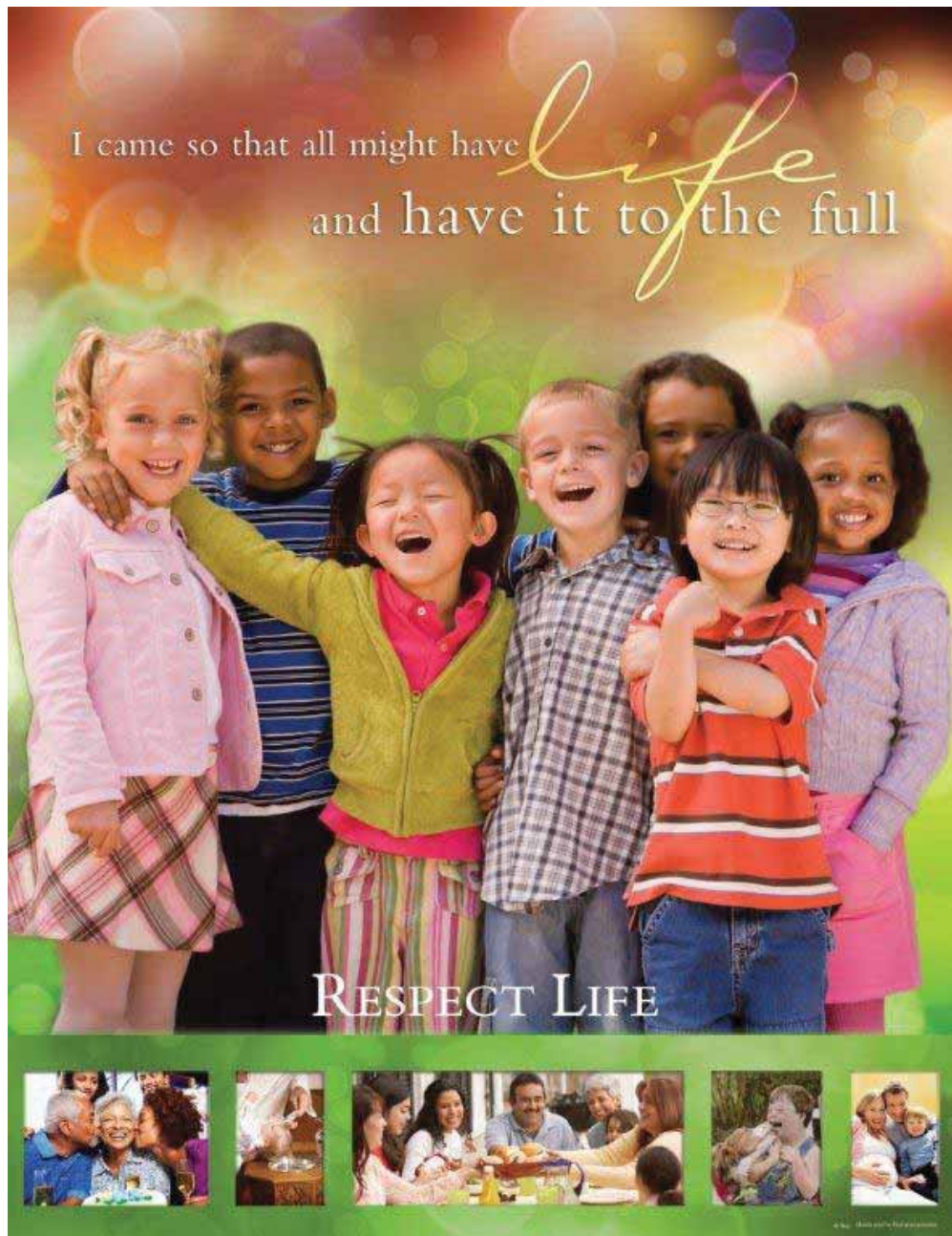


ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH

JANUARY 22, 2012
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

Share Christmas



Thank you St. John of the cross for the warm coats. I want to thank you cause in my life I have never had the warmest coat and now I have it and once again thank you for the best christmas gift and I want to wish you Merry cristmas.

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT THE "HOLY SPIRIT" ACTUALLY WORKS?

During the last few weeks our eighth grade children have been invited to be interviewed by staff members about their upcoming Confirmation. It never ceases to amaze me how present the Holy Spirit truly is!

The week prior to Christmas is full of many activities for all of us and especially for those involved in programs like Share Christmas. We, from St. John of the Cross, were busy collecting and then delivering gifts and food throughout the city. We delivered to St. Mark, St. Thaddeus, The Kolbe House, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Blessed Sacrament, Little Brothers of the Elderly, St. Barbara's, Mary Queen of Heaven, The Midwest Workers Association, Santa Maria Addolorata, and many individual homes too. We were greeted with a warm welcome at each and every stop.

As we were departing St. Mark, near Western and Augusta, the parish administrative assistant was expressing her gratitude to our parish, but mentioned that even after receiving so much, there was a shortage of toys for some of the neighborhood children. Upon our return to SJC there was a call from Tom Boland, Manager, from the Western Springs Walgreens. One of the Chicagoland charities was unable to pick up all of the donated toys at Walgreens from area customers. He wondered if there was a place that we could take the gifts! And so we were able to bring them to the kids at St. Mark.

Thanks to Tom at Walgreens for thinking of SJC. Thanks to each of you for your unending generosity in so many ways and especially Share Christmas! Thanks to Ed Usonis at West Brook Electric for the 75 turkeys and the 50 holiday hams that were distributed to St. Mark, St. Barbara, St. Thaddeus and Kolbe House parishioners! Thanks to the new Share Christmas organizers, all the volunteers, and especially to each of you. It is my honor and privilege to represent St. John of the Cross!

Finally and foremost: THANKS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR ALL OF THIS GOODNESS!

God bless each of you for all YOU do for others,

Bill Bright
Director of Outreach



Thank you St. John of the cross for the warm coats you bought us. I really like it and my mom. Happy holidays.
Lara

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift card donations given to our needy folks here at St. Agatha/Blessed Sacrament Parish. They are most grateful and many have written personal Christmas thank you notes. Several of them have said what they plan to purchase for their families and adding that they could not have done it without your help.

May the Infant Savior bless each of you during the coming new year.

Gratefully,
Rev. Larry Dowling
Sister Patricia Kerz

Thank you St. John of the Cross for the warm Coats. I appreciate my Jacket So much.



I want to thank you from the Reyes Family. Bless you. Jan. helping another family. Thank you so very much. Irene Reyes Family.

Greetings! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Mine was fantastic.

After witnessing so much joy, care, sharing, and love during the past few days, I would like to thank you and your wonderful parishioners. Thank you so much for sharing God's blessings with us this Christmas season. Thank you so much for giving us so much joy. Thank you so much for caring for us. Thank you so much for your love.

This year our Christmas Eve Mass was well attended. We had 585 people in church. For the size of our parish it was absolutely encouraging and a blessing that 585 parishioners attended Mass. Another blessing we received this year was the arrival of Santa to Mass. Santa arrived almost at the end of Mass carrying a big bag full of presents for the children. They were overwhelmed with joy and could not wait to receive their presents from Santa. Santa distributed the gifts at the end of Mass at our recently renovated church patio.

At the patio, the children, parents, and everyone had such a great time with Santa and one another. Each of them received a gift with a big smile and a big hug from Santa. The members of our Youth Group and other volunteers helped wrap all the gifts. They also assisted Santa distribute the presents on Christmas Eve.

As you can see, we had a very special Christmas celebration thanks to you. Thank you to all the marvelous volunteers who worked for weeks collecting presents for my parishioners and those who delivered them to us. I am truly humbled and grateful for all the joy, care, and the love we have received from you and the Lord.

I pray and ask our gracious and loving God to grant you a New Year filled with abundant blessings.

Rev. Elmer Romero
St. Mark Catholic Church



Dear Friends,

May this New Year be a blessing for all the people of St. John of the Cross Parish. Always know that I am very grateful for the sharing check donation of \$1,200 that was received. I have to admit that this ministry is usually on the back burner of people's minds. St. John's connection with us serves as a source of encouragement to us and those who we are privileged to serve.

I often tell those whom I visit in jail, the Lord brought us together so that we can learn from one another. What we do with the time that we spend together is up to us. I believe that statement holds true for us here at Kolbe House and the people of St. John's. The Lord brought us together to learn from one another. We are learning how to serve and live the Gospel that unites and invigorates all of our lives. This is not an easy lesson but it is life giving.

Just know that our prayer for one another is our life line.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez
Kolbe House

Thank you so much for making an effort to send us gifts. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to receive them. May your holidays be wonderful and you enjoy with your loved ones.
Love, Joe Torres Family





2011 Share Christmas Report

Income	
Food and Gift Cards Donated to General Fund	\$20,065
Cash Donations	\$5,447
Total Income	\$25,512

Thank you from the bottom of my heart your blessings means so much to me and my family. May God bless you and keep you.
Love Kim Shors and family

Expenses	
Administrative costs to run Share Christmas Program	\$892
<i>i.e. postage, printing, packaging and food</i>	

Using your cash and food/gift card donations noted above, food and gift cards were purchased for Share Christmas families not chosen and additional gifts cards were donated to our sharing parishes to give to families who did not sign up for Share Christmas. In addition, 20 of our homebound parishioners received a visit, gift card and poinsettia plant.

Disbursements	
Individual & Family food / gift cards purchased	\$9,650
Sharing Parishes add'l gift cards purchased	\$2,395
Gift Card and Plant to SJC Homebound	\$1,100
Total	\$13,145

Cash and Gift Card Balance as of 12.26.11 \$11,475

Families & individuals served through your Share Christmas Gifts:

		Total People
Santa Maria Addolorato	20 families	136 people
St. Thaddeus	72 families	372 people
Blessed Sacrament	136 families	686 people
St. Mark	96 families	493 people
Local Community	10 families	42 people
Local Community	18 individuals	
Local Community	16 seniors	
Little Brothers	125 seniors	
St. Thaddeus	950 children	
St. Thomas of Canterbury	38 sheets sets, 79 personal care packs, 20 back packs	
Mary Queen of Heaven	63 new children's coats	

The actual value of your gifts to these Share Christmas families and individuals is unknown.

In sum, a total 334 families (comprised of 1,729 people) and 1,172 separate individuals were served and 137 received sheets and packs. To note, our parish Crossroads teens gifted 585 of the St. Thaddeus children and the YC and school families 365 children.

Through our 2011 Share Christmas Program St. John of the Cross Parish reached over 3,038 people! Thank you for making a difference!





2012 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL BEGINS

"Be Imitators of Christ!"

The 2012 Annual Catholic Appeal is underway. Many of our parishioners have received a mailing from Cardinal George asking you that you make a pledge to the *2012 Annual Catholic Appeal*. Thank you to all who have responded to the mailing. We are still two weeks away from the in-pew request. If you received the mailing and have not responded, please take advantage of this time to do so.

In addition to providing for ministries and services throughout the Archdiocese, the Appeal also funds services that are of great help to other ministries here in our parish.

This year, the theme of the Appeal is: "Be Imitators of Christ." We are all challenged to try to live our lives using the life of Christ as an example. Christ gave us the path to eternal life. His love for each of us cannot be taken lightly.

As we contemplate His gifts to us, we should also reflect on our gratitude for these gifts. Your financial support for the work our parish, of our Archdiocese and of the Church throughout the world is, in fact, one way to express this gratitude.

Please consider the materials that you will receive and give generously.

Please note that when our parish reaches its goal of \$134,677 in paid pledges, 100% of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our parish.

Please prayerfully consider making a significant pledge to the 2012 Annual Catholic Appeal.

"We are challenged to be imitators of Christ. Let us reflect His love for all people by supporting His mission through our generous contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal. We pray to the Lord."



Join our students
during **Super Bowl**
by placing an **"O"** in Super for
Souper Bowl Sunday

More than 20 years ago, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created **Souper Bowl of Caring**, and have rallied youth across the US to raise over \$71 million for people in need. On Sunday February 5th, millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join the young people of our Youth Catechesis Program as they demonstrate God's love by caring for their neighbors through the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. It is a simple, yet significant act. Drop off a can of soup and non-perishable food items at the signs: "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" at YC classes and church narthex on **February 5th and 6th**.

***Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime.
Please support their efforts.***

Everything collected will be donated to a area food pantry chosen by SJC YC Council, Please give generously.

YC Schedule

Classes K-6	10:15-11:30am	Sunday, Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12
	6:15-7:30pm	Monday, Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13
FFC/Preschool	Noon-1:30 pm	Sunday, February 4
Home Groups and Special Needs		Sunday, Jan 22, 29, Feb 12, 26

Stay Connected with SJC

We invite you to add your email address and areas of interest by visiting our NEW parish website at

stjohnofthecross.org

In February we will send you our monthly parish newsletter and calendar to keep you "in the know." You can also receive the bulletin electronically. All contact information will remain confidential. You will not receive any outside solicitations from any group.

If you did not receive our January e-newsletter, contact mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org.

Revelation

through Scripture & Tradition

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

presented by our Pastor
Father Dave Dowdle

Open to all adults seeking to grow in faith. Offered at **no cost** to you, courtesy of the Burlington Cluster of area churches. This course can lead to certification with the Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry. Workshop will be located in the Parish Center. Register to learn about...

...Revelation: Scripture and Tradition

...Old Testament: God's Revelation through History

...New Testament: God's Revelation through Jesus

...The Early Christian's Experience of God in their Lives

Register TODAY at 708-246-6760 or vc@sjcross.org



Jan. 22 Advisory 2nd semester training
10 a.m.- noon (the latest)
Home Groups Meet
Feb. 5 Parent Home Group Meeting
10-11:30 a.m. PC
Home Groups Meet times tba
Feb. 10-12 Frosh/Soph UNITY Retreat
Feb. 26 Home Group Meetings



Junior/Senior Kairos 10
Retreat Weekend is March 15-18, 2012
Led by Seniors in high school this weekend away
gives a personal, relaxing, reconnecting
with faith time.
REGISTRATIONS ONLINE:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
Due by Feb. 15

Our Crossroads Teen Advisory provides leadership opportunities for our high school teens. Meeting monthly, the group plans, implements and evaluates our ministry events.
ANY TEEN CAN JOIN FOR THE NEW SEMESTER:
Contact Katie for details & plan to join us **THIS WEEKEND** for the training meeting!
708-246-4404 ext. 140 OR khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

FROSH/SOPH UNITY RETREAT WEEKEND Feb. 10-12, 2011

Teens will enjoy the winter outdoors, connect to their faith & friends.



LAST CHANCE to REGISTER ONLINE is **NOW:**
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

PREPARATIONS FOR the New Year / Second Semester are underway!

We are in need of a few good adults & teens to join our leadership teams for events:
Frosh/Soph retreat Feb. 10-12: 1 adult male
Spring Mass April 29 5 p.m.: 2 adults

Check out who else is on the team:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
CLICK on Leaders

Summer 2012 Work Tour & Conference information packets are available online.

Prayer
Simplicity

Hope you can join us!
Registrations due by Feb. 6th

Service
Community

Parent Home Group

Sunday Feb. 5 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Parish Center
Experience a home group for parents of high school teens!

All are welcome—for us to be our best prepared to welcome you, it is helpful to have an email saying you will be with us: crossroads@stjohnofthecross.org

Last weekend many of us were able to enjoy the 4U2 concert presented by our parish teens & young adults. These thanks were shared with attendees:
Ann Bourjaily-Maney: for giving all your time and sharing your insanely amazing musical talents;
Erik Haddad and Mike Charbonneau: for bravely jumping in and sharing your time and talents;
Fr. David, Fr Darrio, and Fr Fil: for letting us make announcements in church and blessing our candles;
Marilyn Alberts & Shirley Rozsypal: for helping us with poster and program printing;
Katie Hayes: for the craft supplies, publicity in the bulletin, and support throughout the concert;
Kathy Treanor: for listening to all our speeches and coaching us on them and videotaping the concert;
Frank DiPompeo: for letting us use the projector, screen, and all the extension cords;
Laura Dragich: for helping us book the church;
All the People Who Donated at 4U last year; The People in our Stories: for the inspiration and life-changing stories; GOD



I would like to thank Caitlin Cavannaugh & Kayla Wingert for the leadership & determination to make this benefit happen a second time and to each of the teens who sang, spoke, and shared their faith:
Maggie Moran, Meghan McAuliffe, Tony Banda, Louie Kaczmarek, Christopher Zurowski, Nolan Sovcik, Kate Stanton, Mary & Kristin Van Spankeren, Elliot Borge, Chloe Kamali, MaryKate Maney, Alexis Reisch, Isabella Fiermonte, and Jack Linehan **YOU ARE A LIGHT IN THIS WORLD!**
Stories & photos will be on our Crossroads website starting soon so catch a glimpse of their light!



SJC third graders are busy researching famous Americans. The children used the mobile laptops, iPads and iTouch devices to find information for their biography reports!



Mid – Year Warm-up!
What? Coffee with the Parent Association
When? Tuesday, January 24th at 9:00 a.m.
(Regular meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.)

Where? Parish Center
Why? It's an opportunity to get more involved at SJC!

Children are welcome.

This Week at SJC

January 24 Parent Association Meeting
9:00 a.m., Parish Center

SAVE THE DATE...SAVE THE DATE...
SAVE THE DATE
Screening of acclaimed documentary
“RACE TO NOWHERE”!!!!



WHEN: February 29, 2012
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
WHERE: St. John of the Cross Parish
COST: \$11.54 (\$10 plus \$1.54 processing fee)
Pre-register online

“Our high-pressure, high stakes culture has invaded our schools and children’s lives, creating unhealthy, disengaged, unprepared and stressed-out youth.”
You can help make a difference!

Nationally recognized documentary by Vicki Abeles, a former Wall Street attorney, who was inspired by watching her 12 year old daughter, while being treated in the Emergency Room for stress related illness. For more information or to register online visit:

www.racetonowhere.com

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Volunteers are needed for Children's Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass. Preparation materials and training are provided. Please help us to continue to offer this wonderful ministry. The commitment is only one Sunday per month but the reward is great! Please call Megan O'Brien at 708-784-0732.



Faith. Academics. Service.

Catholic Schools

All are invited to visit our parish school!
Join us for our Catholic School's Week Open House!

Thursday, February 2nd
9–11 a.m. and 1:30–3:00 p.m.
Hope to see you there!

The St. John of the Cross Parish School
invites you to join us for coffee and donuts
in the Parish Center after the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Masses
on Sunday, January 29th.

Visit with SJC School families and
learn more about your Parish School!
We look forward to visiting with you!

Next weekend, January 28-29, there will be a second collection for the
Parish's Support a Student program which provides
financial assistance to parish families who are struggling to afford tuition at
our parish school due to family hardship.
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Are you thinking of choosing a Catholic High School?

Father Joseph F. McDonnell Scholarship Fund

**The Saint John of the Cross Women's Club
generates funds in support of Catholic education
by awarding scholarships to 8th grade and
high school students of St. John of the Cross Parish
who plan to attend a Catholic high school.**



*The number of scholarships and awarded sums are decided by the
Scholarship Committee and based on the number of qualifying appli-
cants and funds available.*

*Preference will be given to those students who
demonstrate financial need and are actively involved in the St. John of
the Cross Parish community.*

Timeline for Applications

January

Applications Available
in Parish Center

February

Completed
Applications
Due

April

Scholarship
Committee meets and
notifies awardees

*If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity please contact
Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404 ext. 140*

Chastity As Purity Of Heart And Intention

To live a chaste life is not easy, not just for celibates, but for everyone. Even when our actions are all in line, it is still hard to live with a chaste heart, a chaste attitude, and chaste fantasies. Purity of heart and intention is very difficult.

Why? Chastity is difficult because we are so incurably sexual in every pore of our being. And that is not a bad thing. It's God's gift. Far from being something dirty and antithetical to our spiritual lives, sexuality is God's great gift, God's holy fire, inside us. And so the longing for consummation is a conscious or inchoate coloring underlying most every action in our lives.

And so it is hard to pray for chastity because to pray for it, seemingly, is to pray that sexual yearning and sexual energy should lessen within us or disappear altogether. And who wants to live an asexual and neutered life? No healthy person wants this. Thus, if you are healthy, it is hard to put your heart into praying for chastity because, deep down, nobody wants to be asexual.

But the problem is not with chastity but with our understanding of it. To be chaste does not mean that we become asexual (though spirituality has forever struggled to not make that equation). Chastity is not about denying our sexuality but about properly channeling it. To be chaste is to be pure of heart. That's the biblical notion of chastity. Jesus does not ask us to pray for chastity, he asks us to pray for "purity of heart": Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God. They also channel their sexuality properly.

What is purity of heart? To be pure of heart is to relate to others and the world in a way that respects and honors the full dignity, value, and destiny of every person and everything. To be pure of heart is to see others as God sees them. Purity of heart would have us loving others with their good (and not our own) in mind. Karl Rahner suggests that we are pure of heart when we see others against an infinite horizon, namely, inside of a vision that sees the other's dignity, individuality, life, dreams, and sexuality within the biggest ambiance of all, God's eternal plan. Purity of heart is purity of intention and full respect in love.

When we understand chastity in this way we can more easily pray for it. In this understanding we are not praying to have our sexual energies deadened, we are praying instead to remain fully red-blooded but with our sexual energies, intentions, and daydreams properly channeled. We are praying too for the kind of maturity, human and sexual, that fully respects others.

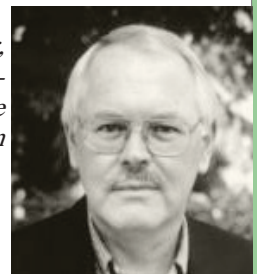
In essence, we are praying for a deeper respect, a deeper maturity, and a more life-giving love.

And this is a much-needed prayer in our lives because sexuality is so powerful that even inside of a marriage relationship sexuality can still have an intentionality that is not wide enough. Charles Taylor, in his book, *A Secular Age*, argues the point that sex too-easily loses the big picture and becomes narrow in its focus, a point that is often missed in our understanding of it: "I am not trying to be condescending about our ancestors, because I think that there is a real tension involved in trying to combine in one life sexual fulfillment and piety. This is only in fact one of the points at which a more general tension, between human flourishing in general and dedication to God, makes itself felt. That this tension should be particularly evident in the sexual domain is readily understandable. Intense and profound sexual fulfillment focuses us powerfully on the exchange within the couple; it strongly attaches us possessively to what is privately shared. ... It is not for nothing that the early monks and hermits saw sexual renunciation as opening the way to the wider love of God ... [And] that there is a tension between fulfillment and piety should not surprise us in a world distorted by sin, that is separated from God. But we have to avoid turning this into a constitutive incompatibility." Unfortunately that is forever what both the secular world and Christian spirituality (without a proper understanding of chastity) struggle not to do.

Given the power of sexuality inside us, and given the power of our human drives and yearnings in general, it is not easy to live a chaste life. It is even more difficult, and rare, to have a chaste spirit, a chaste heart, chaste daydreams, and chaste intentions. Our hearts want what they want and pressure us to ignore the consequences. We can easily feel a certain repugnance to praying for chastity. But that is largely because we do not understand chastity properly: It is not a deadening of the heart, a stripping away of our sexuality, but a deeper maturity that lets our sexual energies flow out in a more life-giving way.

Father Ron Rolheiser

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.



Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Catholicism Series

Tuesday, January 24, 1-3 p.m. & 7-9 p.m.

Episode Eight: Vast Company of Witnesses—The Communion of Saints

The story of the Church is told in the examples of those men and women who dedicated their lives to knowing and serving Jesus Christ. The Catholic Faith is made visible in real human lives. Father Barron gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and creative potential of the Catholic Church. Highlighting Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Father Barron tells the story of the Church as a vast company of witness who are called to be a Communion of Saints.

Tuesday: January 31, 1-3 p.m. & 7-9 p.m. and Friday, February 10, 7-9 p.m.

Episode Nine: The Fire of His Love—Prayer And the Life of the Spirit

In this lesson, Father Barron explores Catholic spirituality, which is centered on prayer. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and the heart to God." On pilgrimage to the places where the great saints and spiritual masters lived, Father Barron explores the different types of prayer: contemplation; adoration; petition; and intercession. In telling the stories of Catholics like Thomas Merton, St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, Fr. Barron demonstrates how the human person can be transformed through prayer that manifests a deep, spiritual commitment centered in Christ.

For more information contact Marianne Firlit at mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org

The New Feminism - Endow

Education on the Nature of the Dignity of Women

Two New groups are forming on: Wednesday, January 25

Blessed John Paul II's "Letter to Women"

This is a foundational study group – together we look at how the dignity of our womanhood profoundly affects the world, Wednesday Evenings 7-9 p.m. for 8 weeks ~OR~

Pope Benedict XVI Encyclical "God Is Love" (*Deus Caritas Est*)

The first encyclical written by our current Holy Father, he teaches us about the three kinds of love and the seamless unity between the contemplation of love and the action it requires.

Wednesday Afternoons 1-3 p.m. for 8 weeks

Both Groups will meet in the Parish Center. No homework! We do everything together when we meet.

The cost of each course is \$80 (up to 1 week before start date, then \$90) which includes the study guide.

Register at: www.EndowOnline.org Questions? Call Sue 708-246-7870 or email strokase@yahoo.com.

Love the learning. Build the friendships. Live the faith.

Little Rock Scripture Study Begins January 23, 1 p.m.

Spirituality of the Gospels

A 7-week study of spirituality in the four Gospels provides a multidimensional portrait of Jesus Christ. Selected 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 discussion is followed by a video lecture by a bible expert enhancing understanding of the Gospel message. Meetings of the group are on Mondays from 1—2:30 p.m. The cost of materials for this study is \$20. Please call Joan Roeder at 708-354-4862 to register even if you have previously participated in Little Rock.

2012 Programs for Men— Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien

***A Retreat for Men with Fr. Bob Colaresi: January 27, 6 p.m. - January 29, Noon**

Wrestling with God/Celebrating the Challenge

Presentations, prayer, silence and rituals focusing on our relationship with God amid the many roles men are expected to play. How do we listen to the Voice within of the God we struggle with and surrender to as men of faith. Cost: \$170—call 630-969-4141.

(continued on page 12)

2012 Programs for Men

Donkeys, Mules and Asses: Burdens Men Carry

Saturday morning, Feb. 4th, 8:30 a.m. until Noon, - Carmelite Spiritual Center -involves prayer, reflection, teaching, silence, ritual and group sharing. Coffee and rolls will be available at 8:40 a.m.—suggested free will offering of \$10 to cover room, coffee and rolls (payable at the door). Register by calling 630-852-7179.

SJC Club News

St. John of the Cross Women's Club

Is asking for your help to **"Fill God's Closet"**

Let's warm the hearts of those in need this Valentine's Day!

****Jan. 21st through Valentine's Day****



What is needed:

Hand warmers, razors, foot powder, toothpaste, backpacks & sleeping bags.

Men's underwear, long underwear, white socks, hoodies, jeans and sweatpants.

Women's sweatpants, undergarments and socks. (*need size XL for Men's & Women's Clothing items*)

Children's clothes, underwear, socks, shoes and toys

Bring your donations to the collection bins located in the SJC Church Foyer, The Parish Center, and the Parish School Lobby.

God's Closet supplies donated clothing, shoes and supplies to people in need before the Saturday Lunch Program at First Congregational Church in LaGrange.

Questions: please e-mail Deb Finn at jimanddeb26@sbcglobal.net or call 708-784-1541

Thank you for your continued support

**Saturday, January 28th
6:30 p.m., School Upper Gym**



**SJC Inaugural
Trivia Night**

Alex Trebec: "And the answer is: Trivia Night"

Question: "What is the most fun new event introduced to the SJC community in recent years?"

Alex: "Correct!"

The weekend before the Super Bowl is a perfect time to get together with friends and family and participate in one very fun event. There will be tables of 10 which will act as a "team" against scores of other "teams." We all have a friend or neighbor who is filled with bits of useless information -- useless until now!!

... Each table will create their own "theme."

... It's BYOB and BYOF(OOD).

... Sorry, adults only.

... Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams as well as a special prize for the best theme.

Please visit the SJC website for a list of FAQ's and details on how to submit a team!

SJC Club News



Join the SJC Mom's Club for a discussion on early childhood literacy! Colleen Whittingham, an SJC mom and early childhood literacy specialist, will lead a discussion on early literacy skills, what parents can do to foster an interest in reading and writing, and answer questions about literacy development and activities. Little ones are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. The SJC Mom's Club is a new parish organization for moms with young children. Make some new friends or catch up with old ones!

Friday, January 27

9:15-10:30 a.m.

SJC Parish Center

Questions? email Jennifer Nikolic jkravcik@gmail.com or Susan Sherlock susan.sherlock@gmail.com

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE IN THE PARISH CENTER AFTER ALL MASSES SUNDAY, JAN. 21 AND JAN. 28. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAND IN LINE THE DAY OF THE EVENT.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST*

Hosted by: The SJC Men's Club & SJC Boy Scout Troop 117



**Sunday,
February 12th**



**8:00 a.m. to
12:30 p.m.**

SJC Parish Center w/ Master Chefs

Cost per person: Adults - \$7; Children 5 thru 10 - \$3; Under 4 - free

Come enjoy an all-you-can eat breakfast of fluffy pancakes, tasty sausages, coffee, juice, milk and all the fixins'. Spend a lively morning with your fellow parishioners and don't worry about the cooking or cleaning! We are ready to feed a multitude! **Proceeds to benefit Boy Scout Troop 117 in their quest for a trailer.**

For info contact: Chris Fox, 708-299-0052, christopher_fox@sbcglobal.net or Damian Marshall, damianmarshall@sbcglobal.net **Buy your tickets at the PC anytime to avoid waiting.**

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*Disclaimer: Vote never occurred. Purely biased belief on the part of the Hosts!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____


Adults _____ @ \$7 = \$ _____

Children 5-10 _____ @ \$3 = \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Just for headcount purposes, any children under 5? _____

Cash or Check? Make checks payable to
SJC Boy Scout Troop #117



SJC Saintly Senior Club
invites you to our annual

Valentine's Day Luncheon & Program

Friday, February 10th
at 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

New Location: William Tell Terrace Room

6201 Joliet Road Countryside

Parking: Southwest corner of lot, west entrance goes directly into the Terrace Room

Enjoy a delicious luncheon of salad, vegetable, entrée of choice (Roast Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Marsala, or Tilapia), herbed mashed potatoes, rolls & butter, ice cream sundae, coffee, tea and a glass of wine.

Cost: \$24 per person

R.S.V.P. by Monday, February 6th to the Parish Center

Any questions,
Call Trudy Schmitt at 708-246-4696

This is a terrific way to connect with other Seniors at SJC!!

Hope to see you there!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Reservations @ \$24 _____

Entrée Choice:

Roast Sirloin of Beef _____ (How Many)

Chicken Marsala _____ (How Many)

Tilapia _____ (How Many)

Total \$ Enclosed _____ Drop off at the Parish Center by Monday, February 6th.
Make checks out to St. John of the Cross Parish.



New Parishioners Meeting

There will be a New Parishioners meeting on Sunday morning, **February 26th after the 10:45 a.m. Mass in the Parish Center.**

This meeting is for people who have recently joined the parish or for new parishioners who want to register. This is not only an informational meeting, but also a chance to get an overview of our parish life and to meet some new families.

Babysitting will be available free of charge in the Parish Center.



Donations for Kolbe House

Kolbe House is in need of men's underwear. They are asking for Boxers (not boxer briefs) in size medium and large. They also need undershirts - any type, all sizes. Please drop off donations at the Parish Center. Thank you.

Prayer from a Canticle by Saint John of the Cross

"We must dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures: however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides."

---St. John of the Cross

Through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the intercession of Saint John,
may we treasure the gifts of life which God has given
us!

This Week @ SJC

Monday, January 23

10:30 a.m. 11th Step Christian Meditation
1:00 p.m. Little Rock
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
3:30 p.m. Daisy Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

9:00 a.m. Parent Association Meeting
1:00 p.m. Catholicism Series
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine's Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Rosary
3:30 p.m. 3rd Grade Brownie Meeting
6:30 p.m. Town Hall Prep Meeting
7:00 p.m. Catholicism Series
7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, January 25

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
3:30 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting
7:00 p.m. Endow
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, January 26

2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick up
7:00 p.m. Springdale Civic Association Meeting
7:00 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Promise

Friday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Mom's Club

Saturday, January 28

7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, January 29

Hospitality after the 9 and 10:45 a.m. Masses
in the Parish Center. All are welcome.

Baptism Preparation Meeting Thursday, February 2



Baptism preparation meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center. All couples are expected to attend the meeting. Godparents are encouraged and most welcome to attend. Please call the Parish Center if you are coming or if you have any questions.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Pray for our Sick

*God of love,
 ever caring, ever strong,
 stand by us in our time of need.
 Watch over _____ who is sick,
 Look after him/her in every danger, and
 grant him/her your healing and peace.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus.
 Amen.*

Dolores Boblick	Emily Johanns
Colin Campbell	Olga Matusik
Garth Chrisie	Nancy Olin
Denny Dine, Sr.	Greg Palaschak
Mark Glassgow	Marion Pascale
John Grand	Matthew Pecis
Karen Hult	Emerson Roessler
Ruth Ilg	Bob Sturenfeldt

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Felix Daukus, step-father of Rich Schapetta
John Alvin Dicken, father of John Dicken

Baptisms

Lisa Irene,
 daughter of Scott and Lynn (Volin) LeTourneau

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

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 ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
 Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell
 Rev. Darrio L. Boscutti
 dboscutti@stjohnofthecross.org
 Rev. Filbert Ngwila
 fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
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 Deacon Joe & Mary Pepitone
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 Kathleen Gorman, School Principal
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Katie Hayes, Director of Crossroads
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 Jessica Koch, Director of Music
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 MJ Martin, Director of Parish Operations
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 Shirley Rozsypal, Administrative Assistant
 srozypal@stjohnofthecross.org
 Christina Turlek, Financial & Adm. Assistant
 cturlek@stjohnofthecross.org

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 23
 6:30 Purgatorial
 7:45 Margaret Albertson; Clarice Cogan

Tuesday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales
 6:30 Maria Barr; Peter Soltys
 7:45 Don Spiering; Bill Broderick

Wednesday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul
 6:30 Parishioners
 7:45 Dennis Callaghan; Helen Widdes

Thursday, January 26, Ss. Timothy & Titus
 7:45 Fr. Sigsbert Mzaga;
Family of Scott Garrett

Friday, January 27, St. Angela Merici
 7:45 Don Winkel; Marilyn Love

Saturday, January 28, St. Thomas Aquinas
 8:00 Deceased Family Members of SJC School
 Joanne Costigan
 5:00 Maria Barr; Herbert & Mabel Petzold

Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday Ordinary
 7:30 Rev. Henry Pozdol; Bruno Shukis
 9:00 John Santucci; Tom DeStefani, Sr.
 10:45 Eva & Walter Callahan; Anthony Jacyno
 12:15 Kyle Bozick; Kathleen Vanderplow
 5:00 Paul Koumas; Robert Hawkins

Italics—Living

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18
 Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
 Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Mass Times

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
 12:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday:
 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
(Sun. Anticipatory)
 Monday – Wednesday:
 6:30 and 7:45 a.m.
 Thursday and Friday:
 7:45 a.m.
 Holy Days:
 6:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Reconciliation
 Following the Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word
 Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 and 10:45 a.m. Masses

Babysitting in the Garden Room
 of the Rectory at the Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 and 10:45 a.m. Masses.

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Air Conditioned Restaurant & Carry Out-Seating for 200-Delivery Service
CALL 354-4500 YOUR ORDER WILL BE READY 5525 LA GRANGE RD.

LEDOS PIZZA
OPEN DAILY
11:00 AM DAILY & SUNDAY
2:00 PM

Please join the SJC Women's Club
for
An Appetizing Evening!

Featuring the unique culinary creations of
wife and husband team
Brittany Ferrin and Vaidotas Karsokas
of



www.truffleberrymarket.com

January 25th, 2012
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

In the Parish Center

SPACE IS LIMITED
YOU MUST RSVP BY JANUARY 22 TO ATTEND

The Women's Club would like to support the Midwest Workers Association at this event. Please bring in a canned good, rice beans or non-perishable food item to help support the many families who have lost jobs or are very low income.

Please TEAR OFF bottom portion to RSVP and drop off at Parish Center with Payment OR reserve your seat via the SJC WEBSITE by the 22nd and drop payment off at parish center by January 24th!

www.stjohnofthecross.org



(COST \$5.00 PER PERSON – SENIORS GET IN FREE)

NAME: _____

#OF GUESTS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE A SENIOR: _____

Questions? Contact: 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