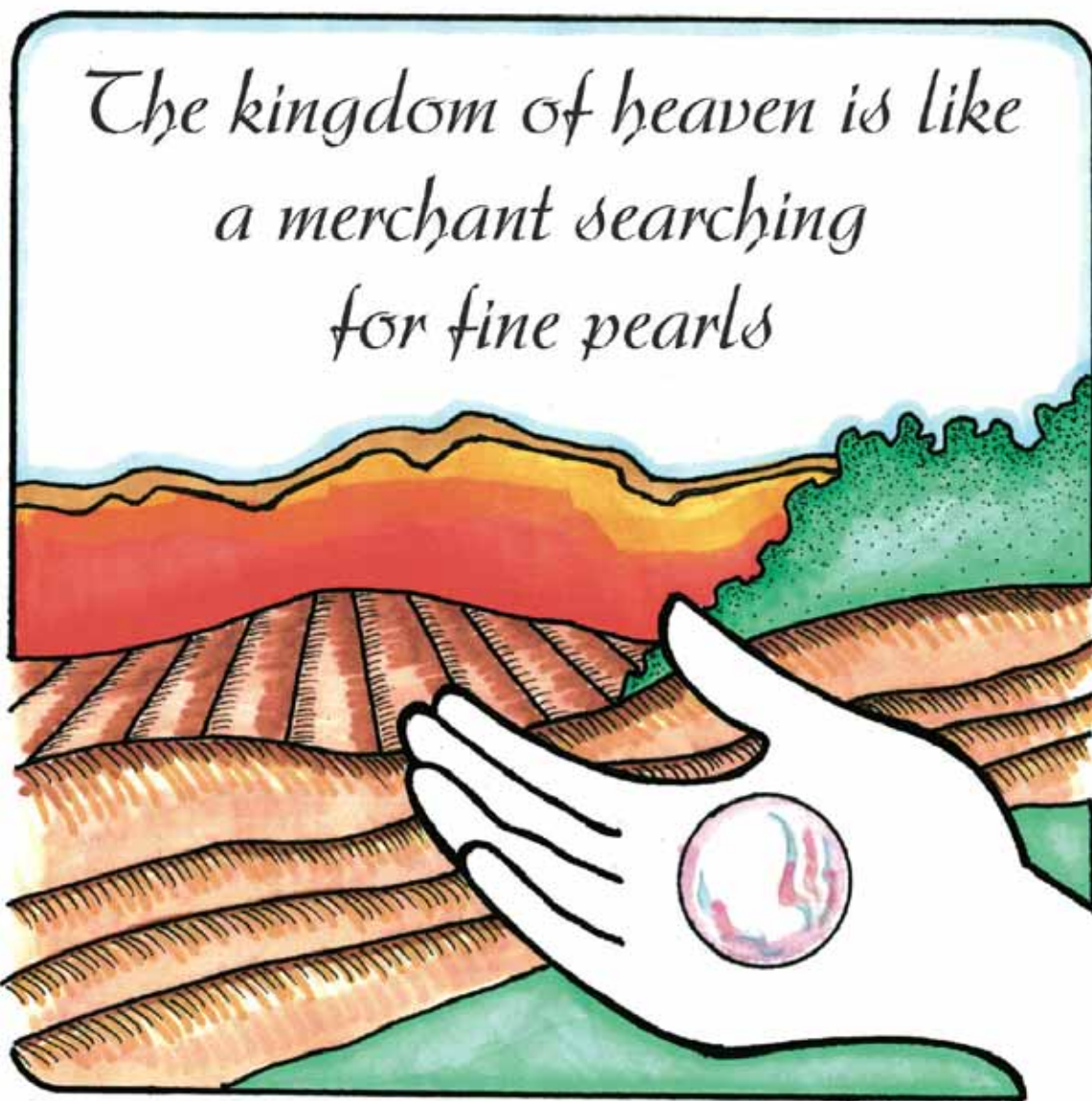


ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2011
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Friday July 29, 2011
Spring Rock Park
playground, Western
Springs
9:30-11:00 a.m.

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

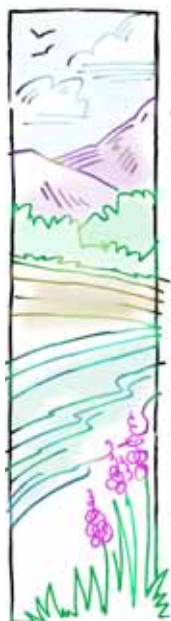
In general, the group will hold regular meetings from September through May at the SJC Parish Center. At this time, we are looking for some volunteers who might be interested in helping to plan and coordinate future events. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us.

We hope to see you there! If you do plan on attending, please reply and let us know.

JenniferNikolic jkravcik@gmail.com or
(708)246-8787

SusanSherlock susan.sherlock@gmail.com
(708)267-0240

The Circle of Friends Mom's Club is sponsored by the St. John of the Cross Women's Club.



*We know
that all
things work
together
for good for
those who
love God....*

Romans 8:28

This Week @ SJC

Monday, July 25

8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, July 26

8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp

Wednesday, July 27

8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
5:30 p.m. Crossroads Video Discussion Group
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, July 28

8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
9:30 a.m. Fr Kieran Sunday Scripture Study
7:30 p.m. Fr Kieran Sunday Scripture Study

Friday, July 29

8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp

Saturday, July 30

7:00am Christian Meditation



THE SJC GARDENING
ANGELS NEED YOUR HELP!
CAN YOU HELP TEND THE
GARDENS AT SJC ??

We're sending out an SOG (Save Our Gardens) request. Due to a few of our angels either needing to resign or become inactive due to unforeseen injuries and vacations, we are in need of reinforcements to help tend the gardens at SJC. Please consider signing up to help for two hours each week to help keep the gardens at SJC watered, weeded, and well-manicured.

If you are interested in helping – even temporarily – please e-mail Jan Grabacki at beaconjan@aol.com or phone – 708/246-4610.

Bulletin Contents

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Tuesday's with Mary

5 Outreach

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7 Spiritual Page

10 50th Anniversary Family Festival

The YC Office will be
CLOSED
July 18-29



Are you?
New to the Parish
Do you have?
A new 1st grader

Stop by August 1st to register if you have not already done so!! We also offer an optional program for Kindergarten and Preschool, call for more details.

Registration

for 2011-12

Religious Education for
grades **Preschool** through **8th grade** is
NOW OPEN!

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



Catechists and Aides are asked to
LOVE JESUS!

We provide lesson plans, resources
and tons of support! Please pray
about helping in the YC classes
this fall!!

Call today for more information at
708-246-6760
jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org

Opportunities available for
Sunday 10:15-11:30 a.m. classes
Monday 6:15-7:30 p.m. classes
Sunday 7th grade home groups

Parish School News

Just moved into the area? Haven't registered your child for school next year. Registrations are still being accepted for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

For more information, please contact the Parish School Office at 708-246-4454 or visit our website at: www.stjcpsinfo.org

Parish School Summer Hours:

July closed from July 4 — the 22nd
reopens July 25 — August 4, M-Th, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
August 8 — August 12, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
August 15, closed
Resume regular hours August 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., M-F

7pm "Tuesdays with Mary" Summer Rosary

Who: All SJC families, friends, neighbors...

What & Where: Praying the Rosary outside in the beautiful SJC Mary Garden (between the Church and Rectory).

When: 7 p.m. each Tuesday evening this summer...July 26, Aug 2, Aug 9 & Aug 16

Why: It's a great opportunity to introduce the power of the Rosary prayer to your children.

How: In 20 minutes! No experience is necessary. We have "how-to" guides and kid-friendly rosaries if you need an extra.

Weather-permitting: Since we are outside in the Mary Garden--rain (or another crazy wind storm!) will cancel that evening's Rosary.

We've had anywhere from 30-50 adults and kids (kindergarten through college-aged!) come each Tuesday evening since school got out. It's very casual. Just grab a blanket & your beads and walk, bike or drive on over. It's a beautiful, prayerful setting as the sun goes down. (And you may just find your kids asking to come back the next week!) Hope to see you in the Mary Garden on Tuesday at 7!

Each year our parish collects backpacks for disadvantaged children and families through the Catholic Charities Health Fair to be held at St. Francis of Rome School in Cicero on July 30. Volunteers are also needed to help set up the day before and the day of the event. For more information, call 708-389-4022. Wouldn't it be great to add a lunch box to the backpack or some other item needed for school like crayons or pencils? Drop your backpack donation at the boxes in church or the parish center during the month of July.



HOUSEHOLD GOODS NEEDED AT SHARING CONNECTIONS FURNITURE BANK Sharing Connections Furniture Bank, a nonprofit organization in Downers Grove, provides furniture and household items to low-income families. They currently have a critical need for cleaning supplies and buckets in order to better serve needy families. Kitchenware such as glasses, cups and silverware are also needed. When you are holding your summer garage sales, please remember to donate your gently used kitchenware and household goods. There is also a critical shortage of towels and unopened personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant, and conditioner.

If you can donate any of these items, please drop them off at the SCFB warehouse at 5111 Chase Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515. The warehouse is open to receive donations Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon. Financial donations are also welcome. Their website www.sharingconnections.org explains what other items are accepted.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

FREE RESUME REVIEW... AND MORE

INTERFAITH CAREER NETWORK (ICN) invites you to a free resume review...and more. Join us on Saturday, July 30 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at St. Cletus School (Room 201), 700 West 55th Street in La Grange. Have a helpful 20-minute one-on-one conversation with a Human Resource or other search related professional for some ideas and suggestions that may enhance your resume. Looking for some helpful job search strategies? Need some coaching with your elevator speech? This is a terrific opportunity. Don't miss it! Please enter the school at the flag pole entrance.

There's more...want to discuss your job search plan and progress? Looking to do some practice interviewing? A retired HR professional is available to meet with you on an individual basis, by appointment. Learn more about this when you join us on July 30.

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



BEDS Plus Needs Volunteers!

Since 1988, with the help of hundreds of volunteers from our local faith communities, BEDS Plus has sheltered, fed and helped thousands of homeless people in our community return to a healthy, safe and stable life. Each volunteer works just 4 hours per month – but makes an impact that changes many lives.

Right now, we are recruiting volunteers for our 2011-2012 shelter season, which opens October 15th and runs through April 30th.

We'd like you to join our mission.

If you're looking for a meaningful, rewarding and proven way to help those in greatest need, please visit our website or contact us today.

www.bedsplus.org (708) 354-0858

Volunteer orientation sessions will take place in August and September –all prospective volunteers must attend one 2 hour session. Space is limited – call today to find out dates and reserve your spot! Call (708) 354-0858, ext. 1 or email Cody at umbach@bedsonline.org for more info.

A New Challenge

When I began writing this column, I shared that occasionally I would do a column that was more exclusively about my personal life. I have tried to limit myself in that and, in the 28 years I have been writing this column, have probably done less than ten pieces whose main focus was my own life. When I have done so, it was almost always to share with readers a major transition in my life.

This column is one of those personal pieces. My personal life is again undergoing a major transition, though this one does not concern a move to a new job or to a new city. It has to do with my health:

In early May I went for a routine colonoscopy and the doctor discovered a cancerous tumor in my colon. The good news was that it was discovered relatively early, before there were symptoms. They scheduled me for surgery in early June and removed the affected area, along with a series of lymph nodes. The operation, while pretty invasive, went well, but some of the lymph nodes had already been affected, meaning that the cancer was not necessarily fully contained in the tumor. I have recovered very well from the surgery, though this took some weeks. An oncologist advised me that prudence dictates that there be a follow-up treatment to the surgery, namely, six months of chemotherapy. He also assured me that the long-term prognosis is good, but that, as with all cancer, nothing is really sure until it's sure. A cure is most likely, but not assured. I start the chemotherapy treatments in early August and will be facing a certain desert-experience for the next six months.

This is not a plea for sympathy. I share this with you because one shares this with one's family and you are my family of readers. I will appreciate your prayers, even as I trust you not to deluge me with emails, cards, and letters. What we give to each other inside the mystical body of faith, family, and friendship, need not be announced to be effective.

Where am I with all of this?

Initially, especially before the surgery and subsequent scans revealed more precisely the limit of the cancer, there was understandably a good amount of fear and paranoia. One's thoughts and fears aren't easy to control when one's next visit to the doctor might mean a death-sentence. Eventually though, and not just because the long-term prognosis now appears quite positive, I have begun to find a deep peace within all of this. I trust in God and know that I am in safe hands, irrespective of whatever happens. I also trust the medical professionals with whom I have

been dealing. They have been marvelously competent and infinitely gentle. What a grace for us all, the skill of doctors!

But that peace of soul is also predicated on a number of realizations that were only abstract theories for me before this illness. Some things are infinitely more real to me now: I now know existentially that life is fragile, that health is precious, and that it's to be appreciated rather than taken for granted. I know too existentially that we cannot safeguard our own lives, no matter how carefully we try. Faith and hope are flooding into my life as never before.

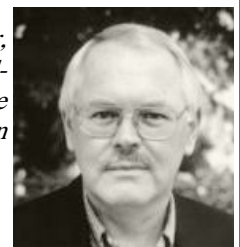
So too is love. Family and friends are mostly taken for granted when we are young and strong and under the illusion that death is not really a reality for us. We realize how deep a grace family and friendship are only when we are fully attuned to our own vulnerability; mostly, too, it only then that we actually allow others to love us.

And there are other deep lessons in this for me: I have been driving my engines hard for a long time, dodging bullets as I overwork and am over-extended. So many times in the past years, in a trance of overwork, I promised God that I would slow my life down, just as soon as this particular task was finished. Indeed, often, explicitly in prayer, I asked God to let me do this slowdown willfully, and not have some health breakdown force it on me. Like the young Augustine, I was praying: "Slow me down, but not yet!" My cancer diagnosis is finally doing for me what I couldn't do for myself. My prayer now is: Let me receive this gracefully, and as a grace!

One last lesson: Should I land on my feet, healthy and my old self again after the chemotherapy, I hope to have the strength to not return to my old life, grateful to have dodged a bullet and ready for business as usual. Instead, like the one leper who returned to give thanks to Jesus rather than going back to normal living, I am praying that the grace of this visitation will be the alchemy I have long needed to make me turn instead habitually in gratitude towards Jesus and towards the present moment.

Rev. 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.



Lord Hear Our Prayer

Pray for our Sick

Charlie Ames	Olga Matusik
Dennis Augustine	R. W. McClellan
Terry Aversa	Christopher Morehead
Eileen Biros	John Munch
Mary Kathryn Biros	Russ Niesen
Theresa Budzinski	Diana Nowrocki
Vera Caschetta	Mary Lou O'Brien
Joe Cona	Gregory Palaschak
Judy Cranston	Teresa Peterson
Jacob DiFranco	Marge Pipal
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Kathy Gorski	Fabian Saldana
Dean Grilli	Bruce Siefert
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Jacob M. Joyce	Patrick Synnott
Loucine Kassis	Joyce Szot
Phyllis Kelley	Francesca Principe-Wegner
Lillian Kopsa	Patricia Wilson
Kathryn Mahoney	Joan Workman
John Makar	Amy Zavisin
Meredith Mangold	

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Michael & Brenda Bedeker,
brother and sister-in-law of Cindi Brankin
Thelma Murphy, mother of Molly Iovino
Don Spiering, husband of Betsy

Baptisms

Joseph Steven,
son of Stephen and Nicole (Pesa) Balsavich
Ryder Athony,
son of Jason Federico and Allison Erklin
Daniel Gerald,
son of Douglas and Jennifer (Woods) Jones
Sean Patrick,
son of Michael and Mary Kate (Gocke) Merna
Amelia Paige,
daughter of Jason and Anastasia (Mazzulla) McCargo
Lilly Anne,
daughter of Louis and Michelle (Orth) Prosecky
Nolan Michael,
Son of Neil and Michele (Haddad) Slattery

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 25, St. James
6:30 Dr. William, Buckingham; Ken Golonka, Jr.
7:45 Beatrice T. Sweeney; John Hermes

Tuesday, July 26, St. Joachim and St. Anne
6:30 Purgatorial
7:45 Ken Golonka, Jr.; John Santucci

Wednesday, July 27
6:30 Parishioners
7:45 John Santucci

Thursday, July 28
7:45 Colleen Nilles; John Paul Morrissey

Friday, July 29, St. Martha
7:45 Rose Novosad; Leona Rompala

Saturday, July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus
8:00 Alice & Al Sobey; Genevieve Ziemba
5:00 Frank Cherusicki; Rose Novosad

Sunday, July 31, Eighteenth Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Chester Kowal; Douglas Kaiser
9:00 Martha & Ignatius McDermott; Jack Sullivan
10:45 Melvin Francis; Emile Hesse
5:00 Lapinski, Sampson, Mulvaney Families;
Dominic Colella

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28
Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37;
Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Mt 14:1-12
Sunday: Is 55:1-3; Ps 145; Rom 8:35, 37-39;
Mt 14:13-21



**The kingdom
of heaven
is like
a treasure
buried in
a field**

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would consider remembering
the parish in your estate planning.
Thank you.*

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THE 50th FINALE
FINISHING OUR FABULOUS YEAR

Join us for our final 50th Anniversary Year event...

August 27, 2011

...to celebrate the finish of our fabulous year!

RSVP today to attend this festive end-of-the-summer gathering of family, friends, and fellow parishioners.

The evening will begin with
Mass at 5:00 p.m.
concelebrated with our new Auxiliary Bishop John R. Manz.

Then plan to attend the **Parish Family BBQ**, which will include:

A Delicious Dinner

hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, chips, salads, fresh fruit, desserts and cold drinks
(Tickets for beer and wine will be available for purchase that evening.)

Excellent Entertainment

Musician Paul Strolia will perform live as well as provide recorded favorites for dancing!
More fun will include face painting, balloon animals and magic for the young (and young at heart).

Please RSVP by August 15th. Space is limited!

Reservations are:

\$20 for adults; \$10 for children ages 6-17; \$5 for children under 5.
Reservations will be held at the door under the reservation name.

**RSVP by returning the Response Card received with your invitation
or visit www.stjohnofthecross.org.**

*Additional response cards are available in the Parish Center
and at the doors of the church.*