



14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491

C e n t r a l	163 <sup>rd</sup> St.
	Ministry

Join Us on Sundays  
9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.  
We have a place for you!



## Thou Shalt Not Forget

### One Sunday service...

Please be aware that there is now only one Sunday service, at 9:30 a.m., throughout the summer months. Sundays will return to two services in September. Wednesday service continues as normal.

### ReUse It Sale

Saturday, August 6, 9am-2pm

### Give the Gift of...Blood!

This is CoG's third blood drive! Please consider donating blood on Monday, August 8 from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### And its One, Two, Three Strikes You're Out...

at the ol' ball game...Joliet Slammer's baseball outing is on August 12.

### Smores Evening

Julie Stasiak and Katie Kinney are hosting a smores night Women's Event on August 18 at 7:00 p.m. All the fixings will be provided...but bring any special recipe if you wish. Contact the church office for details.

### Latin Dance Night

Free lessons and dancing August 27 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### Ladies Nights Out

The Women's Retreat will be from September 9 through October 2. Contact the Cog office for details.

More information at [Crossofglory.com](http://Crossofglory.com)

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cross of glory

THE GOOD

NEWS tree



August 2011

### Join us for Worship:

Sundays  
9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
**CoffeeHouse Worship:**  
Wednesdays  
6:00 p.m.  
All with Holy Communion.  
All are welcome!

Staff:  
PJ Malin, *Pastor*

Laura Uzzardo,  
*Parish Administrator*

Mimi Pappas,  
*Nursery Attendant*

Bob Bejlovec  
*Maintenance*

Jamie Knutson  
*Director - The  
Welcome Place  
Preschool*

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

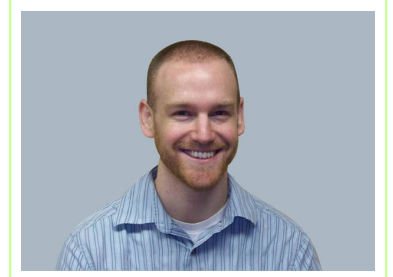
Please e-mail Laura Uzzardo if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail: [laura@crossofglory.com](mailto:laura@crossofglory.com)  
If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please give Laura a Call at **708-301-6998**.

**Thank You.**

Michael and  
Lisa O'Malley, *Editors*

## Love & Rummage

*Pastor PJ Malin*



I've had the joy of officiating at several weddings this summer. There's been a lot of love and marriage. Yet in this next month, Cross of Glory is going to have a lot of Love and Rummage. For the month of August we will be starting a new sermon series called "Love Languages." Everyone's desire is to love and be loved. In this series we will learn how to most effectively give and receive love. The material we cover will help you in every relationship you have, especially your relationship with God. For more info you can visit [crossofglory.com/love](http://crossofglory.com/love).

That's the love part. Now here's the rummage part. We just finished a week of vacation Bible School. It was awesome! You can watch video highlights on the homepage of our website. The theme of VBS was "Connected to Creation." Our children learned about all the wonderful things God created and how to best care for God's creations.

We talked about the three R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

On August 6<sup>th</sup> we will focus on the middle R - Reuse. We are hosting our second annual Reuse It Sale on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

You've heard the saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." It's true! At the ReUse It sale last year, lots of treasures were discovered for

an incredible price. This is a great way to save our earth and our pocketbooks.

And if you haven't heard, we are doing another feeding campaign called Cereal Sundays. We are collecting cereal for food pantries in the area. Our goal is to collect 400 boxes by the end of the summer. The boxes are really piling up thanks to the generosity of our church and community. I can't wait to see how many people we will feed this time!

Whether you are looking for love, great deals, or a chance to make a difference, Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place. I look forward to seeing you soon. God bless!

### Words of Affirmation (July 31 & Aug 1)

### Quality Time (Aug 7 & 10)

### Gifts (Aug 14 & 17)

### Acts of Service (Aug 21 & 24)

### Physical Touch (Aug 28 & 31)

# A Tale of Perseverance and Hope

You've all seen him...a big affable man holding the door in the morning, always with a smile and a "Good Morning". Or up front in church, assisting with the service and leading the "troops" in a round of prayer. He's also one of the many at the end of service (which can sometimes last for a solid hour...) shaking hands and chatting with anyone around him. We're talking, of course, about Frank Granacki...a relative newcomer to Cross of Glory...even though most people think he's been here much longer...



Frank has been at CoG for just over two and a half years. In that time, he has made the church his home, volunteering for the Preaching & Assisting Team as well as the Greeting Committee. Always willing to lend a hand, many people know Frank for his upbeat mood and his friendly, yet rather deep voice. That...and the fact that Frank towers over much of the congregation.

A few months ago, Frank gave a portion of a sermon where he rather courageously described his tribulations over the past several years. It was quite a story. While some folks would toss up their hands in frustration, Frank is a model of perseverance, patience, and hope.

"I've been largely unemployed for over two years now, depending upon unemployment checks and my DJ gigs," Frank told the congregation. "I often have to pay my bills over time because I sometimes can't afford otherwise."

A few years back, Frank worked as a "glorified telemarketer" in an admissions office for a local school. "They often pushed me to recommend admission to people who really shouldn't do it...that made me very

uncomfortable and probably helped lead to me losing that job," he explained.

Before that, Frank had to deal with a painful divorce during which he suffered financial losses, as well as major back surgery back in the 1980's, which still effects him from time to time.

Frank does not take the scarcity of full-time employment lightly. He runs a DJ business called A1 Inter-prise, and plays as often as he can book a gig. He also works at Fat Ricky's, a local pizza joint, delivering pizzas. "I love to DJ," Frank explained, "But its an up and down business. With the economy as it is, there are not as many gigs as there once was and the price for a DJ has gone down quite a bit." The good news on this front: at the time of the interview, Frank was working on only a few hours sleep from a late night DJ gig up in Rolling Meadows. "I played at a same sex union party and it was a lot of fun."

**Find out more about Frank's DJ business at: [www.a1interprise.com](http://www.a1interprise.com)**

"I love to make people happy," Frank continued. "There's nothing like playing great music people want to hear and seeing them clap and cheer after a song! I DJ with a partner and I absolutely love it!"

Frank jokingly refers to himself as a "recovering Catholic"...a comment that your humble editors can fully understand. Interestingly, even though he has been a full time fixture at CoG for only a few years, Frank has actually visited the church in the past. "I've brought my late father to Cross of Glory back in the 90's for Christmas Eve service. Obviously that was before Pastor PJ was here."

"After the divorce, I came to Cross of Glory, literally falling apart...I brought my Saint Michael's Medal with me and ran into Pastor Kelly, who blessed my medal and listened to me. That really made a difference and helped give me hope...something I still have a lot of today."

"I really love it here at CoG," Frank said. "You can come regardless of what you look like...torn jeans and t-shirt, doesn't matter! You are welcome. The band is fabulous, I love the songs they play. You really feel like you've known everyone for years! And the congregation...I have never seen a church like this...we need

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If you love to cook or love to eat...**WE NEED YOU!**

We are asking each family to submit one or two of your favorite recipes. All recipes need to be in by September in order for the cookbooks to be available to purchase in time for the Christmas holiday.

If you would like more information, please contact the church office!

- Lori Anderson (Council Member in the area of Fellowship)

## Love Can...

*Love can surely rescue  
A heart in deep despair  
A heart that has given up  
And no longer feels God near*

*Love can breathe new meaning  
When there's nothing left inside  
When there's no feeling or emotion  
Just dryness in our lives*

*Love can restore new hope  
After it's withered and died  
For hope is what will get us through  
And love can be its guide*

*Love can run and embrace  
The prodigal returning home  
And the one that has come to the end  
Those hurting, lost and alone*

*For God's love is the answer  
To our broken, empty lives  
As we come with an open heart  
He can dispel all the hurt inside*

*And He will heal our brokenness  
And lovingly He will bind  
The wounds that have left us scarred  
And bring soundness to our minds*

*So give it over to God's love  
Our lives and all that we are  
Then we will know and walk in His love  
For His love shall dwell in our hearts*

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help with the mortgage, and the people contribute more than necessary...all the money donated to Ellie a few months ago...the soup drive...the support for Casa. And the Pastor's smile...his smile comforts me. Also, its close to my subdivision!"

Frank has also seen the generosity of CoG up close. "I've been a benefactor of the Second Chance project. I was blessed with help when I didn't receive my unemployment check, as well as a Jewel card. They helped me like I was their brother."

As part of the Preaching & Assisting Team, Frank is up front speaking to the church as well as reading the Gospel. Recently, Pastor PJ has asked Frank to give a full sermon. "I don't mind public speaking," Frank said, "but the thought of an entire sermon is scary."

One thing is for sure, scary or not, Frank's sermon will be extremely interesting...and will certainly fill all the listeners with his favorite word...hope.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



Dan Malone.....	8/02	Lexi Quemeneur .....	8/22
Elizabeth Skandera ....	8/03	Anne Marie	
Brooke Paluch .....	8/06	Uhrenbaucher .....	8/23
Nanette Fitton .....	8/07	Benet Bejlovec.....	8/24
Shelby Maurella .....	8/07	Becca Ruger .....	8/25
Sahmira Arnold.....	8/08	Emily Peterson.....	8/26
Owen Ganzer .....	8/08	Sally Shake.....	8/26
John Szczesniak .....	8/08	Tim Signore.....	8/26
Ashton Guziak .....	8/10	Claire Burner .....	8/27
Eden Leise .....	8/10	Dominic Milo.....	8/27
Sarah Lilly .....	8/10	Jeff Festin .....	8/28
Andrea Peterson.....	8/11	Andrew Kjos .....	8/28
Ashley Hlavac.....	8/13	Kevin Murphy .....	8/29
Laurie Sloan .....	8/13	Susan Burner .....	8/30
Ava Maurella .....	8/14	Joe Sliwa.....	8/30
Jake Zacharias.....	8/14	Christian Knutson.....	8/31
Tom Smith .....	8/18		
Ella Slinde .....	8/21		