

Steve Weigand

Pastoral Ministry Report & Adult Faith & Spirituality

- Alpha Evangelization: Coordinator
 - September-November
 - Wed. 6:00-8:30 p.m.
 - Between 20-25 participants

- RCIA 2018-2019
 - Collaborating with SFX (1) candidate SJC (1)
 - Tuesday 7:00-8:30 Formation
 - Two service projects

- Chicago Scripture School
 - Wed. 9:00 – 12:00 (17)
 - Wed. 6:30-9:30 p.m. (12)

Pastoral Care

- Ministry of Care
 - Eucharist to Infirm Homebound, La Grange, RML, Hines VA
 - Recruitment and training, scheduling
 - Communion Service at King Bruwaert House

- Seasons of Hope Grief Support
 - Jan. 17-Mar. 9
 - Mon. 7:00-8:30

- Divorce and Beyond' Support for separated and divorced
 - Sunday Oct 6-Nov.10
 - 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

- Domestic Violence Committee
 - Safety & Wellness Panel- Thu. Oct 17
 - Pillars Human Services present (Sun. Oct 28)
 - Banner display for October DVA month

- Nourish: Ministry for Caregivers
 - Nourish Caregiver Support Group
 - Second Thursday: 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

- Healing Our Church (Pastoral Response to Sexual Abuse)
 - Thu. Oct 3- Nov. 14
 - 11 Participant
 - Led by Sr. Ann Letourneau

Mike Francis**School Advisory Board Report**

The school year is off to another great start! Our theme for this year is, "Angels Among Us". Enrollment is currently 621 students, slightly lower (less than 2 %) than last year.

We welcome new staff members to our school family. Miss Hayley Jensen accepted the position as 5th grade Science teacher/Science Lab Curriculum Coordinator/Manager. Also new this upcoming year is Mrs. Pat Fointno, who will teach music to grades PK-8. Finally, we welcome Mrs. Tiffany White as our new Advancement Director. We look forward to the expertise and passion for education and children that these individuals bring to SJC. Welcome!

We informed our families last spring of a new schedule change this year. The school day starts and ends fifteen minutes earlier. This will enable more opportunities to celebrate mass, while accommodating the limited priest staffing.

As part of the digital citizenship goal, a program required by the Office of Catholic Schools, students are learning basic social etiquette with the use of emails. Grades 4-8 received an in-house email address last May. Teachers will build upon the proper etiquette and use of social media platforms.

We have partnered with TinkR Works, located in Hinsdale. They work directly with Mr. Reynolds, our Tech Coach, in developing the 8th grade curriculum and through our extracurricular Technology Club.

We created a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum in grades 5 and 6 with Mrs. Brabham, School Counselor. We found that the intermediate grades are a transitional time for children. We want them to learn important social skills, understand how to manage their feelings, solve social problems, and learn to be a friend. In grade 5, it becomes part of the Study Skills Program and in grade 6, it replaces the LRC. The students meet with Mrs. Brabham once a week.

We have introduced several enrichment opportunities: Preschool Enrichment classes beginning 9/10/19 with Science Enrichment and 9/12/19 with LA Enrichment. Additionally, there is a reading club offered to 5th grade students during lunch once a week.

Alternative/E-learning will be implemented on days when school is cancelled due to inclement weather or other unexpected closures.

Mr. Portillo will be returning to SJC and offering both band and piano. Mr. Portillo, after several years as a band instructor, now operates his own company, UP Music. Parents had an opportunity to hear from the Principal and their children's teachers on Curriculum Night. We also sponsored the Strategic Planning Presentation last week.

Grandparents Day occurred on Monday, 9/23 or Tuesday, 9/24. This presented a wonderful opportunity for grandparents to come into the classroom and see the children at work.

On Wednesday, 9/25, we met with Parents for a Math Parent Night from 7-8 PM in the MPR.

Once again, tuition increase has been kept to a minimum this year thanks to the generous support of the Parish, the success of the fundraising events, and tremendous response to the Time, Talent and Treasure program that continues for this next year. Families will be reporting their SJC community participation online this year to qualify for the discounted tuition rate.

Overall St. John of the Cross is off to another fantastic year. We encourage anyone interested to check us out. Tours have already started for the 2020-2021 school year.

John Cisek
Men's Club Report

In 2018 we tried to get more participation on the Men's Club Board and were successful to an extent, with 12-14 men now involved in the leadership of the Men's Club. We are organized into 3 committees:

- Events
- Spiritual
- Membership

In addition we strove to get our event dates firmed up early enough to print a calendar in August -- which we did. In addition to the events already scheduled, we are in early collaboration with the Women's Club to plan a joint event, probably to be held in the late winter or early spring.

We have 4 social events planned for the year at this time, and 2 service events:

- BBQ and Bags Tourney (already held and a success)
- Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast (Oct)
- Sunday Night Bears Game (Nov)
- Trivia Night (Jan)
- HS Youth Ministry Fish Fry (Mar)
- Golf Outing (June)

In addition, the spiritual committee is planning 4 events, 2 in 2019 and 2 in 2020. The first was last Monday -- the Meet the Deacons gathering. The next in Nov is the first of a new series we are calling "Catholic Wisdom on Tap." The first event will be hosted by Fr. Brendon Lupton with the topic "Keeping Kids Catholic."

Our only fundraising event is the Trivia Night, with most donations returned to the Boy Scouts, High School Youth ministry and other SJC groups.

Katie Pruitt
High School Youth Ministry Report

College Connection Program

We have 22 young adults signed up for our college Connection Program and 14 parishioners to write to them. Matches will go out October 1. Letters are due into the Parish Center by Thursday, October 10, and will go out on Friday, October 11. Welcome Home Mass and reception following will be December 22 at 5PM Mass.

Freshman Night

We had 34 teens together for our Freshmen night on September 15 in the School Gym. There was a nice mix of boys, girls, public and private high schools. We had 8 upper classmen help that night explaining to the freshmen many ways they can become involved in the St. John of the Cross Parish Life. Another Freshmen night is planned October 20.

All Teen Sunday Nights

We have 3 All Teen Sunday nights planned this fall: October 6, November 3, and December 1. We will welcome all SJC teens, from Freshmen through Seniors, to come together in the School Gym for fellowship, food, fun and faith. We have a team of upperclassmen helping to plan these events.

Grade Level Small Home Groups

Our Home Groups which were in place last year through Crossroads have continued as we value the relationships the home group leaders and teens have together. When possible, these groups will merge with our ALL teen nights, but they continue to do service, small faith group and fun social activities together. All SJC teens are welcome to these small home groups, and if the need arises, we will try to accommodate more teens either at the PC or other homes.

ALPHA Youth

ALPHA Youth will begin January 12 and run for 12 subsequent weeks, from 6:15-7:30pm in the Parish Center.

November Month of Service “Gratitude through Service”

This month we will highlight the many ways our SJC high schoolers are contributing to their family, parish and community through service. Teens will be encouraged to take “Service Selfies” and report their service hours to us and we will display them in the narthex of the church.

Harvest Saturday

Planning has begun for our Flyer Day and Harvest Saturday, November 16 and November 23, respectively.

SJC School and YC 8th Grade Small Faith Groups

In an effort to connect our 8th grade students to their faith after Confirmation and into their high school years, each YC home group, as well as the SJC school 8th grade small faith groups will be visited by the Youth Minister in order to become familiar with what is offered in high school at SJC Parish.

Retreats

Registration is open for Juniors and Seniors to attend Kairos 34, the weekend of November 14-17, 2020. Registration will close October 25. Freshman/Sophomore retreat is in the early planning stages and will be in conjunction with St. Francis Xavier and St. Cletus teens. This is set for late February, 2020.

Church League Basketball

Boys Church League Basketball registration opened October 1 and will close October 31, or when spots are filled. The first games will be played November 30, with the season continuing on Saturday nights through February 22, 2020 (Tournament play is February 29 and March 7).

Adult and Teen Councils

The Youth Ministry is in the beginning stages of building an adult and teen council to assist with retreats, work tours, faith formation, teen nights, field trips, service projects, etc.

Diana Januska
Finance Council Report

The Parish remains in good financial shape. During the past fiscal year, we maintained the parish campus buildings and grounds, continued to support the parish school, YC program, and Crossroads program, and made significant progress towards setting aside funds to pay our \$1.2 million To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the Archdiocese. Support of the Sunday Offertory Collection, Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), and the Family Fest remains strong.

As we previously reported, rather than conducting a five year pledge drive, St. John of the Cross' participation in the TTWCI Campaign will be addressed through our ACA overages. During this past fiscal year, we made our second of five \$240,240 payments to the Archdiocese. As the parish fulfills its commitment to the TTWCI Campaign, the Finance Council will continue to hold ACA overages in the parish reserves. Our savings will be used to make improvements and upgrades to our buildings and grounds as they become necessary.

The annual financial report will be presented to the parish the first weekend in November. The bulletin distributed at the Masses that weekend will contain a detailed summary of the parish's financial condition. In addition, Finance Council members will be available to respond to questions after all Masses that weekend.

**Christina Howard
Women's Club**

The St. John of the Cross Women's Club is in full swing with this year's programming! The Women's Club is an integral part of St. John of the Cross Parish to further the spiritual, educational, social, financial, and family interests of the Parish and to cooperate with agencies for community welfare. The Women's Club is a diverse group of women and includes all women of the parish; striving to reach out and collaborate with the Men's Group and YC programs.

Social Events:

- The Mother/Daughter Girls Night Out was held in September and was a huge success, there were 118 kids and 80 moms in attendance. The location was moved to the parking lot between the Parish Center and the school and it well received.
- FASHION SHOW - Friday, November 8th, don't miss out, get your tickets today! Open bar, heavy appetizers, silent auction, cash raffle and other prizes. Purchase tickets online through the Parish Center website, or go to www.bidpal.net/getdressed2019.
- Save the Date: Cookbook Night on Thursday, April 2nd, more information TBD

Philanthropy:

- Sponsorship opportunities are available for the fashion show. Also accepting donations for the Silent Auction — restaurant gift cards, airline miles, hotel certificates, sports tickets, and more, please contact Rosaria Becker at 708-309-0351 for more information.
- Clean out those closets, the Women's Club Coat Drive is October 20th-November 3rd, boxes will be placed in the Parish Center, School, and YC Office.
- Luminaria Sales will take place again in early December.
- Money raised through our events and sales supports 18 local organizations that help women and children and the Father McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship. For a full list of organizations visit <https://one.bidpal.net/getdressed2019/custom/custom5> .

Spiritual Events:

- Evening of Spirituality is Monday, October 7th. Mary Amore from Mayslake Ministries will kick off a new program called Spiritual Mothers, Journeying Together in Faith.
- Flourish Group meets from 9-11AM in the Parish Center meets every other Thursday.
- Save the Date for the spring retreat March 13th-15th 2020 at Mundelein Seminary.

Elizabeth Russell-Jones
Welcome Report

1. We have welcomed 129 new families since January. A family is described as a household whether married or single.
2. The age breakdown of our new families:
 - a. 25-40 year olds = 63%
 - b. 41-54 year olds = 20%
 - c. 55+ year olds = 17%
3. Locations of our new families:
 - a. SJC Boundaries = 73 families
 - b. St. Isaacs* = 13 families
 - c. St. Cletus* = 13 families
 - d. St. Francis* = 8 families
 - e. Other = 22 families = Chicago (4), Clarendon Hills (2), Willowbrook (2), Darien (2), Summit (2), Naperville (2), Downers, Westchester, Brookfield, Riverside, Joliet, Glen Ellyn, Mokena, Bolingbrook

*Determined by member's address--NOT in our SJC boundaries
4. Families register with our parish for many reasons, some of those include registering for our school, YC and baptism:
 - a. School = 8 families
 - b. YC = 39 families
 - c. Baptism = 22 families
5. Many of our families' time is limited due to two-income parents:
 - a. Two income parents = 75%
 - b. Stay @ home parent = 6%
 - c. Retired = 19%
6. Several of our 55+ new members have relocated to be near their children. These adults are assisting in the day-to-day activities of their grandchildren while the parents are both working. Several attend morning Mass. They are looking to find others with similar interests to bond with in our faith community.
7. We have MANY families that have multiple generations here at St. John's (ex. Grandparents, parents, children). These multiple generations are active in our school, YC, adult formation programs, morning Masses, etc. It says a lot about our faith community that the kids are returning home to raise the next generation or that grandparents are moving here to worship with their grandchildren. Can we celebrate this somehow? Maybe list the family names in the bulletin or celebrate the families at Mass. With some planning, I think this would be a great way to get all the families together at one Mass.
8. We continue to host our monthly Meet and Greets in the Narthex usually at the 9:00 and 10:45 Masses. On average we meet with 3-5 families each month.
9. Our "First Friday Coffee" has been successful. We hosted First Friday through the summer months. We average 25 guests (mainly 60+ year olds) at each gathering.
10. Our new members are interested in "giving back" to the community. Is there a way we can host outreach events in the parish center (ex. Home2Home Supply Kits, foster home duffel bags, advent wreaths, making cards for our seniors, etc.)?
11. How can we engage our Future Church through our Millennials? Our Millennials are ages 25-40 which are over half of our new members. Can we include more of them in PAC so we can hear their voices? How can we offer things/prayers/events that work in their world (2 working spouses, children, travel sports, student loans)? Can we host a focus group for just their age by people that are their age?

Bill Bright

Outreach Report

KOLBE HOUSE (Chicago)

Director: Mary Claire Birmingham SJC Rep: Marilyn Cahill

- Accepting donated seasonal clothing; socks, T-shirts, underwear, and food
- \$1,750.00 monthly support
- Computer entry assistance by two parishioners.
- Hams donated for staff and clients
- Kolbe/Assumption Picnic supported with \$2000+ donation and SJC Volunteers (14 adults)
- Accompanied staff to mass at Cook County Jail

PRECIOUS BLOOD MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (Chicago)

Director: Fr. David Kelly SJC Reps: S. Sweeney & D. Harken

- Meals prepared at Parish Center by Team Cuisine FOR PBMR Mothers' group
- Ongoing food donations collected and delivered; canned and dry goods
- Garden Refrigerator built and electrical work provided through SJC parishioners Usonis and Comperchio
- Use of Poor Box Collections to purchase baby diapers (ongoing)
- Monthly Financial support: (\$1750)
- Attendance and support of fund raisers (Oct., 2019), SJC Bulletin and Web
- Baby clothes, diapers and toys collected and delivered (ongoing)
- Communications support by L. Karas

ST. GALL (Chicago)

Pastor: Fr. Rene Mena SJC Rep: Cathy Pesch

- Monthly financial support (\$1750)
- Back to school supplies for 600+ children collected and distributed by SJC Volunteers (Adult and young teens)
- The SJC Choir will participate at 10:45 mass on Oct. 20th at St. Gall (Annual)
- Attendance at St. Gall Parish Fest
- Clothing and food donated for SVDP at St. Gall

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Director: Elma Kulovich SJC Rep: Bill and Sheila McLaughlin

- Assist this Catholic Charities Program through financial support solicitation
- New mattress sets for each refugee
- Promotion and updates in SJC bulletin and website
- 2019 field trip to Lincoln Park zoo with Refugee Children: Bus, food and chaperones provided by SJC
- Winter clothing will be provided for three families: Afghanistan,(1) and Central Congo Republic, (2)

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Director: Janet Garreau SJC Rep: Bill Bright

- Volunteers needed for transportation of seniors to various activities including, but not limited to: shopping, doctor visits, church services

BEDS Plus (LaGrange)

Director: Tina Rounds SJC Rep: Bill Bright

- Site food preparation – Youth Catechesis and Individual Parishioners
- Financial support of food purchases and preparation here at SJC
- Shelter volunteers
- Support of Fundraisers by donation of volunteers time and money
- Clothing and toiletries donations (ongoing)
- Promotion on SJC web site and bulletin(ongoing)

HELPING HAND CENTER (Countryside)

Director: Bill Dwyer SJC Rep: Diane Harken

- On-going publication in SJC bulletin and web site
- SJC adults and children volunteering at numerous Helping Hand activities
- Recognition of SJC support in Helping Hand publications
- Two Helping Hand clients employed at SJC School (ongoing)
- Volunteers from SJC working at both HH Centers

ST. AGATHA PARISH (CHICAGO)

Pastor: Larry Dowling SJC Rep: Bill Bright

- Monthly financial support, \$1000 monthly
- Donation of Hams/Turkeys at major Holidays
- SHARE CHRISTMAS Program recipient

SHARE CHRISTMAS 2019

SJC Reps: C. Murphy & J. Sur

- Share Christmas serves and provides Christmas meals and gifts for over 500 families and individuals in parishes and communities across Chicagoland. November and December each year for 35+ years

FOOD PANTRIES

SJC Reps: S. Sweeney & S. Mazur

SJC is collection point for the following:

- * Kolbe House
- * St. Blasé
- * St. Cletus
- * Mary Queen of Heaven
- * St. Barbara
- * St. Francis
- * St. Gall

Janet Caschetta

Youth Catechesis Update

As of September 1st: Families: 561 ~ Students: 893 ~ Volunteers: 193

- Since September 3rd, we have 43 more children registered and 27 new or returning families.
- Open House was a success on September 15th and 16th
- Small groups began for 7th and 8th grades and Adapted Catechesis beautifully
- Family Centered Formation and How we LIVE our faith was well received
- Sacramental Meetings for 2nd and 8th grade were well attended
- First Eucharist will be celebrated at the Sunday liturgies over 2 weekend in the spring.

Grades 7-8, Laurie Smillie Coordinator's Report

7th Grade: Comprised of 12 Small Groups, 143 youth, 31 leaders and 11 aides.

- **September 29** – Small Groups will meet on campus for their Kick – Off Event with John Grossman. This event celebrates the start of their Confirmation Journey and also helps to foster Christian Fellowship within the groups.
- **October 6 and 27** Small Groups meet in the homes
- **October 19/20 Rite of Commitment Mass:** Candidates from YC and School attend with family any Sunday Mass including the Saturday 4 pm Mass.
- Meeting to be planned early October with SJC teachers to go over Rite of Commitment Mass and all Confirmation requirements due their 7th grade year.

8th Grade: Comprised of 11 Small Groups, 126 youth, 27 leaders and 3 aides

- **September 17th:** 8th Grade Parent meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was to walk with parents on their faith journey and encouraging them to share their faith with others, especially their children. All 8th grade upcoming Confirmation requirements were also discussed. Families received their child's Confirmation and rehearsal times at this meeting.
- **September 30th:** Two parent Letters of Love and Sponsor Certificates are due in the YC office. Letters of Love are given to the youth at their Day of the Spirit retreat.
- **September 29th and October 6th:** Small Groups will meet in the homes
- **October 26th:** Day of the Spirit Retreat, this retreat is held for both YC and SJC school youth. The retreat is from 11:00 to 5:00pm in the SJC school building. Youth are dismissed after attending the 4 pm Mass together.
- Confirmation is February 8th with Bishop Rojas, practice is on February 7th.

Grades 3-6, Cathy Mahoney, Coordinator

- All of the classes started very nicely.
- **Grade 3** will have **Prayer Day**, where a loved adult attends the 9/29 & 9/30 and they have prayer experiences together and make Prayer booklet to come home.
- **Grade 4** will be making "**Welcome Cards**" for Elizabeth Russell-Jones Parish Welcome Event in early October. This is an in-class Service Project
- **Grade 5** have been opening the Bible each class, as they build their Bible skills in learning Parables, finding the Beatitudes and locating the Lord's Prayer
- **Grade 6** jumped right in to our study of the Patriarchs with Abraham and the Old Testament stories pointing to the coming of Jesus

Grades K-2, Julie Roepke, Coordinator

- Most classes across the three grades have had new students join since YC classes started.
- **Kindergarten:** Our 24 Kindergartners had their parents attend YC with them on September 29/30 and families participated in a series of Noah's Ark themed activities and crafts.
- **1st Grade** classes were introduced to the school chapel to play an 'I Spy' game of objects in church and will revisit the chapel in October to perform a mock baptism
- **2nd Grade** classes will begin lessons focused on themes surrounding the Sacrament of Reconciliation in October
- **Sacramental Parent Meeting – 9/24**
 - Meeting to share key information with parents of school or YC children receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time this year.
 - YC and School Staff along with Fr. Reszel gave an overview of both sacraments as well as an opportunity for prayer and reflection.
 - Families were also given additional Reconciliation prep materials to use at home to continue the lessons the students are learning at school and YC.
 - Parents were informed of the changes to First Eucharist format. First Eucharist will be celebrated at the Sunday liturgies on the weekends of April 25-26 or May 2-3.
 - Families will be able to choose the date and time of their sacraments using an online scheduler beginning October 3

Adaptive Catechesis, Cathy Mahoney, Coordinator

- We have 13 children registered for class. All 9 children returned and 4 new children joined our class.
- What a great group. We had our first class, and by the time you read this we'll have had our 2nd one.
- We have 4 children preparing for Reconciliation and Eucharist
- We have 3 children in Year #1 of Confirmation Preparation – learning the Gospel stories, learning about Saints, doing Service and choosing a Confirmation Name.
- We are blessed Mary Yocius is back to teach the class, Garrett Kiely is back as the "Music Man" and all our Buddies returned (unless the graduated) and we added a few extra to support the additional children.