

ST. CLETUS CHURCH

Rectory

600 West 55th Street
LaGrange, Illinois 60525
www.stcletusparish.com

WEBSITE EDITION

Rev. Raymond Klees
Pastor

Rev. Patrick O'Neill
Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Gallagher
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Patrick Marshall
Weekend Associate

Maria Arias
Director of Hispanic Ministry

Mary Beth Ford
Youth Director/Social Concerns

Jolene Hillgoth
School Principal

Patricia Kahl
Director of Religious Education

Bobbie Kallal
Business Manager

Kathie O'Neill
Art & Environment Coordinator

Carol Pogar
Liturgy Coordinator

Justin Sisul
Music Director

Christopher Wagner
*Director of Grounds/
Technical Support*

Dolores Wouk
Minister of Care Coordinator

PASTORAL OFFICES:
700 West 55th Street
LaGrange, Illinois 60525
352-6209

PARISH SCHOOL
352-4820

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/RCIA
352-2383

HISPANIC MINISTRY
352-4856

**YOUTH MINISTRY/
SOCIAL CONCERNS**
352-4641

LITURGY/MINISTRY OF CARE
352-4834

ART & ENVIRONMENT
352-4834

MUSIC DIRECTOR
352-4547

GROUND/TECHNICAL SUPPORT
352-8597



MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 PM
Sundays: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,
11:00 AM, 6:00 PM (Spanish)
Evening before Holy Day: 7:00 PM
Holy Day: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM
Weekdays: 8:00 AM

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation Class. Please make arrangements by calling the Rectory office (352-6209).

WEDDINGS

Dates and times are reserved for registered parishioners. Initial arrangements must be completed five months in advance of the wedding date.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care office (352-4834).

CONFESSIONS

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month: 4:00 PM

et cetera

January 2006

Dear St. Cletus Parishioners,

Perhaps you are one of the many generous parishioners that picked up a Christmas tag at Thanksgiving from the "Christmas Giving Tree".

Your generosity makes mothers like Susana have the opportunity to see her children smile. Susanna and her husband have four children; the oldest is ten years old. Susana grew up in a troubled home in Chicago. She lived in a foster home for a while. At the age of 14, she had her first child. She felt life would improve if she had her own family. Sadly the father of the child left Susana. Later, she met a good man and married. Her husband is an immigrant from Mexico. He is unable to secure full-time employment and works two part-time jobs with no health benefits. Susana works seasonal jobs. Recently, doctors diagnosed Susana with cancer. Medical bills are mounting.

If St. Cletus did not have the "Giving Tree", Susana's children would not have had any gifts on Christmas. Knowing there were presents at home, they all came to Mass to thank baby Jesus for having a reason to smile. The family is still praying for Susana because her health outcome is uncertain. Seeing her children smile at Christmas Eve was a present for Susana. Many of us take for granted to see our children smile.

Susana's case is not the only one in which St. Cletus "Giving Tree" makes a difference. Many good men and women keep trying and bring home two or three paychecks. But sometimes, life is hard. Poverty is much more complicated than just a check.

I have witnessed what the amazing work of Mary Beth Ford, Maureen Soldat and the many volunteers of the St. Cletus "Giving Tree", as well as your generosity mean for working families that often cannot make ends meet. I want to thank you for sharing a present that truly makes a child happy. A present that makes mothers like Susana feel better. I want to forward to you the message many of these Hispanic families expressed to me: "Thank you for sharing your gifts, your religious space and may God grant health to you and your family and may you receive many blessings."

Maria Arias
Hispanic Ministry

Episcopal Vicar Visitation

Bishop Thomas Paprocki and a representative of the Archdiocesan Priests Personnel Board will conduct a parish-wide meeting on Monday evening, January 30, at 7:00pm, in our church. All are invited to attend and participate. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss the process for the selection of our new pastor.

Fr. Klees

First Reconciliation

Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00pm, 135 St. Cletus School and Religious Education students will make their first confession. The parents and the catechists have been preparing the children to receive the peace and mercy of God since October.

We talked about the Sacrament as a free gift of the Grace of God to us. In Reconciliation we acknowledge our sinfulness, ask forgiveness, and receive the grace of God.

At our child/parent activity night each family decorated a paper candle to remind us that after Reconciliation we are lights for Christ. The candles will decorate Morrissey Hall for our reception.

Perhaps you can remember your First Reconciliation. I remember being nervous when I walked into the confessional. Our children will receive the sacrament face to face. Children leave the priests with smiles on their faces and peace in their hearts.

I ask that you remember these children and their parents in your prayers this week. I also remind you that the peace of Christ is available to all of us on the first and third Saturday afternoons of the month from 4-4:30pm.

Reminder!

Religious Education families are reminded that there are no classes being held on January 15/16 because of the remembrance of Martin Luther King. Classes are also cancelled for January 29/30 due to Catholic Schools Week activities.

Pat Kahl
Director of Religious Education

Confirmation Retreat

Each year on our overnight Confirmation Retreat we have a group of young Confirmed adults (post college age) from our parish, who form a team to be small group leaders and facilitators. They add an important dimension to our Sophomores retreat experience, and end up having an incredible experience themselves! This year's retreat is on February 25/26. We have a couple of openings for young adults, who live in the area, who are available that weekend and would like to share and strengthen their own faith. For more details contact me @ Marybeth.ford@stcletusparish.com, or (708) 352-4641. Thank you!

Mary Beth Ford
Youth Director

Welcome! New Parishioners

We are pleased to welcome these newly registered parishioners to our parish family: Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Barrette and Family, Mary Giermak, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gordon, Karissa Knickelbein, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Kybartas and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Machay and Family, Mr. & Mrs. John Mussatto, Georgia Oto, Mr. & Mrs. Glen Pacholski and Family, Julie Pawkowicz, Elizabeth Sheil, Mr. & Mrs. John Shepley, Mr. & Mrs. Roman Szabelski, Mr. & Mrs. Bartek Szymanski, Kristina Welchko and Family, and Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Wenshutonis.

If you have been attending St. Cletus, but have not yet registered as a parishioner, please consider the commitment of parish membership.

Year-end Statement on Request Only

As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2005 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the rectory with your request. **You may also visit our website at www.stcletusparish.com and submit your request electronically.**

Rather than mail statements to everyone in the parish, it seems more prudent and conservative to only mail them to those who need them for tax returns. Of course, your statement is available anytime a need for it may arise. Thank you.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Envelope # _____

Please Pray for

...our sick in your prayers: Connie Kostecki, Connor Farrell, Jonni Patterson, Catherine Meyers, Luigi Iacopetti, George Mrozek, Andy Rasch, Mary Jean Sternquist, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Rose Ptak, Robert Frost, Robert Salbego, Bridie Boyce, Stephanie Yakowicz, Fran Cirrincione, Louis Cesario, Virginia Wilson, Gail Pankow-Locker, Josie Spoto, Larry Wojnar, Louise Jaunich, Frank Werner, Virginia Tenerelli, Agnes Olszowka, Judy Hofstetter, Michael Karpinski, Emil Chlapecka, Augustin Jaso, Marie Krolicki, Mary O'Rourke, Debbie Broz, Bill Gilmer, Scott May, and Jackie Zaccari. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

If you wish to add a name to the prayer list, please call the rectory office at (708) 352-6209. It is just as important to know that the prayers have been answered; please advise us when a person no longer needs to be on our prayer list.

Stewardship

A good steward is a manager or caretaker of the many gifts bestowed upon us by God. These gifts are given to us generously and wisely, we in turn must use them to build the Kingdom of God. God desires that we freely choose to use our gifts this way and that our motives be love, thankfulness and justice.

January 8



Budgeted revenue:	\$30,500
Collection Received:	31,734
Surplus last week:	1,234
Revenue to budget	
Surplus for this fiscal year:	3,598
# of envelopes mailed:	3,181
# of envelopes returned:	965
Donation to our Sharing Parishes:	\$1,042

Thank you for your continued support. Please remember to use your offertory envelopes.

Remember using your envelope allows you to place your gift in the collection basket in a consistent manner. It also allows the parish the latitude to budget effectively. Supplementary offering envelopes are available in the pews each week.

Please Note!

Many parishioners have elected to have their weekly Sunday offering contribution debited out of their checking account once or twice a month. If you would like more information, contact Bobbie, (708) 352-6209, in the rectory office.

Church Women United

Our annual meeting and brunch will be held on January 20, 9:30am at the 2nd Baptist Church, 26 Washington, La Grange (1st turn south after bridge on Ogden Avenue.)

The cost is \$5. All ladies and clergy are invited and welcome. Please contact me at (708) 246-0340 for your reservations.

Mary White

Wanted! Men or Women for the Usher Ministry

This ministry is the first encounter by parishioners when they enter the worship environment. Ushers greet, answer questions, seat people, recruit gift bearers, take up collections and organize communion processions. Training is provided on a one-on-one basis. Please contact me at www.stcletusparish.com/liturgy or (708) 352-4834 if you are interested in joining us.

Carol Pogar
Director of Liturgy

The Women's Center

The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland will hold their annual Life Banquet on Sunday, February 12 from 1:00-4:00pm at the Crystal Place, 2646 Dempster in Park Ridge. Fr. John Trigilio, Jr., PhD, ThD will be the keynote speaker at this year's event. Fr. Trigilio is the co-host of EWTN's Web of Faith and host of Council of Faith. He is co-author of Catholicism for Dummies and The Everything Bible Book, and President of the Board of Directors of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy.

Tickets are \$50 in advance; \$25 for students up to the age of 18. Reservation are required. For information, please call (773) 794-1313.

True Justice is the harvest reaped by peacemakers.

James 3:18

Sin and Sadness

French philosopher, Leon Bloy, a man very instrumental in helping bring Jacques and Raissa Maritain to faith, once stated: "There is only one real sadness in life, that of not being a saint!"

That's not a statement of piety, but a deep insight into the heart of life itself. Sin makes us sad. Life would be better if we understood that. We've always associated sin with badness more than sadness, but we lose something in that equation. Sin makes us more sad than it makes us bad.

Sin can also make us bad because it makes us prone to lie. That's its ultimate danger. Giving into temptation because of weakness or passion doesn't make us bad. What does is when we deny, rationalize, excuse ourselves, and accuse others after we sin. That's what hardens, warps, and embitters the soul.

We see this already in the Adam and Eve story, the first sin. Their disobedience was one thing, but their need afterwards to hide and try to cover themselves, with clothes and excuses, was what ultimately put them outside the garden of joy. We have the same impulse every time we sin, namely, to try to cover and excuse ourselves. We try to make sin all right by denying how it affects us. That, not God's forgiveness, is the problem.

It's not about God's understanding, generosity, or forgiveness that we ever need to worry. God, Jesus assures us, is generous and forgiving beyond our imaginings. Jesus forgives his killers even as they're murdering him and, as the parable of the vineyard workers who arrive at different hours but still all receive the same reward makes clear, our real problem is not whether or not God is generous, but whether or not we can receive that generosity without weighing merit or being jealous. The danger is not that we won't receive our due; the danger is more that we might end up getting everything and enjoying nothing. Sadness, not hell-fire, is what looms as the real threat.

The problem with sin is not that it makes us bad or puts us outside God's love, it's that it makes us sad, here and now. And this, as we know from experience, is not an abstract thing.

To the exact degree that we sin, we begin to lose our capacity for simple joy, delight, and freshness, and become bored, angry, jealous, and incapable of appreciating anything or praising anyone. To the degree that we sin too, the sound of joy, the sound of what's childlike and innocent, begins to irritate us and we, almost-automatically, begin to protect ourselves by

enfleshing ourselves inside a cocoon of sophistication, cynicism, and hardness. Inside that hardness we too easily begin to see our bad choice as a moral triumph, as a victory for freedom, and as something that has made us smarter and wiser than others.

But, with that comes a sadness that we can't hide from others even when we try to hide it from ourselves. Like Adam and Eve, we walk out of the garden of innocence with our eyes more open, but with our hearts much less capable of being delighted or inspired.

Sin robs us of our innocence by wounding and killing the child inside. To be innocent, as we know, means to be "un-wounded" and our capacity to experience joy, as we know both from experience and scripture, is very much linked to innocence, to what's still childlike inside us. Sin makes us sad precisely because it makes us sophisticated in a way that wounds the child inside of us. The opposite is also true.

A couple of years ago, a group of young priests asked me to join their support group for one of their weekly meetings. Their group was unlike any group, clerical or lay, with whom I've ever spent an evening. They'd come together to support each other in their resolution to try to live out their priesthood in a way that was more honest, transparent, non-compensatory, and saintly. So each week they met and with searing honesty confessed their most private sins and weaknesses to each other. Obviously this made them better priests, and that was their aim. But what surprised them, as a delightful by-product, was that it also made them much, much happier with their lives. Their joy (and their lack of anger, lack of self-pity, and lack of complaint) was palpable.

The youngest member of the group, just thirty-five years old, told me: "Father, I joined this group last year and doing this each week and attempting to live such a radical lifestyle is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. But it's also the best thing I've ever done. I've never been this happy!"

When the rich young man in the gospel walks away from Jesus' invitation to radical discipleship, it doesn't say that he walked away bad, only that he walked away sad. He remained good, sincere, and sad. And isn't that perennially our situation?

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.



**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Monday, January 16

**8:00 a.m. - Purgatorial Society
Theodore Borowski, Lillian Stumreiter,
Jerome Geraghty, Elsie Wagner**

Tuesday, January 17

**8:00 a.m. -Nick Provanzano,
Angelo Giovannetti**

Wednesday, January 18

8:00 a.m. - Gladys Wonsowicz

Thursday, January 19

8:00 a.m. - Angela Clifford

Friday, January 20

**8:00 a.m. - Purgatorial Society
Eleanor Johnson, Janet Flanagan**

Saturday, January 21

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 22

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

Altar Servers



January 21/22

5:00 p.m. - J. Babirak, K. Kelliher, H. Heim

**7:00 a.m. - P. Rhode, C. Mosquera,
R. McCollom**

8:00 a.m. - D. Anfield, A. Fisher, J. Zak

9:30 a.m. - J. Kubiszyn, K. Pach, E. Pavlik

11:00 a.m. -A. Smith, J. Doyle, M. Micek

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers these parishioners or loved ones of parishioners who recently died;

...Martha Baltierra

...Lucille Tertinger, wife of Walter

...Frances Moore, mother of Phil Moore

...Marjorie Allen, mother of Julie Gregor

...John Allen, father of Julie Gregor

We extend our condolences to all families who have lost a loved one during this past week.

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, January 21, 2006

5:00 PM
LR Staelgraeve, Mark
SM Burke, Jack C1 Richards, Marge-
B2 Kensek, Maggie- C2 Kessler, Trudi-
B3 Beales, Dave C3 Beales, Nadine
B4 Burke, Ruth C4 Burke, Jack
B5 Bozec, Betty C5 Bamberger, Mary
B6 Ford, Mary Beth- C6 Loch, Len-

Sunday, January 22, 2006

7:00 AM
LR Chlapecka, Thoma
SM McCartney, Sandra-
B2 McCartney, Sandra-
B3 Sullivan, Patrick-
B4 Walsh, Mary Jane
B5 Karch, John
B6 Karch, Terri



8:00 AM
LR McLaughlin, Sheila

SM Kalata, Marcie- C1 Jarosik, Judy-
B2 Severino, Shirley- C2 Kuchta, Ann-
B3 Thornton, Madeline C3 Thornton, William
B4 Borsilli, Helen- C4 Kalata, Marcie-
B5 Ghera, Alicja- C5 Zarembo, Elizabe
B6 Parlier, Jon C6 Parlier, Denise

9:30 AM

LR Hagen, Jim
SM Hullinger, Shirley- C1 Hagen, Colleen
B2 Dalsin, Pat- C2 Dillane, Jennifer-
B3 Kelliher, Karen C3 Kelliher, Larry
B4 Hagen, Emily- C4 Hullinger, Shirley
B5 Toshelf, Christine- C5 Nolan, Jeannine-
B6 Opila, Andy C6 Opila, Margo

11:00 AM

LR Augustyn, Ron-
SM Samuelson, Debra- C1 Mangahas, Auror
B2 Hoskins, Celine C2 Hoskins, William
B3 Herzog, Terri- C3 Drago, Irene-
B4 Gebka, Mary Lu- C4 Samuelson, Debr
B5 Maday, Josephine- C5 Mulderink, Ken-
B6 Curnutt, Rose- C6 Garske, Elizabeth

Get Beyond the Pain of Loss

This 10-week program teaches you how to make the correct action choices to move beyond the pain caused by loss. It creates a safe environment to look at how past losses have affected your life, and will show you how to take actions that will lead to the completion of the pain attached to a recent loss or one that occurred long ago. Individual counseling is also available. The Grief Recovery Outreach Program meets on Wednesday, beginning January 18 through March 22, 7:00-9:00pm at the Sisters of Saint Joseph Motherhouse and Ministry Center, 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in La Grange Park. The fee is \$160. For registration call Cecilla Kaiser, MS Grief Recovery Specialist at (708) 528-0200.

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