

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

Feast of the Holy Family

I am sure every parent in the parish can relate to Mary and Joseph's distress in looking for Jesus in today's gospel. I must say that it is comforting on some level to know that the Holy Family had to deal with the daily stresses of everyday life just as each of your families do. Jesus was a twelve year old child who caused his parents sorrow and stress as most twelve year old children do. Jesus returned with his parents to Nazareth and remained obedient to them as he grew in age and wisdom. Luke does remind us that his mother did keep all these things in her memory. What mother or father amongst us does not keep all the things our children do both good and bad in our memories? The Holy Family reassures us on this feast that we are called to be vigilant parents and obedient children even in the midst of everyday trials and tribulations. Let us turn to Mary, Joseph, and the child Jesus for guidance and strength as we walk the path of faith together as family.

New Year's Day The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

PLEASE NOTE: The Bishops of the U.S. have declared that this feast day will (NOT) be a Holy Day of Obligation for U.S. Catholics this year due to the fact that it falls on a Monday. Here at St. Cletus Parish we WILL NOT HAVE A MASS OF ANTICIPATION ON SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 2006. WE WILL HAVE JUST THE 8:00 A.M. MORNING MASS ON JANUARY 1, 2007. We encourage your attendance on this important Feast Day in honor of our Blessed Mother if at all possible.

New Year 2007

I would like to wish everyone in the parish a Blessed and Prosperous New Year. May God keep you well and strong for the coming year.

*Blessings and Peace,
Fr. Bob*



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
Lost in translation

Children's Bibles often refer to the story about Jesus in the Temple as "Jesus Lost in the Temple." But Jesus wasn't lost; his parents simply didn't know where he was. How often does this happen in families, when a young person begins to find himself or find her way in the world, and the parents interpret this development as a loss? When family members fall off our radar for a while or make choices beyond our understanding, it's easy to default to thinking we're losing them. Maybe they're just answering a call we can't hear.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Colossians 3:12-21;*

Luke 2:41-52

"And all who heard the boy Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers."

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2007

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Let it begin with me

It is well-nigh impossible to think about the World Day of Peace, which the Catholic Church observes today, without thinking about the tragic destruction going on in Iraq. For a sobering view of the situation, including a running count of the cost of the war in terms of U.S. expenditures, go to www.costofwar.com. Our prayer this day, and our efforts this year, can be directed toward doing all that is possible to bring an end to this conflict. Healing and rebuilding will happen only when the groundwork for peace is established. We can get this year off to a very good start by doing something today to help bring this about. A letter or e-mail to your elected representatives or local newspaper is a good place to start.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7;*

Luke 2:16-21

"The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 FEAST OF SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY OF NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

Good friends make us better

In liturgical books, after a saint's name follows a classification like "martyr" or "virgin." Today Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen are pegged bishops and doctors of the church. It's too bad they're not also named "friends." These men met in school, and while their lives took quite different directions (Basil an activist, Gregory more reclusive), they always remained friends so that Gregory later remembered that he and Basil "followed the guidance of God's law and spurred each other on to virtue." We can't live well without friends, and the best soul-sharers help us to keep doing the next right and loving thing.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28*

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

May it please the court

What does it mean to testify to Christ's presence in the world today? All John the Baptist had to do was to point across the river and say, "That's him—that's the Lamb of God!" But we may find it harder to know where to point. We might indicate the tabernacle or the table of the Lord; the assembly of faith

that gathers each week; or the face of the least of our sisters and brothers, where Jesus said we would find him. Or we might recall that we are Christ-bearers ourselves. Those who look for Christ, look to us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34*

"And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Mutual recognition

Jesus knows us, as he has always known his disciples. But do we know him today? Where can we find him? All of us carry within us the image of God. The way we treat one another, especially the vulnerable among us, is how we treat Jesus and how Jesus is revealed to us. Also in the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, we encounter the living Christ. Jesus calls us to show we know him—and to show him to others—by how we conduct ourselves. Find the Lord today in others and in the sacraments, and let your life reveal your discovery.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42*

"When Jesus saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?'"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

FEAST OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

Striving for greatness

English wasn't a second language for John Neumann (1811-1860), it was about the tenth. Along with his native Slovak, Neumann mastered eight more European languages. As if that wasn't enough, when he was bishop of Philadelphia, he saw how Irish immigrants struggled with American English. So he learned Gaelic to help them out. Lots of new arrivals to America have trouble with English. Wouldn't it be saintly if we, like John Neumann, worked to learn a new language with them so we could help them out? Greatness, Jesus reminds us, is about serving those who are in need. *¿Es verdad?*

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51*

"Jesus said to Nathaniel, 'You will see greater things than these.'"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

FEAST OF BLESSED ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

The patron saint of janitors?

When Brother André tried to enter his religious community, his superiors thought him too sickly and undereducated to amount to much. So they made him the community doorman. In addition to answering the door, he directed visitors, delivered packages and mail, awakened the community, ran errands, cut hair, sewed, fixed things, maintained the wine cellar, swept up, and—yes—he also did windows. When he died after decades of counseling and bringing God's healing to hundreds of thousands of people, a million mourners attended his funeral. Quite a switch for a person who didn't show much "promise." God comes to us in the ordinary. We recognize God's presence in these things when we do our everyday tasks with generosity, love, and devotion.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38*

"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me."

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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

**New Year's Eve/New Year's Day
Mass Schedule**

Please note: We will follow our regular morning Mass schedule for December 31, 2006.

New Year's Day: 8:00am

Wanted!

Young Adults for Confirmation Retreat

We are looking for some young adults (age 21+) to join this year's retreat team for our overnight Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25 at Lake Lawn Lodge. This is a great opportunity to share your faith and life experiences with our teens who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring, and to nourish your own spirituality. Some of you have participated in this retreat yourself as a teen, you know the important role our young adults play in a meaningful and enjoyable retreat experience. Please contact me at once if you are interested, know someone who might be interested, and for more details. Phone: (708) 352-4641; email: youth@stcletusparish.com. What a wonderful way to start out the New Year! Thanks, and I am hoping to hear from you soon!

Mary Beth Ford
Director of Youth

Compassionate Care Ministry Volunteers...

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

What a "Spirit-led" response! In our efforts to start this new and exciting ministry, we now have some forty-plus volunteers willing to give "time and talent" to make this effort happen. Fr. Clark, our Pastoral Staff and the entire Parish Family thank you for your generosity. Early in the New Year we will be getting together to move forward with our efforts. Again, *Thank You* and may God bless our efforts.

Father Charles and the CCM Steering Group

Welcome Sunday Next Weekend

Welcome to all St. Cletus newcomers. Registration is available next weekend, January 6/7, after the 5:00pm Saturday Mass and the 7:00, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am Sunday Masses.

Please stop by the back of church, say hello, and become members.

Hey Kids!

Look What Else Santa Left Under the Tree!

The parish Department of Technology, School, and Religious Education Program are proud to present the computer game, Gospel Champions! The game has 3 levels of play for different grade levels and is designed for grades K-8. You can access the game for free on our parish website at www.stcletusparish.com/game/. Have a computer, but no access to the web? Contact the parish IT Help Desk at (708) 352-8597 to get your complimentary CD-ROM.

Chris Wagner
Information Technology/IT Help Desk

Leisure Loafers

Happy New Year to all! Start the new year off right by attending the first meeting of 2007 on Thursday, January 4 at 1:00pm in Morrissey Hall.

Let's play Bunco! Bring a "White Elephant" gift to be used for a prize. See you there!

Alice Katzmarek

Holy Name Society

Our first meeting of 2007 will be held on Friday, January 5, 8:00pm in Room 201 of the Education Building. This is a great way to get together for the new year.

Our main topic will be the upcoming "Walter Klimcke Pancake Breakfast" to be held in February. More details to follow. Please plan on joining us!

Dan Gibbons

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 Kosteki, 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.

Parish Sharing

The parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Presentation and Our Lady of Lourdes have been integrated into St. Agatha Parish. In order for this Catholic Community to succeed, they need our help and prayers. Please continue to be generous with our Sharing Parish(es) the first Sunday of each month.

Stewardship

...is an important concept for our spiritual growth as Catholics. It is a way of thanking God for all of the Lord's blessings by returning to God a portion of the time, talent, and treasure we have received.

The collection amount for December 24th is not available due to the early printing of the Canticle this 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. More information? Call Bobbie at the rectory office (708) 352-6209

New Tax Rules Regarding Substantiation of Charitable Contributions

Due to recent changes in the tax laws, beginning with contributions made in 2007, parishioners (those who itemize their tax returns) will no longer be able to deduct contributions to the parish unless they maintain a bank record or written contribution statement from the parish. Please use a check, direct deposit from your bank account, **or your parish envelopes. The parish will track contributions made using parish envelopes, and will produce a written statement of contributions made during 2007.*** Canceled checks and other bank records are also sufficient documentation. **The parish cannot track cash contributions not in parish envelopes.**

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 very Happy New Year!

The Only New Year's Resolution You Need

What is your 2007 resolution? Husbands and wives, consider making the enrichment of your marriage a priority and register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next weekend is January 26-28.

For more information, call Jim or Kris at 1-800-442-3554 or contact our website at www.wwmechicago-gary.org.


Mass Intentions for the week
January 1 – January 7, 2007

Day	Time	Intention
Monday - New Year's Day	8:00am	Frances Ference, Gerry Okkema
Tuesday	8:00am	Linda Felice, Peter Sakowich
Wednesday	8:00am	Karen Gorak, Ben Dybas
Thursday	8:00am	Jeanne O'Brien, Bruno Bransberger
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Rev. Robert Shannon, Tom Kigin, Nan Rettig, Celeste Klees, Joseph & Kay Klemack
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	People of St. Cletus Stella & Felix Gembala, Paul Bentley
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	Marco & Emilia Rattin, Ben Dybas, Tom Benka Geraldine Okkema Rev. Robert Shannon, Ramona Mossey, Sam DeSio Jeanne O'Brien, Eugene H. Lynn

Altar Servers
January 6/7, 2007

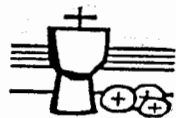
5:00pm - J. Kern, K. Cernetig, A. Heslin
 7:00am - A. Bartucci, A. Balch, K. Sipek
 8:00am - M. Thomas, M. Johnson-Dahl,
 N. Smith
 9:30am - R. Mitchell, Z. Quick, K. Meade
 11:00am - G. Valdez, T. Lenz, N. Magats

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Monday, January 01, 2007

8:00 AM LR McDonnell, Michae
 SM Kalata, Marcie C1 Wouk, Dolores
 B2 Bliss, Georgia C2 Meade, Maggie
 B3 Saban, Jackie C3 Mezan, Mary Ann
 B4 Warren, Catherine-C4 Kalata, Marcie
 B5 C5
 B6 C6

9:30 AM LR DalPorto, Christine
 SM Hullinger, Shirley-C1 Zupanic, Robert
 B2 DalPorto, Karen C2 Gebka, Mary Lu
 B3 Guide, Alfreda C3 Mangahas, Auror
 B4 Ficaro, Jennie C4 Hullinger, Shirley
 B5 Fisher, Harry C5 Nicosia, Christine
 B6 C6



Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, January 06, 2007

5:00 PM LR Demonte, Linda-
 SM Benkert, Kim C1 Kessler, Trudi-
 B2 Beales, Nadine C2 Beales, Dave
 B3 Kensek, Maggie- C3 Sipek, Sarah-
 B4 Benkert, John C4 Benkert, Kim
 B5 Richards, Marge- C5 Boyer, Kathy-
 B6 Bartucci, Carol- C6 Andrews, Diane-

Sunday, January 07, 2007

7:00 AM LR Hagen, Jim
 SM Zmuda, Ron
 B2 Zmuda, Ron
 B3 Zmuda, Louise
 B4 Hinton, Geri-
 B5 Hagen, Colleen
 B6 Curnutt, Rose-

8:00 AM LR Kuchta, Ann-
 SM Welch, Jerry- C1 Ward, Laura-
 B2 Biesadecki, Bob C2 Biesadecki, Carol
 B3 Parlier, Jon C3 Parlier, Denise
 B4 Kigin, Billie- C4 Welch, Jerry-
 B5 Karch, John C5 Karch, Terri
 B6 Hague, Kay- C6 McCartney, Sandr



9:30 AM

LR Caruso, Carole-
 SM Hullinger, Shirley- C1 McCaffray, Paul-
 B2 Kelliher, Karen C2 Kelliher, Larry
 B3 Smith, Paul C3 Smith, David
 B4 Schump, Cathy- C4 Hullinger, Shirley
 B5 Severino, Laurie- C5 Tosheff, Christine
 B6 Koch, Barbara- C6 Warren, Catherin

11:00 AM

LR Spizzirri, Susan-
 SM Bolton, Paulette- C1 Herzog, Terri-
 B2 Gleich, Sharon- C2 Brannigan, Rita-
 B3 Fisher, Harry- C3 Garske, Elizabeth
 B4 Haggerty, Frank- C4 Bolton, Paulette-
 B5 Hoskins, Celine C5 Hoskins, William
 B6 Nilles, Carolyn- C6 Rogan, Janina-



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Mutual Help

We cannot exist without mutual help. All, therefore that need aid have a right to ask it from their fellow men; no one who has the power of granting can refuse it without guilt.

Anonymous