

ST. CLETUS CHURCH

Rectory

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

WEBSITE EDITION



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

Rev. Robert Clark
Pastor

Rev. Patrick O'Neill
Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Watkins
Associate Pastor

Maria Arias
Director of Hispanic Ministry

Paulette Bolton
Director of Liturgy

Mary Beth Ford
Youth Director / Social Concerns

Jolene Hillgoth
School Principal

Patricia Kahl
Director of Religious Education

Bobbie Kallal
Business Manager

Debbie Lestarczyk
Facilities & Grounds

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

FR. BOB'S UTTERINGS

First Sunday of Lent

Luke 4:1-13

Our Parish Lenten focus this year is "Embracing the Challenge of Conversion." Changing where we are in our lives or who we have become is often difficult. Looking at ourselves can be a painful experience at times. We often discover that we have not been as faithful as we should to our call of discipleship. We sometimes discover that we have wandered from our close personal relationship with the Lord and have fallen into sin. The true challenge during this holy season is our willingness to embrace the often difficult task of converting our personal lives to be in tune with the Lord.

Lent is a time for us to return to our roots. Some of us will see this period as penitential, a time for reparation for our sins; some of us will see this as a time for growing more prayerful or a time to reestablish our lives in service to others; others will use this time to deepen their faith. Lent can truly be all of that. Yet the readings for this first Sunday of Lent take us back to how it once was and who was once shaping our lives.

Let us use this holy season to "Embrace the Challenge of Conversion" in our lives by looking at the many ways in which we can have our Lenten journey lead us back to our roots. Spend time in prayer with the scriptures; go on a retreat; read the lives of the saints; pray the rosary; sit in silent prayer and reflection; make the stations of the cross; keep a prayer journal; visit the sick; offer reconciliation to an enemy; do some long put off spiritual reading; give alms to our parish Heifer International Project; fast and abstain from meat; make a sacrifice for the benefit of another, expecting nothing in return; attend daily Mass. These are all part of our rich traditions that return us back to our roots. Here in these Lenten sacrifices we will once again meet who we have been called to be by our baptism. Do not be afraid to truly "Embrace the Challenge of Conversion." It has the potential to change not only you but the world around you.

Wonderful News for St. Cletus Parish

This past week I received official confirmation from the Archdiocese of Chicago Priests' Placement Board that they have granted Fr. Pat O'Neill a one year extension to his term here at St. Cletus Parish. This news is truly a blessing to our parish family. Fr. Pat will begin his seventh year in the parish as of July 1, 2007 as our Associate Pastor. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the entire St. Cletus family to thank Fr. Pat for all he has done for our parish community. We ask God to continue to bless him and his ongoing ministry within St. Cletus Parish.

Embracing the Challenge of Conversion Together in Love,

Fr. Bob



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Into the desert

"It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" How many of us

wouldn't jump at the chance for a 40-day retreat in the desert? Forty days with no cell phones or deadlines, cranky coworkers, or uncooperative children? Sign me up!

On second thought, it wouldn't be so easy. Without our daily distractions, we would be compelled to look within to observe and confront all that keeps us from living an authentic, God-centered life. Yikes! What might we find? This is the meaning of Lent: For 40 days we minimize the distractions, we go within, we face our demons, and we recognize our reliance on God. We are not afraid; Jesus showed us the way. Today we follow him into the desert.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13*

"It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 LENTEN WEEKDAY

See for yourself

In our creed, we profess faith in "all that is seen and unseen." The unseen is not only the parts of the created universe we've yet to discover but the Spirit's workings we've yet to comprehend. Jesus tells us he can be found in the least of our brothers and sisters, yet most of us squint and strain and still find our vision blurred. Next time you pass one who is hungry and thirsty, try to see your father, mother, child, spouse, or friend in the face looking up at you. Could you pass that person by? No? Now see in that face the one who saved you for all eternity. Can you refuse to lend him a hand? Seeing is believing.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46*

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you drink?"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 LENTEN WEEKDAY

This is how you are to pray

The Lord's Prayer may be the essential Christian prayer. It's certainly one of the most frequently prayed by Christians of all stripes. Why? One reason is that it's what Jesus gave the disciples when they asked him how to pray. Because this prayer is from the Lord, we are in especially close communion with him when we pray it.

Another reason may be that the "Our Father" says so much about prayer, like it's OK to pray for both big and little things. The big stuff—like the coming of God's kingdom and the doing of God's will on earth and in heaven—and also the "little" but equally important stuff: daily food, forgiveness both received and given, and protection from temptation and evil. Pray for what the world needs today, and for what you need.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15*

"Give us this day our daily bread."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Who do you think you are, the Queen of Sheba?

Walking around like you're the Queen of Sheba isn't necessarily a bad thing. In Jesus' view the Queen of the South is at least as wise as Solomon, because she knew wisdom when she heard it. Where do you go to attend to the voice of wisdom—family, friend, mentor? Scripture, tradition, prayer? Consider this piece

of advice from the Book of Proverbs: "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Open your heart to wise counsel.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32*

"The queen of the South came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!"

THURSDAY, MARCH 1 LENTEN WEEKDAY; SAINT DAVID'S DAY

Seek and you will find

Saint David, a sixth-century bishop, is the patron saint of Wales. Many stories of miracles connected to David have come down to us. In one, while he was preaching, not everyone could see him, so he made the ground rise in order to accommodate those in the back. Another story says the water from the font in which he was baptized was said to heal.

These traditional tales express a faith in God who touches people and makes healing accessible. Turn to God today and pray for your needs and those of others: healing for the sick, restoration of broken relationships, openness to the needs of those around you. God will hear your prayer and respond to it according to God's will. Trust that holy will.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12*

"For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds."

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 LENTEN WEEKDAY; WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

We're all in this together

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical effort of women in 170 countries that encourages women "to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation; to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures; to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them; to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society." You can follow the leadership of these women by praying and putting your prayer into action. On this day of Lenten abstinence, make your prayer an offering for the good of the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26*

"If you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift before the altar and be reconciled."

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 FEAST OF KATHERINE DREXEL, VIRGIN

Reaching beyond our circle

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family, Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) eventually spent her large inheritance in founding a religious order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and establishing schools and missions for Native Americans and African Americans, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the only predominantly black Catholic institution of higher learning in the United States. The Sisters continue Mother Drexel's work today through prayer, counseling, education, health care, social work, and other works of mercy, especially in connection with the poor and oppressed and among Native American, African American, and Haitian peoples.

Ahead of her time, Mother Drexel had a special concern for excluded people. Is there someone you can reach out to today with whom you usually wouldn't communicate?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48*

"If you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others?"

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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

St. Cletus Lenten Opportunities



Daily Mass:	8:00am
Reconciliation:	4:15-4:45 Saturday
Parish Mission:	7:30pm - March 12-13-14
Taize Prayer:	TBA
Adoration:	March 5 & April 2 8:30am - 6:45pm
Stations of the Cross:	2:00pm Fridays of Lent

Other Lenten Opportunities

Daily Mass:	St. Peters' in the Loop - M-F 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 11:40am 1:15, 5:00pm
Adoration:	St. John of the Cross - Mondays: 2:30-8:45pm
Taize Prayer:	St. Francis Xavier - March 9, 7:30pm Ascension (Oak Park) - 7:30pm every first Friday
Lenten Series:	Dominican Univ. March 8, 7:30pm Talk by Mary Ellen O'Brien on "Stones Still Standing: The Beauty of Celtic Spirituality"

Welcome Sunday Next Weekend

Welcome to all St. Cletus newcomers. Registration is available next weekend, March 3/4, 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.

"MANNA" on Sale This Weekend

This Saturday and Sunday, St. Cletus School Manna Moms will be in the church vestibule after each Mass selling gift cards/certificates. It is a convenient way to purchase gift certificates for several stores without the hassle of driving and waiting in lines. MANNA is an ongoing fundraising program offered weekly through the St. Cletus FSA. The FSA purchases these certificates at a discount, sells them at face value and the difference is the profit for the St. Cletus School.

Order forms will be available at the MANNA table on the days of purchase. Any questions, please call Caryn Dombro at (630) 789-8560 or Lisa Heim at (708) 354-4257.

Attention! Leisure Loafers

Reminder: There will be NO March meeting. We will meet again on April 5. More details to follow.

Alice Katzmarek

MARCH MADNESS is Coming to St. Cletus



All you basketball fans and St. Cletus fans get ready because March Madness is quickly approaching. On Saturday, March 24, 2007, the St. Cletus Athletic Association is having its annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance, so save the date.

Soon you will be receiving your invitation for a night of madness.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to donate any items to the silent auction, please contact Tracy Flannery at (708) 352-1755. Also we are always looking for extra helpers, so if you want to be part of putting together a memorable night come to the next Athletic Association meeting or call Tracy Flannery.

Dig out your old college sweatshirts or basketball gear and get ready for a night of fun!

St. Cletus Holy Name

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, March 2, at 8:00pm, Room 201 of the Education Building. Refreshments to follow after the meeting. Please join us.

Dan Gibbons

Compassionate Care

The Compassionate Care Ministry in-service meeting will be held this Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00pm in Room 213 of the Education Building. This is a very important meeting. Please RSVP ccc@stcletusparish.com via the parish website. For those of you that need to commit to a specific committee please contact us via the parish website prior to the meeting if you have not yet done so.

Eugenia Callison

"Meet Our R.C.I.A. Candidates"

I grew up in Rock Falls, Illinois, a small town about 100 miles west of the Chicago area. I was born to a Catholic mother who died when I was an infant, and raised in the Methodist religion after my father remarried. I have lived in the Chicago area since the early 1980's. I purchased my home in Brookfield, in 1999. I live there with my 20-year-old son, one dog and five cats.

I did not attend church services regularly for most of my adult life. When I did occasionally attend, it was usually to accompany a friend to a Catholic Mass. I always enjoyed the feel of the Mass and the sense of the community. This is what first interested me in becoming Catholic. My personal sponsor is a close friend I have known for 11 years. She has been prodding me gently and sometimes not so gently to explore becoming Catholic for ten of those years. A couple of years ago I began reporting to a new manager at work who is a deacon at his parish, and we've had several discussions about the Catholic faith since that time. I began attending Mass at a couple of local parishes, and decided I did want to pursue R.C.I.A.

My personal sponsor, Nancy Stoecker, is a member of Holy Angels Parish in Aurora. Nancy has a very strong grounded faith. I've observed her over the years and seen how her faith has carried her through much that has occurred. She is a wonderful role model. My parish sponsor, Delores, has been kind enough to support me through my current journey even though we were strangers before she volunteered to be a parish sponsor.

My hope is that through the R.C.I.A. process and forward, that I will be able to deepen my faith and my relationship with God.

JoAnn Greiner

(1) Confirmation Retreat

Our Year 2 Confirmation Candidates are spending this weekend in retreat and reflection at Lake Lawn Lodge in Delavan, Wisconsin. Please pray this weekend that they may open their eyes, ears and hearts to the workings of the Holy Spirit. May their time apart from us and their daily schedules help them to enrich their personal faith journey as well as deepen their commitment to the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church, and our parish community. Thank you.

(2) Reminder to Year 1 Confirmation Candidates

You will be meeting as a large group this Sunday, February 25, in Room 201 of the Education Building from 1-3:30pm. Please be on time and use the flagpole door entrance. Thank you.

Mary Beth Ford
Youth Director

Heifer Project News

If you have not taken your Heifer project "Arc" and calendar from the table in the vestibule, please do so!

Children around the world are getting a chance to grow up healthy and strong thanks to a healthy diet of eggs, milk, and bountiful harvests made possible by Heifer supporters like you. Because of your donations, Heifer participants can produce yogurt, cheese, butter and sell the surplus. Many families have improved their economic situation and have become completely sustainable through the Heifer project.

The water buffalo help Indonesian families increase rice production through animal draft power.

The beehives help families in Kentucky earn money through the sale of honey and beeswax.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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Kid's Rummage Sale

Reminder: Join the RE Kid's Rummage Sale on March 3, from 9:00am 'til 12noon at St. Cletus' Morrissey Hall. Rent a table for \$5 (sharing allowed). Have fun selling your old stuff, and buying someone else's! Questions? Call the RE Office at (708) 352-2383.

Pat Kahl
Director of Religious Education

It's Cookie Time!

Experience the refreshing taste of Thin Mints or the delicious mix of the peanut and chocolate Tagalongs! Yes, Girl Scout cookies are for sale after all Masses this weekend in the church vestibule. Cookies are \$4 per box and funds raised will benefit the St. Cletus Girl Scouts. Cookie donations may also be made to the St. Cletus Food Pantry and are 100% tax deductible! Come meet some of the St. Cletus Girl Scouts – and enjoy a cookie or two.

Laurie Severino

Please Pray for

...our sick in your prayers: Sr. Arlene Gibson, Bobby Ashby, Zack Sperka, Marguerite May, 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 Krolecki, Mary O'Rourke, Debbie Broz, Scott May and Jackie Zaccari. Also pray for our parishioners who are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

Stewardship

Stewardship involves a willingness to give from the very core of who we are and what we have; from substance rather than abundance.

"The measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Lk 6:38)



February 18, 2007

Budgeted revenue:	\$29,061
Collection received:	22,649
Shortfall last week:	- 6,412
Revenue to budget	
Shortfall for this fiscal year:	- 95,727
# Of envelopes mailed:	3,291
# Of envelopes returned:	767

Thank you for your continued support.

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, call Bobbie in the rectory office at (708) 352-6209.

Parish Sharing

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

Church Women United

All ladies invited! On March 2, Church Women United will celebrate World Day of Prayer and St. Cletus will host the celebration. It will begin with a Bible Study at 11:00am. Bible Study participants please bring a sandwich to enjoy before the program at 1:00pm in the Brown Derby Room in the rectory basement.

Following the program we will enjoy coffee, tea, and goodies. Do join us for a pleasant day.

Mary White (708- 246-0340)

1st Sunday of Lent

What is it that tempts you away from saying yes to God? Now is the time to discern what God is calling you to do. Is it to consider being a sister, brother, or priest? For more information, contact Sr. Peter Mary Hettling, CSJ at (312) 751-545 or phettling@archchicago.org .

Vehicles for the Needy

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Seeks Vehicle Donations

We are accepting donated vehicles through our "Vehicles for the Needy" program. Anyone with an unwanted vehicle in any condition is encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation. RV's, boats, golf carts and other vehicles are accepted. The Society will arrange for the vehicle, title and keys to be picked up. Donors will be given a receipt for the amount the vehicle is sold for.

Vehicle donations benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's programs which assist with rent, utilities, transportation, food, clothing and furniture.

Call (312) 655-7181 or visit our website at www.adcsvdp.org and click on donations.



Mass Intentions for the Week of February 26 – March 4

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Haraburda, Bennie M. Carnevale, Thomas McCarthy
Tuesday	8:00am	Anne Grundman
Wednesday	8:00am	Anne Grundman
Thursday	8:00am	Stanley & Stella Waszak, Ronnie Sacks, Marcie Johnston, Robert Narsutis
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society, Nan Rettig, Samuel Miramontes, Sophie Wojcik, Joseph Megla, Linda Felice, Celeste Klees
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	People of St. Cletus Ronald J. Drobny, Sr., Jozef Slowik, Anne Grundman, Stella & Felix Gembala
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	Marco & Emelia Rattin Anne Grundman Anne Grundman Bennie M. Carnevale

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday:	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27; Phil 3:17-4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

Altar Servers



March 3/4

5:00pm - D. DeLaurentis, M. King, E. Mrazek
7:00am - C. McCollom, A. Condotti, K. Caplice
8:00am - B. Kelley, K. Kelliher, H. Heim
9:30am - K. Baro, M. Micek, S. Lenz
11:00am - J. Babirak, A. Kison, P. Oboikovitz



Baptism

This Past Week We Welcomed...Alyssa Marie Robinson and Elizabeth Theresa Tworek to Our Parish Family.

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, March 3

5:00pm

SM Vic Swindall	LR Cathy Schump
B1 Presider	C1 Ruth Burke
B2 Mary Kay Condon	C2 Jack Burke
B3 Sarah Sipek	C3 Mary Beth Ford
B4 Carol Bartucci	C4 Vic Swindall
B5 Diane Andrews	C5 Toni Swindall
B6 Joe Delaloye	C6 Mary Thuma

Sunday, March 4

7:00am

SM Louise Zmuda	LR Ken Loch
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B1 Presider
B2 Louise Zmuda
B3 Ron Zmuda
B4 Paul Smith
B4 David Smith
B6 Helen Nault

8:00am

SM Jerry Welch	LR Janet Bellisario
B1 Presider	C1 Julie Hagen
B2 Jim Hagen	C2 Colleen Hagen
B3 Georgia Bliss	C3 Shirley Hullinger
B4 Mary Jane Walsh	C4 Jerry Welch
B5 Barbara Stamm	C5 Richard Stamm
B6 William Thornton	C6 Madeline Thornton

9:30am

SM Alice Dunkovich	LR Mary Lou Pisone
B1 Presider	C1 Larry Kelliher
B2 Karen DalPorto	C2 Christine Tosheff
B3 Jennifer Dillane	C3 Veronica Horak
B4 Jeannine Nolan	C4 Alice Dunkovich
B5 Earl Stumreiter	C5 Rose Curnutt
B6 Kevin Burke	C6 Karen Kelliher

11:00am

