

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH

FEBRUARY 19, 2012
SEVENTH 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



Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 22nd. Those who come to begin Lent by coming to Mass and receiving ashes will be reminded to 'Repent and Believe in the Gospel.' The schedule for Ash Wednesday can be found on page 8 of our bulletin.

The season of Lent is special to the extent that we make it so; to the extent that it celebrates our life in Christ; to the extent that it announces our uniqueness as people who belong to God; to the extent that we invest it with meaning. Lent is special to the extent that it invites us to grow in grace and holiness.

For most of us, there is no need to make a violent break from some enormous sin. Most of us don't have to rend our garments or even our hearts as the prophet Joel mentions in the first reading on Ash Wednesday. We don't need to make more of our faults than God does. But all of us do need to recall that there are indeed special seasons of grace, appropriate times to do things. If we treat all days the same and think that we can attend to our relationship with God anytime, then we tend to drift.

When we are broken we tend to exile ourselves or withdraw from people just when we need them most. Sometimes we feel powerless to help ourselves, too broken to realize our need for healing. It is then that God sends us grace in the form of friends whose care leads us to help and to wholeness. In our sin, we may hold God and others at arm's length. Even then, God's grace can penetrate and offer us forgiveness and a new beginning.

Our parish focus this Lent is on Forgiveness and the healing and new life that it can bring. Probably all of us have known the happiness of being reconciled with a friend or family member after some hurt has come between us. True forgiveness—forgiveness without grudges, without ever bringing up the incident again—is a healing experience that breathes new life into a relationship. This quality of forgiveness is invigorating and noble because it reflects the quality of the forgiveness of God.

Forgiveness and letting go of a grudge is the theme of our Parish Mission on March 11th through the 14th. We encourage you to make this powerful and inspiring Mission a priority on your schedule. More on the Mission follows on the next page.

Standing on the brink of Lent, we invite you to experience the joy and healing experience that true forgiveness can breathe into your life. It is good for us to remember God's willingness to heal, mend and reconcile all who have grown away from him. We too can surrender to hurt, guilt, and sad memories as we forgive one another.

Walk with us this Lent. On the pages that follow we have highlighted many opportunities that invite us to forgive and be forgiven, to be filled with holiness, joy and healing, to find new life.

Rev. David Dowdle
Rev. Darrio Boscutti
Rev. Filbert Ngwila
Bill Bright

Janet Caschetta
Jim Clauer
Marianne Firlit
Kathleen Gorman

Katie Hayes
Jessica Koch
MJ Martin



Lent *Letting Go of a Grudge*
Parish Mission
March 11 - 14, 2012

**Letting Go of a Grudge Parish Mission
led by Fr. Frank Desiderio, CSP**

Using themes from *The Big Question: A Film About Forgiveness*, executive producer, Fr. Frank Desiderio, CSP takes people through the five steps of L-E-T G-O, to show how to let go of hurt and resentment, and gain the freedom of forgiveness. Fr. Frank is the former president of Paulist Productions and popular preacher of parish missions and retreats.



When it comes to forgiving a person who has wronged you, so many people say, "just let go," but rarely do they tell you how. The Letting Go of a Grudge Parish Mission gives participants the basic tools and steps to find healing through forgiveness. This mission will benefit people who need to let go of old hurts and raging resentments, which will subsequently allow them to move forward in their life.

Fr. Frank's homily at all weekend Masses on the weekend of March 10-11 will focus on what forgiveness is and is not and why we don't forgive: Anger, Justice and Revenge. On Monday evening, March 12 the award winning documentary, *The Big Question*, will be shown. This film tells stories of people who have overcome great hurts and become greater human beings. The film examines the scientific evidence of why forgiveness is good for you and talks with some of the greatest spiritual teachers of our time. Fr. Desiderio will use the film as a basis for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, March 13 and 14, when he will lead parishioners through the five steps of letting go of hurt, anger, resentment and revenge and will present ways for them to become more forgiving in their own lives, community, nation and world. A Forgiveness Ritual will help parishioners have a transformational experience.

All evening sessions on March 12-14 will be in church at 7:00 p.m.



Programs at The Well...

St. John of the Cross and St. Francis Xavier have a partnership with The Well in LaGrange to co-sponsor spiritual programs that will inspire and enable us to draw closer to God. Our parishioners may attend the following programs free of charge. The Well is located at 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park near Nazareth High School. Call the Parish Center to register.

Jack Shea

Lenten Afternoon: Remembering What Really Matters

February 26 1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.

Lent is a time of returning to essentials and focusing on what really matters. This entails both purgation and illumination. On the purgative side, we have to let go of accidentals, reduce the clutter, simplify, weed the garden. On the illuminative side, we have to ponder the insights that come from spiritual wisdom and integrate them into our lives. Using Gospel passages as a guide, we will work with the balance of letting go and engaging wholeheartedly. Jack Shea is a nationally known theologian and storyteller.

Paula D'Arcy

Healing our World from the Inside Out: A Day of Retreat

March 31 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

What better way to enter Holy Week than to pause and take a deeper look at the way we are all living our lives? What happens when we stop believing that change will only happen "out there," and begin to realize that we are the world, and healing begins from the inside out? The day promises to be reflective, informative and transformative. Paula D'Arcy is a well known writer, playwright, retreat leader and conference and seminar speaker.

Join the Spiritual Journaling Group on Mondays at 2:30-4:00 p.m. and read Paula's *Waking Up to This Day* to prepare for Paula's visit.

SJC Women's Club Retreat

February 24-25
Hilton DoubleTree Hotel
Downers Grove

All women seeking friendship with God and a night away to recharge and be inspired are welcome. Dr. Mary Amore will explore what Jesus taught about friendship so that you can cultivate a closer friendship with him that will change your life. Through discussion, you will also learn to be a better friend and meet new friends too! A yoga class will be available. Register online or in the Parish Center.



Lent Prayer & Retreat Opportunities

Pray the Labyrinth

Walk the Labyrinth and find a deeper place as you journey within. Saturday, March 24 from 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. See our parish website for more information.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 6:00 p.m. in church throughout Lent. Led by parish families, praying the stations is appropriate for all ages.

Taizé Prayer

Friday, March 23 - following Stations in our church, join in Taizé Prayer, an ecumenical form of prayer consisting of song, scripture, light and meditation.

Family Rosary

Thursdays in Lent (except Holy Thursday) 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Evening or Morning of Meditation

Watch The Pilgrimage: The Daily Practice a DVD by Laurence Freeman ~ Meditate ~ Share ~ Friday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m.



Kolbe House Online Lenten Retreat

A Lenten retreat that fits perfectly with busy schedules. Each Monday in Lent, you will receive an email that contains a reflection prepared by a Kolbe House chaplain or volunteer who ministers to youth detained at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. The theme: *Listening: Quieting ourselves to the presence of God*, will be presented through the Lenten Sunday scriptures and questions for reflection.

The response and commitment to the retreat is strictly up to each individual. A simple email to kolberetreat@aol.com is all that is required to participate. No other obligation is asked.



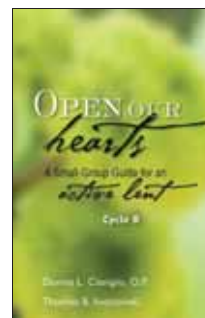
Lenten Bridges to Contemplative Living: Living Your Deepest Desires

This is a different program from last year by the same editors. If you joined us last year it will continue your spiritual journey. If you are new this is a perfect place to start. This program will gently lead participants on a journey toward spiritual transformation and a more contemplative peace-filled life. Contemplative living is a way of responding to our everyday experience by consciously attending to our relationships. It deepens our awareness of our connectedness to others and this becomes a meaningful direction in our lives. Bridges does not require an academic background in theology or spirituality. The program will involve weekly readings and time for reflection questions that will be discussed in small groups that will meet in homes or the Parish Center. The times are listed below. Register online or in the Parish Center.

Open Our Hearts

Open Our Hearts is a Lectionary-based, small-group faith-sharing program. The book includes daily scripture meditations and a weekly program for lively discussion. Sunday gospel texts are printed right in the booklet, and citations with brief commentaries on the first and second readings appear as sidebars. Group sessions link the scriptures with informative and practical commentary and reflection questions, space for written responses, prayers, and suggested activities help reinforce the week's message. This is the perfect format for those looking for a first time Lenten experience or for those seasoned veterans. Join us this year in this new series here at St. John of the Cross. There is a separate group for seniors. Register online or in the Parish Center.

Please circle your choice(s)



Bridges to Contemplative Living

Starting date is Feb. 22

Please check your time preferences:

- Monday 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday 12:00- 1:30 p.m. or 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- Thursday 12:00-1:30 p.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Friday 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Open Our Hearts

Starting date is Feb. 22

Please check your time preferences:

- Monday 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 9-10 a.m.
- Friday, 1-2 p.m. (Seniors Only)

Name _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

(A one-time \$6 free will offering is suggested.)

Lent Operation Rice Bowl

During the Lenten season we are immersed into the mystery of the Church as we prepare for Easter. We are invited to pray, give alms and fast, disciplines that strengthen us on our Lenten journey. Along with 13,000 faith communities across the U.S., our parish will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Operation Rice Bowl to demonstrate solidarity with the poor around the world. Operation Rice Bowl invites us to pray with our families and faith communities, fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, and learn about our brothers and sisters around the world, and give sacrificial contributions to help those in need. (75% of Operation Rice Bowl donations help fund development programs designed to increase food security around the world. 25% of the donations support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in dioceses within the U.S.)

At Mass on Ash Wednesday and on the weekend of February 25-26 each parish family will receive a Rice Bowl to fill with spare change and a Lenten calendar with prayers, recipes and reflections. Each week in Lent we will learn about hunger and poverty in a different country: Madagascar, Vietnam, El Salvador, Zambia, India and the U.S. Families with children can participate in special activities each week planned just for them (found on our parish website) that will help them deepen their awareness of needs throughout the world. Your Rice Bowl donations can be brought to Mass on Palm Sunday, April 1st. Watch the bulletin and website each week as we learn, pray, fast and give to those who are poor and hungry.

Let's join together this Lent to help reduce poverty in the world. May the words of the gospel continue to ring in our ears and prompt us to follow the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food" (Matthew 25:35).



Join CRS Operation Rice Bowl this Lent!
orb.crs.org



What do you hope to achieve during your Lenten journey? This Lent, I will:

Consider prayer, fasting, community service, sacrificial giving, or a combination of these activities. Post this commitment in a prominent place, review it throughout Lent, and celebrate your progress.

De' #kq#K j ks ?##

More than one billion people, or over one sixth of the planet's population, are suffering from hunger. This number is greater than the populations of the U.S., Canada and the European Union combined.

Malnutrition and diseases related to hunger cause about six in ten childhood deaths in developing countries, or approximately five million per year.

Enough food is produced globally to feed everyone, but many people are hungry because they lack land to grow food or money to purchase it.

God of the poor, we long to see Your face. You tell us, "Whatever you did for one of these least you did for me." May we recognize You in each of our brothers and sisters. May our prayers and fasting unite us with those who hunger. May we share of our blessings with those in need. Amen.



Lenten Customs...

Throughout Lent, Catholics 14 years and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. SJC offers meatless meal ideas on our website and in our bulletin.

Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Fasting is also encouraged for Holy Saturday.

Those who are fasting may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs, but we refrain from eating solid foods between meals.

Practice fasting by...

- « # Joining the Church in its observance of the Lenten Fast
- « # Choosing to add your own day of fasting each week
- « # Abstaining from negative talk and attitude such as gossiping, complaining, stereotyping, etc.
- « # Incorporating a new and helpful discipline into your schedule (exercise, study, new volunteer commitment, etc.)
- « # Identifying and changing the choices, actions, and habits that keep you from being fully alive.

Our SJC Lenten Experience at a Glance...

Ash Wednesday, February 22: 6:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. school , 6:30 p.m. Masses and 4:00 p.m. Word Service
Men's Club, Fr. Kevin Feeny: Christ and the Community of the Beautiful, Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.
Operation Rice Bowls & Calendars at all Masses on Ash Wednesday and Saturday-Sunday, February 25-26
Stations of the Cross Friday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.
Women's Club Retreat Friday, February 24-Saturday, February 25
Trip to St. Thaddeus Sharing Parish Sunday, February 26
Jack Shea at The Well: Remembering What Really Matters Sunday, February 26, 1:00 p.m.
Traci Matheu: Survivor from the Lost Generations of Catholics Thursday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Friday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.
Crossroads Annual Parish Fish Fry Friday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Friday, March 9, 6:00 p.m.
Evening of Meditation Friday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.
Morning of Meditation Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.
Fr. Frank Desiderio leads our Parish Mission Sunday, March 11 - Wednesday, March 14
Stations of the Cross Friday, March 16, 6:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross, Taizé Prayer follows Friday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.
Pray the Labyrinth Sunday, March 25, 2:00-8:00 p.m.
Parish Reconciliation Service Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Friday, March 30, 6:00 p.m.
Paula D'Arcy at The Well: Healing our World from the Inside Out: A Day of Retreat Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.
Crossroads Easter Basket Project Palm Sunday, April 1
Return your Operation Rice Bowl Donations at any Mass Palm Sunday, April 1

OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR TOTAL PARISH FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 SECOND QUARTER REPORT

| | Actual Total 2 Quarters <u>July 2011-Dec 2011</u> | Budgeted Total 2 Quarters <u>July 2011-Dec 2011</u> | Annual Budget <u>July 2011-June 2012</u> |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Total Income | \$3,295,306 | \$3,315,526 | \$5,284,043 |
| Total Expense | 2,662,320 | 2,691,911 | 5,416,700 |
| Net Income (Deficit) | 632,986 | 623,615 | (132,657) |

Each quarter we share our financials with parishioners. For the six month period ending December 31, 2011 the parish is operating on budget. Some points to note on our financial picture:

- # While the regular Sunday Offertory Collection (\$896,000) still reflects the wonderful generosity of our parishioners, alone it is not sufficient to meet church expenses (\$962,000).
- # The revenue surplus shown above can be attributed to gifts from very generous parishioners and foundations and the school's Annual Fund. Notably, our Christmas Collection totaled \$285,000 which was slightly lower than last year, but greater than budgeted due in large part to a single donor.
- # In sum, our figures show a positive picture for the first half of the year, however, as we move through the second half of the year, our expenses are projected to outweigh income which is accounted for in our budget.
- # The \$132,657 annual net income figure shown above is an operating deficit. When sources of extraordinary income (which cannot be budgeted for) such as special investment income and our Annual Catholic Appeal rebate are factored in, we expect to finish the year with a positive net income of \$6,000.
- # Our Legacy capital campaign is not included in the figures shown above as it is kept separate from regular operations. For the six month period ending in December, 2011 Legacy donations totaled \$617,000 with \$131,000 in expenses paid.

Our new website can accommodate parishioners interested in making their Sunday and holy day donations electronically via our secure online payment option. Giving electronically is a win-win for both parishioners and the parish. It is not only convenient, flexible, and 100% secure for parishioners, but it is environmentally friendly and reduces the parish's envelope printing, postage and administrative costs. Importantly, it also provides the parish with more consistent cash flow which allows for better financial management.

- # Just go to www.stjohnofthecross.org
- # Click on the Giving Tab and
- # Click on the Donate Now button on the left side of the screen. Your gift can be transferred from your checking account or your credit card directly to our parish.
- # You will receive electronic acknowledgements each time you make a donation. A record of each gift will appear on your monthly statement.
- # If you do not have access to a computer, you can also give electronically via a paper form available in the Parish Center.

Each spring our parish staff works with the Finance Council to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1st. Much time and effort goes into evaluating both income and expenses to ensure that we faithfully steward our parish resources. We look forward to updating you with our progress on the budget as well as our third quarter numbers as they become available.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact MJ Martin (mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org) or Fr. David (ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org).

Youth Catechesis



This Lent, **spark a fire** in your faith by joining the YC Council in welcoming Traci Matheu, author of "*A Survivor from the Lost Generation of Catholics*". Traci will share her **inspiring** story and help **revive** your faith in strong **Catholic beliefs** and share experiences to **strengthen** family values in today's ever-changing world.

Join us in the Parish Center on **Thursday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m.** for the presentation and hospitality.

The mission of the Youth Catechesis Council (YCC) is to provide leadership and direction to the Youth Catechesis Program and advocacy for the children and families in the program.

YCC Members: Laurie Smillie, Ellen Meyer, Colleen Fritzsche, Cindy Blum, Katie Larmon, Nancy Montana, Megan Brennan, Sharon Gardner, Madonna Muscarello, Michelle Fink, Carolyn Ferguson, Mike McGinn, and Michelle Snorewicz

Bring a friend and enjoy the evening together.

This free event is hosted by the YC Council, reserve a seat at 708-246-6760.

YC Schedule

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Classes K-6 | 10:15-11:30am | Sunday, Feb 26, March 4 |
| | 6:15-7:30pm | Monday, Feb 27, March 5 |
| FFC/Preschool | Noon-1:30 pm | Sunday, March 4 |
| Home Groups and Special Needs | | Sunday, Feb 26 |

No YC classes
February 19/20

YC Love Day!!

Fourth grade students invited someone they **LOVE** into their classes last week, so share a special **LOVE** activity and a **LOVE** prayer service that included a blessing. Thank you to all those who helped with **LOVE DAY** and in a special way to all our special **LOVED** ones who attended.



This Week at SJC School!



First Graders planned the All School Liturgy!



Preschool students enjoyed a Valentine's Day Tea!



Second Grade was hard at work in the Science Lab!

2012 St. John of the Cross Teacher Recognition Trust Fund Party



SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012
6:30 P.M.

St. John of the Cross Parish School
Upper Gymnasium
708 51st Street • Western Springs, Illinois

\$75 per person

(Hurry... prices leap on leap day! \$85 after February 29)

To RSVP and purchase tickets online or download a printable response card to mail with a check, visit the school website (www.stjohnofthecross.org/school) and click on the link under Featured Events

To purchase raffle tickets for the \$25,000 "NO GIVEBACK" RAFFLE, contact Jackie McDonnell: jmcdonnell51@hotmail.com or 708.784.9561.

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 Center
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

Feb. 20 FMSC service day meet 1:30 p.m. at SJC
Feb. 25 Work Tour & Conference Formation meeting
Feb. 26 Home Group Meetings
March 2 Fish Fry benefitting work tour trips & conferences
March 11 Home Group meetings
March 15-18 Kairos Junior/Senior Retreat weekend
April 1 Easter Basket Project Teens arrive 3 p.m
second graders arrive 4:30 p.m.



LAST CHANCE TO JOIN US!
Volunteer on Monday to serve at FMSC!
Gather at SJC 1:30 p.m., carpool to Aurora, package food and learn about FMSC for 2 hours and return to SJC by 5:30 p.m.
Email kwojo1@gmail.com to see if there are any spots left!



SPACES ARE still AVAILABLE FOR Summer 2012 Work Tours + Conferences

DATES for local trip finalized: June 17-22
This week invites teens, college students, and adults to share together as we serve with a sharing parish!

First formation meeting, which includes fundraiser prep planning is Feb. 25th!

Info packet AVAILABLE ONLINE
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service

4 Pillars of summer trips:



Our 4 U 2 concert stories are being shared on our Crossroads website:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

Here's the Light being shared by Kayla Wingert:



“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall have their fill.....”

CROSSROADS partners with the SJC Men's Club for a fabulous Lenten Fish Fry Friday March 2, 2012

Tickets will be sold before and after Masses THIS WEEKEND & NEXT so you can skip the lines & enjoy the tasty food!

Teens attending trips will be selling tickets, so ask them about their adventures ahead and encourage their efforts to serve and grow in faith!

Any high school girls interested in playing church league basketball mid-March thru mid-May please email crossroads@stjohnofthecross.org ASAP so we can determine viability of a SJC team!



We need to confirm leaders by Feb. 28 so planning can begin:

Basketball Coordinator & Coach for girls AND Spring Mass April 29, 5 p.m. - 2 adults & 2 teens

We LOVE our SJC Saintly Seniors!



Welcome!!
New Parishioners' Meeting

There will be a New Parishioners' meeting on Sunday morning, **February 26 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.

Volunteer training for Adventist St. Thomas Hospice begins Tuesday, March 13 for 9 weeks, from 9 a.m. until noon at the hospice office, 119 E. Ogden, Hinsdale. Call Barb Zerby, Volunteer Coordinator, [630-856-6998](tel:630-856-6998) to register or for further information.

Catholicism Series Episode 10: World Without End—The Last Things will be shown on Friday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Barron presents the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory as he journeys to Florence, Ireland and Rome. The vision of the Church sees beyond this world without end. Fr. Barron shows how this vision is supported by the mystery and truth of the Resurrection of Jesus.

This Week @ SJC

Monday, February 20 (President's Day)

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

Tuesday, February 21

8:30 a.m. YC Cluster Meeting
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine's Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Pray the Rosary
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday)

Masses are at 6:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. school Mass, 6:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m. Word Service
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
3:30 p.m. Archdiocesan Theology Course
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, February 23

2:30 p.m. Market Day Pick-up

Friday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Mom's Club
7:00 p.m. Catholicism Series episode 10

Sunday, February 26

11:45 a.m. New Parishioners Hospitality

RITE OF SENDING

Adults seeking to find out about the Catholic Faith through our **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS** (RCIA) Program here at St. John of the Cross have been continuing their journey (begun last September) with a period of catechesis. This has been a time of learning more about the Word of God, the teachings of the Church, the community, prayer and apostolic works of service for others. It has been an important time to deepen their understanding of what it means to be Catholic.

On Sunday, February 26 at our 10:45 a.m. Mass, we will be celebrating the RITE OF SENDING. At this ritual, our parish family formally sends Glenn Aldridge (our Catechumen) for Election, and Bruce Harken, (our Candidate for full Communion) for Recognition by Auxiliary Bishop Rassas at Holy Name Cathedral later that afternoon. Each of them will place their signature in our parish BOOK OF THE ELECT which will then be presented at the Cathedral. A milestone in the RCIA process, the Church will formally ratify Glenn's readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and Bruce's readiness to be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church (since Bruce was baptized Presbyterian years ago) at our parish Easter Vigil Mass on April 7th.

Please join us as we continue with them on their journey of deepening their relationships with God and the Church community.



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.*

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Colin Campbell | William McMahon |
| Garth Christie | Linda Meyers |
| Denny Dine, Sr. | Tom Muldowney, Sr. |
| Mark Glassgow | Nancy Olin |
| John Grand | Greg Palaschak |
| Christopher Grant | Marion Pascale |
| Karen Hult | Matthew Pecis |
| Ruth Ilg | Raymond Principe |
| Emily Johanns | Margaret Prost |
| Gerri Kuzma | Arlene Rehak |
| Olga Matusik | Emerson Roessler |

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Patricia Cebula, mother of Carol
 Judy Grezlak, mother of Debbie Marshall,
 grandmother of Riley and Trinity

Baptisms

Madison Marie,
 daughter of Anthony and Kristen (Tagliere) Ciabattari



Father Kevin Feeney

*“Christ and the Community of the Beautiful:
 The Transforming Power of Beauty
 in Our Spiritual Lives”*

**Thursday, February 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
 Parish Center**

Our Men’s Club has rescheduled Speaker, Fr. Kevin Feeney! Father Kevin Feeney is the Vice President and Dean of Formation at the nation’s largest Catholic seminary, University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. We are fortunate to once again have this highly sought after Retreat Master speak to us. His presentation will be on the images and actions which shape us and the community into Christ. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend.

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 20

6:30 Parishioners
 7:45 Emily Swietek; Anthony Rosati

Tuesday, February 21, St. Peter Damian

6:30 David Gallagher; Robert and Gertrude Lawinger
 7:45 Ann Grecco; Geraldine Mazur

Wednesday, February 22, Ash Wednesday

6:30 John Pecis
 7:45 Susanne Walsh; John Pecis
 6:30 Irene Russell

Thursday, February 23, St. Polycarp

7:45 Michael J. Brady; Irene Russell

Friday, February 24

7:45 Purgatorial; Katie Courtemanche

Saturday, February 25

8:00 Lisa Bailey; Janice Veome
 5:00 John Den Besten; Margaret O’Hagen

Sunday, February 26, First Sunday of Lent

7:30 SJC & St. Thaddeus Parishioners
 9:00 Thomas McCarthy; Stanley Jugovich
 10:45 Ann Grecco; Patricia Swain
 12:15 Alexander Sobey; Patricia Hamilton
 5:00 Robert Kirchgessner; Michael Brady

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
 Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY REMINDER

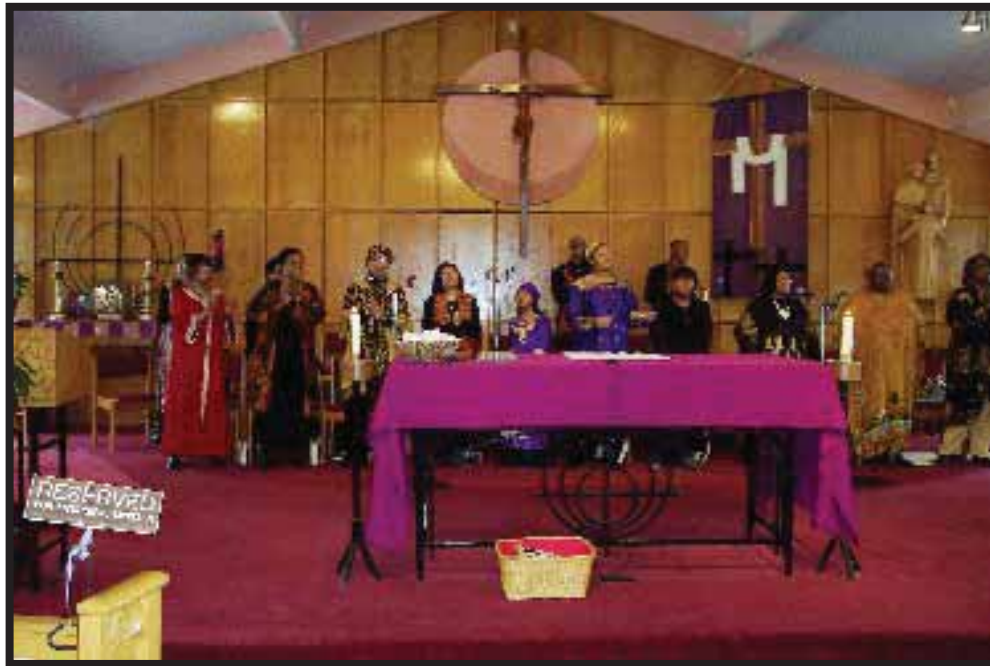
The SJC Women’s Club generates funds in support of Catholic education by awarding scholarships to 8th grade and high school students of St. John of the Cross Parish who plan to attend a Catholic high school.

Timeline for Applications

**February—Completed Applications Due
 April—Scholarship Committee meets
 and notifies awardees**

Black History Month Liturgy at St. Thaddeus

Plan now to celebrate a Black History Liturgy on Sunday, February 26, with the parish with which we first established a sharing relationship, St. Thaddeus.



Sharing in a sacramental life and
Thankful for God's blessings

The clergy and parishioners are
Holy people
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Utilizing their God-given talents while
Singing God's praises at all times.

Who? St. John of the Cross Parishioners

What? Invitation to attend 9:00 a.m. Mass with our Chicago sharing parish, St. Thaddeus

When? Sunday, February 26, (8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.)

Why? For 45 years, St. John of the Cross and St. Thaddeus have shared resources, talents and gifts with each other to live the words of the Gospel. Each year, St. Thaddeus invites us to celebrate Mass with them on the last Sunday of Black History month.

Children are especially welcome to experience Mass with an African American tradition, share in the meal and fellowship following Mass and learn about an important figure in African American culture. Those attending without a parent will need a completed permission form.

Reserve your space on the bus by calling the Parish Center, 708-246-4404. Be at the Parish Center ready for an 8:00 a.m. departure on Sunday, February 26.

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