

St. John of the Cross Parish

5005 South Wolf Road ~ Western Springs, IL 60558 ~ 708-246-4404 ~ www.stjohnofthecross.org



*O Lord, our God,
a star led the Magi to your Son.
May the sound of your Word
and the light of your Spirit
lead us today to worship before him
in Spirit and in truth,
bringing the gift of our lives to him,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.*

*Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2017*

Dear Parishioners,

I hope your Christmas and New Year celebrations were wonderful times with family and friends. Through them, I also pray that you responded to the invitation to draw closer to the Lord through the miracle of his Incarnation. I certainly missed being with you for the liturgical celebrations. Fr. Bill tells me they were spectacular in every way.

And now a new year has begun and none of us know what it will hold for any of us. I certainly don't. Let me update you with where things are at so far with my health.

I continue to recover from the laryngectomy I had on December 12th. Others who have had this surgery would be eating solid foods for about a week and learning how to use their new voice. My recovery is considerably slower because of the fistula I developed, as the doctor predicted due to the previous radiation damage to my tissues. I made the mistake (is it hope or denial?) of thinking I would follow a more predictable arc of healing but I have had to let go of that illusion. At one point I thought I would be back in the parish by the end of January. Now I realize there is not much point in setting that kind of target deadline. Being patient and accepting I am not in control of the healing timeline is a huge challenge for me, as it would be for anyone. My body tells me the speed I can go and right now it is not very fast.

This is the most difficult part of the physical healing as far as I am aware right now. There will be continual maintenance of the stoma (the hole in my throat) and other physical challenges but dealing with the issue of the leaking from the fistula is basic to continued progress. It will happen, but in God's time and not mine.

I also want to clarify a mistake I made in talking previously about my new voice. Earlier I referenced 'rebuilding' my voice box. There is nothing left to rebuild. I will have to develop new skills to utilize the prosthesis (a valve that looks like a sewing bobbin) that will enable me to be understood. That has more to do with breathing and air pressure. I have a lot more to learn about how that will all work out.

When this phase comes to a conclusion I will update you about where things are at. I am so grateful for all your prayers, encouraging messages and affirmation. I could not be more blessed than I am to be a member of the SJC faith community.

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David

Second Collection for Sister Anastasia Fund: January 29

The Sr. Anastasia Fund, named in memory of our first school principal, is dedicated to educating our parish children in the faith. Begun when the convent building was sold to the IBVM community, it functions like an endowment fund in distributing funds to both the school and the YC program as reported in the Annual Report. The Parish Finance Committee administers the annual distribution. For many years, even preceding the Sr. Anastasia fund, there was an annual collection in January, Support a Student, whose purpose is essentially the same thing as the Sr. Anastasia fund. The Support a Student collection will become part of the annual January collection to help fund the Sr. Anastasia endowment. As always, your generosity to support the mission of our parish is most appreciated.



About Sister Anastasia O'Connor IBVM

In 1961 with five IBVM Sisters, Sister Anastasia became the first principal and trailblazer who launched our parish school on its way to becoming the highly respected Catholic elementary school it is today. In 1967 Sister Anastasia left SJC to serve in an administrative position within the IBVM Community. Delighted to return in 1973, she served eleven more years as the educational leader of our school and parish community.

Sister Anastasia cherished the children, the parents, the faculty and staff, the parishioners and the many priests she met during her days at St. John of the Cross. Love, lived in service to others, enabled her to live her motto, "To do your will, O God, is my desire." Sister passed away on Easter Sunday 2011.



St. John of the Cross Parish
proudly presents
Steve Angrisano in Concert

Saturday, January 21
at 7pm-8pm Concert
in Church

Sunday, January 22
at 3:30-4:30pm Music & Storytelling
in Church

No Registration. No Fee. Just come. Open to all.

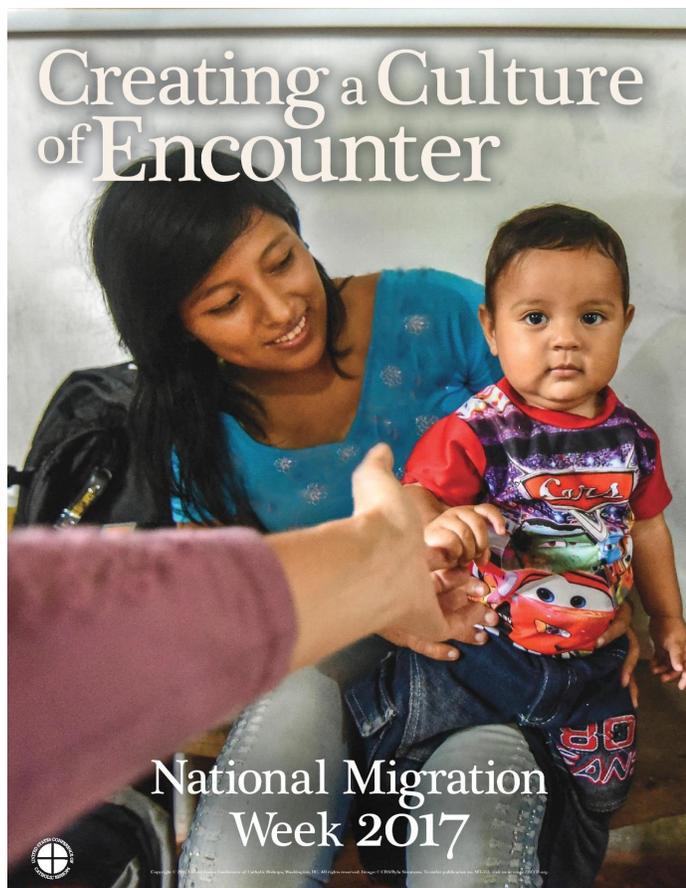
Steve Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today. Those who are young (and young at heart) embrace the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling. Always rooted in a spirit of humility and faithfulness, Steve has a keen intuition regarding the needs of any audience and engages them with his unique blend of humor, song, story and interaction. Steve has been featured at 7 World Youth Days, including this past summer with Pope Francis. You will be changed after witnessing the love of Jesus Christ and his sincere desire to bring everyone to a closer relationship with the Lord. (To learn more go to www.steveangrisano.com)

National Migration Week: January 8-14

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis's call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: "For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others or render them invisible. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious of their intentions. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members and neighbors – all of whom are worthy of our attention and support.

*We pray for migrants, refugees, and all other strangers in our midst,
that they may find strength in our concern for justice
and feel the warmth of our love.*



Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless

Reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Create a culture of encounter and look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us.

Pray for our immigrant sisters and brothers created in God's image.

I express my solidarity with migrants around the world and thank all those who help them:
welcoming others means welcoming God in person! Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 18

Prayer

God of all time,
help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact and
our words carry power.

May we walk gently.
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.
May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

May we cast off
the small, vindictive god our fears have made.

May the grace and peace of Christ
bless us now and in the days ahead. Amen.

Ignatian Spirituality

*Father in heaven,
Lord of all beginnings,
hear the prayers we make
for ourselves and for all members
of our human family.*

*May this new year
be a new beginning
for each one of us,
a new opportunity for us
to welcome your grace and
peace into our lives.
May your gift of the new year
be a time of our re-creation
in your life and love.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*

God, thank you for a new year.
May everyone in our family be willing to
begin anew with a clean slate.

We know that you are always
ready to forgive us.

Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves
and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year,
remind us of our truest values
and our deepest desires.

Help us to live in the goodness that
comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the
future and the past,

so that we might live in peace with you
now, one day at a time.

Amen.

Merciful and Loving Father,
open our hearts so that we may provide
hospitality and refuge to migrants
who are lonely, afraid, and far from their homes.
Give us the courage to welcome
every stranger in our midst,
so invite them into our communities
as a demonstration of Christ's love for us.
We pray that when we encounter the other,
we see in her the face of your Son,
when we meet a stranger,
that we take his hand in welcome.
Help us to live in solidarity with one another,
to seek justice for those who are persecuted and
comfort for those who are suffering.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Living the Gospel

This feast of the Epiphany celebrates the Light being manifested to all nations. This feast invites each of us to be among the seekers of the Light who do Christ homage. Our joy is found in the real surprise of the gospel message: we are members of the Body of Christ who are now the light that shines in the darkness. The story of the “newborn king of the Jews” being manifested to all nations is our own personal story. Our own shining forth hastens God’s reign. With such grace given us, no wonder all we can do is set our hearts rightly, offer homage and gifts, and follow the Light wherever it leads.

Just as Christ’s birth sharpened the contrast between light and darkness, so will our faithful discipleship magnify this contrast, too. The disturbing message of this gospel is that we cannot follow Christ and expect that we won’t experience troubling challenges. There is a price to pay for being the light. There is a price to pay for living this story. Each fresh look at the Christmas story reminds us that all Christian living is paschal mystery living; that is, the rising (the Light) happens only when dying to self (darkness) is embraced. It ought not to surprise us, then, how much darkness accompanies these beautiful Christmas season gospels; nor should it surprise us that there is a cost in our own lives for living the Gospel. We continue to choose self-giving, nevertheless, because God’s star always guides us and fills us with joy as we surrender to God’s will and follow the Light that has come into our midst. ©Living Liturgy

*May we open
our hearts
to the salvation
God offers and
live in the Light.
May we
diligently
search for
Christ the Light
and manifest
his Presence
by the way
we live.
Amen.*

Background on the Gospel

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’ birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . .” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew’s Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentiles’ search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death.

The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. Loyola Press

Monday Baptism of the Lord Isa 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 Matt 3:13-17	Tuesday Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Mark 1:21-28	Wednesday Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Mark 1:29-39	Thursday Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 Mark 1:40-45	Friday Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 Mark 2:1-12	Saturday Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mark 2:13-17	2nd Sunday in Ord. Time Isa 49:3, 5-6 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 Cor 1:1-3 John 1:29-34
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Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis



Pregnancy should be a time of joyful expectation. But what if the baby is believed to have a disability or a life-threatening health condition? Prenatal screening is quickly becoming a routine part of obstetric care, in many cases using a simple blood test to screen for such conditions. Because of the growing frequency of this testing, parents are increasingly told by their doctors of potential problems with their pregnancies and are encouraged to abort, or to have additional tests done to determine a diagnosis.

It is worth noting that a screening is meant to detect the potential for a disability or illness and is not diagnostic. A diagnosis requires further testing, and there is evidence that screenings are not as accurate as many believe them to be. Additionally, even with further testing, doctors sometimes misdiagnose a baby who is then born completely healthy. Often, however, the diagnosis is accurate.

For parents, the news of a prenatal diagnosis is crushing. They may not know what to do or where to turn. They may anguish over what medical decisions would be best for their baby and wonder how to approach the rest of the pregnancy. ...

For friends and family:

Suppose you have friends or family who recently received a prenatal diagnosis for their unborn child. You may want to be there for them but don't know how. In an effort to ease the sorrow of their loved ones, some people may be tempted to suggest to the parents that abortion is the answer. However, many parents who carried their children to term say that protecting their baby and honoring his or her natural life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing.

When parents say "yes" to life for their child, they are saying "yes" to the most loving and healing path for all involved. When God invites us to draw close to him by following his commandments (Jn 14:15), he does so because he wants what is best for us. By saying "yes" to life for their child, which is morally good and right, parents are placing their trust in God and embracing their child and the life their child has been given for as long as it is given.

Remember that both the mother and the father deserve our concern. Some may try to comfort parents with comments such as "God needed another angel" or "You're young; you can have another one." Most parents do not find these comments helpful; they want this baby. We can help parents by acknowledging their baby, using his or her name, asking about their hopes and plans for their child's birth, and most of all, by affirming their exceptional role as the parents they already are.

For the parish:

If someone we know has received a prenatal diagnosis, let us ask the Holy Spirit to work through us. May the families of these little children be strengthened and comforted by our affirmation of the truth that their child's life—however long or short—is worth living.

"The first weeks after David's diagnosis, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine how wonderful and rewarding this journey would be. Yes, it was painful and sorrowful, but I could not imagine the joy that would also be a part of this. David has left us with so much more. I am so blessed to have lived and experienced this little life." — Christina

Let us entrust the new year to Mary, Mother of God, so that peace and mercy may grow throughout the world.
Pope Francis @Pontifex Jan 1



Join thousands at March for Life Chicago 2017 as we come together from across Chicago, the Midwest and the U.S. to defend, protect and celebrate LIFE!

Sunday, January 15, 2017

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Federal Plaza, 50 W. Adams St., Chicago

Our students were busy the week before Christmas with our Advent prayer service, Christmas pageants, service projects, and parties. Christmas break comes to an end as school is back in session tomorrow morning. Welcome back students, faculty and staff.)



This Week at SJC:
 Monday, January 9 School Resumes
 Tuesday, January 10 @3:30pm School Play Rehearsal
 Thursday, January 12 @3:30pm School Play Rehearsal
 Sunday, January 15 @2pm School Play Rehearsal
 Monday, January 16 No School



**ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
 PARISH SCHOOL
 ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
 PRESENTS
 2017 MEN'S SMOKER
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017
 7PM—MIDNIGHT
 VILLAGE CLUB OF WS
 4221 LAWN AVE
 COST \$65
 INCLUDES PIZZA & ASSORTED DRINKS**

Please join us for a night of fun and friendship benefitting St. John of the Cross Parish School athletics. We will enjoy a night of food, beverages, cards and great conversation. Please join us friends, relatives and neighbors for a great night. Come meet dads from your children's grades and have a fun evening while helping SJC Athletics.



For information contact: Frank Sullivan at fsullivan@us.indorama.net or 224-628-9921 or Terry Falls at terryfalls@sbcglobal.net 708-772-7999.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE
 FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SJC ATHLETICS!**

Name _____

Email _____

I will be attending the SJC Smoker for \$65

Name of Additional Guest _____

I would like to make an additional contribution to the SJC Athletic Association for

___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 and above

I cannot attend but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to St. John of the Cross. Return to the School Office.

A new year invites you to try something new!

Join our Prayer Team—keeping a specific small group, retreat, or leaders in prayer!

Join one of our Work Tours—adults are needed to ensure these opportunities are available for our teens!

Support a teen or adult by financially sponsoring a Retreat or Work Tour—Maybe you can't go, but you want to ensure others can!

To learn more about any of the above ideas, contact Katie Hayes in the Parish Center.

Was your NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION to MAKE A DIFFERENCE?!

Call Katie Hayes TODAY to see how YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE as a leader and mentor to teens. You will guide and support them in their faith development through high school. You will be the steady, caring, listening presence of Christ through all the chaotic transitions of their teenage years. We have an amazing group of freshmen teens who are in need of adults who will listen, support and encourage them. Two adults are needed ASAP! One of our current sophomore leaders said, "I have received so much more than I have given—I am SO grateful for this opportunity to serve!" Contact Katie Hayes ASAP!

Please keep in your prayers our freshmen and sophomore teens and adults who will be on retreat NEXT weekend! They are traveling southwest of Chicago to Newark, Illinois.

...As another year draws to an end, let us pause before the manger and express our gratitude to God for all the signs of his generosity in our life and our history, seen in countless ways through the witness of those people who quietly took a risk. ...

Let us pause before the manger to contemplate how God has been present throughout this year and to remind ourselves that every age, every moment is the bearer of graces and blessings. The manger challenges us not to give up on anything or anyone. To look upon the manger means to find the strength to take our place in history without complaining or being resentful, without closing in on ourselves or seeking a means of escape, looking for shortcuts in our own interest. Looking at the manger means recognizing that the times ahead call for bold and hope-filled initiatives, as well as the renunciation of vain self-promotion and endless concern with appearances.

Each of us is asked to take some responsibility, however small, for helping our young people to find, here in their land, in their own country, real possibilities for building a future.

Looking at the manger means seeing how God gets involved by involving us, making us part of his work, inviting us to welcome the future courageously and decisively. ...

Looking at the manger, we see Joseph and Mary, their young faces full of hopes and aspirations, full of questions. Young faces that look to the future conscious of the difficult task of helping the God-Child to grow. We cannot speak of the future without reflecting on these young faces and accepting the responsibility we have for our young; more than a responsibility, the right word would be debt, yes, the debt we owe them. To speak of a year's end is to feel the need to reflect on how concerned we are about the place of young people in our society.

We are asked to be something other than the innkeeper in Bethlehem who told the young couple: there is no room here. There was no room for life, there was no room for the future. Each of us is asked to take some responsibility, however small, for helping our young people to find, here in their land, in their own country, real possibilities for building a future. Looking at the manger challenges us to help our young people not to become disillusioned by our own immaturity, and to spur them on so that they can be capable of dreaming and fighting for their dreams, capable of growing and becoming fathers and mothers of our people.

As we come to the end of this year, we do well to contemplate the God-Child! Doing so invites us to return to the sources and roots of our faith. In Jesus, faith becomes hope; it becomes a leaven and a blessing. "With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, Christ makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew" (*Evangelii Gaudium*,

3). *Excerpt from a homily by Pope Francis on December 31.* To read the full homily go to http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161231_te-deum.html



New Minister of Care Training

Become a trained Minister of Care who brings Holy Communion to people who are homebound or hospitalized. Training will be at the Carmelite Center in Darien on 2 Saturdays, January 14 and 21 from 9am-1pm. SJC covers the cost of the class. Contact Steve Weigand for more information. Please consider this important ministry.

Family Grief Support

Tommy's Kids and Teens for Teens Family Night, Thursday, January 12 from 6-7:30pm, is a grief support program open to children, teens and their families who have experienced the death of a family member or close friend. Call Rosie at 630-856-6993 to rsvp.

Joyful Again Retreat

Widowed men and women are encouraged to attend the next Joyful Again Retreat to be held January 21-22 in Lemont. Call 708-354-7211 or joyfulagain.org to register and learn more.

New Little Rock Scripture Study Begins

Join us on 10 Monday afternoons beginning tomorrow at 1pm -2:30pm to study the Gospel of Matthew (the primary Gospel this year). Materials which are \$15 can be picked up at the first session.

Pivotal Players in Catholicism

This Thursday, January 12 at 1pm or 7pm in the Parish Center we will learn about the evangelist GK Chesterton from Bishop Barron's new video study series. All are welcome. No fee or registration.



How does one engage a culture that is befuddled by Christ and suspicious of the Church? The life and witness of this nineteenth century literary convert shows that the fundamental disposition of effective evangelization is joy, and life in Christ is a day-to-day encounter with an abundant and surprising offer of grace.

Food Pantry Collection

Bring a can of soup or box of cereal to the church narthex when you come to Mass. During the month of January our donations will be brought to St. Barbara's Food Pantry in Brookfield.

End-of-Life Conversations

The Catholic Conference of Illinois has published a free booklet, "Encouraging End-of-Life Conversations: A Catholic Perspective on Advance Directives." It includes legal forms outlining end-of-life plans and a health care power of attorney form with Catholic suggestions. Copies can be downloaded at www.ilcatholic.org or call 312-368-1066.

Tax Statements

Thank you for your generous contributions to our parish. Tax statements will be mailed at the end of the month to parishioners who have received them in past years. If you have not received one in the past and would like one this year, please call Christina in the Parish Center office.

Explore Priesthood Weekend

Set aside January 20-22 at Mundelein Seminary to pray, discuss, and learn about God's movement in your life. Contact Fr. Bill in the Parish Center or Fr. Francis Bitterman at 312-534-8298 to learn more about becoming a priest.

Winter Book Study Begins January 19

God is not what many of us think. Visions of an angry, distant moral scorekeeper or a supernatural Santa Claus handing out cosmic lottery tickets to those who attend the right church or say the right prayers dominate our culture. For many others, God has become irrelevant or simply unbelievable. The Divine Dance explores the early Christian image of the Trinity: 'perichoresis', a circle dance.

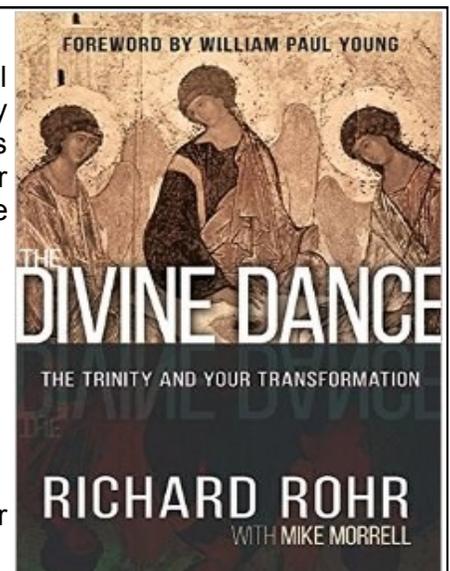
Group Discussion Dates:

Thursdays

Beginning January 19 – March 2

From 2:00—3:00pm

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the Parish Office after January 9 for \$15.00.



Programs for Adults at The Well

Take some time for YOU in the new year.

**The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park, IL.
To register: 708-482-5048/thewell@csjoseph.org /www.csjthewell.org**



Scripture Study—The Prophet Jeremiah

Facilitator: Marianne Race, CSJ

In Jeremiah we witness the rigors, joys and anguish of being called to ministry. He lived with his countrymen exiled to Babylon when Jerusalem fell in 587 BCE. His words speak of challenge, critique and comfort. Like the other prophets of his time he called for changed lives, not empty ritual. His challenge remains alive for people of faith today.

Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm

Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar. 2, 9, 16

Cost: \$108 for 10 sessions or \$12/session



Art as a Spiritual Pathway

Facilitator: Pat Willems, CSJ, spiritual director, art therapist, artist

Need something to rejuvenate your spirits in the long winter weeks ahead? Join Pat for a weekend artist getaway! This mini-retreat will use simple art materials to create artistic expressions. There will be group time, free time and quiet time incorporated into the weekend. All meals, snacks and art materials included. Bring a journal.

Friday: Jan. 13, 7:00 pm. Arrive any time after 5:30 if staying overnight.

Saturday: Jan. 14, 9:00 am-8:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am-noon

Cost: \$250 overnight/\$150 commuter



Come and Paint – Mini-retreat

Facilitator: Mary Southard, CSJ, artist, spiritual director

Painting provides a way of more deeply entering into and experiencing an unfolding within our own souls. Painting and reflecting will be done in the context of the Universe Story and its impact on our sense of meaning at every level. Artistic ability is not needed to participate fully in this experience. Space limited to 12 participants.

Friday: Jan. 20, begins with 5:00 pm. supper

Saturday: Jan. 21, ends at 4:00 pm

Cost: \$175 overnight/\$125 commuter



Destress

Facilitator: Kate Wester

Research has shown that there are great benefits to regular deep relaxation, not just for mental health and well-being, but for our physical health as well. In this class we will practice some gentle movement and stretching (suitable for all fitness levels), some breathing techniques that help to engage and strengthen our relaxation response, and a guided visualization intended to let the nervous system become very calm. Participants should bring a yoga mat, blanket, or cushion as well as any other items that would help make their relaxation more comfortable.

Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm

Jan 26; Feb 2, 16; Mar 9, 23; Apr 27

Cost: \$72 or \$12/session

Holy Family of Nazareth, help us all to recognize the sacred nature of the family and its beauty in God's plan for humanity.
Pope Francis @Pontifex 30 Dec 2016

SJC Moms' Club

Moms and tots of the parish gather in the Parish Center monthly on Fridays from 9:15-10:30am. Our next play date is January 20. Also, mark your calendar to join us for 2 upcoming events: Yoga Night on Thursday, February 9 at 7:30pm in the Parish Center and our annual Family Event with Frankie Ace at the Village Club on Saturday, February 25 at 4pm. Watch for details.

Women's Club Dine & Demo

Tuesday, January 24

7:00-9:00pm Parish Center

Get ready for an Italian Dinner Party
with Dee Dee Saracco of



Dee Dee will have containers available for purchase at the event and will be donating 10% back to the Women's Club for anything purchased or ordered Tuesday night. Specialties include: vodka sauce, bolognese sauce, turkey chili, chicken noodle soup and sausage bread.

A Wine-Pairing Presentation will be hosted by Mecenat Bistro and Wine Shop. Mecenat will also be donating 10% per bottle/15% per case back to the Women's Club for anything purchased at the event through Sunday, January 29, 2016.



**GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE &
GOOD FRIENDS!**

Space is limited! No Walk-Ins for this Event

**RSVP to the Parish Center \$15.00 per person
Cash or Check by 1/22/17**

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF GUESTS: _____ GLUTENFREE?: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

SJC Trivia Night VI

Saturday, January 28th
SJC Parish School Gym

Doors open at 6:00 PM - Games begin at 6:45 PM

All are invited to come to Trivia Night! It's fun and it's a great way to meet fellow parishioners. Here's how it works:

Organize a group of up to 10 people (ages 21 and over only) to form your team. Name your team.

Brush up on your trivia knowledge.

Send in your table reservation with a check(s) totaling \$200 for each table of ten; (note: cost per table is \$200 even if there are less than ten participants on your team). Make all checks payable to St. John of the Cross. Seating is limited, so RSVP soon.

Drop an envelope with the reservation form including the name of your team, captain and team member names along with your check(s) to SJC Parish Center attention Men's Club.

That night, bring your own appetizers, food and your favorite beverages. Alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Winning Team will receive fabulous prizes and many accolades!

Questions? Dan Montgomery @ 312.952.1435
tdm30550@gmail.com or John Cisek @ 312.327.1295

More info on the Parish website.

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Team Captain Contact phone / e-mail: _____

Team Member Names:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

My Favorite Books of 2016

So much of life, particularly today, constitutes an unconscious conspiracy against reading. Lack of time, the pressure of our jobs, and electronic technology, among other things, are more and more putting books out of reach and out of mind. There is never enough time to read. The upside of this is that when I do find time to pick up a book this becomes a precious, cherished time. And so I try to pick books that I read carefully: I read reviews, listen to colleagues, and keep track of my favorite authors. I also try to make sure that my reading diet, each year, includes some spiritual books (including at least one historical classic), some biographies, some novels, and some essays.

Among the books that I read this year, these are the ones that touched me. I cannot promise that they will touch you, but each of them left me with something.

Among books in spirituality:

Gil Bailie, God's Gamble, The Gravitational Power of Crucified Love. Bailie again takes up Rene Girard's anthropology to shed some new light on how the cross of Christ is the most monumental moral and religious event in history. The text is very dense and (truthfully) a tough read, but its insights are exceptional.

Heather King, Shirt of Flame, A Year with Saint Therese of Lisieux. This book will make for a very good, private retreat for anyone struggling with an addiction or obsession, or just with mediocrity in his or her spiritual life.

Christophe Lebreton, Born From the Gaze of God, The Tibhirine Journal of Martyr Monk, 1993-1996. This is the diary of one of the Trappist monks who was martyred in Algeria in 1996. It is the intimate journal of a young man which chronicles how he moves from paralyzing fear to the strength for martyrdom.

Kathleen Dowling Singh, two books: The Grace in Dying and The Grace in Aging. According to Singh, the process of aging and dying is exquisitely calibrated to bring us into the realm of spirit. In these two remarkable books, she traces this out with the depth that, outside of the great classical mystics, I have not seen.

Christine M. Bochen, Editor, The Way of Mercy. This is a series of remarkable essays on mercy, including some by Pope Francis and Walter Kasper.

The Cloud of Unknowing. I finally had the chance to study this classic in some depth and it is, no doubt, the signature book on contemplation and centering prayer.

Among biographies and essays:

Marilynne Robinson, The Givenness of Things, Essays. These essays are dense, deep, robustly

sane, and are Marilynne Robinson, the gifted novelist, at her religious best.

Michael N. McGregor, Pure Act, The Uncommon Life of Robert Lax. This is the biography of the man who was Thomas Merton's closest soul-friend, lived out his life as a secular monk, and who carried his solitude at a very high and noble level. It will help re-awaken your idealism.

Fernando Cardenal, Faith and Joy, Memoirs of a Revolutionary Priest. This is a great read about an exceptional man, a priest and a Jesuit, who played a leading role in Daniel Ortega's government in Nicaragua and was commanded by John Paul to step down. It is a private journal that tells the other side of what much of history has one-sidedly recorded about the struggles for justice in Latin America.

Daniel Berrigan, Essential Writings, Edited by John Dear. Daniel Berrigan died in late April of this year. His writings set the compass for what it means to be a Christian prophet, and this is an excellent selection of his writings.

Three books that deal with facing aging and dying:

Michael Paul Gallagher, Into Extra Time, Living Through the Final Stages of Cancer and Jottings along the Way. A man of faith and letters, Gallagher shares the journal he kept during the last nine months of his life, when he already knew he was dying.

Katie Roiphe, The Violet Hour, Great Writers at the End. How did a number of great writers, including Sigmund Freud, John Updike and Susan Sontag face terminal illness? This book tells us how.

Paul Kalanithi, When Breath Becomes Air. This is a remarkable journal of a young doctor facing a terminal diagnosis that documents his courage, faith, and insight.

Three novels that I recommend:

Paula Hawkins, The Girl on the Train. This didn't make for a great movie, but the book is a page-turner. *Ian McEwan, Nutshell* and *Edna O'Brien, The Little Red Chairs.* The pedigree of these two authors alone is enough of a recommendation, but neither will disappoint you here.

A wildcard:

Kenneth Rolheiser, Dreamland and Soulscapes, A Prairie Love Story. Full disclosure, Kenneth is my brother and I lived through many of the stories he shares, so there is admittedly a huge bias here. But the book delivers on its title and will give you a more realistic sense of what it was like to grow up in a *Little House on the Prairies.*

Happy reading!

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.



The Week Ahead

Monday, January 9

- 9:30am Spiritual Journeying
- 10:30am Christian Meditation
- 1:00pm Little Rock Scripture Study
- 2:30pm Adoration
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 10

- 9:00am Parent Association Meeting
- 3:30pm Confirmation Interviews
- 3:30pm School Play
- 7:00pm RCIA
- 7:00pm YC Council Meeting
- 7:30pm Christian Meditation

Wednesday, January 11

- 9:15am Wednesday Bible Study
- 9:30am Bridges Study
- 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 3:30pm Confirmation Interviews
- 3:45pm Cherub Choir Practice
- 7:00pm Grecco Faith Sharing
- 7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice

Thursday, January 12

- 9:00am Flourish Meeting
- 9:00am School Peer Mediation
- 1:00pm Pivotal Players
- 3:30pm Confirmation Interviews
- 3:30pm School Play
- 3:45pm Youth Choir Practice
- 7:00pm Outreach Meeting
- 7:00pm Pivotal Players i
- 7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble
- 7:30pm SAM Core Group Meeting

Friday, January 13, 2017

- 9:00am School Peer Mediation

Saturday, January 14

- 7:00am Christian Meditation

Sunday, January 15

- 1:30pm Baptisms
- 2:00pm School Play

St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their babies baptized on December 18 by Deacon John Schopp. Pictured with their godparents from the left are Joseph and Nicole Kusper with Remi Michelina and Debra and Brian Reid with Sydney Lynne.

We also congratulate Brendan and Maria Moran with Julia Anne, the granddaughter of Kathy and Mike Moran (on the far right) who was baptized by Fr. Elliott Dees on December 23. Pictured below are the proud parents holding their children with Fr. Elliott and their godmother.



YC Schedule

Remember to mark your calendars for the Family Event by Steve Angrisano. Either Saturday January 21st at 7:00 or Sunday January 22nd at 3:30

Classes K-6	10:15-11:30am	Sun, Jan 29, Feb 5, 12, 26
	6:15-7:30pm	Mon, Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 27
FFC	Noon to 1:30 pm	Sun, Feb 5 (begin in MPR)
Jr Hi Sm Groups	home settings	Sun, Jan 29, Feb 26
Adapted Catechesis	9:00-10:00am	Sun, Jan 22, 29, Feb 5

God of Love, as we enter into this new year with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen. -Adapted from Prayer by J. P. Shadle

Pray for Our Sick

Robert Arbuckle
Gary Berger
Katie Berger
Judy Burke
Glori Ann Byrd
Christina Carinato
Paul Cervony
Nancy Cottone
Alexander DeLosReyes
Fr. David Dowdle
Mildred Fitzgerald
Colleen Franke
Lynn Freking
Bedelia Fries
Kathy Gros
Randall Hemauer
Kathy Holden
Karen Hult
Lucinne Kassis
Curtis Kerzich
George Kojima
Carrie Kowalski
Athie Lanahan
Erin Lively
Warren McGee
Bobbie Misiara
Jennifer Ochino
Patrick O'Donnell
Frank & Marge Pipal
Mary Ann Prowar
Sam Principe
Helen Ragus
Gail Schmidt
Leona Shell
Deloris Simonek
Ray Simonek
Brooks Tonn
Don Vollmer
Monica Westell
Eric Wilson

Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions

Monday, January 9 *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*

7:45am Donald Lopez, Jr.; Muriel Albertson

Tuesday, January 10 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

7:45am Mike Gannon; Our Beloved Dead

Wednesday, January 11 *Weekday*

7:45am Judith Clark; Tim Dunleavy

Thursday, January 12 *Weekday*

7:45am Fr. Kieran Kemner; Frank Pirman

Friday, January 13 *St. Hilary*

7:45am Patricia Cebula; *Fr. David Dowdle* *Italics: Living Intention*

Saturday, January 14 *Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00am Raymond J. McCarthy & Raymond M. McCarthy; Pat Kot

~ *Reconciliation Follows Mass* ~

5:00pm John Fash; Deceased members of Lukowsky & DenBesten Families

Sunday, January 15 *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30am Alice Trocewicz; JoAnn Heinzmann

9:00am Jerome Hoffman; Henry Kotynek

10:45am Rose Gainus; Michael Kassis

12:15pm Lillian Sagat; Adalina Munaretto

5:00pm Rae Ann Ellis; Nancy Seyfarth

Pray for Our Beloved Dead

Joseph A. Grazulis, Sr., husband of Christine, father of Rebecca and Joseph

Kenneth Pawlowicz, brother of Liz Clawson

Hugh Feehan, brother of Margaret Hester

Stephen Fecske, husband of Joyce

Danny Gacek, brother of Bruno

Leonard Wilcer, father of Mark, grandfather of 3

Sam Principe, father of John and Paul

Don Bradley, uncle of Jack DeMars

Delaney O'Connell, daughter of Dawn and Brian, sister of Abigail

Bless, O God, all who struggle with illness. Empower them with hope for each and every day. Provide them with loving and tender care, laughter, and the support of love. Grant them courage when they are afraid, comfort when they are in pain, and Your blessing when all else seems hopeless, that in their fight with illness they may glorify Your name; In Christ's name we pray. Amen. -*Vienna Cobb Anderson*

Marriage Banns

Angeline Kostelec & Clayton Glomb

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country

Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Sandra Foody

Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki

Sr A Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler & Mary Tischler

A Navy Seal, a relative of our parishioner

Lance Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stimetz

Capt. James Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke

Sgt. Robert Marburger, son of David and Kathleen Marburger

Staff Sgt. Larry Waszak, grandson of Bruno and Barbara Gacek

Petty Officer 3rd Class Mathew Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci

Lance Corporal David Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci

Sgt. Michael Grabarek, relative of the LeFevour and Schillaci families

PFC Michael Frazee, grandson of Kay and John Johnson

Rev. David P. Dowdle, Pastor

ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org

Rev. William J. Vollmer,

Assoc. Pastor

bvollmer@stjohnofthecross.org

Deacon John Schopp, Deacon

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Bill Bright, Director of Outreach

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Janet Caschetta, Director of YC

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Kathleen Gorman, Principal

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Katie Hayes, Dir of Crossroads

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Jessica Koch, Director of Music

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MJ Martin, Director of Operations

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Katie Nicholson,

Crossroads Coordinator

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Steven Weigand,

Pastoral Associate

sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org

Give your Marriage the Gift of Love

7 Principles of Happy Marriage Retreat

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

4 Saturday Mornings

Saturday, January 21, 28, & February 11, and 18
from 9-11am in the SJC Parish Center

The 7 Principles for a Happy Marriage is based on over 40 years of research with over 3,000 couples by John Gottman, Ph.D. This retreat will help couples:

- Identify the factors that undermine happy marriages;
- Learn to manage conflict positively;
- Deepen their friendship and love for one another; and
- Thrive instead of survive.

This program is ideally suited for couples married 5 years or longer, but is open to any couple in a committed relationship. This program is not counseling or therapy.

Couples experiencing distress, emotional or physical abuse or have serious mental health or emotional problems, addictions or compulsive behaviors are encouraged to seek outside therapeutic solutions.



This program is taught by trained Gottman Seven Principles Program Educators, Bill & Theresa Simantirakis. The materials and exercises are presented in an easy-to-understand format. No preparation is required, however a willingness to learn together as a couple is a great start!



5 easy things you can do to nurture fondness with your spouse:

1. *Share a fond memory you have about your relationship with your partner.*
2. *Schedule a date night and be sure to follow through.*
3. *Think about one quality you admire about your partner and tell them why you feel that way.*
4. *Write your partner a one sentence love note or send it via text message.*
5. *Take out a few old pictures and revisit positive memories you have about your marriage together.*

The Gottman Seven Principles Program is the definitive guide for couples who truly desire practical education about how they can create a deeper relationship.

FAQ

⇒ **How long does the program last?**

A: The 7 Principles Program is comprised of 4 two hour convenient sessions on 4 Saturday mornings. Couples should plan to attend all 4 sessions.

⇒ **Does my spouse have to attend?**

A: Yes. The success of the Gottman method is dependent upon couples practicing skills that are learned at each of the 4 sessions.

⇒ **Will we be expected to discuss and share sensitive aspects of our marriage with others?**

A: Absolutely not. Trained instructors teach the easy to understand principles in a positive and engaging way that makes it fun for couples to practice what they learn as a couple. No one is asked to confide or share information about their relationship with other couples or the large group.

⇒ **What is the cost?**

A: The \$150 cost per couple includes 8 hours of instruction, 2 copies of The 7 Principles for Making a Marriage Work, journal/notebook, light breakfast and snacks. Confidential scholarships are available through Steve Weigand.

⇒ **How do I register?**

A: Register at stjohnofthecross.org.

⇒ **I really want to attend but my partner does not. What should I do?**

A: Resist putting undue pressure on your spouse to attend, however it's okay to let them know what they can expect. Namely, that this is a skills based research driven process that clearly demonstrates why some marriages thrive (Master Couples) and others fail to survive (Disaster Couples).

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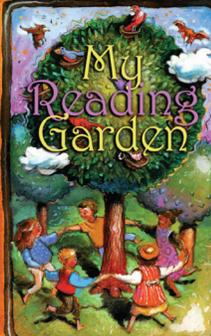
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