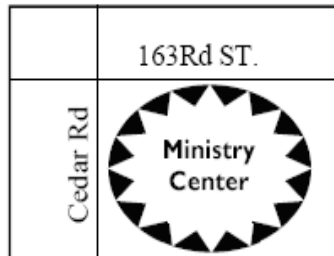


cross of glory
14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



Join us on Sundays
9:00AM AND 10:45AM
Wednesday Nights 6:00pm
We have a place for you!

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Dated Material

The Month+ at a Glance...

Mar 1 - NO TELL	Mar 17 - Holy Communion Class 530p Risen 5pm SEE 6-7pm WORSHIP 6pm Pastor Bible Study 7:15pm
Mar 3 - Holy Communion Class 530p Risen 5pm SEE 6-7pm WORSHIP 6pm Pastor Bible Study 7:15pm	Mar 20 - Habitat for Humanity (see article) - Congregational Resource Event
Mar 7 - Worship 9:15am	Mar 21 - WORSHIP 9am AND 10:45am
Mar 8 - TELL 630pm	Mar 22 - TELL
Mar 10 - Holy Communion Class 530p Risen 5pm SEE 6-7pm WORSHIP 6pm Pastor Bible Study 7:15pm	Mar 24 - Risen 5pm SEE 6-7pm WORSHIP 6pm Pastor Bible Study 7:15pm
Mar 12 - Women's Ministry - Movie Night Call office for details	Mar 27 - Morning Star Volunteering 345p
Mar 14 - WORSHIP 9am AND 10:45am	Mar 28 - PALM SUNDAY
Mar 15 - TELL	

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cross of glory

All 4 God Monthly News

March 2010

Join us for Worship:

Sundays

9am and 10:45am

CoffeeHouse

Worship:

Wednesdays

Worship 6:00pm

All with Holy

Communion.

All are welcome!



A Season of New Life!

By: Pastor PJ Malin

On February 17 we celebrated Ash Wednesday and began the season of Lent. Do you know what the word Lent means? It literally means "spring." Think for a moment about what happens in the spring season. It is a time of new life and growth. That's what the season of Lent is meant to be as well. It is meant to be a time when we experience new life and growth in our faith journey.

Throughout the centuries, the church has suggested faith practices that help us experience new life and growth in our faith journey. The Bishop of our synod offers this list: *prayer, worshiping, studying Scripture, witnessing & inviting, giving, encouraging, and serving*. This list might remind you of the areas in our Mission LOOP. Below are some ways you can engage in these faith practices throughout the season of Lent...

Staff:

PJ Malin,
Pastor

Laura Uzzardo,
Parish Administrator

Henry Garza
Pastoral Associate

Mimi Pappas,
Nursery Attendant

Bob Bejlovec
Maintenance

Jamie Knutson-Zahora, Director –
The Welcome Place
Preschool

Sharon Aden, Director –
The Welcome Place
Christian Care & Counseling Center

Please e-mail Laura Uzzardo if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail at: laura@crossofglory.com If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please give Laura a call at 708-301-6998. Thank You.

Prayer

Pray for our church, that we might continue to grow in our love for God, our love for one another, and our love for our neighbor. Pray for the leadership at Cross of Glory - myself, the staff, the Council, and the ministry leaders - that we might have the wisdom and grace to faithfully lead this church.

Worship

There are lots of opportunities to worship with Cross of Glory. We now have two services on Sunday (9:00 & 10:45a) and a midweek Coffeehouse worship on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Hopefully one of these options will work for you each week.

Studying Scripture

Cross of Glory is on an Adventure through the Bible. The goal of our adventure is to learn more about God, what God is up to, and how we can be a part of it all. On the home page of our website is a link for daily readings. Our sermons and small groups explore sections from the week's readings. If you have not yet joined in on the adventure, it's never too late. Start with this week's readings. If you have started and have fallen behind, don't sweat it. Just pick back up again with this week's readings. It's also never too late to join a small group. Our small groups are fantastic opportunities to learn, ask questions, and develop friendships. One other thing you will find on our website is a "Lent" button that takes you to an online, Lenten devotional published by our synod. I contributed the devotion for March 17.

Witnessing & Inviting

On Sunday, February 14 I handed out a booklet that discusses many different ways we can reach out to others with God's love. This Lent, try to think of someone you could invite to join you for worship or for one of the various activities that Cross of Glory hosts. So many people are hungry to know the love, grace, and power of God in their lives. How exciting that you could be the one to introduce them. If nothing else, try to at least invite one person to our Holy Week and Easter services.

Giving

Cross of Glory could not exist without the generous support of its members and friends. Giving our offering each week is a way to thank God and make sure this congregation continues to thrive.

Season of New Life (Cont'd)

Encouraging

I end every Confirmation class by inviting the students to share their highs and lows from the week. This past Monday, one of the students named Confirmation as her high because it is "the place she laughs the most." When we serve in a ministry at Cross of Glory, we have the opportunity to lift the spirits and brighten the lives of those we minister to. Our children and our adults need your encouragement. If you are not already involved, consider helping with one of our youth education programs (like Kids Klub, RISEN, SEE, TELL, or VBS) or with one of our caring ministries (like the Prayer & Care Team, Men's Ministry, or Women's Ministry).

Serving

In the months of March and April we have several opportunities to serve people and our earth. On Saturday, March 20th we have the opportunity to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project. Habitat for Humanity is an incredible organization that helps build and repair homes for people in need. We are limited to a team of ten, so let me know ASAP if you'd like to participate. Another way you can serve both people and our earth is to help with our Earth Week. The week leading up to Sunday, April 25th will be devoted to helping our congregation celebrate and care for our earth. If you'd like to be a part of the team that helps brainstorm and plan for Earth Week, let us know.

To sign up or get more information about any of these faith practices and programs, don't hesitate to call or send me an email. May this Lent be a time of new life and growth in our faith journey together. Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place!

Pastor PJ

Council News...

The 2010 Cross of Glory Council was elected at our Annual Meeting on February 7, 2010. We are excited and blessed to have these leaders help guide our congregation this year. Join us on March 7 2010 for worship as we lift our new council in prayer. The 2010 Council is:

Reaching & Serving: Beth Gervase

Beth has been a member of Cross of Glory for over eight years. Beth served on Council in this role for the 2009 year. She was instrumental in helping with many of our Outreach activities, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Free Family Fun Fair. Beth has also participated in several leadership seminars hosted by our synod, like the Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE).

For more information about this area of ministry, visit our website and click on "Ministry Programs"

Welcoming & Nurturing: Bonnie Marszalek

Bonnie has been a member of Cross of Glory for over 7 years. She participates in several of our Welcoming ministries, such as our Welcome Table ministry (person who welcomes people to worship and offers information) and our Glory Seeking ministry (cookie delivery). In addition to nurturing people, Bonnie and her family are always there to help Cross of Glory nurture our space and our land. They are a great help for our Landscaping Day and our Spring Cleaning Day.

Worshipping: Brian Gervase

Brian has been a member of Cross of Glory for over nine years. From the very beginning he has been an integral part of our music ministry. Brian is one of our music leaders, and leads the musical aspect of our worship at least once a month. Recently, Brian has also stepped into the role of being a Planner for Worship. He helps put together bands and music for worship, and he leads music practices.

Teaching Youth: Terri Niemeyer

Terri has been a member of Cross of Glory for over 8 years. In those eight years, Terri has served in just about every children's ministry program we offer. She is a Kids Klub teacher, which is our children's program during worship. She has been a teacher and leader for Vacation Bible School. Recently, she has stepped into the role of directing the preschool portion of VBS. Terri has also been involved in helping with our SEE program, which is our youth education program on Wednesday nights.

Teaching Adults: Dan Malone

Dan has been a member of Cross of Glory for over 14 years. Dan is a regular participant in our Small Group Bible Studies and Adult Education opportunities. He has also had a lot of experience and training in Adult Christian education. Tying in with his love for learning and spiritual growth, Dan is a significant help during worship. You've probably seen him up there tackling difficult (hard to pronounce) readings or serving communion.

2010 Council (Cont'd)

Giving & Sending: Bill Nabors

Bill has been a member of Cross of Glory for over 14 years. Bill served on Council in this role in 2009. For many years, Bill has been one of the key leaders of our Stewardship Ministry. He is also a leader of our Mana Express Ministry, which raises support for our congregation through the distribution of gift cards. Bill's passion and gift for keeping up lines of communication in our congregation can be seen each week with our In the Loop newsletter. Bill and his wife, Cheryl, are also the managers of our Bibles & Beyond Bookstore.

We would also like to give our most heartfelt thanks to the Council of 2009 for their hard work and dedication to this congregation. It was amazing to see how God uses these talented people and how they helped shape this community of faith. The 2009 Council: Beth Gervase, Nicole Morin, Della Bejlovec, Tammy Mack, Pete Knutson and Bill Nabors. Please keep all of our leaders in your prayers as they continue their ministry.



CASA De Los Angeles News:

It's finally starting to warm up down in Mexico. The beginning of January brought freezing temperatures for 10 days in a row. The high was 45 degrees. This is bad for the families as they do not have heaters to keep them warm. Our prayers are with the children and their families that God will keep them warm and bless their families and friends.



Building Hope, Building Lives

Cross of Glory is partnering with Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Builds, a division of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The Chicagoland Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has helped fund and build 36 Habitat for Humanity homes since 2005 and is a key participant and supporter in of the construction of 10 new Habitat homes in the region in 2009. Thrivent Builds provides funding up to 65% of the cost of building each home. Join us on **Saturday March 20, 2010**. The project is located at 536 E Fullerton Avenue in Glendale Heights. For more information and project requirements please visit crossofglor.com.

Manna Express Ministry...

The Manna Express Ministry has gift cards available for HUNDREDS of local and national retailers. Here is just a sampling:

BORDERS

JCPenney

★ macy's

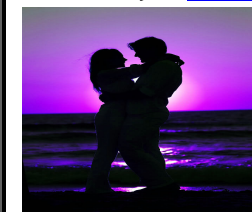
The Olive Garden



Jewel-Osco



You can find a complete list of retailers on our website: CrossOfGlory.com; or you can stop by the church office during regular business hours. Orders are taken in the office and after worship on Sunday and Wednesday. For more information please email Barb Taskay at barbjt@sbcglobal.net.



Couples Retreat

Does your relationship need a little R&R? Cross of Glory will be offering a retreat designed for couples who are looking to grow in their faith and in their relationship. The retreat will be held at: **Comfort Inn & Georgios Banquets**, 8800 W 159th St., Orland Park. If you would like to participate in this special event, here's how:

Register: To register for the retreat, you can call the church and register with Laura Uzzardo, 708-301-6998. The registration cost is only \$25 a couple! Call TODAY for last minute openings! **Reservations:** Staying at the hotel is NOT mandatory, but it would make it easier for you to fully participate in the

experience. Not to mention, it would be a fun night out of the house! To make your reservations, call the Comfort Inn at 708-403-1100. Be SURE to mention you are with Cross of Glory to get the special rate of \$79.99. You'll want to book your hotel room ASAP to make sure there is a room available.

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