

# ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH



JANUARY 1, 2012

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

## A Note from Fr. Darrio

In a recently homily I shared this list of gift suggestions. Many have asked for a copy of the “Free” Gifts for the Giving! Happy New Year, Fr. Darrio.

1. The Gift of Listening... But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
2. The Gift of Affection... Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
3. The Gift of Laughter... Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, “I love to laugh with you.”
4. The Gift of a Written Note...It can be a simple “Thanks for the help” note or a full sonnet. A brief hand-written note may be remembered for a lifetime and may even change a life.
5. The Gift of a Compliment... A simple and sincere, “You look great in red,” “You did a super job” or “That was a wonderful meal” can make someone’s day.
6. The Gift of a Favor... Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.
7. The Gift of Solitude... There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
8. The Gift of Cheerful Disposition... The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it’s not that hard to say “Hello” or “Thank You.”



### Quiet Reflection

#### Discovering Christ

I think that we have hardly thought through the immense implications of the mystery of the incarnation. Where is God? God is where we are weak, vulnerable, small and dependent. God is where the poor are, the hungry, the handicapped, the mentally ill, the elderly, the powerless. How can we come to know God when our focus is elsewhere, on success, influence and power? I increasingly believe that our faithfulness will depend on our willingness to go where there is brokenness, loneliness, and human need.

If the church has a future it is a future with the poor in whatever form. Each one of us is seriously searching to live and grow in this belief, and by friendship we can support each other. I realize that the only way for us to stay well in the midst of the many “worlds” is to stay close to the small, vulnerable child that lives in our hearts and in every other human being. Often we do not know that the Christ child is within us. When we discover him, we can truly rejoice.

*Sabbatical Journey: The Diary of His Final Year. Henri J. M. Nouwen Society*

Dear Parishioners,

I have some sad news for us about Fr. Kieran Kemner, OSF. Fr. Kieran was moved to his home town to be closer to his family. As you may be aware he has been struggling of late and he will be living in a nursing home, at least for the near future. Fr. Kieran is owed a great debt of gratitude for all he has done over the 40+ years he has ministered in our parish. He has formed close friendships with many of you in that time. He has graciously taught Scripture classes for many years. He has ministered as a priest in helping with confessions and by helping with daily Mass too many times to mention.

You can write to him at:  
Fr. Kieran Kemner, OSF  
Sunset Home  
418 Washington Street  
Quincy, IL 62301

Please keep Fr. Kieran in your prayers.  
Fr. David

## This Week @ SJC

### Monday, January 2

10:30 a.m. 11th Step Christian Meditation  
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

### Tuesday, January 3

1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine's Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. RCIA

### Wednesday, January 4

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

### Thursday, January 5, School Resumes

7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting

### Friday, January 6,

7:00 p.m. Catholicism Series

### Saturday, January 7

7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

### Sunday, January 8

4:00 p.m. BEDS



### Parish Holiday Calendar Notes

The Parish Center will be open today, Sunday, January 1, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. We will be closed on Monday, January 2.

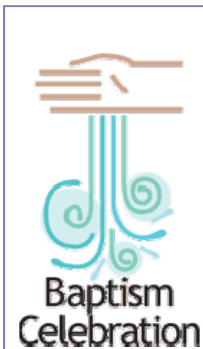
Emergency assistance from one of our priests during nonbusiness hours is always available by calling the Parish Center number and following the prompts.

**708-246-4404**

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, January 2.

Our Youth Catechesis Office will be closed from January 1- January 8.

School Resumes January 5.



### **Baptism Preparation Meeting** **Thursday, January 5**

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.

Coming soon...



## **VOCAL TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP**

Facilitated by Jessica Koch  
Director of Music

Learn more about the art of singing, be more confident in your voice, and have fun doing it! Each session is like a group voice lesson.

### DATES AND TOPICS

Each session is offered on a Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. and repeated on a Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

**January 4-5: Breath Control**

**February 1-2: Producing Sound**

**March 7-8: Resonation**

**April 11-12: Singing Beautiful Vowels**

**May 16-17: How to Enunciate Clearly**

**June 6-7: Singing "Word Sounds"**

**For more information, or to enroll:**

**Jessica Koch**

**(708) 246-4404, ext. 136**

**[jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org](mailto:jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org)**

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

**[stjohnofthecross.org](http://stjohnofthecross.org)**

In January you can begin to receive our monthly parish newsletter and calendar. 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 Fr. David's Christmas podcast via email, we do not have your email address in our new database.

On December 10, 2011 Bishop John Manz came to St. John of the Cross Parish to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on eight remarkable teens in the Youth Catechesis Special Needs program. These young people prepared for the reception of this sacrament for two years in a specially formed "home group" which met at the parish school twice a month. They journeyed with their parents, catechists and aides during this time as they attended classes, performed service projects together, and participated in a Day of the Spirit Confirmation retreat. They chose saint names, wrote saint reports and letters to Fr. Dowdle and Bishop Manz expressing their desire to be confirmed and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Confirmation celebration was truly spirit-filled as these young teens were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and now take their place in our Church as young people truly "on fire" with their faith. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to them. We also thank their committed and diocesan award-winning Catechists, Diane Campion and Catie Lee.

As we celebrate with them, we would like to share excerpts from their letter to the pastor and bishop and ask that you remember each of them in prayer.



*Heavenly Father,  
Please hear our prayer for these children.  
Hold them, Father, in the palm of your hand.  
Gently love away their defenses.  
Make them one with the Holy Spirit.  
Fill their hearts with your boundless love  
so it pours forth from them  
in loving concern for others.  
Give them the wisdom to see creation  
through eyes of childhood wonder;  
with trust and hope, let them speak of you  
through peaceful lives of service.  
Call them forth through the needs of others.  
Have them listen with their hearts and,  
in response, help them gift the world with  
the treasures of themselves. Amen.*



**Mary**

The saint I chose is **Angela Merici**. I chose this Saint because she is the saint of the physically challenged and handicapped, lost her sight and regained it. She was a teacher of children and the founder of St. Ursula.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is knowledge.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.



**John**

The saint I chose is **Joseph**. I chose this Saint because I was born three days before Jesus. I chose Jesus' father's name. And I love to build things with my father.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *respect and courage*.

Thank you for celebrating my day with me.



*Take o take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*



**Hope**

The saint I chose is **Claire**. I chose this Saint because Claire is my mom's first name and I love my Mom.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *courage*.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.



**Brendan**

The saint I chose is Maximus. I chose this Saint because He questioned God and his religion for good.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *courage*.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.



**Daniella**

The saint I chose is **Cecilia**. St. Cecilia loved music like I do. She sings and dances to the music.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *knowledge*.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.



**Cole**

The saint I chose is **Nicholas**. St. Nicholas takes care of children. He makes people happy.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *wisdom*.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.



**Maria**

The saint I chose is **St. Anne**. I chose this saint because Anne was a good grandma to Jesus.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *wisdom*.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.



**Delaney**

The saint I chose is **St. Scholastica**. I chose this Saint because I love my brothers too.

We had a retreat where we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift I most desire in my life right now is *wonder and awe*.

Thank you for celebrating my special day with me.

## Save the Date!!

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!"

### SJC Inaugural Trivia Night



Saturday,  
January 28th

in the school upper gym. 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 Men's Club Presents

#### Father Kevin Feeney

"Christ and the Community of the Beautiful:

The Transforming Power of Beauty in Our Spiritual Lives".

The presentation will be on images and actions which shape us

and the community into Christ.

**Thursday, January 12, 2012 7:00 p.m. SJC Parish Center**

Father Kevin Feeney is the Vice President and Dean of Formations at the nation's largest Catholic seminary, The University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago. And he is the former Director of Spiritual Life at St. Mary's. After once having given the Men's Club a retreat, St. John of the Cross Men's Club is fortunate to once again have this highly sought after Retreat Master speak to us. All men of the parish are invited.



### The SJC Women's Club Annual Cooking Night!

Featuring Chefs Vaidotas Karsokas & Brittany Ferrin  
of Truffleberry Market Catering

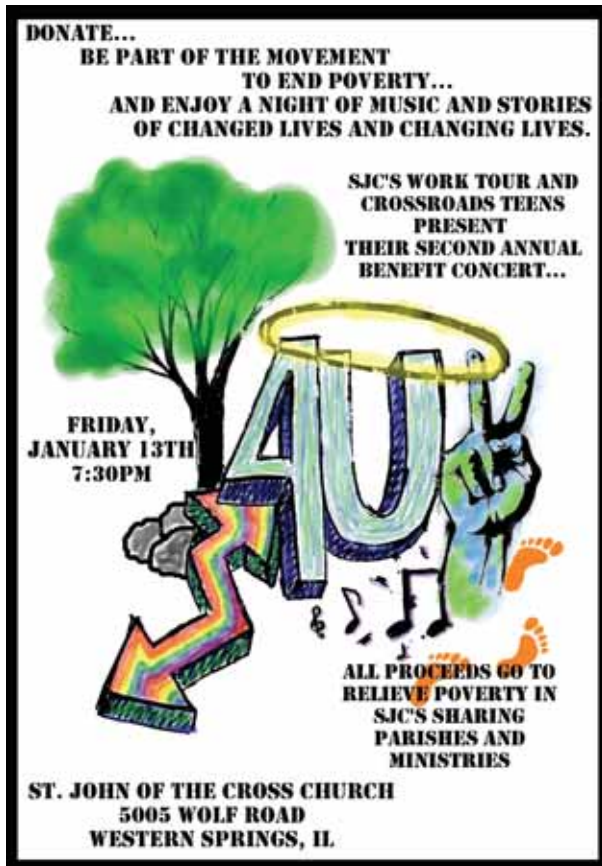
These world-class chefs will prepare four appetizers for  
demonstration and tasting

**January 25th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Center**

Space is limited! Watch the bulletin for registration information.  
\$5/person - Seniors FREE!

Like the SJC Women's Club on Facebook to stay in the know!

# Crossroads



Jan. 4 DOS Team Eval Mtg 9 a.m.  
 Jan. 6 UNITY team mtg 9 a.m.  
 Jan. 8 Home Groups meet  
 Jan. 13 4U2 Concert

Jan. 14 FMSC service trip 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 Jan. 15 K10 Team mtg 1-4 p.m.  
 Jan. 18 HG Leaders mtg 9 a.m. or 7 p.m.  
 Jan. 22 Advisory 2nd semester training 10 a.m.-noon  
 Home Groups Meet



Junior/Senior Kairos 10  
 Retreat Weekend is March 15-18, 2012  
 Lead by Seniors in high school this  
 weekend away gives a personal, relaxing,  
 reconnecting with faith time.

REGISTRATIONS ONLINE:  
[www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads)  
 Due by February 15

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

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

REGISTRATION ONLINE:  
[www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads)  
 Due by January 27

## PREPARATIONS FOR the

New Year / Second Semester are underway!

As you can see many of our planning meetings  
 take place the first couple weeks of January.

These will help our ministry leaders prepare  
 for events. A few areas that need some extra  
 leadership support are listed below. Any teen  
 or adult who is willing to share their time to  
 make these events happen  
 should call or email Katie Hayes.

1 Adult Male & 1 Adult Female are invited to  
 join our Frosh/Soph Unity Retreat team  
 (2 meetings in January,  
 weekend away Feb. 10-12)

2 Adults & 2 teens are invited to join our  
 Spring Mass (April 29th) planning Team

Service Afternoon  
 Sat. Jan. 14th



Meet at SJC 1p.m., travel  
 via carpool to Aurora to  
 serve 2-4 p.m.  
 return by 5 p.m.

All High School Teens & Adults are invited. Please  
 email [kwoj1@gmail.com](mailto:kwoj1@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!  
 Adults please share the number of car seats you  
 have to take teens! Thanks!

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 for the Jan. 22nd training meeting!  
 708-246-4404 ext. 140 OR [khayes@stjohnofthecross.org](mailto:khayes@stjohnofthecross.org)

## Interfaith Career Network

### Job Search Networking 2012!

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) invites you to check out the new format of our first networking session in 2012. Join us on Thursday, January 5 from 7:00-9:00 p.m., our program will begin with a presentation by one of our experienced networkers, Peter Sturdivant. He will discuss how to effectively prepare for and participate in a 1-1 networking meeting. Peter will tell us how to plan a one hour networking meeting so that you have a productive conversation. The goal is that both you and the person you meet with will feel it was time well spent and both parties will leave with a connection that has been successfully established.

Following Peter's opening, expand your networking with 1-2 roundtable sessions. Share leads, information and tips. Network and strategize your job search through shared conversation and connections with other job seekers. Bring copies of your resume or a network handbill. Don't have one? Come anyway. Plan to bring a friend.

This meeting is open to all and there is no fee to attend. Come to the First Baptist Church, 20 North Ashland Avenue in La Grange (across from the La Grange Post Office). Please use the Bell Avenue entrance.

*ICN offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at: [www.interfaithcareernetwork.org](http://www.interfaithcareernetwork.org)*

### Federal Jobs and How to Improve Your Chances

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) invites job seekers to an informative session on how to increase your chances of success when applying for federal jobs. Our speaker on Thursday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 S. Wolf Rd, will be Becky Brillion, from Naperville's Community Career Center. Becky's discussion, "Federal Job Application Tips and Hints," will help job seekers identify open positions, navigate the process and tailor their resume to match government hiring requirements.

Projections of the federal employment sector add 153,000 civilian employees by the end of 2012, bringing the total number of federal workers to 1.43M. Retirement plans of long-term federal workers are still on track and allow for additional new hire opportunities. Federal job benefits are among the best in the country, adding to the attractiveness of working for the government, but landing a federal job involves a different process than landing in the private sector. Learn about the government job postings website through this demonstration presentation where explanation of the GS pay system will also be described, resume writing towards the federal goal will be explained, and participant questions will be answered. Plan to attend and invite a friend.

This meeting is open to all and there is no fee to attend. *ICN offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at: [www.interfaithcareernetwork.org](http://www.interfaithcareernetwork.org)*

## Youth Catechesis



Our 7th grade Youth Catechesis students created bags and donated wrapping paper to "Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly" in December to share the Holiday Spirit with those in need.

Throughout 7th and 8th grade they learn about local service organizations and give their time in helping others. St. John of the Cross is blessed with so many wonderful giving students!

**YC Schedule**  
*Classes will resume*  
**Sunday**  
**January 22nd**

The YC Office will be closed December 26th to January 8th. We will resume normal office hours on January 9th—Enjoy your Christmas celebrations!

Contact the YC office at 708-246-6760 or [yc@sjcross.org](mailto:yc@sjcross.org)  
There is a drop box at the YC office door for your use!



# Catholicism

## Over 400 Came. What did they say?

“It was totally absorbing and magnificent.”

“It strengthened my knowledge and appreciation of my faith.”

“The series has inspired me to learn more about my faith and pray daily for an increase in faith.”

“It made me hungry for more information on the Catholic faith.”

“It helped me realize how beautiful our faith is.”

“It confirmed for me the importance of my spiritual life.”

### Mark Your Calendar and Join Us for Episodes 6-10

**Tuesdays: January 10, 17, 24, 31, & Feb 7, 1-3 pm & 7-9 p.m.**

**Fridays: January 6, 13, 20, & Feb 10, 24, 7-9 p.m.  
in the Parish Center**

For more information contact Marianne Firlit at [mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org](mailto:mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org)



*Have you heard about Endow groups?*

*Are you a “woman in the pew”?*

*Would you like to “grow as a woman and as a Catholic” like one of our St. John of the Cross moms says that she did?*

### Two new groups will begin 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

#### **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 will do everything together when we meet. The cost of the course is \$80 (up to 1 week before start date, then \$90) which includes the study guide. Scholarships are available.

Register at: [www.EndowOnline.org](http://www.EndowOnline.org) Questions? Call Sue 708-246-7870 or email [strokase@yahoo.com](mailto:strokase@yahoo.com). Registrations will be taken after Masses on January 8. Child care will be made available if you wish.

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

# St. John of the Cross Parish School Christmas Celebrations



*St. Nicholas Day*



*Preschool Christmas Program*



*Service Projects*



*Choir at Bethlehem Woods*

# Happy New Year!



*St. Nicholas Day*



*Christmas Pageant*



*Advent Ceremony*



*Western Springs Tree Trimming*



*Breakfast with the Baby Jesus*

## READ ~ REFLECT ~ SHARE

Beginning Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 -3:30 p.m., the Spiritual Journaling group will be reading Ron Rolheiser's new book [Our One Great Act of Fidelity...Waiting for Christ in the Eucharist](#). After reading there will be time to write if you wish or reflect quietly before the sharing portion of the session.

All are welcome to join us.

For more information and book orders contact Marianne Firlit,  
[mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org](mailto:mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org), or 246-4404 ex .155



*May Mary help us discover  
the face of Jesus,  
Prince of Peace.  
May she support  
and accompany us  
in this new year;  
may she obtain for us  
and for the whole world  
the desired gift of  
peace.*

*Pope John Paul II*

## 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.*

Garth Chrisie  
Mark Glassgow  
Karen Hult  
Ruth Ilg  
Emily Johanns  
Jim Kenny  
Olga Matusik  
Nancy Olin  
Greg Palaschak  
Matthew Pecis  
Emerson Roessler  
Joanne Shea  
Bob Sturenfeldt

### Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Scott Garrett, nephew of Kathy Pecis  
Phyllis Curtin, mother of Kelly Curtin  
Alvina Rizzo, daughter of Kathy Burke  
Mary Danly, mother of Catherine,  
Elizabeth and Christina  
Richard Ronk, uncle of Susan Grier

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

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, January 2

6:30 Parishioners  
7:45 Josephine Sakowicz; Michael Brady

#### Tuesday, January 3

6:30 Purgatorial  
7:45 Augustine J. Nilles; Jack Polivka

#### Wednesday, January 4

6:30 Mary (Molly) Cullen  
7:45 Christopher Delia; Nancy Makris

#### Thursday, January 5

7:45 Sophie & Ervin Rozsypal; Frank Piszczor

#### Friday, January 6

7:45 Jack Polivka; Fran McGovern

#### Saturday, January 7

8:00 Mr. Hawkins; Albert Luke  
5:00 David Bock; John Denbesten; Ann Grecco

#### Sunday, January 8

7:30 Raymond Matusik; Cecile Hussfield  
9:00 Joseph Levato; Arch Reimann  
10:45 Thomas Albertson; Dorothy Budziak  
12:15 Derek Tenner; Edward J. Sandrick  
5:00 Dominic Cairo; John Santucci

*Italics—Living*

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42  
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38  
[23, 31-34, 36, 38]  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11  
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

*Jesus, shine through me  
and be so in me that every person I come in contact with  
may feel your presence in my soul.*

*John Henry Newman*

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