

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
DECEMBER 18, 2011
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

You are doing so many wonderful things! Please allow me to speak on behalf of all those who are the recipients of your generosity for Share Christmas. From gifts cards to specific presents, you have literally showered hundreds of people with your generosity. They will never be known to you personally, but because of you they will be able to smile because of a Christmas gift that would not have been possible without you. You have lessened the burden of a parent who did not know what they could do for their children to express their love at this holy time of year. You have filled an otherwise hungry stomach with food that comforts someone uncertain of their next meal. You have clothed those who are not as protected from the harshness of winter cold. You are incredible. Thank you.

I am also extremely grateful for those who organized Share Christmas for the first time this year. Cathy Laskey, Bruce Harkin and Lolly Maloney inherited a terrific program that had been nurtured for many years by Jackie Colando and Pam Codilis. With Bill Bright's support and guidance, the new leaders took responsibility for harnessing the energy of countless volunteers to make tags for the tree in the vestibule and cards that named the needs of recipients. With the support of other volunteers they were at the tables in the vestibule facilitating your involvement for three weekends. Every new responsibility has a learning curve and they are ready and eager for Christmas 2012.

The angels who actually delivered the gifts to our Sharing Parishes and to other recipients had a blast with Bill Bright driving all over the city. To all those who had anything whatsoever to do with making SJC a vehicle for God to use so that we can 'Share Christmas' with others: a most sincere thank you.

I would be remiss not to mention your generosity to the retired men and women of religious communities. You contributed over \$24,000.00 to help care for those who have given their lives in service to the Church. The priests and sisters, who took vows of poverty, frequently provided their services for less than market value, trusting that their younger confreres would be generating income by the time their retirement came. The reality of course is that there are not the numbers of income generating younger religious men and women to support the elders in their religious communities. (The priests who staff SJC are technically 'secular' priests as opposed to 'religious' priests. The Cardinal is a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, (OMI) so he is a 'religious' priest. Archdiocesan (secular) priests serve only in the archdiocese of Chicago in Cook and Lake Counties. Religious men and women serve wherever their communities have a presence, like a school or a hospital.)

A well-known religious priest in our community is Fr. Kieran Kemner, OSF (a Franciscan). Fr. Kieran has ministered here since the 1960's. Please keep him in your prayers as he has been in the hospital lately and currently is in a nursing home for rehabilitation. I'll try and keep you current with what is going on with him as time goes by.

Just a quick reminder: our communal penance service is this Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm in the church. There will be a total of ten priests available for individual reconciliation. Give yourself the gift of a renewed relationship with yourself, others and God in preparation for Christmas.

If you do go to confession before Christmas, don't undo all the good it accomplished in the parking lot on Christmas Eve. Our parking lot simply does not have the capacity we need for the number of people who come to one of the Masses at 4:00 pm, 4:15 pm or 4:30 pm. Please do not park in fire lanes or places that are restricted. When the church building reaches capacity, certainly before 3:45 pm, we kindly ask you to go the multi-purpose room where Mass will begin by 4:15 pm. When that space reaches capacity we kindly ask you to go to the upper gym where Mass will begin by 4:30 pm. Your patience and cooperation is sincerely appreciated by one and all.

Behind the scenes MJ Martin is leading a comprehensive effort to update our data bases and electronic communication efforts. Thank you to the over 1,000 parishioners who entered their emails addresses with us last weekend. If you haven't done that, please do so after Mass this weekend or by going to the website. The second tab on the left side allows you to signup to receive email updates and to specify things you are particularly interested in (so you won't receive emails you are not interested in).

Isn't that picture of the church building on the cover of the mailing you received with the Christmas schedule a spectacular shot? Our parishioner, Denise Pozen, is the photographer and deserves all the credit. If you would like to contact her for an original, give the Parish Center a call.

One more week to go. Breathe deeply, lower your (unrealistic?) expectations of family and friends, and try to stay centered on what this time of year is all about. Receive graciously, share generously, and be deeply appreciative of how the gift of faith pervades all of life. Christ is born, for you and me, for us all. What a gift!

Peace,
Fr. David

This Week @ SJC

Monday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. School Anniversary Reception
- 10:30 a.m. 11th Step Christian Meditation
- 2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
- 2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, December 20

- 1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine's Bible Study
- 3:00 p.m. Rosary
- 7:00 p.m. Communal Reconciliation Service
- 7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, December 21

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Bridge
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, December 22

- 6:00 p.m. Kairos Retreat

Friday, December 23

- 2:00 p.m. Labyrinth

Saturday, December 24

- 7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Mark Your Calendar!!

During the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, daily Mass will be at 7:45 a.m. Monday–Friday and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. There will not be a 6:30 a.m. Mass that week. Also, there will be no Adoration on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Parish Center Holiday Hours

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

Also note, there will be no babysitting in the rectory and no Children's Liturgy of the Word on either holiday weekend.

Our Youth Catechesis Office will be closed from Dec. 23-January 8. Our Parish School Break begins Dec. 22-Jan. 5. Merry Christmas!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	19	20	21	22	December 23 9am-Noon	24 9am-Noon
2011 Parish Center Holiday Hours						
25 Closed	26 Closed	27 Regular Hours 8:30am-8pm	28 Regular Hours 8:30am-8pm	29 Regular Hours 8:30am-8pm	30 8:30am-4:00pm	31 9am-6pm
January 1 9am-1pm	2 Closed					

Come Walk the Labyrinth

Friday, December 23

2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

in the Mary Chapel

Walking the labyrinth is a physical meditation. It has only one path so there are no tricks or dead ends. There will be suggestions for meditation or you might consider a question in your life, a passage of scripture that you want to embrace or simply letting go of the business of the Christmas season. The Labyrinth is a small version of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth. Pamphlets and fliers at the exits of the church are available for more information. Allow about 10–15 minutes for the walk. Please wear socks.

Come and experience this peace filled prayer this Advent



For information contact Marianne Firlit
708-246-4404 ex. 155 or
mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org

Stop in the church vestibule or community room today after Mass! We invite you to add your email address and areas of interest at the parish to our new database. 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. You can also add your email address at home by visiting our NEW parish website at stjohnofthecross.org.

If you did not receive Fr. David's Christmas podcast via email this week, we do not have your email address in our new database.



*Lead us to your light.
Lead us out of darkness.
Come Jesus come.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 20

Advent Reconciliation Service

A Communal Service of Reconciliation with individual confession and absolution will take place in the church at 7:00 p.m.

YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT!

Online Survey for Proposed Catholic Education Campaign

The Department of Stewardship and Development of the Archdiocese is considering a campaign to address specific education priorities of our Catholic Schools, Religious Education Programs and Mundelein Seminary. We need your input and opinion.

Please read the Proposed Case Statement before taking the brief, anonymous survey. A direct link to the survey can be found on the front page of the Archdiocese's website, www.archchicago.org, or go directly to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSP8GN7>.

The survey will be available until December 22.

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!"

Please save the date for the **SJC Inaugural Trivia Night**

to be held on

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 PM 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.



Crossroads



Dec. 22 KAIROS REUNION 6:30pm
Enjoy your Christmas Break!
Jan. 8 Home Groups meet

Need a last-minute Christmas gift idea for a high school teenager? Send them on a relaxing weekend away with friends!



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.
Forms will be ready on our website by 12/22!

FROSH/SOPH UNITY RETREAT WEEKEND Feb. 10-12, 2012
Teens will enjoy the winter outdoors, connect to their faith & friends.
Registration online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads under RETREAT tab



Thanks to the parish sophomores, their Home Group leaders & the 4th graders (and their generous families!) who came on Dec. 4th to decorate and fill holiday gift bags for seniors served by the Little Brothers of the Elderly program. These gift bags, chock full of toiletries, cards and candy will brighten Christmas for many seniors!



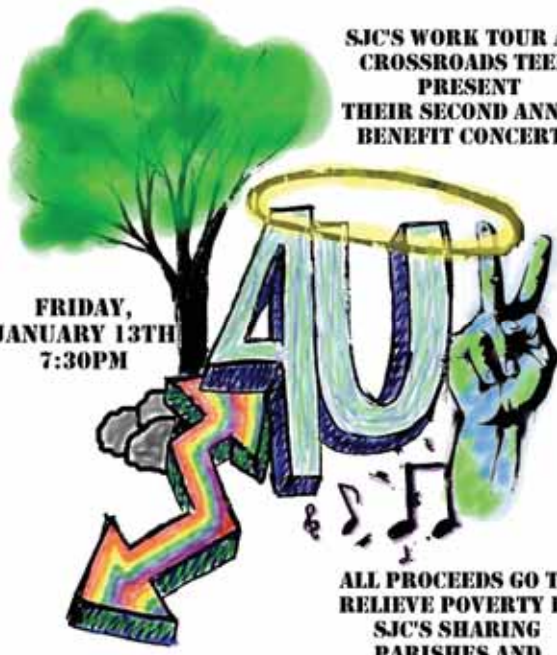
Last week a few of our Advisory Group members had a great adventure competing in a Mr. Christmas Tree Competition. We enjoyed the entertainment and skills of the competitors, listened to teen witnesses about the Christmas Season and learned a lot about taking on leadership & planning events. I give a huge kudos to Matt Smith, Kayla Wingert, Meghan McAuliffe, Michael Thomas, Chris Marquette & Kristen Ras for trying & enjoying something new with me!



**DONATE...
BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT
TO END POVERTY...
AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND STORIES
OF CHANGED LIVES AND CHANGING LIVES.**

**SJC'S WORK TOUR AND
CROSSROADS TEENS
PRESENT
THEIR SECOND ANNUAL
BENEFIT CONCERT...**

**FRIDAY,
JANUARY 13TH
7:30PM**



**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
RELIEVE POVERTY IN
SJC'S SHARING
PARISHES AND
MINISTRIES**

**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS CHURCH
5005 WOLF ROAD
WESTERN SPRINGS, IL**



Gift Ideas: Pig, Cow, Hen?

Livestock for Life

Give someone a Gift that keeps Giving!

Help our brothers and sisters at our Sharing Parish, Holy Cross, in Jinja, Uganda. Your donation supplies a hen, goat or pig (and training) to a specially selected family. The animal provides income for the family and church.

You may use our new on-line giving option with your credit card or drop of a check to the Parish Center. We will mail you a Gift Card. Each gift is \$40. Go to www.stjohnofthecross.org.



Mary Kadhuubo, Wanyange Centre widow, got 20 hens. She now has 60 hens and sells eggs.



Caroline Kapere, Bugembe Centre disabled, got 3 goats, produced 3 kids and now has 6 goats.

Livestock for Life Order Form

Gift for:

Given by:

Send Gift Card to:

Help Needed!



Help Decorate our Worship Space for Christmas!

We need a team of volunteers who can help decorate our church, school gym, and multi-purpose room for our Christmas Masses. No experience necessary. Volunteers will be trained on the job.

Monday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This is a great way (and fun too!) to volunteer some time at the holidays. Come to church.

Making a World of Difference!



Parishioners are reminded not to park in the circle in front of church or in the driveway leading to church. These areas must remain open for emergency vehicles. Cars parking illegally will be ticketed and towed.

Outreach News

Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center in Countryside has been committed to assisting people with disabilities to become more independent. Recently Bill Bright, our Director of Outreach, SJC Parishioners and friends partnered with Helping Hands to upgrade and redecorate a group home in our community for three women with down syndrome.

Contributing over 500+ service hours, financial contributions and professional services, Bill led a tremendous effort to upgrade one of the Helping Hand community homes which is being reopened in December. Bill and his team of volunteers spent over 500 hours in 3 weeks to make a house a home. They cleaned the house, painted all of the rooms, replaced the appliances, fixed the floors, added new doors, replaced screens, and more. In addition, community members contributed linens, dishes, furniture, a television and appliances. St. John of the Cross Parish provided the funds to pay for new shutters, window treatments, paint and supplies. The volunteers included high school and college students and adults. A big thank you goes to Bill and his team! Move in date is scheduled before Christmas!!

Dave Marburger
Mike Selvage
Warren Sejud
Pete Frigo
Kent Homes
Mary Phillip
John Phillip
Pat Stanton
Mike Stanton
Tom Foody

Kevin Foody
John Waller
Megan McAuliffe
Kimmy Davis
Isabella Fiermonte
Danny Greska
Katie McAuliffe
AnnMarie Calistro
Dick Ownby



Making a World of Difference!

Parish School



Advent

Our school community begins each week of Advent with a prayer service. Our students are waiting and preparing for the birth of the Lord.



SJC student council members enjoyed decorating a Christmas tree for the Western Springs Christmas Walk.



SJC students enjoyed their Christmas Service Project Parties. Our school made over 600 Christmas care packages for others.

This Week at SJC

December 19 All School Liturgy
Church, 9:15 a.m.
50th Anniversary Former Faculty
and Staff Breakfast Reception
Parish Center, 10:15 a.m.

December 20 Kindergarten Christmas Play
School Gym, 9:15 a.m.

December 21 Angel Breakfast
School, 8:00 a.m.

Pageant, Grades 1-4
School, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Break Begins at 3:30 p.m.
School Resumes on January 5, 2012

Youth Catechesis



Family Home Lesson

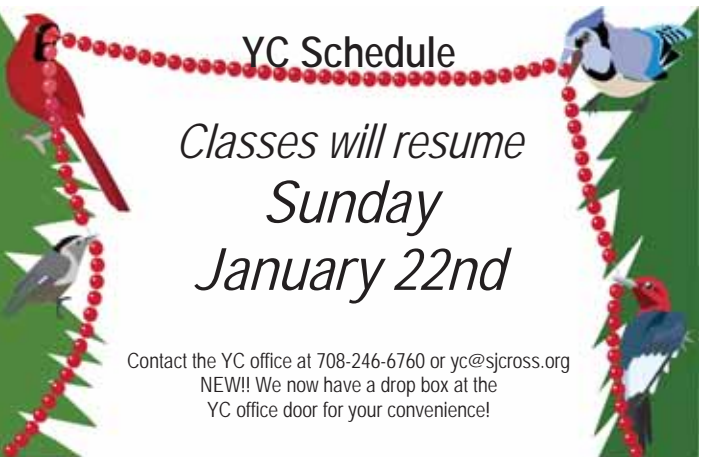
Each year the YC office provides a lesson to complete as a family. With so many weekends at Thanksgiving and Christmas that there are no YC classes, this is a wonderful opportunity to bring the teachings of the church home. This lesson is an engaging way to learn with your child about the revisions to the prayers and responses at mass.

Take time this season to complete the lesson, grow in faith as a family and share the good news! The lesson can be found on the parent page of our website.

YC Schedule

*Classes will resume
Sunday
January 22nd*

Contact the YC office at 708-246-6760 or yc@sjcross.org
NEW!! We now have a drop box at the
YC office door for your convenience!



A student at Marquette University is writing his dissertation on Dr. Arthur Falls. Dr. Falls was the first black man to move to Western Springs in the 50's and was an involved parishioner at St. John of the Cross. If anyone has information about Dr. Falls that might help this student, please call Bill Bright at the Parish Center. Thanks!

How to Make a Stock Donation to St. John of the Cross Parish

3 Simple Steps

1 When processing your securities donations via ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

Provide your bank or broker the following transfer instructions:

William Blair & Company – DTC # 771

Account Number – 156-16135-1-2

Catholic Bishop of Chicago Account

For the Benefit of: St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs, IL

Additional information your bank or broker may need:

Archdiocese of Chicago Tax ID No. – 36-2170826

William Blair & Company – 222 W. Adams St. – Chicago, IL 60606

William Blair Representative, Candy Plencner, Phone: 312-364-

8169Fax: 312-577-0658 or e-mail:

cplencner@williamblair.com

2 STOCK DONATION - **LETTER OF INTENTION** For the Archdiocese of Chicago Parishes, Schools, and Agencies

Donor, Please complete this form for ALL STOCK/MUTUAL FUND Donations. For further assistance, please call the Archdiocese of Chicago Stock transfer representative, Greg Salm, 312/534-5399.

I (we) plan to transfer the securities electronically: *Donation Date:* _____

From: (Please Print)

Donor Name(s):	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Please accept our donation of _____ Shares of _____
(# of shares) (Name of Security)

to be credited to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago for the benefit of:

Parish, School or Agency: **St. John of the Cross Parish, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL 60558**

(If you are donating various stocks/securities and/or to various locations simply print VARIOUS above and attach a separate page with a list detailing the various gifts and locations that are to receive the gift/s)

3 Send this form To: (send via one method listed below)

Regular U.S. Mail -**Archdiocese of Chicago**, Parish Operations – Stock Donations 835 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611 *or*

Send to Greg Salm, 312-534-5399 Fax Number: 312/534-5267 gdsalm@archchicago.org *or*

Send to **St. John of the Cross**: Marguerite Chrusciel, phone # 708-246-4404, fax # 708-246-4566 or mchrusciel@stjohnofthecross.org

IRA Charitable Gifts are STILL AN OPTION *(But only until December 31st)*

Last year, Congress re-authorized legislation that allows you to make charitable gifts from your IRA accounts during 2011 without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. That provision is set to expire on December 31, 2011 and it might not be renewed. The IRA Charitable Rollover provides you with an excellent opportunity to make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your taxable estate. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must act by December 31, 2011.

To qualify you must be age 70 ½ or older at the time of gift.

Transfers must be made directly from a traditional IRA account by your plan provider to the parish. Funds that are withdrawn by you and then contributed do NOT qualify. Gifts from 401k, 403b, SEP and other plans do not qualify.

Your plan administrator may make the check out to the parish and mail the check to you. But you must postmark the check to us by December 31, 2011.

Gifts must be outright. Distributions to donor-advised funds, certain supporting organizations, or life-income arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities are not allowed.

Benefits – Qualified charitable distributions can total up to \$100,000 and are not included in your gross income for federal income tax purposes on your IRS Form 1040 (no charitable deduction is available, however).

Rich Goode, of the Archdiocese, can provide a sample letter of instruction that you can send to your IRA plan provider. For more information, please feel free to call Rich at 312/534-7848.

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.*

Scott Garrett
Mark Glassgow
Karen Hult
Emily Johanns
Olga Matusik
Nancy Olin
Matthew Pecis
Emerson Roessler
Joanne Shea

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Ray Kalis, husband of Anne, father of David and Joan Kizyma
Francis Keane, father of Susan Grotto
Lorraine O'Rourke
Alfred Pistauer, brother of Ingrid Chybik
John Ptak, brother of Richard, Patricia and Joseph
Victoria Racanelli, mother of Robert
Stanley Ziemba, uncle of Ron and Karen Ziemba

Baptisms

Hannah Lynn,
daughter of Adam & Cara (Banks) Hauser
Matthew Joseph,
son of Michael and Amy (Majka) Reicher

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 19

6:30 Purgatorial
7:45 Gloria Oshell; Lenny DiPompeo

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 Parishioners
7:45 Williams Family; Kathleen O'Flaherty

Wednesday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius

6:30 Robert & Gertrude Lawinger
James & Rosemary Gallagher
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Leona Rompala & Betty Sulak

Thursday, December 22

7:45 Richard & Irene Halper; Eileen Dempsey

Friday, December 23, St. John of Kanty

7:45 Madeleine Perry; Molly Adams

Saturday, December 24

8:00 George J. Zurowski; Margaret Cochran
4:00 John DenBesten; Norbert Mann
4:15 Chester Cebula; Joseph Maleszka
4:30 Lou Skwarek;
Deceased Members of Dowdle & McCarthy Families
6:00 Alice & Al Sobey; Donald Kelly
10:30 Chucky Ingles; Mary Kohles

Sunday, December 25, Nativity of Our Lord

7:30 Rita and John Tiberi; Walter Cebula
9:00 Robert Plechaty; Donald Kelly
10:45 Marguerite Mueller; Alfred Shafranski
12:15 Arline Franzese; David V. Yu

There is no 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Italics—Living

Wedding Banns

Jennifer Williams & Matthew Rauen

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

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Greg Fiflis - Parishioner

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 Parishioner 708.482.3213
 5201 S. Willow Springs Rd. Suite 430 LaGrange

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Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Church

Children's Choir, Carol Prelude 3:45 p.m.

4:15 p.m. First Floor School Multi-Purpose Room

Carol Prelude 4:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Second Floor School Gym

Carol Prelude 4:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Church

Carol Prelude 5:45 p.m.

10:30 p.m. Church

Parish Choir, Carol Prelude 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25

7:30 a.m. Church

Cantor, Flute & Cello

9:00 a.m. Church

Contemporary Ensemble

10:45 a.m. Church

Parish Choir

12:15 p.m. Church

Worship & Praise Choir

*** There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day*

Holiday Weekday Mass Schedule

Our regular 7:45 a.m. daily Mass will be celebrated on December 26-30 and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 31. There will be no 6:30 a.m. Masses that week.

New Year's Eve and Day

Saturday, December 31, 2011 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2012

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

*** There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on New Year's Day*

