worst of three "evils"). Research also "suggests that in pitting adoption against abortion, adoption will be the hands-down loser." It's better to first focus on encouraging her that she can carry this baby to term.

V. Vision and Value
Awaken a vision in her for a healthier life (a vision she may never have had, or that may have dimmed). Help her value herself differently. She is a special creation, worthy of love. She is made in the image of God; as a woman, her maternity is a gift. Jesus loves her and even died for her.

Encourage her. Help her set and work towards goals that extend beyond her due date to help her see life beyond her pregnancy. Reassure her there is always hope and she is not alone. She can make positive, life-giving choices. She can do it.

E. Extend and Empower
Provide practical help and support. Her local pregnancy help center can offer consultation, lists of community resources, and ultrasound services. Consider keeping such lists of resources in your car, purse, or wallet. Help her plan next steps. What would help her? A call from you? How can you contact her?

Pray with her and for her and her baby. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is a way to bring Christ's love at a crucial life-saving and life-defining moment. We are created to walk with and support one another; we don't need to fear reaching out in love. Help your friend experience the strength of God's message that resounds throughout time: "Do not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10). USCCB Respect Life
In the short term, it is easy to fake being a follower of Christ. Discipleship requires action and conversion, the engagement of both hands and heart. Christ’s disciples do not earn God’s love by living out the Gospel. Instead, they are invited to live out the Gospel as a testament to their faith. To live it out with joy requires faith; to serve without faith is fraudulent and will yield only exhaustion.

Discipleship requires action. This linkage has deep roots in the religion of ancient Israel. Believers had to practice their faith, and traditions arose that identified certain practices as particularly righteous. These included specific and carefully managed forms of worship, as described in the first five books of the Bible, as well as a whole host of personal practices, including male circumcision, care for widows and orphans, proportional demands in matters of equity and retribution (only an eye for an eye, no more than a tooth for a tooth). By Jesus’ day, the supreme action was the observance of the Sabbath as a day of rest not just for oneself, but also for one’s family, one’s slaves and even one’s animals. By acting according to these laws and precepts, many of which were quite public, followers of the God of Israel gave glory to God through their public display of faith.

Discipleship requires a transformation of heart as well, and Jesus identified this as a problem for many. If he often singles out the Pharisees for criticism, it is only because they were the ones most concerned with right action before God. Faith is the necessary first step in following God. Jesus notes on more than one occasion that right action without an interior transformation becomes a parody of righteousness. The laws and traditions of Israel existed as a means to give glory to the God on whom one had set one’s heart in faith. Without that action of the heart, one’s righteous activity served only to bring glory to oneself.

One must never forget that the life of discipleship is the life for which humans were created. Jews call the law of Moses Torah, a word better translated as “instruction.” It is God’s instructions on how to be human. The Gospel fills this same role for Christians. God’s followers take on an active life that at first can feel quite new, even alien. This is not the case, however; discipleship is a restoration to the life for which we are all originally made.

This realization marks the difference between a disciple and an unprofitable servant. Disciples follow God’s commands in order to discover their true humanity. Servants follow commands in hopes of receiving a reward. Servants act without faith; disciples act as a testament to their faith.

Servants can be great frauds, sinners who destroy the faith of many. More common, however, are those who, with good intentions, undertake the works of God with insufficient faith. The tasks are endless and the labor all-consuming. Servants sometimes burn out quickly; they can also linger for years in growing cynicism and despair. By contrast, disciples know that the smallest act, done in faith, gives glory to God. Michael Simone. Reprinted from America 08.09.2019 with permission of America Press, Inc.. All rights reserved. For subscription information, call 800-627-9533 or visit www.americamagazine.org

Do your actions symbolize your faith? Do you follow Gospel teaching to give glory to the God who loves you?

Monday
Jonah 1:1–2:2, 11
Jonah 2:3, 4, 5, 8
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday
Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday
Jonah 4:1-11
Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday
Mal 3:13-20b
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Luke 11:5-13

Friday
Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday
Joel 4:12-21
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

28th Sunday in OT
2 Kgs 5:14-17
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
2 Tim 2:8-13
Luke 17:11-19

Lord, give us faith that can do great things.
We pray:
that during this Respect Life Month
we may recommit ourselves
to upholding the dignity
of every human life;

That the life of every human person,
from conception to natural death,
might be protected in our laws
and cherished in our hearts;

For women and men suffering after abortion:
May the Church’s abortion healing ministry
help them find peace and healing
through Christ’s endless mercy;

For those nearing the end of life:
May they receive care that respects their dignity
and protects their lives
as they place their hope
in the promise of eternal life;

May God grant us the
wisdom and courage
to lovingly protect
His gift of
human life
at every stage,
in sickness
and in health.
Amen

We don’t need to have
everything figured out. We
can simply follow the
guidance of Our Blessed Mother, the first disciple:
"Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

Faith gives us this ability to hope. The example
of the apostles in the Gospel encourages us to
ask God Himself to “increase our faith.” If we
struggle to find the courage to speak boldly
about human life, we shouldn’t be ashamed.
The apostles—who themselves lived, ate, and
prayed with Christ—needed God’s grace to
carry out Christ’s saving mission. We needn’t be
afraid to ask God to increase our faith. For if we
have but “faith the size of a mustard seed,”
Christ can give us the power to do incredible
things in service of the Gospel. So today, as we
recommit ourselves to upholding the teachings
of the Church on the inviolability of human life,
may we recall that we have merely “done what
we were obliged to do” as followers of Christ.
Christ is our hope, in every season of our lives.

Father and maker of all,
you adorn all creation
with splendor and beauty,
and fashion human lives
in your image and likeness.
Awaken in every heart
reverence for the work of your hands,
and renew among your people
a readiness to nurture and sustain
your precious gift of life.

Grant this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.
Amen

—from Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers
It was a busy week at SJC Parish School as the eighth grade students met with their small faith groups. These groups meet 6-7 times throughout the year with their leaders. The purpose of these meetings is to help lead and guide the students as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The leaders attend the Day of the Spirit and Confirmation of their candidates.

Wednesday evening was the Math presentation which was well attended by parents. Our teachers did an excellent job explaining the continuity of our math program, offered parents many different resources and explained the different means of math placement in the high schools.

On Friday we celebrated the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of charitable societies, during our all school liturgy. Our prayers, as a parish school, are to live by the word of St. Vincent de Paul who said, “I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you.”

This week at SJC Parish School:
Tuesday, 10/8:
High School Information Night
at St. Cletus 7pm

Wednesday 10/9:
Coffee with the Principal
(9:00-9:30am) Room 119

Thursday 10/10:
Late start 10am-3:15pm

Friday 10/11:
Out of Uniform

Pictured below with 8th grade students is our new High School Youth Ministry Coordinator, Katie Pruitt. And also pictured is the Cherub Choir back in action last Sunday!!

Father of all believers, you are powerful with those who trust in you. Give us the gift of wisdom and a strong faith, that we may always walk in Christ's footsteps. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
Volunteer on the FEST Planning Committee
The SJC Family Festival has been successful both at creating community and in filling deficits in the fiscal operations of our beloved parish for the last 7 years. Many parishioners have contributed their time on the days of the Fest, but there is also a need to plan the details each year and be open to new ideas to make it even more fun. Many of the working committees have the ability to grow with additional participation from new faces. Come to the SJC Family Festival informational meeting on Monday, October 28 in the Parish Center at 7pm. We will review the committees and answer any questions you may have: Fundraising (Banners, Auctions, Raffle etc.), Food Service, Grounds, Marketing, Ticket Sales, Persons with Special Needs Event, Volunteer Coordination. We are especially in need of leadership for the Food Service and Volunteer Coordination Committees.

Food Pantry Collection for October
Can you hear the cry of the poor in our midst? When we hear the word “poverty,” we can think of many things: poverty of spirit, lack of love, isolation, etc. Pope Francis invites us to focus on material poverty in which individuals, families, and communities lacking access to the basic things they need to live and thrive: nutritious food, adequate housing, safe neighborhoods, good education, healthcare, and decent jobs with fair pay. Help those who are poor in our community by donating nonperishable food and household items. Drop your donations in the church narthex. During the month of October donations will be brought to the St. Cletus Food Pantry.

Connecting with St. Gall
St. Gall has invited the SJC Traditional Choir as well any interested parishioners to join them at Sunday Mass on Sunday, October 20 at 10:30am. St. Gall is located at 5511 S. Sawyer Avenue in Chicago. A bus will take the choir and interested parishioners. Contact SJC Sharing Parish Rep Cathy Pesch at 708-246-0432 to reserve a spot on the bus or with any questions. Help us to build community with our brothers and sisters at St. Gall.

Volunteers Needed to Help with SJC Art & Environment
Your help is needed on our SJC Liturgical Art & Environment Committee. If you can spare one or two hours to assist with decorating our church each season please call the Parish Center. This is a perfect service opportunity for seniors, singles, parents and Confirmation candidates—anyone who has energy and loves our church. Your creative ideas are welcome too!

Scout Pancake Breakfast & Wreath Sale
All are welcome to our Boy Scout Troop 117 Annual Pancake Breakfast & Wreath Sale after morning Masses on Sunday, October 20 in the Parish Center. The breakfast is hosted by the Men’s Club, Boy Scout Troop 117 and Cub Scout Pack 117. Adults $8, Kids 5-10 $5, Little Kids 4 and under Free!

Our SJC Boy Scout Troop 117 is once again offering handcrafted Christmas wreaths, garland, centerpieces, swags, and planters during the month of October. Go to our parish website to place your order.

Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast and the Wreath Sale help fund SJC scouting activities throughout the year.
As part of our Adult Formation and Spirituality offerings, St. John of the Cross Parish and St. Francis Xavier Parish collaborate with The Well to bring inspiring programs to our area. These programs are FREE to our parishioners. Please call the Parish Center to register. 708-246-4404

What's so Sacred about our Universe?
Saturday, October 19 • 9:30-2:30 pm (includes lunch)
What is the Universe Story and why is it important? This introductory class will awaken you to the awe and wonder of the unfolding story of creation and provide insights into the God within all. We will explore a new world view that ties science and spirituality together, and claim our essential role at this moment in time. The story of creation will come alive and bring new theological and ecological understanding and meaning to your life.

Helen Prejean • River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey Talk/Book Signing/Reception
Wednesday, October 30 • 7-9 pm
CSJ Sister Helen Prejean joins us again at The Well to speak about her latest book River of Fire. Sister Helen is well known as the nation's foremost leader in efforts to abolish the death penalty. Her book, Dead Man Walking (made into a movie, a stage play and an opera), has made Sr. Helen's work of campaigning against the death penalty known to millions throughout the world. Her latest work speaks of her own spiritual journey from near cluelessness to activism. Come, share first-hand the spirit (and joy) of this remarkable woman! Books will be available for purchase, $25.

Mirabai Starr • Wild Mercy: Living the Fierce and Tender Wisdom of the Women Mystics Talk/Book Signing/Continue the conversation at Steak & Vine, 37 South LaGrange Rd
Friday, November 8 • 7-9 pm
After decades of teaching and writing, receiving critical acclaim for her revolutionary new translations of John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila and Julian of Norwich, Mirabai turns in a fresh, slightly subversive, lyrical voice to a growing circle of women and men thirsty for the life-giving essence of feminine wisdom. Her writing gives the reader permission and encouragement to find her/his own lyrical voice. You’ll leave with Mirabai’s words lodged in your memory, prompting your own mystical response. Books will be available for purchase, $25.

Job Search Assistance
Great Insights for the Current/Future Job Market
On Thursday, October 17, 7-9 pm there will be an Interfaith Career Network Program in the Parish Center. Learn how and why your job requires finding a fit between your skills, experience, education and employer’s requirements. Job-hunting research is a key element of a successful search. Developing focused conclusions from a flood of data appears to be needed now more than ever. Our speaker, Tom Kacena, will outline job management techniques he has followed in his own career as an aerospace engineer in the Air Force and after in the private sector as well as in mentoring junior engineers. All are welcome. No fee to attend.

Adoption Journey Information Fair
All are invited to Old St. Pat's Church Hughes Hall on November 2 from 10am-Noon to learn about adoption. This event can provide direction, encouragement, and support for those who are thinking about adoption as their choice to build their family. RSVP to Cynthia and Ed St. Peter at csptst@att.net or 630-258-3416.

SPRED Opening at SJC
SPRED (SPecial RELigious Development) is an agency of the Archdiocese of Chicago that has designed a unique faith formation program for people who live with various developmental disabilities or learning problems. The SPRED program at St John of the Cross welcomes adults 22 years and older whom we call friends into a small faith community where they form friendships with people from the parish who journey with them in faith. Our group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7PM to 9PM from September to May. We have room in our SPRED group for two more friends and two more catechists. We would love to welcome you to our SPRED group! If you are interested or would like more information, please email Connie Steffen, Parish SPRED Coordinator, at connieibvm@juno.com or call Jane Gill, lead catechist at (630) 404-5556.

SJC Athletic Association Benefit
Night of Comedy with Terry Fowler & Guests
Saturday, November 9 from 7-11pm Gym
Cost $60 per person.
Tables of 10 Open
Sit with friends or Make some new ones.
Bring your favorite food and beverages to share.
RSVP to Laura Nemecck at the school.
??? Kerry Ward at andyandkerryward@me.com
**Spiritual Mothers: A Trusted Friend for the Journey ~ Monday, October 7 at 7pm**

The SJC Women's Club invites women of all ages to learn about and take part in an exciting new program that will connect you with a trusted companion or friend who will accompany you on your faith journey. Presented by Mayslake Ministries, a Spiritual Mother is a spiritual director who will be a trusted friend who can offer guidance and advice from a Christian feminine perspective, encouragement, shared wisdom and hope at any stage of your life from raising a family to caring for elderly parents or transitioning to an empty nest. Your Spiritual Mother will chat with you over the phone, in person, or even at your favorite coffee shop. A free will offering is accepted for each session with your Spiritual Mother. Come on October 7 to learn more and meet the team of Spiritual Mothers. Register to attend on our parish website.

**Join us for an evening of fellowship, fun and fashion to benefit the SJC Women’s Club Charities**

- **Purchase tickets** for the Show to see the latest in fall fashions. Runway boutiques include: My Sister Kate, J McLaughin, Lepa Boutique and others.
- **Be a Sponsor** and market your business at our event, via our social media campaigns and online OneCause website.
- **Donate an Item** for our Online Auction.

More information available online: [https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/fashion-show/](https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/fashion-show/)  
Reach out to Rosaria Becker (708-309-0351) or Cindy O’Malley (312-259-4177) with questions.
ALL Teen Sunday Fun Night
ALL Teen Night tonight following 5pm Mass, 6:15-7:30pm in the School Gym. All High School teens, Freshmen through Seniors, are invited to Fun, Faith, Food and Fellowship! Bring a friend!

FRESHMAN NIGHT
Did you miss our first Freshman Night? No problem….we’re having another one October 20, following 5pm Mass, 6:15-7:30pm in the School Gym! All SJC Freshman are invited to come have fun with your friends, share some food and fellowship, and vote on our Freshman Service Project for November.

Smile! Send us your SERVICE SELFIE!
All SJC Teens are invited to share the many ways you are helping your family, school, parish and community during our “Gratitude through Service” month in November. Please send a picture of yourself performing service, along with your service hours, to kpruitt@stjohnofthecross.org. All Service Selfies will be displayed the entire month of November in the Narthex of the Church and Service Hours will be collected and displayed. Let’s see how many hours of service our SJC Teens can do throughout our November “Gratitude through Service” month.

Save the Date!
Flyer Day for Harvest Saturday: November 16, 9-11am in the Parish Center
Harvest Saturday Food Collection: November 23. Meet in the Parish Center after the 9am Mass. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! This is a great service project to do as a family, YC class, neighborhood, or with a group of friends. Help us stock the shelves of Food Pantries for Thanksgiving and beyond.

SJC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

The measure of your life will be the measure of your courage. ~ Matthew Kelly
**Pastoral Care**

**Nourish Support Group**
Second Thursday of Each Month, 1-2pm

Nourish is for anyone juggling the challenges of life, health, and career while caring for a loved one. Nourish provides practical and emotional support, shared experience and useful tools, all within a Christ-centered context. Discover the blessings that come from caring for another. Anyone is welcome to join us the second Thursday of each month from 1-2pm in the Parish Center. Upcoming Topics: October 10 - Staying Engaged; Keeping Them Engaged; November 14 - End of Life - Planning For and Making Decisions; December 12 - The Spirituality of Asking for and Receiving Help; January 9, 2020 - Staying Organized and Preparing for What's Next. www.nourishforcaregivers.com

**Divorce Support Group ~ 8 Sunday Evenings Begins Tonight ~ October 6, 6:00-7:30pm**
The Divorce and Beyond process provides emotional and spiritual support to those who have experienced divorce or those in the dissolution process. Each session highlights an aspect of the divorce-recovery process. Topics include: Healing, managing emotions, blame, loneliness, and achieving growth and personal happiness. Register online. Meets in the Parish Center.

**Annual Lost Child Pilgrimage ~ October 26**
Are you, or someone you love, grieving the death of a child? The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii invites men and women to a special day of reflection, healing and hope on **Saturday, October 26** from 9am–2pm (includes lunch) with check-in & coffee at 8:30am. Speaker: Julie Raino: Stitching the Fabric of Our Loss; 4 Breakout Sessions: Precious Babies, Regaining Life and Hope; Milestones Celebrated and Mourned: The Death of a Child or Adolescent; When your Adult Child Predeceases You; Torn from Our Arms: Traumatic and Sudden Loss of a Child of Any Age. $25 per person due by October 10. Call 312.421.3757 for more information atourladyofpompeii.org.

**Preventing Violence in our Community**
St. Cletus Parish will host an open forum on preventing violence in our homes and communities with Phil Andrew former FBI Agent and current archdiocesan Director of Violence Prevention on **Monday, October 7** at 7pm. Content is appropriate for high schoolers and up.

**Promoting Healthy Families & Churches**
You are invited to an evening that will raise awareness, promote dialogue and provide helpful information about safety and wellness in our homes and community. A panel of experts representing police and fire departments, Pillars, and members of our parish will share timely tips and vital information on how to create safety and wellness within families, neighborhoods and churches. **Thursday, October 17, 6:30-8pm, Parish Center.**

**Mass for Hope and Healing**
Fr. Larry Dowling will celebrate the annual Hope and Healing Mass for victim-survivors of sexual abuse and their families at 11am on **Saturday, October 19** at Holy Family Church in Chicago.

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**Parish News**

**The Week Ahead**
**Monday, October 7**
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am Meditation as 11th Step
1:00pm Little Rock Scripture Study 3
2:30pm Eucharistic Adoration
5:30pm Finance Council
YC Sessions
7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 117
7:00pm RCIA Planning
7:00pm WC Spiritual Mothers

**Tuesday, October 8**
7:00pm Parish Advisory Council Meeting
7:30pm Christian Meditation

**Wednesday, October 9**
9:30am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
10:00am Chicago Catholic Scripture School
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm Mystics Study Group
3:45pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm Alpha
7:00pm SPRED
7:30pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, October 10**
9:00am Flourish
9:30am All Souls Choir Rehearsal
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
3:45pm Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm CLOW Training Session
7:00pm Healing Support Group
7:30pm Ensemble Rehearsal

**Friday, October 11**
1:30pm Fashion Show Planning Meeting

**Saturday, October 12**
8:00am Christian Meditation
12:00pm Pray the Rosary

**Sunday, October 13**
YC Sessions
12:00pm Baptisms
6:30pm Divorce Support Group

The church rejects all forms of domestic violence and urges women to protect themselves and their children, even if that means a separation and divorce from their abusers. Our church must help protect them and assist them in freeing themselves from the violence.

Read the Homily on Domestic Violence by Father Chuck Dahm on our parish website.
Some years ago I went on a weekend retreat given by a woman who made no secret about the fact that not being able to have children constituted a deep wound in her life. So she offered retreats on the pain of being unable to have children. Being a celibate and not having my own children, I went on one of these retreats, the only man to venture there. The rest of the participants were women, mostly in their 40s and 50s, who had not borne children of their own.

Our leader, using scripture, biography, poetry, and psychology, examined the issue of barrenness from many points of view. The retreat came to a head on Saturday evening with a ritual in chapel in which various participants went up a huge cross and spoke out their pain for Jesus and everyone else to hear. That was followed by us watching, together, the British movie, Secrets and Lies, within which one woman’s heartache at being unable to conceive a child is powerfully highlighted. Afterwards there was a lot of honest sharing of feelings – and lots and lots of tears! But after that painful sharing of pain and the over-generous tears which accompanied it, the entire atmosphere changed, as if some dark storm had just done its thing but left us still intact. There was relief, and plenty of laughter and lightheartedness. A storm had indeed passed us over and we were safe.

All pain can be borne if it can be shared. Art Schopenhauer is credited with saying that, but, irrespective of who said it first, it captures what happened at that retreat. A deep pain was made easier to bear not because it was taken away but because it was shared, and shared in a “sacramental” way. Yes, there are sacraments that don’t take place in a church, but still have sacramental power. And we need more of these.

For example, Rachel Held Evans writes: “Often I hear from readers who have left their churches because they had no songs for them to sing after the miscarriage, the shooting, the earthquake, the divorce, the diagnosis, the attack, the bankruptcy. The American tendency toward triumphalism, of optimism rooted in success, money, and privilege, will infect and sap of substance any faith community that has lost its capacity for holding space for those in grief.”

She’s right. Our churches aren’t creating enough space for holding grief. In essence: In the everyday, practical spirituality of community, prayer, liturgy, and Eucharist within our churches we don’t lean sufficiently on the fact that Christ is both a dying and a rising reality. We generally don’t take the dying

part of Christ as seriously as we should. What are the consequences?

Among other things, it means that we don’t create enough communal, ritual celebrations in our churches within which people can feel free to own and express their brokenness and grief communally and in a “sacramental” way. Granted our churches do have funeral rites, sacraments of the sick, reconciliation services, special prayer services after a tragedy within a community, and other rituals and gatherings that are powerful spaces for holding grief and brokenness. However (with the exception of the sacrament of reconciliation which though is generally a private, one-to-one ritual) these are generally tied to a special, singular circumstance such as a death, a serious sickness, or an episodic tragedy within a community. What we lack are regular ecclesially-based, communal rituals, analogous to an Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, around which people can come, share their brokenness, and experience a grace that can only come from community.

We need various kinds of “sacramental” celebrations in our churches within which, to use Rachel Held Evans’ terminology, we can create and hold space for those who are grieving a broken heart, a miscarriage, an abortion, a dire medical diagnosis, a bankruptcy, the loss of a job, a divorce, a forced retirement, a rejection in love, the death of a cherished dream, the movement into assisted living, the adjustment to an empty nest within a marriage, barrenness, and frustrations of every kind.

What will these rituals look like? Mostly they don’t exist yet so it is up to us to invent them. Charles Taylor suggests that the religious struggle today is not so much a struggle of faith but a struggle of the imagination. Nobody has ever lived in this kind of world before. We need some new rituals. We’re pioneers in new territory, and pioneers have to improvise. Admittedly, pain and brokenness have always been with us, but past generations had communal ways of creating space for holding grief. Families, communities, and churches then had less of a struggle with the kind individualism that today leaves us mostly alone to deal with our brokenness. Today there’s no longer a sufficient communal and ecclesial structure to help us accept that, here in this life, we live “mourning and weeping in a valley of tears.”

We need to imagine some new, sacramental rituals within which to help hold our grief.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Mass Remembrances
Monday, October 7, 9:00am
Our Lady of the Rosary
Sabich Family †
Deacon Robert Mueller †
Trisha Fitzgerald †
Patricia O’Connor †
Tuesday, October 8, 9:00am
Weekday
John Misantoni †
Edward Hoffman †
Adam Janssen †
Wednesday, October 9, 9:00am
Weekday; St. Denis; St. John Leonardi
Louis Buffardi †
Marcella Gorman †
Thursday, October 10, 9:00am
Weekday
Coreta Spalo †
Steve Sabadosa †
Friday, October 11, 9:00am
Weekday; St. John XIII
Bill Alberts †
Stephen Sawalski †
Domenico Antonino †
Saturday, October 12, 9:00am
Weekday; Blessed Virgin Mary
Terese Rehmer †
4:00pm Mass of Anticipation
John Fash †
Jon Paul Partipilo †
Frances Bielawski †
Catherine Koscielski †
Sharon Pabst †
Sunday, October 13
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am
Don Vollmer †
Betty Ann Missey †
Gil Podgornik †
8:00am
Thomas Siragusa †
Patrick McNaughton †
Mary Scaramuzzi †
Patricia Fitzgerald †
11:00am
Peter Shannon, Jr. †
Maryann Scalise †
John Peter Devona †
Ann Krupecki †
Catherine Koscielski †
5:00pm
Domenico Antonino †
Ermanno Mazzei †
William Fisher †
Fr. David Dowdle †
Living Remembrances in Italics

We Pray for Our Sick

We Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country

We Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Stephen Hill, husband of Anne, father of Alec and Molly, son of Monica Hill, son-in-law of Jack and Jeanette Martin, brother of Alison Van Bergen
Dr. Charles Janda, father of Marian, Caroline, Charles, Jr., Dr. Robert, Nancy, Catherine, Tom, and Richard, grandfather of 12, great grandfather of 2
Loretta Kolb, sister of Rosemary Hilger
Raquel Paez, mother of Jorge, Raquel Flood, Carlos, Jacqueline Goldman, Edward, Catherine Saenger, grandmother of 13, great grandmother of 7
Mario Accettura, husband of Inez, father of Mary Celeste Carroll, Colette Lombardo, and Perry, grandfather of 4
John Carinato, father of Matthew, Michael and Mark
Ted Malecki, brother of Joseph, uncle of Christina, Jackie Halley, Joey and Nicholas, great uncle of 3

Prayer Requests

Rev. Marc W. Reszel, Pastor
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Deacon John Schopp
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Christina Turlek, Financial Assistant
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Steven Weigand, Pastoral Associate
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- 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.
- Sign Up to Receive our Weekly Newsletter and Bulletin: info@stjohnofthecross.org
- Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @sjcwesternsprings
- Low gluten hosts are available by contacting a Sacristan or 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.
- Sign Up to Receive our Weekly Newsletter and Bulletin: info@stjohnofthecross.org
- Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @sjcwesternsprings
- Low gluten hosts are available by contacting a Sacristan or Usher before Mass in the sacristy.
CALLING ALL SJC HIGH SCHOOL TEENS
You are welcome to join us at our First Sunday Fall ALL Teen Night TONIGHT Sunday, October 6 following 5pm Mass 6:15-7:30pm in the SJC School Gym. Freshmen through Seniors are invited to come together for Fellowship Fun! Faith Friends Food