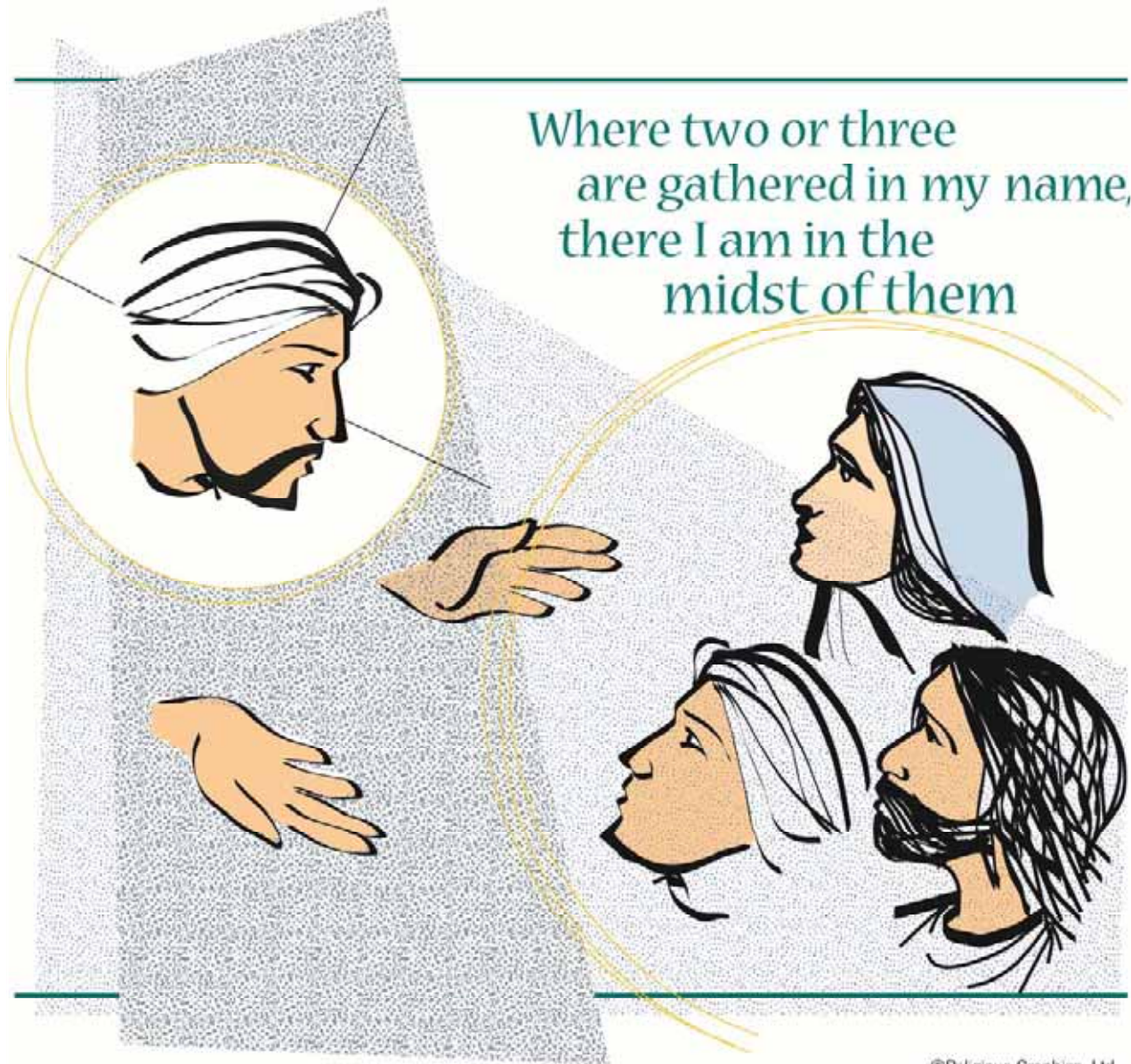


ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH

SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



5005 SOUTH WOLF ROAD WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS 60558

PARISH CENTER: 708-246-4404 SCHOOL: 708-246-4454 YOUTH CATECHESIS: 708-246-6760

WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG

Dear Parishioners,

The 'Fabulous 50th Finale' has brought the Jubilee year to a close. The Mass last Saturday, that also welcomed Bishop John Manz to Vicariate IV, was a joyous event. I haven't heard the congregation sing as well in a long time. Our new Director of Music Ministries, Jessica Koch, and the combined choirs prayerfully led us in what many said was a very uplifting liturgy. We were blessed with several IBVM sisters and 13 priests who were able to join us. Nearly 650 people enjoyed the casual parish BBQ on a nearly perfect summer evening. It was a great event to conclude what has been a great year.

The co-chairs of both the kick-off events last August and the finale were Mr. and Mrs. John Kravcik and Mr. Daniel Cochran. Their efforts of countless hours, as well as all the volunteers who were eager to help out, made for very happy and affirming gatherings. The number of parishioners who were involved in the anniversary celebrations simply boggles the mind. It simply could not have happened without broad-based parishioner support. I am convinced if the celebration had not started as well as it did it could not have finished as well as it did. I am indebted and so appreciative of the Kravcik's and Dan. Thank you so much, and all the volunteers you gathered and guided.

At the end of that first year in the life of the parish, in September 1961, the school opened with 492 students according to Ms. Zita Wheeler. She remembers Sr. Anastasia telling her that number sometime after Zita joined the faculty in 1965. Whenever Sr. Anastasia spoke of getting the school opened on time that first year, she talked about the mothers sewing curtains for the windows. The material used for the curtains was made out of fiber glass. (I remember the same material in our home. It hurt to touch it and frayed easily. Our curtains were burnt orange. Pretty cool color for curtains, eh?)

Friday of last week the school year began with a Mass of the Holy Spirit that begins their celebration of 50 years of Catholic education. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Sr. Mary Paul, was invited to attend as well as the school representative from the vicariate. After Mass was over, the whole school went out to the playground and blew bubbles as a way to celebrate the past years and the beginning of a new school year. Fun for kids of all ages and ecologically sensitive as well: how can you beat it!?

All the children will get cake and ice cream as a special 'birthday' present for the historical first day of school, September 6, 1961. The school's celebration will be scaled back in comparison to the parish. We will celebrate the Feast of St. John of the Cross in December, Catholic Schools' week in January, Family Fun Run in April and Memorial Games with alumni in May. It is going to be a blast.

My heart is full of gratitude for so many wonderful people who have contributed to this most remarkable parish. Through the intercession of St. John of the Cross, may we continue to be rooted in faith and growing in the knowledge of God's love for us all.

Peace,
Fr. David



The conclusion of the U.S. Bishops statement for Labor Day: (go to the usccb website for the entire statement)

We must remember that at the heart of everything we do as believers must be love, for it is love which honors the dignity of work as participation in the act of God's creation, and it is love which values the dignity of the worker, not just for the work he or she does, but above all for the person he or she is. This call of love is also a work of faith and an expression of hope.

On this Labor Day in 2011, in the midst of continuing economic turmoil, we are called to renew our commitment to the God-given task of defending human life and dignity, celebrating work, and defending workers with both hope and conviction. This is a time for prayer, reflection, and action. In the words of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI:

The current crisis obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules and to discover new forms of commitment, to build on positive experiences and to reject negatives ones. The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment, in which to shape a new vision for the future (Caritas in Veritate, no. 21).



Training for New Altar Servers!

6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to new altar server training

Tuesdays, October 4, 11, and 18 or

Fridays, October 7, 14, 21

3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Church

Sign up on the parish website - www.stjohnofthecross.org

There is a limit of 20 servers for Tuesdays or Fridays.

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)**

RCIA: COME AND SEE

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

**AN INFORMATION SESSION
WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING,
SEPTEMBER 6 AT 7:00 P.M. IN CHURCH
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE RCIA PROGRAM.**

If you are an adult who has thought about becoming Catholic or who was baptized Catholic but never completed the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, then the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is the program for you! For more information about this adult formation program, join us on Tuesday evening, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. in church to have all your questions answered. The evening will last about an hour and will offer an overview of the RCIA program and more information about joining this year's RCIA. Contact Fr. Darrio, 708-246-4404 for more information.

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***Have you checked out the
Manna Certificate Program Lately?***

The Savings Can Add Up...

*During the 2009/2010 school year one
SJC family received
\$1,030. in tuition credit.*

**In just 3 easy steps, you can save \$\$\$
in tuition and help SJC School just by
shopping with the Manna Certificate
program.**

How does Manna work?

From restaurants, entertainment and travel to retail, grocery stores and automotive, you may purchase shopping certificates from over 100 vendors. Manna is able to purchase certificates at discounts ranging from 2 to 25%. The savings earned from the discounts are divided 70% to the family and 30% to the SJC Parent Association. Families receive a credit in tuition. The PA uses their share to fund a variety of school programs.

Getting started is as easy as step 1-2-3

Print the Manna order form from the SJC website. Select your certificates and complete the form indicating the total dollar amount of your order. Total your selections. Please include a check or cash with your order.

Drop-off order forms by 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning (see dates on school calendar). A registration AND disclaimer form and a current waiver form must be on file to allow us to send the certificates home with your child. Please submit all forms with your first order.

Certificates will be distributed to your child on Thursday afternoon or may be picked up at the office from 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. A re-usable family Manna envelope will be provided with your first order. Please use the envelope for future orders.

**For more information, please visit the
SJC website.**



Our regular Mass schedule resumes with the 12:15 p.m. Mass next weekend on Sunday, September 11.



Labor Day Mass Monday, September 5, 9 a.m.

Today, Lord, we pray for not only all workers, but also for those who struggle to find a job in this frail economy. Watch over those who work long hours for very little compensation. May everyone who works find happiness in their lives, with time to enjoy family, friends and Your love. Amen

No Eucharistic Adoration Labor Day

Please note, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Labor Day. Adoration will resume September 12.



You have gifts and talents! Won't you please consider sharing them with our children?

Catechists and Aides are asked to LOVE JESUS!
We provide lesson plans, resources and tons of support!
Please pray about helping in the YC classes this fall!!!

Call today for more information at 708-246-6760

jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org

*Opportunities available for
Sunday 10:15-11:30 a.m. classes
Monday 6:15-7:30 p.m. classes*



Come, join the choir!

St. John of the Cross offers two choirs that rehearse and sing each week from September to May. Interested new members should contact Jessica Koch at (708) 246-4404, ext. 136 or jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org, so that she can get you placed with the group that's right for you!

Parish Choir

This group of about 40 singers rehearses once a week on Wednesday nights and sings each Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. The Parish Choir sings music in a mix of hymns, chants, contemporary, gospel, classical motets, anthems... you name it!. Some music reading ability is helpful, but it is not required. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 14th.

Choral/Instrumental Ensemble

This slightly smaller group (about 20 members) combines voices, guitar, piano, flute, and other potential instruments in music of varying styles, focusing on the contemporary music of the Church. The Ensemble rehearses on Thursday evenings and normally sings at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Instrumentalists should have good music-reading skills; for singers, reading ability is helpful but not required. Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 15th.



Children's Choir Start Up Dates!!

Did you know that St. John's has two choirs available to all children in the parish?

Children's Choir

Cherub Choir serves children in grades 1-3 and practices on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. in the church. The start date is Sept. 14th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Youth Choir serves students in grades 4-8, and practices on Thursdays from 3:45 – 4:30 in the church. The start date is Sept. 15th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Mark your calendars as you schedule your kids for fall activities! Questions? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708) 246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

Host Families Needed

*Catholic Social Justice Teaching call us to serve the poor & the powerless.
"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me...."*

Matt. 25: 34-35



On September 11th, during and after the 9, 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. liturgies, our parish will welcome Juan Manuel Pineda, a musically gifted young man who at the age of nine was brought to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters) El Salvador, where his life was forever changed. Beginning at age 2 with a fire in his home which caused him third-degree burns on his legs and the subsequent amputation of both of them, his miraculous story continues as his life was transformed while living at NPH which provided him with all of his daily needs, including healthcare, education and unconditional love. During the 2007 Pequeños Midwest Tour his life took on yet another new dimension as many Chicagoland physicians and residents heard his story. His life and his music has inspired many people to support the 3,700 orphaned and abandoned children in Latin America and the Caribbean who live in several locations under the care of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos. Come join us for hospitality at the Parish Center on September 11th and please read more about Juan at <http://www.thesoundofgratitude.com/story.html>

A FEW MORE FAMILIES ARE STILL NEEDED to house two children each for six nights: October 12 to 17 and October 18 to 23. These children, ages 12-18 are from the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage in Mexico. In addition to providing overnight accommodations and some meals, families will be asked to arrange for transportation for their Pequeños (little ones) to and from the St. John of the Cross parking lot which will be their departure/return point each day. Families offering their homes do not need to be fluent in Spanish. The application deadline has been extended to September 12th. Please consider opening your home to these wonderful children! For more details and/or to volunteer your home, please contact the host family co-chairs, Mary Nowicki, 708-246-3662 or Sue Mancione, susanmancione@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE — FIESTA, Sunday, October 16th, 12:00 p.m.

Plan now to attend **THE FIESTA!** ...an inspirational celebration of song, dance and food! Ticket price will be \$10 per person; children 5 and under, free. Sponsorship and additional fund-raising opportunities will be available at THE FIESTA!

For more information regarding:
Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, go to www.NPH.org
Friends of the Orphans, go to www.friendsus.org

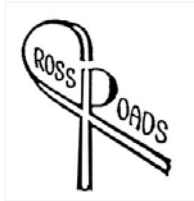
To volunteer help with other Pequeños Tour events at SJC,
contact Debbie Pusinelli, wspgs@sbcglobal.net or
Karen Ziemba, 708-223-0577.



Year of Teens and Young Adults

CALENDAR

Sept. 11 Teen Advisory mtg
10 a.m. in the Teen Space
DOS Team Mtg noon in the
Teen Space noon
Soph-Jun-Sen Kick-off Night—
meet at your home groups 6 p.m.
Sept. 18 Freshmen Experience Kick-off
6 p.m. in the Parish Center



The Crossroads Youth Ministry Freshmen Experience begins September 18!

In order to make this happen
we are need freshmen home
group leaders!

Couples of all ages are invited
to join our ministry:
please consider it,
ask a neighbor to join us and
Most importantly pray that the
right people step forward to help
guide our young people!

Contact me for details! *Katie Hayes*
708-246-4404 ext 140
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org



Habitat crew
digs in
preparation for
a home's
garden



OLPH crew
visits local
Cumberland
water falls

Our Day of the Spirit (DOS) Team will hold their
next meeting Sunday September 11 at noon.

This awesome group of teens & adults are
planning for and preparing
to lead the 8th Graders'
Day of the Spirit Retreat on Oct. 29.

Please keep our team in your prayers as they
create an energizing, spirit filled retreat day
for our confirmation candidates.

Leadership teams were formed last weekend by our home group leaders & teen advisory

leaders. Spots will be available for **adult parishioners** to assist with all our major events.

If you are a parent, recent college grad, empty-nester, or any other adult who loves teens

and wants to support our ministry please **consider joining a team.**

Check our website for details of who is involved and where there are still a need for help!

SJC Welcomes New Teachers and Staff Members



Ms. Therese Hanson, Ms. Julie Janowitz, Mrs. Gina Blouin, Mrs. Melissa Wall

Mrs. Sue Michalowski, Mrs. Stacey McGrath



Mrs. Barb Gustafson, Mrs. Sherri Gartman, Mrs. Sarah Kline, Mr. David Milavickas

Our school welcomed several new faculty and staff members this year. Please welcome Mrs. Gina Blouin , preschool teacher; Mrs. Sherri Gartman , 4th grade teacher; Mrs. Barb Gustafson, Spanish teacher; Ms. Therese Hanson, preschool teacher; Ms. Julie Janowitz, first grade aid; Mrs. Sarah Kline, 4th grade teacher; Mrs. Stacey McGrath, second grade aid; Mrs. Sue Michalowski, LRC; Mr. David Milavickas , physical education teacher; and Mrs. Melissa Wall, preschool aid.

SJC Welcome New Students and Families!

Please also join us in welcoming our 17 new students in grades first through eighth as well as all of our new early childhood students. We hope everyone is off to a great new school year!

This Week at SJC

- September 5th No School, Labor Day
- September 6th School Anniversary Cake Celebration
School Lunch Periods
- September 7th Meet the Teacher Night
School, 6:30 p.m.
- September 8th Preschool Grandparent's Day
- September 9th Preschool Grandparent's Day



Join us to start your YC year off in prayer!

Our
Opening Mass
is

**Monday, September
12th
6:30 p.m.**

Come to the Holy Eucharist Celebration to pray for an incredible YC year; join our Catechists and students worshipping together; and see who your child's teacher and fellow classmates are!

Class schedules available after Mass.



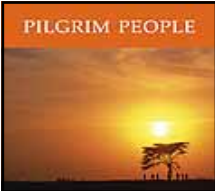


Contemporary Cosmology Thursday September 29 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Presenter Dr. Therese B. DiLisio

What does a mid-twentieth century theologian have to say to us in the twenty-first century about grace and the cosmos? "The world is permeated by the grace of God," wrote Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner. He understood grace not as a gift from God, but as a gift of God's own self, offered in love to the whole cosmos. Dr. Therese DiLisio specializes in eco-theology and sacramental theology.

St. John of the Cross is co-sponsoring this program with St. Francis Xavier and the Well.
For more up coming sponsored programs see our web-site.

To register contact mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org or 246-4404 ex. 155
There is no charge for this program.
Free will offerings are appreciated.



Little Rock Scripture Study Pilgrim People

*The Monday Little Rock group will meet to study the Pilgrim People on **September 12, 2011 at 1:00– 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.** This is a five-week study that begins with God's call to Abraham and Sarah and follows the chosen people through their many years of pilgrimage finally leading to Jesus and the Christian faith. Selected Old Testament and New Testament scriptures and associated commentary are read by the Little Rock group in preparation for discussion based on questions in a study guide. . The cost of materials for this study is \$12.00. Please call Joan Roeder at 708-354-4862 to register even if you have previously participated in Little Rock. For those who are interested in continuing bible study and for new people, we intend to follow Pilgrim People with the four-week study of the Infancy Narratives.*

Please call and register even if you have previously participated:

Joan Roeder 708-354-4862 or jvr523@sbcglobal.net

Buddy's Place—a family based children's grief support program is registering families for the upcoming Fall 8 Week Session which begins September 13th

Buddy's Place is a family based children's grief support program for families with children ages 4-18 who have experienced the death of a parent or significant adult. The 8 Week Session is a grief support group that provides support and education. It meets for 8 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. In addition, Buddy's Place also offers a monthly family support group that meets on the 2nd Monday of every month and Peer Support Groups on the 3rd Wednesday for children and their parent/caregiver. All groups meet from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

There is **no cost** to participate in Buddy's Place however **registration is required.**

Families should call Kelly Huggins at 708.995.3750 or email at buddysplace@pillarscommunity.org for more information and to register.

Feeding Off Life's Sacred Fire

See the wise and wicked ones, who feed upon life's sacred fire. That's a lyric from a song by Gordon Lightfoot that tries to interpret the struggle going on in the heart of Miguel de Cervantes' mythical hero, Don Quixote. Goodness separates him from the world, even as he understands that wickedness has the same source.

And there's perplexing irony in this, both the wise and wicked, saints and sinners, feed off the same, sacred source. The same energy that fuels the dedicated selflessness of the saint who dies for the poor fires the irresponsible acting-out of the movie star who proudly boasts of thousands of sexual conquests. Both feed off the same energy, which, in the end, is sacred. Godliness in this world is just used for very different purposes. But it's easy to misinterpret this.

For example, one of the major criticisms made of religion and the churches is that they too frequently use God to justify every kind of war and violence. We commonly see terrible violence being fueled by faith and religion, as is the case with extreme Islam today. But Christianity is hardly exempt. In the crusades and the inquisition we have our own history of violence in God's name and there is more violence than we have the courage to admit still being done today by Christians who draw both their motivation and their energy from their faith. We can protest that, in these cases, the energy is misguided, perverted, or usurped for self-interest, but the point remains the same. It's still sacred energy, even if it is being perverted.

John Lennon (Imagine) famously suggested that we would move more easily towards love and peace if religion were eliminated ("Nothing to kill or die, and no religion too"). There's a dangerous naiveté in that, but he's right in saying that the sacred energy found in religion often works against peace and love in this world. Misguided religious zealots also feed upon life's sacred fire.

However what this criticism, and many others, do not see is this: Misguided, misused, and perverted religious energy does not witness against God's existence. The opposite: The very awfulness of its power, its blind grip, its capacity to totally take over someone's life, and its sick over-confidence, point precisely to its godliness, its awe, its sacredness, and it roots within a reality and energy that dwarfs our own. Sick religion is so powerful precisely because it's real, not a fantasy. It may be sick, but it's real. That's also why religious cults are dangerous. They're dangerous because they're real, monstrously so. People often die in cults because

the divine fire that its misguided leaders channel is as real as the electricity that burns up a body when someone sticks a knife into high voltage electrical outlet. Religious cults feed upon life's sacred fire; but tragically they do so without the proper precautions and filters that the great spiritual traditions have taught are necessary in accessing the divine. Cults are naïve to why scripture warns us to approach the divine with care: "No one can see God and live!"

What we see in bad religion is true too in our personal lives. This is sometimes hard to see (and often difficult for religious people to admit) but what's wild and wicked in the world is also fueled by life's sacred fire. Our over-restless energies for creativity, sexuality, achievement, enjoyment, and to know and be known within human community, are often used irresponsibly, excessively, narcissistically, manipulatively, and destructively. The wild and wicked ones, those with sufficient nerve and insufficient conscience, often simply take what they want from life, without regard for morality or consequence. And thus our world is often driven by wild, powerful, creative, and erotic forces that can look like the very antithesis of sacred energy.

But, again, the very power, seeming irresistibility, and wildness of this energy is not an indication that our sexual and creative energies are secular and devoid of holiness, or, worse still, at odds with what is holy and sacred within us. The opposite is true: Their power and seeming irresistibility lie precisely in their godliness and sacredness. Their fire is so powerful because it is sacred, divine, God's energy inside of us.

Scripture tells us that we carry within us the image and likeness of God and that this is really our deepest identity and the source of our deepest energies. But we should not picture God's image within us as some beautiful, Andrei Rublev-like, icon stamped inside our souls. God is fire, holy energy, infinite creativity, infinite freedom, wildness beyond our imaginations, and an energy that is boundless and fuels everything that is, that lives, that breathes, that searches for meaning, that loves.

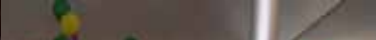
Sacred fire fuels all of life and infuses everyone, saint and sinner alike. And God has given us the freedom to use it as we choose, wisely or wickedly. We feed on sacred fire and we become a saint or a hedonist, a peacemaker or a warmonger.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com

SJC 50th Anniversary Finale



PARISH FAMILY
BBQ
THIS WAY





What: Donation Day Saturday, September 10, 8 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Where: Various Locations, Meet at Helping Hand Countryside Office
9649 W. 55th Street

Helping Hand Center organizes this annual fundraiser with clients, families and volunteers. We work together to raise awareness and collect donations in our community to support our programs and services. We have 15 storefront locations secured this year, so we need 50 - 60 volunteers. You can select your shift or choose to work both shifts. Whatever works for you!

Shift 1 8- 11:00 a.m, *Pick up supplies at Countryside at 8:00 am, go to assigned location from 8:30 - 10:30, return supplies to Countryside.*

Shift 2 10:00 am - 1:00 p.m, *Pick up supplies at Countryside at 10:00 am, go to assigned location from 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., return supplies to Countryside.*

We appreciate your time so very much (especially on a Saturday). Please consider volunteering to help make this event a success!

3 Ways to sign up:

1. Click on the Volunteer Spot link <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/7323456324288280111>
2. E-mail carolyn.kline@hhcenter.org
3. Call Carolyn Kline at 708-352-3580, ext. 280

Questions? Call Carolyn Kline at 708-352-3580, ext. 280

Dealing With the Adversity of Job Loss

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation and discussion that will focus on dealing with the adversities of a job loss and search. Get a better understanding of the psychological components of job loss and how they impact conducting your search. This program includes a powerful DVD presentation by a former Vietnam Prisoner of War who reveals how he and his comrades dealt with the adversity of captivity. Learn how some of their survival techniques apply to the enduring distress of a job loss. Our presenter and facilitator this evening is Greg Harnyak, a corporate outplacement and staffing professional with 25 years of progressive experience. This program is open to all and there is no charge to attend. Please join us at the St. Cletus School Building, Room 201, 700 West 55th Street in La Grange.

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org

BEDS Plus Needs Volunteers!

Since 1988, with the help of hundreds of volunteers from our local faith communities, BEDS Plus has sheltered, fed and helped thousands of homeless people in our community return to a healthy, safe and stable life. Each volunteer works just 4 hours per month – but makes an impact that changes many lives. Right now, we are recruiting volunteers for our 2011-2012 shelter season, which opens October 15th and runs through April 30th. We'd like you to join our mission.

If you're looking for a meaningful, rewarding and proven way to help those in greatest need, please visit our website or contact us today. www.bedsplus.org (708) 354-0858

Volunteer orientation sessions will take place in August and September –all prospective volunteers must attend one 2 hour session. Space is limited – call today to find out dates and reserve your spot!

Call (708) 354-0858, ext. 1 or email Cody at umbach@bedsonline.org for more info.

Outreach Opportunities, cont.

Operation Support Our Troops~Illinois

Annual Parish wide Collection:
September 4th through September 18th
Donation Boxes in
Church and Parish Center

**Questions: Contact Debbie Pusinelli
(708) 246-6760 ext 251**



The mission of Operation Support Our Troops IL is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain overseas.

Top Ten Items Needed at This Time

Beef Jerky / Slim Jims (Troops love this!)
Tuna flat packs; Canned fruit (29oz or less)
Cold drink mix packets (Gatorade etc.)
Individual packets of oatmeal; Cereal Bars
Mouth wash (20oz or less)
Non Aerosol Sunscreen; Insect Repellent Wipes
Pain relievers (Tylenol, Advil, Ibuprofen, 100 count or less)

Feed My Sheep

September is HUNGER Action Month

Last year, Catholic Charities' West Regional Food Pantry **served more than 37,500 people**. This September, live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing with the needy. Help Catholic Charities provide essential food to families and children by supporting Hunger Action month. Please join us in the fight to end hunger and help feed "His" sheep.

How can you help??? Well, here's a list of ways to help:

Donate food to the Catholic Charities West Region Food Pantry or

Sponsor the West Region food pantry

Donate online at www.catholiccharities.net/hunger or Volunteer in our food pantry

What's needed?????

Canned vegetables, soups, and foods (like Ravioli, tuna fish); all kinds of pasta and sauces; canned drinks or juices; and any other non-perishable items that will demonstrate your love of Our Lord by way of this Food Drive!

From our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, we are reminded: "The right to food is based on an ethical mandate to 'feed the hungry,' which reminds people to share their abundance with others of our love."

CELEBRATING

50 YEARS

SAVE THESE DATES...

- SEPTEMBER 2ND
 - OPENING MASS, 9:15 AM
- SEPTEMBER 6TH
 - SCHOOL CHILDREN ANNIVERSARY
 - CAKE CELEBRATION
- DECEMBER 19TH
 - FEAST DAY MASS
- APRIL 22ND
 - FAMILY FUN RUN & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
- MAY 18TH
 - MEMORIAL GAMES ALUMNI REUNION

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS GRADE 1 1960



Join us for the 2nd Annual SJC Men's Club Retreat

St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL
Fri. October 21, 7 p.m. – Sun. October 23, 1 p.m.

The Presenter: Fr. Dominic Grassi, voted one of "The Top Homilists" in the Archdiocese of Chicago (New World Catholic Newspaper). His books include "Bumping into God", "Bumping into God Again", "Bumping into God in the Kitchen", "Still Called by Name", and the coauthor of "Living the Mass".

Men, you do "continuing education" for your careers, when was the last time you did "continuing education" for your faith?

Spend some time with other men of the parish in prayer, scripture and reflection. There will be opportunities for quiet time to pray, reflect or read individually.

The retreat will feature morning mass both days, sacrament of reconciliation, group and individual prayer as well as thought-provoking reflections from Fr. Grassi.

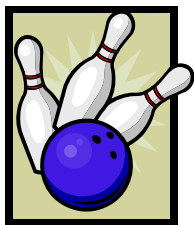
Your retreat includes a Friday & Saturday evening cocktail reception, 2 overnights in your private room, meals (beginning with Sat. breakfast), and use of all the facilities.

Facility access includes state of the art seminary library, gym, swimming pool, as well as outdoor stations of the cross, and a 3 mile loop around the lake perfect for a walk or run.

Total cost: \$225.

Space is limited. To reserve your spot, please call or email:

Fran Connelly at 708-826-5421 or franwork53@aol.com



SJC Men's Bowling League

The Men's Bowling League wants bowlers for its September, 2011-March 2012 Season.

For details please call Ken Boor at 708-246-1469.

SJC Sainly Senior Club

Welcome

Welcome to the St. John of the Cross Sainly Senior Club. Anyone in the parish, young or not so young, married or single, male or female is invited to join our group. We are looking forward to a great year—welcoming new members and seeing old friends!

Dates & Dues

An exciting season of luncheon programs with great food and entertainment has been planned just for you! So we invite you to add these dates to your calendar today and also become a member of the Club. Membership is \$10 per year which covers our administrative and miscellaneous expenses. Members also pay a lower rate to attend the luncheons!

Save the Dates!

OctoberFest: October 14th

Christmas: December 9th

Valentine's Day: February 10th at the Flame Restaurant

St. Patrick's-St. Joseph's Day: March 16th

Calling on **YOU** to help us Grow!

We are looking to expand our activities in the coming year. If you would like to become more active in the Senior Club and help us plan some new programs, call MJ at the Parish Center. Dream about what the Senior Club can be. Are there some programs that you think other Seniors would enjoy at our parish? Let's get together and talk!

Yes, I want to join the Sainly Senior Club!

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Drop off your dues at the Parish Center or in the Sunday collection basket in an envelope marked Senior Club Dues. Or you can mail it to us at St. John of the Cross, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs 60558.



The St. John of the Cross Women's Club presents



Mother and Daughter Camp-out 2011

Friday, September 23rd 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Bring your tent and gear for a night of fun! We will supply the food, drink, games and a craft..

\$10.00 per person *Please RSVP by September 18

Don't miss the Candy Hunt, inflatable fun, and a movie on the big screen!

Join us for Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, S'mores and Beverages for the girls. Great treats for the Moms too!

TO RSVP PLEASE SIGN UP ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE OR TEAR OFF BOTTOM PORTION AND DROP IT OFF AT THE PARISH CENTER.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

NUMBER ATTENDING: ADULTS _____, CHILDREN _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (COST \$10.00 PER PERSON)

Please RSVP to Holly Morris hsmorris@ameritech.net or Elizabeth Turcich elizabeth@turcichfamily.com

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS WOMEN'S CLUB:



Hope everyone enjoyed their summer! We'd like to invite you to the first regular meeting of the St. John of the Cross Mom's Club for the Fall:

Coffee/ Play Date
Friday, September 9th, 2011
SJC Parish Center, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

In general, the SJC Mom's Club will meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of most months from September to May. Meetings will take place at the Parish Center and start at 9:15 a.m. Children are welcome to attend. We also plan to have one or two "mom's only" evening events to accommodate anyone who is not available to attend the regular meetings.

The Circle of Friends Mom's Club is a group that is sponsored by the Women's Club of St. John of the Cross. It is open to any mom in the parish with young children at home, ages kindergarten and under. Please feel free to extend the invitation to any other parish moms of young children that might not be aware of the group. We'd love to add them to our email list!

This Week @ SJC

Monday, September 5, LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 6

- 1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine's Bible Study
- 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
- 6:30 p.m. YC Council Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Endowment Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. RCIA, Church

Wednesday, September 7

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, September 8

- 9:30 a.m. Fr Kieran Sunday Scripture Study
- 7:30 p.m. Fr Kieran Sunday Scripture Study

Saturday, September 9

- 7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
- 12:00 p.m. SJC Reunion Meeting

Sunday, September 10

- 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Friends of the Orphans Hospitality
- 6:00 p.m. Crossroads Kick-off

Kids...Kick Up Your Heels!

Irish Dance offered at Notre Dame

Irish Dance classes, offered by the Weber School of Irish Dance, will begin this year on September 15th in the church basement. Classes will be on Thursdays from 3:30—4:15 p.m.

The Weber School of Irish Dance, the oldest and largest Irish dance company in Chicago, offers its students affordable lessons on a weekly basis along with elegant costuming. Children should be at least 5 years old and all levels of dance are welcome. Fee is \$10 per session, billed bimonthly.

Questions? Contact Lolly Maloney at 630.261.5675.



St John of the Cross Reunion

The alumni committee for the class of 1981 needs your help! Our 30 year reunion is planning to take place in our Parish Center on Saturday, September 10, 2011. If you know of any alumni, please have them check out our website at www.sjc81.com. Please feel free to contact me directly via email as well.

We have many lost alumni and want to make sure to get the word out to all of our graduates so we can all be together for this wonderful event. Thank you

Andria Mazzucchi, mrzooks@att.net

The University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary is conducting an online research study seeking parishioners' ideas, opinions and knowledge of our local seminary. This survey is open on-line from September 12 until October 12, 2011.

Please see the bulletin for complete details on how to access this survey or visit the seminary website at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MSparishioner>.

*Saint Joseph, patron of workers,
pray for us..*

FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON PILGRIMAGE

Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17

Chicago, IL (August 24, 2011) – A pilgrimage to Father Augustus Tolton's birthplace in Missouri, and the origins of his path to priesthood in Quincy, Illinois, will be conducted on Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17. This pilgrimage is being sponsored by the Office of Bishop Joseph N. Perry, the Office for Black Catholics and the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union.

Those interested in registering on-line for the pilgrimage that includes round-trip coach bus transportation, dinner on Friday night and the tour can do so by visiting the Office for Black Catholics website, www.blackcatholicchicago.org. Checks for the tour, costing \$90 per person, can be made payable to Archdiocese of Chicago and mailed to the Office for Black Catholics, 3525 S. Lake Park Ave., Chicago, IL, 60653, Attention: Anita Owens. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations for overnight accommodations by calling Super 8 – Quincy at 217-228-8808 and mentioning "Tolton Pilgrimage". The cost for overnight accommodations is \$58.01, tax included.

Father Tolton was the first American diocesan priest of African descent. Born the son of slaves in Missouri, he studied for the priesthood in Rome because no American seminary would accept him. Ordained for the Diocese of Quincy in southern Illinois, he later came to Chicago to start a parish for black Catholics. He was only 43 years of age at the time of his death. His Cause for Canonization was announced by Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago, in March 2010.

The official website for Father Tolton's Cause, www.toltoncanonization.org, includes an extensive biography, timeline of his life and times and information about other upcoming events.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Pray for our Sick

Charlie Ames	Christopher Morehead
Dennis Augustine	John Munch
Terry Aversa	Keith Nickoloff
Eileen Biros	Russ Niesen
Mary Kathryn Biros	A.J. Nilles
Theresa Budzinski	Diana Nowrocki
James Callahan	Mary Lou O'Brien
Vera Caschetta	Gregory Palaschak
Raymond Cellitti	Matthew Pecis
Joe Cona	Teresa Peterson
Jacob DiFranco	Marge Pipal
Justin Donnelly	Gary Poore
Scott Garrett	Kevin Quinlan
Jack Gibbons	Peter Quinn
Patricia Barnes Gibbs	Rick Reimer
Kathy Gorski	Harry Richards
Dean Grilli	James Ryan
Patrick Harney	Tom Ryan
Owen Hollinger	Fabian Saldana
Karen Hult	Harvey Schaefer
Virginia Jakubczak	Bob Stransberry
Emily Johanns	Bob Sturenfeldt
Jacob M. Joyce	Betty Sulak
Loucine Kassis	Norma Sumpay
Dave Keesling	Patrick Synnott
Lillian Kopsa	Joyce Szot
Connie Madden	Henry Tymick
Kathryn Mahoney	Francesca Principe-
John Makar	Wegner
Meredith Mangold	Hosea Williams
Lawrence Martin	Patricia Wilson
Olga Matusik	Joan Workman
R. W. McClellan	Amly Zavisin

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Diane Wanat, sister of Len Kamenjarin
Ernest Pellegrino, uncle of Michael Castillo

Wedding Banns

Ginny Bartz & James Van Cura
Bridget Zarling & Andrew Hobbs
Maureen Burke & Thomas Mysz

If today you hear his voice, harden
not your hearts.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 5

9:00 Helen McDonnell; Evelyn & Chester Kowal

Tuesday, September 6

6:30 Purgatorial
7:45 Jack Seipps; Maureen Mangan

Wednesday, September 7

6:30 Parishioners
7:45 Leona Rompala; Lorraine Bzdyl

Thursday, September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:45 Kevin Gunnin; Richard Maier

Friday, September 9, St. Peter Claver

7:45 Betty Cook; Donald Parker

Saturday, September 10

8:00 Bill Broderick; Dr. William Buckingham
5:00 Bill Broderick; Jim Tishler, Jr.

Sunday, September 11

7:30 Edward Cervony; John Santucci
9:00 John Pecis; Frederick & Loretta Englehart
10:45 Emile Hesse; Dorothy Budziak
5:00 Robert Plechaty; Gail Marvin

Italics—Living

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Col 1:24 — 2:3; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Sir 27:30 — 28:9; Ps 103; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

LORD 
bless our labor and
the work of our hands

*St. John of the Cross would be honored if you
would consider remembering
the parish in your estate planning.
Thank you.*

CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
Saint John of the Cross #9239

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5005 S. Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558

PHONE —
708-246-4404

CONTACT PERSON —
Shirley

SOFTWARE —
Microsoft Publisher 2003
Adobe Acrobat 6.0
Windows XP Professional
HP Scanjet 6200C

PRINTER —HP Laser Jet 6P

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT —
Cover through 19

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN — 9/4/11

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —

THE TRUE STORY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH.



ANSWERING THE CALL FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION, THIS MULTI-MEDIA, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REVEALS THE TRUTH, BEAUTY AND GOODNESS OF THE FAITH IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY.

"Catholicism is a smart religion, and we consciously stress this aspect of the Faith in the program."

- Fr. Robert Barron.

Join us in learning about our faith:

Catholicism

The First 5 Episodes:

Tuesdays at 1-3 p.m. and again at 7-9 p.m.

Beginning on October 4th

and Fridays 7-9 p.m.

Beginning on September 30th

Information and sign-up the weekend of

September 17 and 18

after all Masses and on the SJC web-site

Fr. Barron will preside at the 10:45 a.m. Mass

**Following the Mass there will be a presentation
and discussion in the Parish Center**

All are welcome!

For more information see the Catholicism website:

<http://www.wordonfire.org/The-Catholicism-Project/Overview-New.aspx>

For information:

Marianne Firlit mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org

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Dennis Augustine	Christopher Morehead
Terry Aversa	John Munch
Eileen Biros	Keith Nickoloff
Mary Kathryn Biros	Russ Niesen
Theresa Budzinski	A.J. Nilles
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Jacob DiFranco	Teresa Peterson
Justin Donnelly	Marge Pipal
Scott Garrett	Gary Poore
Jack Gibbons	Kevin Quinlan
Patricia Barnes Gibbs	Peter Quinn
Kathy Gorski	Rick Reimer
Dean Grilli	Harry Richards
Patrick Harney	Fabian Saldana
Owen Hollinger	Harvey Schaefer
Karen Hult	Bob Sturenfeldt
Virginia Jakubczak	Betty Sulak
Emily Johanns	Norma Sumpay
Jacob M. Joyce	Patrick Synnott
Loucine Kassis	Joyce Szot
Dave Keesling	Henry Tymick
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