



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

### Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Over the next few weeks, we will be collecting food donations for Thanksgiving baskets. If you can donate food, please put it in the box labeled 'Food Donations'. If you donate gift cards, please give them to Laura in the office. Thank you for your help. The food baskets will be assembled after worship on November 20. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (708) 301-6998.

Suggested items (take this list shopping with you!):  
canned gravy or gravy mix, instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing, canned cranberries, bread mix, canned vegetables, cookies and candies, Jell-O's and puddings, juice, Jewel or Dominick's gift certificates.

### Women's Comedy Club Event

Hey CoG Ladies! The November Women's Event will be on November 19. We will be going to the Comedy Shine



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

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cross of glory



THE GOOD NEWS tree



September 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*

## Surpassing Goals!

*Pastor PJ Malin*

This has been a phenomenal few months for me and Cross of Glory. We have set some big goals and watched in awe as God helped us surpass these goals. I'll share two incredible stories with you.

The first story is about cereal. You may remember that we started a soup drive last year that collected over 6,500 cans of soup and chili for local food pantries. While delivering these cans, we heard from the pantries that they needed cereal.

We set out to collect 400 boxes of cereal during the summer months. Mid-summer we had 495. We realized we had been thinking too small for God. Our Outreach team said, "Hey, let's think big. Let's double our goal to 800 boxes of cereal." By September 25, the last day of our cereal drive, we had collected 822 boxes of cereal! If you calculate the math, this is like providing 8,220 meals for the hungry in our area.

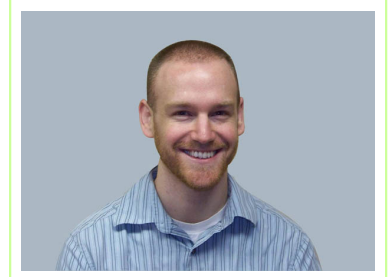
The food pantries were thrilled to receive the cereal and shared how the need for food continues to rise in our area. The Fish Food pantry said they've seen an increase in 10% of families served, going from 40 to 400. So the need is still great, which means you can count on Cross of Glory continuing it's mission to feed the hungry. Stay tuned for the next campaign!

The other story I'd like to share with you is about the marathon. In March, I signed up to run the Chicago Marathon. My purpose for running the marathon was to raise support for an organization called Casa de los Angeles, which provides shelter, meals, and medical care for children who live on the streets of San Miguel, Mexico. It's an amazing organization that I have visited several times.

Team Casa asked it's runners to try to raise at least \$400. But I figured that if I was going to put in this kind of effort to train, I wanted it to make it count. I set my fundraising goal at \$100 for every mile. Since the marathon is 26.2 miles, that comes to \$2,600. On October 9th I ran the Chicago marathon ... and finished! I can't even describe the feeling of crossing the finish line. It was very exciting to say the least. But what was even more exciting was that I surpassed my fundraising goal by more than I could have imagined. Thanks to the generous support of friends, family, church members, and community members, we were able to raise \$3,709 for the children of Casa de los Angeles! Our support will give children and families a chance at life that would not be possible without us. God bless everyone who joined my team and was part of this remarkable accomplishment!

I made a short video of my marathon experience. You can watch it on the home page of our website. Visit [crossofglory.com](http://crossofglory.com).

Never underestimate what is possible with the power of God in you and the people of God around you. I encourage everyone to consider how God might be calling you to make a difference in the world. Set big goals, and give it your all. You'll be amazed at what God can do through you!



# Who's That Guy With the Clipboard?

Here's a word you don't hear much nowadays ... longevity. Think about longevity and volunteerism put together...which is a rarity. So if you think about 14 years performing a vital function for Cross of Glory, who comes to mind? Tom Bonick of course, CoG's Worship Coordinator since...well, since Bill Clinton was in the White House. He has been the Worship Coordinator since CoG moved into the building!

Tom, who first came to CoG back in 1997, actually waited a full three weeks before volunteering (he was asked actually) to be a greeter. And the rest is history.

"I originally learned about CoG through a friend who went to see Pastor Kelly at a speaking engagement. She really liked the Pastor and soon went to CoG to attend a service. Eventually she talked me into going with...and I immediately liked the church," Tom reminisced. He joined after only a month of attending and quickly became the greeter.

This came as quite a surprise to Tom, who grew up Catholic, and had not been to church in many years. "I had tried to go back to church but I wasn't happy about the experience. So when I was asked to go to CoG, I wasn't expecting much. I didn't even realize it was Lutheran until afterwards!"

"I grew up in Florida, and our church had no air conditioning...so it was not a great place to spend Sunday mornings," Tom continued. "Plus, I was a small kid, and busy learning how to speak English while the mass was in Latin. I had no idea what was going on."

So Pastor Kelly was a large reason why Tom joined CoG, but what kept him here? "I really enjoy Pastor PJ's sermons," Tom explained. "They actually have relevance! Back in the day, Pastor Kelly had great sermons as well. I see Pastor PJ as continuing that trend."



## What's a Worship Coordinator?

A 'normal' Sunday for Tom consists of: coming to church early, setting up the name badge table, cleaning up, getting the snacks and coffee ready, preparing

the bread and wine up at the altar for communion, setting up all the candles and lighting them, and - for those who see him running around during church with a clipboard - counting. "I take a head count for attendance, for Kids Klub, for the nursery, and whatever else may be going on." Tom also helps seat people who wander into church late. Afterwards, he also cleans up

the church when the congregation heads out the doors, including scooping up all the left-behind Bibles.

Oh yeah, and being the "head coordinator" means

Tom also prepares the schedule for our two other Worship Coordinators, Dana Baker and Steve Hlavac.

One interesting item Tom is focusing on of late is a particularly well-known tendency of church goers ... avoiding sitting in the front row during church. "I've been trying to get more people to sit up front. Pastor PJ and I have noticed that the first row was usually empty. So lately I sit in the front row and try to encourage others to do so. We've convinced some families with small children to sit up front and the trend is catching on."

Here's another interesting tidbit. Did you know that CoG does not simply throw out unused communion bread? "Any leftovers go outside for the animals and birds," Tom explained. "Nothing gets thrown away. No bread gets thrown out and no wine gets dumped down the drain."

## Who Is This Guy Anyway?

Did somebody mention the word 'longevity'? Tom has been working for the Coca Cola Company for 41 years. Currently, he drives a truck for Coke, working the night shift. "Because I work nights, I have had to limit volunteer work for CoG," Tom said. "I used to attend Bible Study classes, but now I just do the Worship Coordination. I'm simply not around to do anything else at the present time."

Tom currently lives in Palos Heights and has two adult children, a daughter in Indiana and a son down in Florida. On top of that, he has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. "I get a lot of Father's Day cards," Tom joked. "Three generations of them!"

Be cautious if you ever ask Tom what he likes to do in his spare time...you'll get a very boisterous "Golf!" tossed back. "When I'm not golfing, I am golfing," he explained. "And when I'm not golfing...I am golfing." This went on for several minutes...



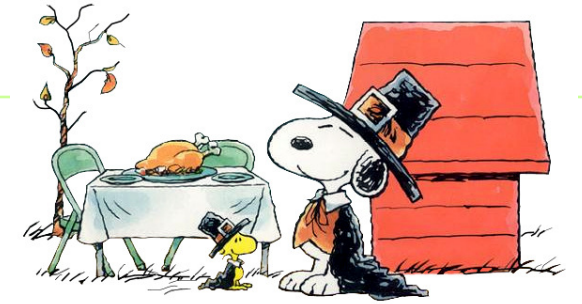
# Thanksgiving at Plymouth

Reprinted from <http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving>

In September 1620, a small ship called the [Mayflower](#) left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the New World. After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed [Massachusetts](#) Bay, where the [Pilgrims](#), as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first [New England](#) spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition.

Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the [Wampanoag](#), a local tribe, which would



endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor [William Bradford](#) organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days.

While no record exists of the historic banquet's exact menu, the Pilgrim chronicler [Edward Winslow](#) wrote in his journal that Governor Bradford sent four men on a "fowling" mission in preparation for the event, and that the Wampanoag guests arrived bearing five deer. Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Donna Grudgel..... 11/01	Owen Gervase.....11/15
Vickie Jenkins ..... 11/03	Nicholas Orbeck .....11/15
Aylssa Stasiak ..... 11/03	Ryan Sotzen.....11/15
Tyler Roiland ..... 11/05	Michael Doyle.....11/16
Megan Scanlon ..... 11/05	Melanie Plotke.....11/17
Jake Cuiching..... 11/07	Laura Signore.....11/20
Sarah Randle ..... 11/07	Gene Talsma.....11/20
Christine Szrom..... 11/09	Hope Atkinson.....11/21
Elizabeth Kolada ..... 11/10	Nathaniel Burner .....11/22
Linda Malone ..... 11/10	Annika Nelson .....11/22
Julia Randle ..... 11/10	Abigail Hoving .....11/23
Nancy Sliwa ..... 11/10	Nathan Kolada .....11/24
Ryan O'Neal..... 11/11	Ryan Manikowski.....11/26
Bob Bejlovec..... 11/12	Megan Schaefer .....11/27
Greg Leise ..... 11/12	Lindsey Sykora .....11/30
Nathan Knutson ..... 11/13	

Join Cross of Glory for a Community Thanksgiving Worship on Thursday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm

## Thanksgiving Prayer

*Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day  
We bow our hearts to You and pray.  
We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of [Jesus](#), Your Son.*

*For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,  
For daily provision, Your mercy and care  
These are the blessings You graciously share.  
So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.*

—Mary Fairchild