

ST. CLETUS CHURCH

Rectory

**600 W. 55th Street
LaGrange, IL 60525
www.stcletusparish.com
www.stcletusschool.com**

WEBSITE EDITION



Rev. Robert Clark
Pastor

Rev. Patrick O'Neill
Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Watkins
Associate Pastor

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

Justin Sisul
Music Director

Christopher Wagner
Information Technology

Dolores Wouk
Minister of Care Coordinator

PASTORAL OFFICES

700 W. 55th Street
La Grange, IL 60525
708-352-6209

PARISH SCHOOL

708-352-4820

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / RCIA

708-352-4856

YOUTH MINISTRY /

SOCIAL CONCERNS

708-352-4641

LITURGY / MINISTRY OF CARE

708-352-4834

MUSIC DIRECTOR

708-352-4547

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

708-352-8597

MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00p

Sunday: 7:00a, 8:00a, 9:30a, 11:00a, 6:00p (Spanish)

Evening Before Holy Day: 7:00p

Holy Days

6:30a, 8:00a, 9:00a

Monday - Saturday

8:00a

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation Class. Please make arrangements by calling the rectory office at 708-352-6209.

WEDDINGS

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

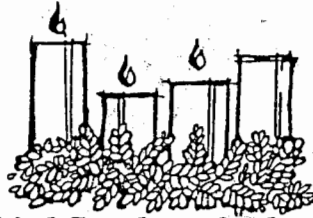
HOME / HOSPITAL VISITATION & COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care office at 708-352-4834

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday 4:15 – 4:45 PM

Fr. Bob's Utterings



Third Sunday of Advent

"The crowds asked John, 'What ought we to do?'" John the Baptist does not hesitate to inform each one of them that they must treat one another with honesty and charity in all that they do. John's message is appropriate for you and me in our world today as we continue our journey of hope. We are called, by the gospel, to treat one another with honesty and charity at all times. Indeed, at this time of the year, it often seems natural to reach out in charity to those who are in need but what of the rest of the year? Do we reach out to the homeless person on the street corner? Do we notice the neighbor or co-worker who is hurting and in need of our help and support? Do we regularly treat everyone we meet with honesty and charity? Let us spend this third week of advent in prayer and reflection on John's answer to our question "What ought we to do?"

Compassionate Care Ministry

John's call for us to reach out with honesty and charity to those in need becomes concrete for us if we have ever experienced the devastating loss of a spouse, sibling, child or close family member or friend. St. Cletus Parish is attempting to reach out to those suffering a loss with our new compassionate care ministry. The core organizing committee of this vital ministry will speak to us at each of the Masses this weekend regarding opportunities for people to serve their fellow parishioners in this ministry. Please consider reaching out in charity to those who have suffered a loss in their life.

Parish Forgiveness Service

This Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation together as a parish family. The service will include scripture, prayer, examination of conscience, and reflection. Confessions will take place at the regular communion stations with the penitent sharing one thing that they would like to ask God to forgive. The priest will then offer individual absolution. We will conclude our service with a communal penance and closing prayer. Please use this opportunity to experience God's forgiveness and receive the gift of God's grace in your life.

Advent Signs and Symbols

Our Journey of Hope continues this third week of Advent with new signs and symbols. You will notice the addition of the crèche with only the angel, shepherd, and animals this week. The road continues over the altar and up the back wall pointing us to the star of hope. We see the addition of trees and green plants as we come closer to the end of our journey. All lead us, in great anticipation, to the celebration of God's gift to us in the Christ Child.

Advent Blessings,

Fr. Bob



Today is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. It is named from the Latin word meaning "rejoice." We rejoice not only because we move into the second half of Advent, but also because the liturgy now turns from focusing on the return of Christ in his glory at the end of time to the approaching commemoration of Christ's first coming in the flesh — his birth in Bethlehem. From today on, the liturgy calls us to look back to the greatest of all God's actions in human history: God himself breaking into our experience, our existence, in the person of Jesus the Christ.

We read in Zephaniah today that God "will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals" (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah's words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don't have to worry, for God's peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as "my dancing day" and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because "the Lord is near," as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 17, 2006

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-3 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Encounter God through Reading Scripture!

Parish
 Forgiveness Service
 Tuesday
 December 19th
 7:00pm



The Lord is near

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

Mass Schedule

Please note: We will follow our regular Mass schedule for the weekend of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23/24.

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Christmas Eve Masses: | Accompaniment: |
| 2:00pm..... | Chamber Ensemble |
| 2:15pm...Morrissey Hall | Vocalist/Piano |
| 3:30pm..... | Children's Choir |
| 3:45pm...Morrissey Hall | Vocalist/Piano |
| 5:30pm..... | Chamber Ensemble |
| 7:30pm...Spanish Mass | Spanish |
| 10:30pm..... | Chancel Choir |
| Christmas Day Masses: | Accompaniment: |
| 7:00am..... | Traditional (Organ) |
| 8:00am..... | Vocalist/Organ |
| 9:30am..... | Chancel Choir |
| 11:00am..... | Contemporary Choir |
| New Year's Eve: 5:00pm | |
| New Year's Day: 8:00am and 9:30am | |

Food Basket Reminder

The Christmas Food Baskets will be distributed to our local recipients this weekend on Sunday. If you took a "Food Basket" tag from the Giving Tree, please bring your basket to Morrissey Hall this Sunday, December 17, between 7:30am and 11:00am. Remember to securely attach your tag to the basket.

Thanks for helping to make our recipients' holidays brighter!

Mary Beth Ford
Social Concerns

Manna Cash and Carry This Weekend

Manna is available this weekend, December 16/17, after all the Masses. Please support our school by stopping by our Manna Table. Get some great ideas for Christmas stocking stuffers! Look for the Manna moms!

Please Pray for

...our sick in your prayers: Mike Patzelt, Richard Taylor, Rita D'Onofrio, Anthony Regalado, Marilyn Matesevac, Joanne Mate, Adrienne Welenc, Hunter Peters, Mario Aguilar, Cacilia Ziegler, Jackie Dudley, Ruth Calandriello, Dorothy Salvato, Ann Marie Nabor, Nadine Pankow, Patty Johnson, Connie Kostecki, Jonii Patterson, Catherine Meyers, Luigi Iacopetti, Mary Jean Sternquist, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Rose Ptak, Bridie Boyce, Stephanie Yakowicz, 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, Scott May, and Jackie Zaccari.

Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

The Work of St. Cletus Parish – A Quiet Gift

The work of our parishes doesn't usually make the front pages. Few would describe it as earth shattering. It is quiet work. It touches one soul at a time. At St. Cletus Parish, imperfect people grow closer to God every day. Community is formed here whether through daily celebration of the Eucharist or dinner delivered to the home of a grieving family; God's love is quietly made manifest here. We have a good thing going here, a very good thing. Let's pass it forward.

If family circumstances allow, a gift to St. Cletus Parish through your estate plan would come to much good. Our parish would be a worthy beneficiary of your generosity. The gift of faith is one of the most wonderful gifts there is. Your bequest or other planned gift to St. Cletus Parish will help pass on our beautiful faith to a new generation of believers. We thank you for considering this generous option and wish you and your family a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Stewardship

"The Word brought light to mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never been put out." (John 1:4-5)

| Our Weekly Offering | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| December 10 | |
| Budgeted revenue: | \$29,061 |
| Collection Received: | 28,652 |
| Shortfall last week: | - 409 |
| Revenue to budget | |
| Shortfall for this fiscal year: | - 67,578 |
| # of envelopes mailed: | 3,187 |
| # of envelopes returned: | 878 |
| Thank you for your continued support. Please remember to use your offertory envelopes. | |

Adoration/Benediction...Date Change

Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled for January 1, 2007 due to the holiday. It will resume February 5, the first Monday of February. All volunteers please note and adjust your schedules accordingly.

Fr. Charles

Compassionate Care

"For the Lord and his people will have compassion"
Isaiah 49:13.

Compassionate Care, a new outreach ministry, is the parish connection to families who have lost a loved one. If you have experienced the death of a loved one, you personally know how devastating the loss can be for an individual and a family. Comfort and compassion are the best gifts we can offer members of our parish family during a very trying time. Volunteers are needed to participate on a rotating basis in the following capacities:

- 1) Be the initial contact person to help families plan the funeral liturgy if assistance is needed.
- 2) Conduct a brief evening prayer service at the funeral home during the wake.
- 3) Make sympathy cards (cards will be provided).
- 4) Mail cards and other bereavement literature on a set schedule.
- 5) Make follow-up phone calls to the bereaved families.

If you are so inclined to give of your time and talent to this very special ministry call Eugenia Callison at (708) 482-4974. Thank you.

Father Charles
Associate Pastor



Prayer for Vocations

Compassionate God,
You speak your word to us through prophets of long ago
and you continue to reveal your message of love today.
With great expectation we look to your Spirit
to work in our world,
empowering us to serve you as Jesus did.

May we listen for your word
and respond generously to your call.
Renew in us the grace of our baptism.
Strengthen married couples, single men and women,
deacons, priests, sisters, and brothers
as they seek to serve you
by sharing their love and compassion.

Grant wisdom to those who are discerning their call.
With gratitude we proclaim the Good News of Jesus
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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www.nccv-vocations.org

On Track Singles

Join the On Track Singles on Thursday, December 28, for a dining night out at the Olive Garden, 4801 W. 77th St., Burbank. Leave from St. Mary's south parking lot (65th & Kenneth) at 7:00pm.

On Track Singles is open to all single men and women age 21 and over who have never been married, are divorced, or are widowed. For more information about the group, or to receive a copy of the newsletter, call Steve (708) 268-9482 or Lucy (773) 778-8239, after 7:00pm.

Welcome Jesus at Christmastime, not in a cold manger of our heart, but warm with love for one another."

-Mother Teresa



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2006

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; GAUDETE SUNDAY

The way of wisdom

The church throws two unusual words at us today: *gaudete* and *antiphon*. The first comes from the Latin for “rejoice,” and the Mass readings for today sound a note of joy—both our rejoicing in the Lord and his rejoicing in us! The rose color you see in church and the third candle of the Advent wreath symbolize this joy. *Antiphon* means “response,” as in a prayer in which responses go back and forth. For seven consecutive days the evening prayer of the church will use a particular kind of antiphon, the “O Antiphons,” which occur only at this time of year. Each of them calls on a biblical name for the Messiah. They also make fine little prayers in themselves and offer a way to do a bit more to prepare for the birth of Christ.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18*

O Antiphon: “O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way of salvation.”

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 ADVENT WEEKDAY

What’s in a name?

The Israelites had several substitute names for God—because, out of reverence for the sacredness of the holy name, they did not want to write or say God’s actual name. When God first appeared to Moses, in the burning bush, God told him to say to the people, “I AM sent me,” a play on the name *Yahweh*. Another substitute name was *Adonai*, which means “my Lord.”

Like the Israelites, we are taught to revere God more than anything else. But God also wants to be with us and invites us into the divine life, at the heart of which is love. God is revealed in the commandments and in Jesus. We can talk with God, just as Moses did. All we need to do is speak and listen.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25*

O Antiphon: “O *Adonai*, sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your right hand to set us free.”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 ADVENT WEEKDAY

Bow down your heads and listen

Today’s O Antiphon proclaims the majesty of Jesus. Jesus is worthy of our reverence. Why? Because he is born of the royal House of David, son of Jesse? No, because he is the Word of God. We stand silent in his presence that we might hear God’s whispers of love, acceptance, and encouragement. We pray for Jesus to come to our aid, for we know that he need only say the word, and our souls shall be healed.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25*

O Antiphon: “O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.”

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 ADVENT WEEKDAY

The key to the mystery

With all the Advent talk of expectant waiting for new life, the reality for many families is that some of their sick and elderly are choosing this time of year to let go and go home to God. We hold these mysteries of birth and death together. If you are around death and the dying at this time of year—or any time—

remember that a God who can bring life from Mary, a virgin, and Elizabeth, an elderly woman, can draw eternal life out of the bounds of death.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38*

O Antiphon: “O Key of David, O royal power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into heaven.”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 ADVENT WEEKDAY; WINTER SOLSTICE

A light shines in the darkness

A lit Christmas tree in a darkened room, evening services at a church bathed in candlelight, neighborhoods aglow with colored lights—these Christmas traditions remind us that something special has taken place with the birth of Jesus. We are given a way out of the darkness of sin and despair; shown the path of patience and tolerance; and led to the place where holiness radiates: our own hearts. Open your heart today and see for yourself.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45*

O Antiphon: “O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 ADVENT WEEKDAY

A roof over our heads

According to the story of God’s creation of human beings in Genesis (the second creation story is in Genesis 2:7; the first one is at 1:26-27), “The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.” God formed us from the clay of the earth and breathed the Spirit into us to give us life. From this clay come the “living stones” to be “built into a spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5). As individuals we come together in the church to build up the Kingdom of God. At the capstone of this temple is Christ, the head of the body. Be a living stone. Raise your arms in prayer and action to build up this wonderful building and be the hands of Christ in the world.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56*

O Antiphon: “O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart: O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity: Come and save the creatures you fashioned from the dust.”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 ADVENT WEEKDAY

With all my heart

What do you long for, with all your heart, at this time of your life? Some of us may be seeking love, companionship, understanding, or peace of mind. Others may desire more specific things: a home, employment, the strength to make a hard decision. Some may be praying just to get through this holiday season in one piece. We want to escape the harsh experiences of the past year or cling to the things and people we may feel are slipping away. Whatever the deepest desires of your heart, lay them at the feet of the Christ child this season.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66*

O Antiphon: “O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.”

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Scripture quotes come from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Contributors: Father Paul Boudreau, Alice Camille, Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, Ann O’Connor, Sean Reynolds, Joel Schorn, Patrice J. Tuohy

Archdiocesan Mass for Life



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

Principal Celebrant

January 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Kostka

1351 W. Evergreen Ave., Chicago

Remembering the children lost and women hurt through abortion as we reflect on the 34th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

"I came so that they might have life, and have it more abundantly."

John 10: 10


A reception will follow the Mass. All are welcome!

The Archdiocesan Mass for Life is sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago. For information, call (312) 751-5355.



December 18 - December 24

| Day | Time | Intention |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 8:00am | Purgatorial Society - Tom Kigin, Angela Clifford, Joseph Megla, Ramona Mossey |
| Tuesday | 8:00am | Mildred Vendegna, William Burns |
| Wednesday | 8:00am | Teresa Matyas, Amelia S. Baricevich |
| Thursday | 8:00am | Special Intention - Fran Cirrincione, Theresa McDonald, Dorothy Kaczinski, Roger Vandriessche, Gaetana Chiappetta |
| Friday | 8:00am | Purgatorial Society - Jozef Slowik, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Haraburda, Karen Gorak, Stella & Louis J. Kadlec, Mildred Vendegna, Stella Waszak |
| Saturday | 8:00am 5:00pm | People of St. Cletus Bob Battle, Jozef Slowik, Chester Zulaski, Robert Frost, Vincent Lemetti |
| Sunday | 7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am | Marco & Emilia Rattin Phillip & Frances Butkus Fr. Jim Johnston Fr. Bob Shannon, Henry Scaccia |
| Christmas Eve | 2:00pm 2:15pm 3:30pm 3:45pm 5:30pm 7:30pm 10:30pm | Angelo Cumbo, Frasca Family Helen & Ray White Fr. Jim Johnston Brian Lucazk Jeanne & Michael O'Brien, Mary Pogar, Gerald Kennedy, Tracy Ariss, Ken Soldat, Arthur Jalove Michael Arpaia Spanish Mass, People of St. Cletus Catherine Fregeau |

Altar Servers
December 23/24 - 
Check schedule

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 23, 2006

5:00 PM LR Okkema, Peter
SM Micek, Judy- C1 Okkema, Ann
B2 Condon, Mary Kay- C2 Hockman, Susan-
B3 Bartucci, Carol- C3 Ryva, James-
B4 Delaloye, Joe- C4 Micek, Judy-
B5 Andrews, Diane- C5 Boyer, Kathy-
B6 Sheridan, Erin- C6 Ford, Mary Beth-

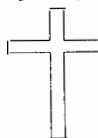
9:30 AM LR DalPorto, Christine
SM McCaffray, Paul- C1 DalPorto, Karen
B2 Benkert, Kim C2 Benkert, John
B3 Hoskins, William C3 Hoskins, Celine
B4 Koch, Barbara- C4 McCaffray, Paul-
B5 Fisher, Harry- C5 Meuwissen, Jean-
B6 Burke, Kevin- C6 Reichl, Mickie-

11:00 AM LR Pfeiffer, Irv-
SM Dunkovich, Alice- C1 Garske, Elizabeth
B2 Bolton, Pauletta- C2 Ficaro, Jennie-
B3 Gebka, Mary Lu- C3 Rogan, Janina-
B4 Wash, Sheila- C4 Dunkovich, Alice-
B5 Heyes, Stuart C5 Heyes, Marlene
B6 Nilles, Carolyn- C6 Maday, Josephine

2:00 PM LR Hagen, Ken-
SM Hagen, Colleen C1 Ward, Laura

Sunday, December 24, 2006

7:00 AM LR Hagen, Emily-
SM Stamm, Richard
B2 Stamm, Richard
B3 Stamm, Barbora
B4 Hagen, Jim
B5 Hagen, Colleen
B6 Hagen, Julie



Auxiliary Minister Schedule

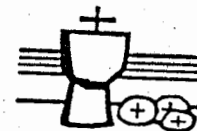
2:15 PM LR O'Dowd, Mary
SM Kalata, Marcie C1
B2 Kalata, Marcie C2
B3 Kessler, Trudi C3 NO
B4 Meade, Maggie C4 WINE
B5 Pogar, Carol C5
B6 C6

5:30 PM LR Okkema, Peter
SM Wiley, Jackie C1 Okkema, Ann
B2 Reichl, Mickie C2 Corotto, Louis
B3 Benkert, Kim C3 Benkert, John
B4 Samuelson, Debra C4 Wiley, Jackie
B5 Anfield, Therese C5 Sipak, Sarah
B6 Nolan, Jeannine C6 Kuchta, Ann

3:30 PM LR Demonte, Linda
SM McCartney, Sandra- C1 Caruso, Carole
B2 Mouwison, Jean C2 Toshoff, Christine
B3 Condon, Mary Kay C3 Dillane, Jennifer
B4 Loch, Len C4 McCartney, Sandr
B5 Smith, David C5 Smith, Paul
B6 Burke, Kevin C6 Delaloye, Joe

10:30 PM LR Pisone, Mary Lou-
SM Karch, John C1 Kwak, Tecla
B2 Ficaro, Jennie C2 Hogue, Kay
B3 Provan, Karen C3 Provan, Jim
B4 Karch, Terri C4 Karch, John
B5 Heyes, Marlene C5 Heyes, Stuart
B6 Skupian, Kathy- C6 Pogar, Carol

3:45 PM LR Spizzirri, Susan-
SM Pogar, Carol C1
B2 Hockman, Susan C2
B3 Stopka, Sharon- C3 NO
B4 Thornton, Madeline C4 WINE
B5 Thornton, William C5
B6 Pogar, Carol C6



Rest in Peace

Please pray for those who have died and their families: