

# ST. CLETUS CHURCH

## Rectory

**600 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
LaGrange, IL 60525  
[www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com)  
[www.stcletusschool.com](http://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

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 55<sup>th</sup> 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**

**2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Luke 9:28b-36**

*During this second week of Lent, we are reminded in today's gospel account of the Transfiguration of Jesus that Peter, James, and John are to heed the voice of the Father which tells them "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." Jesus is then left alone—he alone now will be the spokesperson for his Father. All must listen to Jesus.*

*Perhaps the most important thing in Luke's gospel today is the indication of what Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were discussing during the Transfiguration. They "spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem". Later, in Luke 9:51 he says of Jesus, "He resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem." For Luke the exodus, the departure of Jesus, will include not only the death and Resurrection of Jesus, but also his Ascension. The Transfiguration will support the faith of the disciples as they, too, will suffer and be killed. They will come to see the Resurrection as the ultimate goal.*

*During this week as we continue our Lenten journey and embrace the challenge of conversion in our lives we are reminded that we too are to be transformed on the path to Easter. May we look to the power, glory and majesty of Jesus' Transfiguration as a reminder to each of us to continue to strive for change, transformation, and conversion in our own lives this Lent through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.*

### **Lenten Parish Mission 2007**

*Next weekend we will hear Fr. Lou Tylka, pastor of Mater Christi Parish in North Riverside, speak to us at all the Masses about our need not only to embrace the challenge of conversion but to use this time in our lives to truly recognize who we are and who we would like to become in Christ. Fr. Lou will direct our Lenten Mission on Monday, March 12, Tuesday, March 13, and Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m., in the church. Please join your parish community each night in search of God's grace through embracing the challenge of conversion in your life. There will be opportunities for guidance, prayer, reflection, reconciliation, celebration of the Eucharist, and growth in your personal relationship with the Lord during these very special evenings.*

### **Lenten Parish, Religious Ed., and School Project**

*Please continue to support our Parish, Religious Ed., and School Project, "The Heifer International Project", throughout Lent. Your contributions to this wonderful effort helps families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and moves them toward greater self-reliance. The money we collect during Lent in your "Arc" boxes will purchase animals for families around the world who are in need. For more information regarding this wonderful project, check out our parish website at ([www.stcletusparish.com/religioused](http://www.stcletusparish.com/religioused)).*

*May the grace of Lent be with you,  
Fr. Bob*



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

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2007**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Reveal your true nature**

The Transfiguration describes a sudden and dramatic change. For a moment, the veil is pulled back and the disciples get a glimpse of the divine nature of Jesus, their earthly companion who is at the same time one of them and not one of them—fully human and fully divine. Yet each of us has at least a spark of that divinity within us, and more than a spark. We are made in the image and likeness of God. Our own transfigurations, however, happen more slowly, over the course of a lifetime of prayer, reflection, faith, discovery, trial and error, practice, and forgiveness. Try to catch a glimpse of your own divine nature today, in an act of faith, hope, or charity.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28a-36*

*"And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed."*

**MONDAY, MARCH 5 LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**The bad people we can all agree on**

Many of us could compose a list of folks that seem to ignite almost universal condemnation. That list would probably include terrorists and mass murderers, those who hurt children or other vulnerable members of society. But almost immediately, we find ourselves in grey territory where people of good will disagree heartily about who these "vulnerable members" are that deserve our protection. The more we seek to condemn, the more grey areas we encounter. This is why Jesus commands us to condemn no one. If we saw as God sees, on a case-by-case basis, the world might look very different.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38*

*"Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned."*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 6 LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Service is better than greatness**

It's not hard when you're a parent to inflict your authority on your children. We don't mean to do it; it just sort of happens. It's the way we were brought up, a kind of parenting model we inherited from our own parents. The problem is that it doesn't seem to work. Most parents complain that their kids simply ignore their authority. What if we turned it around and served the goodness that is already in our kids? Praise for the good things our kids do is a more powerful tool than criticism. A good discipline for Lent might be to lay off the scolding and concentrate on encouragement.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12*

*"The greatest among you will be your servant."*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 FEAST OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS**  
**The future isn't ours to control**

Parental love—such as that of the mother in today's gospel ambitious for her boys; that of Perpetua, a young mother still nursing, and her eight-months' pregnant servant, Felicity, who were both threatened with martyrdom in third-century North Africa but determined to remain faithful; or that of Perpetua's father trying to save his daughter by persuading her to renounce her Christianity—no matter if it is our deepest, fiercest love, cannot always secure the future of our loved ones or save them from harm. What parents and children can always do, however, like the Master, is to serve one another by the example of our own fidelity.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28*

*"Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8 FEAST OF JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS**  
**Back from the edge**

If there were ever a patron saint for people who jump to extremes and then find a balance in their lives, it would be John of God (1495-1559). First he was a wild-living soldier nearly hanged after being accused of stealing from the army. After a reprieve, he was so grateful he spent two days praying before a roadside crucifix. Going to Granada in Spain, he heard a sermon by Blessed John of Avila that so moved him to repentance he became unhinged. He gave away everything and roamed the streets beating himself and begging forgiveness for his past sins. This behavior landed him in a mental hospital.

The compassionate John of Avila visited him and advised him to do something for others rather than only be obsessed with himself. John of God heeded the advice and opened a house for the care of the sick and poor. Next time you feel yourself bouncing around in life, stop, center, and shift your focus from your problems to others' needs.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31*

*"The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham."*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9 LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Mind the messenger**

Many times in scripture we hear of messengers being mistreated—beaten and killed or, in the case of Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers. What is it about messengers we are afraid of? It's true that sometimes the message they carry is painful—at first. Yet the truth always has the potential to set us free.

As these readings reveal, all types of people can be messengers. This Lent, let's be aware of the many messengers we encounter in the course of a day. How do we respond to them? With fear? Contempt? Jealousy? Can we be open to their message, no matter how uncomfortable initially? Prayer helps.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46*

*"The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom."*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**You deserve it**

Of all the parables Jesus told, the one about the prodigal son may be the most well-known. We love it because it tells us that Jesus accepts us regardless of our earlier sins. It is comforting to know we all have a chance at rebirth. We should not, however, overlook how truly radical Jesus' teaching was. It is the son who "has come back to life" who receives the greatest reward. God distributes grace not by any discernible formula, but only by God's own will. Be mindful of all the gifts you surely don't deserve, so that you may celebrate others' "undeserved" good fortune as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

*"We had to celebrate, because this brother of yours was dead and has come back to life."*

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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

## EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE OF CONVERSION

Throughout these forty days of Lent, we have committed ourselves to embracing the challenge of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Consider the suggestions below as we begin our second week of this holy season.

- Prayer**
- + Set down some spiritual goals that will help you return to the Lord.
  - + Read and reflect on the daily reading offered in your Lenten booklets.
  - + Pray the Stations.
  - + Look for the presence of God in your life today.
  - + Participate at the Sunday Eucharist.
- Fasting**
- + Fast in solidarity with those who are hungry by eating a simple meal one day this week.
  - + Fast from a TV show or computer game. Instead, take a walk or play a board game.
  - + Fast from gossiping/speaking unkindly of others.
- Almsgiving**
- + In our world today, more than 800 million people struggle to survive on a dollar a day or less. The average cost of a special coffee or latte, or fast food treat is \$3+. For one day in each week of Lent, try giving the money you would spend on these nonessential treats, to the Heifer project or the food pantry.
  - + Send a card or note to someone with whom you have been out of touch or avoiding.
  - + Sit together as a family, a couple, or friends, and brainstorm ways that you could be of service to others in the community.
    - make a BEDS meal
    - bring food to church for the food pantry
    - offer a Senior a ride to the store or church or invite them out to breakfast

### **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

Now the Word of God is entrusted to us, to be proclaimed and shared with others at home, at work, in our neighborhood – and, in our worship.

Young, old, and those in-between, would you consider sharing your faith through the Lector Ministry? Please call the Worship Office at (708) 352-4834 for further information.

Tentative training dates are: March 7 and March 15.  
Paulette Bolton  
Director of Worship

### **RCIA Rite of Election**

On Sunday, February 25, despite snow, sleet, ice and wind, our RCIA candidates attended the Rite of Election at Holy Name Cathedral. This was one of five services calling forward all of those chosen to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This calling, or election, is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts. Bill

Cerwin and Holly Grimm were acknowledged in this ceremony.

In the Call to Continuing Conversion the Church welcomes those who are already baptized and are preparing to complete their initiation through both Confirmation and Eucharist and are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

Also in attendance were the personal and parish sponsors for the Elect. Congratulations on this huge commitment. We, your parish family, are proud of you and will continue to pray for you on your journey to full membership in the Church.

Pat Kahl  
Director of Religious Education

### **The Traveling Pilgrim Virgin...**

Ambassadors of Mary will be at the DalPorto home from now until March 10. Come join us for the Rosary. Details are on the bulletin board in the church vestibule. All are welcome! Questions? Call Karen, (708- 482-0035).

## St. Cletus Lenten Opportunities



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

Holy Name Cathedral - 12:15pm

### 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 **Edward Sullner** on "Stones Still Standing: The Beauty of Celtic Spirituality".

St. Julie Billiart Parish - Presentation by **Matthew Kelly**, March 4-6, 7:30pm.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Elmhurst -

March 25-27, 7:30pm. At both locations:

The 1<sup>st</sup> night, Matthew Kelly will speak on his new book "Perfectly Yourself"

The 2<sup>nd</sup> night, he will speak on the seven levels of intimacy.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> night on his book "Rediscovering Catholicism".

## The Latest on the "Arc"

As it was for Noah, so for today: The ark is about hope and a new beginning. For Heifer project families, farm animals can provide:

- nutritious food for the children through milk, eggs or meat
- income for housing, health care, school fees and other needs
- motivation to plant trees and grasses and make other environmental improvements a catalyst for community development.

The ark is also about multiplication and bringing forth life.

We hope that your family is a member of the Heifer Team.

Pat Kahl

Director of Religious Education

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



Hi! My name is Denise Kuchta.

I was born and raised in Genoa, IL (a very small town which was once referred to as the common day Mayberry in the Chicago Tribune).

My parents brought me up in the Lutheran Faith, and it was a big part of my life. In my youth I enjoyed playing the trumpet in the band, running track and cross-country, and acting in plays. Upon graduation I went to Western Illinois University to study math education. While at Western, I met my husband Nick Kuchta. I am currently a 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher in Algonquin, IL. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year as an educator and I love my job! A few years back I completed my Masters Degree in Education Leadership from Aurora University.

My husband and I live in Willowbrook. We have been married for almost 4 years. For years we discussed religion and the impact we wanted it to have on our lives. Nick was raised Catholic here at St. Cletus. He and his family are members of the parish and have brought me to Mass on several occasions. Over time I started to feel comfortable here and made the decision that I wanted to become Catholic for myself and for our future family. I started the RCIA process shortly before learning that we are expecting our first child.

The RCIA process has been really inspiring for me so far. In a lot of ways it has taken me back to the days when I was in my youth group. On Sunday mornings I enjoy discussing the Word and how it relates to our lives. On Wednesday evenings I am accompanied by my parish sponsor, which is also my mother-in-law, Ann Kuchta. This has brought me closer to her as I learn about the traditions of Church through her eyes. I am excited to be welcomed into the Church on Holy Saturday for many reasons. I am looking forward to sitting next to my husband in church and to take part in the entire Mass. Mostly I am excited to continue to grow as a person with God and to some day experience it with my children.

**Girl Scout Sunday**

The Girl Scouts of St. Cletus Parish will celebrate Girl Scout Sunday on March 18, at the 11:00am Mass. All Scouts, volunteers, and their families are invited to worship together. There will be an award ceremony following Mass for those Scouts who have earned a religious award.

Colleen Hagen

**MARCH MADNESS**  
is Coming to St. Cletus



Mark your calendars because the St. Cletus Athletic Association Annual Spring Dinner and Auction is almost here. This year's theme is "MARCH MADNESS". Saturday, March 24, at 7:00pm, is the official tip off.

Besides the Silent Auction, this year we are having a Raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or \$6 for \$25. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is \$1,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$500, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a Chicago Bears' Basket. Tickets will be sold after Masses on Saturday, March 10, and Sunday, March 11.

If you would like to purchase tickets to the dance (\$35 each) or if you would like to donate to the auction or purchase raffle tickets, please call Tracy Flannery at (708) 352-1755.

**Please Pray for**

...our sick in your prayers: Robert Orrico, Sister Arlene Gibson, 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, 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.

**Stewardship**

*"He who lives in me and I in him will produce abundantly" (John 15:17).*

Those who take a step in faith and follow the principles of stewardship experience great spiritual rewards.



February 25, 2007

<b>Budgeted revenue:</b>	<b>\$29,061</b>
<b>Collection received:</b>	<b>23,640</b>
<b>Shortfall last week:</b>	<b>- 5,421</b>
<b>Revenue to budget</b>	
<b>Shortfall for this fiscal year:</b>	<b>- 101,148</b>
<b># Of envelopes mailed:</b>	<b>3,291</b>
<b># Of envelopes returned:</b>	<b>740</b>

**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.



The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2:30pm, at Holy Name Cathedral, 751 N. State St., Chicago.

Couples married in 1957 who are interested in attending this celebration should contact their parish to register.

For further information, call the Family Ministries Office at (312)751-8351 or visit the website: [www.familyministries.org](http://www.familyministries.org).



**Don't Forget SPRING FORWARD**

Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 10.





## **CARDINAL CORNER**

### **News from the St. Cletus School Board**

#### **Announcing our History Fair and Science Fair Results**

Congratulations to all our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in our annual History Fair and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in our annual Science Fair.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> grade History Fair, students chose a subject from Illinois and depicted its history with a timeline and graphics. From locations to local companies, the students learned a great deal not only about their topics, but also about how to conduct research. Honorable mention was awarded to Kelly Meade; Kendra Tosheff; Andy Balch and Chris Mosquera; and Kimberly Sipek. The following students qualified for the regional History Fair scheduled for March 31 at North Central College: Marty Bruce and Mike Thomas; Ashley Heslin; Joe Kern and Brian Franklin; Julie Jaskierski; Gabe Valdes; and Lora Vietzen. Best of luck to them as they hope to advance to the state finals in Springfield this May.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class showed they know what scientific experiments are all about. Honorable mention was awarded to Cassie Levitske; Cody Funk; Elle Mrazek; and Mike Gray and Quinn Collins. Regional qualifiers will present their experiments at the Museum of Science and Industry. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who qualified include Meg McGrath and Heidi Heim; Jill Babirak and Frances Galin; Jillian Gable and Kelle Caplice; Chelsea Barker and Katherine Nichin; Ben Okkema; Kelsey Kelliher and Moira King; Joe Busta; and Michael Micek. Best of luck to them as they compete against the best in the Chicago area.

#### **Mark your calendars now – news from the school board**

The St. Cletus School Board will present the 2007 – 2008 school budget and give an overview of the results from our recent parent survey on Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. Please join us in Room 201 of the school building for this informative meeting.

#### **Congratulations to our athletes!**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys both won the Suburban Parochial League Basketball Championship, while the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys finished their 3 year career 36-6 in conference. 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls also won the Volleyball Championship Congratulations, boys and girls!

#### **March Madness makes its way to St. Cletus**

Join us for our annual Silent Auction and Dance, sponsored by the St. Cletus Athletic Association on Saturday, March 24. The fun starts at 7 p.m., so grab your college gear and come out for a good time. Tickets are \$35 each for a night of great food, drinks and entertainment -- just like in your college days. If you can't attend the dance, take your chances on our raffle, \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Tickets will be available after Masses March 10 -11 or through school families. Have something to contribute to our silent auction? Contact Tracy Flannery at 708-352-1755 or Dan Kelley at 708-579-9499 with any questions or donations. We look forward to seeing everyone for a night of fun.