

# St. Cletus Canticle

*December 9, 2007*

*Second Sunday of Advent*



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600 West 55th Street • La Grange, Illinois 60525 • 708-352-6209 • [www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com)



**All are welcome. Handicapped parking is located in front of church.  
Personal hearing devices are available from the ushers/greeters.**

## Mass Intentions for the Week of December 10 - December 16

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Bruno Bransberger, Joseph Vieceli
Tuesday	8:00am	Celeste Klees, John Hopp, Barbara Maly, Marcelle Truben, Michael Maly, Nicholas Murphy
Wednesday	8:00am	Geraldine Okkema, Joseph Megla
Thursday	8:00am	Tom Kigin, Grabowski Family
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Joseph Megla, Michael Maly, Marge Cirrincione
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	People of St. Cletus Mr. & Mrs. Lombardi, Jean Sorquist
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	Marco & Emelia Rattin Frank Baggio Al Cooke, Nelda Cummings, Josephine Sorrentino John Pavlik, John P. O'Donnell, Monica Blaising Burns, Warren Bailey, Sophie M. Egielski



### December 15/16

- 5:00pm - K. Lawler, D. Cherny, J. Riccione
- 7:00am - E. Ashe, C. Luxem, P. O'Malley
- 8:00am - N. Smith, A. Kopicki, S. Patterson
- 9:30am - J. Pristo, T. Ruggiero, H. Griffin
- 11:00am - T. Gray, K. Collins, J. Chervinko

### Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 15, 2007

<b>5:00 pm</b>	LR Okkema, P
SM Koch, B	C1 Okkema, A
B2 Burke, J	C2 Burke, R
B3 Schump, C	C3 Sheridan, E
B4 Richards, M	C4 Koch, B
B5 Ghera, A	C5 Chlapecka, R
B6 Bozec, B	C6 Boyer, K

Sunday, December 16, 2007

<b>7:00 am</b>	LR Chlapecka,
SM Zmuda, L	
B2 Zmuda, L	
B3 Zmuda, R	
B4 Fahey, A	
B5 Meade, M	
B6 Nault, H	



<b>8:00 am</b>	LR Dalsin, P
SM Curnutt, R	C1 Welch, J
B2 Hagen, C	C2 Hagen, J
B3 Parlier, D	C3 Parlier, J
B4 Kwak, T	C4 Curnutt, R
B5 Karch, J	C5 Karch, T
B6 Kigin, B	C6 Curotto, L

<b>9:30 am</b>	LR Reisel, T
SM McCaffray, P	C1 Mulderink, K
B2 Maday, J	C2 Williams, A
B3 Heyes, S	C3 Heyes, M
B4 Severino, L	C4 McCaffray, P
B5 Stumreiter, E	C5 Nolan, J
B6 Thuma, M	C6 Zupanic, R

<b>11:00 am</b>	LR O'Dowd, M
SM Wiley, J	C1 Gebka, M L
B2 Fisher, H	C2 Ficaro, J
B3 Brannigan, R	C3 Pavlik, L
B4 Samuelson, D	C4 Wiley, J
B5 Hoskins, C	C5 Augustyn, R
B6 Provan, K	C6 Provan, J



Please pray for those who have died  
and their families:



*William Kallal*  
Father of William Kallal, Jr.,  
Robert, Michael, Melanie & John



Please Welcome  
to God's family:

*Allison Grace Pina*  
Daughter of Alex and Lee Ann (Eakle) Pina

WEDDING BANNIS

*KATHLEEN CIRESE AND TIM KRESS*

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
- Monday: International Human Rights Day
- Tuesday: St. Damasus I
- Wednesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Thursday: St. Lucy
- Friday: St. John of the Cross

## Notes from Father Bob...

### *Second Sunday of Advent Called to be a Prophet*

*John the Baptist was a prophet in his day by calling attention to behavioral changes that were needed. There is a long list of religious and secular prophets who have like John called people to change their ways, Archbishop Oscar Romero and Dorothy Day to name just two. Advent is a time to consider and act on the social issues of today with a prophetic voice just like John, Oscar, and Dorothy did in their day. They were true instruments that "Light Our World with Peace."*

*John the Baptist exhorted the people to repent because "the kingdom of heaven has come near." One role of the prophets was to point out when the people were going astray and needed to adjust their behaviors. The prophet was to draw the people back to the truth of their relationships. John the Baptist must have been a pretty persuasive speaker because Scripture tells us that "the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going to him, and the entire region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins."*

*John like many of the prophets spoke hard and sometimes harsh words to get the attention of those who needed to hear his message and might miss it. He cautions, "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." In other words, don't just show up with words of repentance. Back it up with deeds. Anyone can confess their sins, but the measure of its sincerity is in the actions that either precede or follow the confessing.*

*The Baptist implies that baptism with the water of repentance is nothing in comparison with being baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. The baptism of Jesus is one that changes and transforms like fire does. John puts it like this, "The chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Transformation is not a magical event. It is a process in which some hard things have to happen and choices are made.*

*Archbishop Oscar Romero and Dorothy Day are people who knew the truth of being baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. Neither probably set out to be a prophet, but their own transforming journey initiated at baptism turned each into a prophet.*

*Archbishop Oscar Romero knew the truth of the Baptist's words, "Repent, the kingdom of heaven has come near" and "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." In 1978 he preached, "A church that suffers no persecution but enjoys the privileges and support of the things of the earth – beware! – is not the true church of Jesus Christ. A preaching that does not point out sin is not the preaching of the gospel. A preaching that makes sinners feel good, so that they are secured in their sinful state, betrays the gospel's call."*

*Dorothy Day was called "a kind of conscience for American Catholics" by Joseph W. Goetz in MIRRORS OF GOD. Like John the Baptist and Romero, Dorothy challenged people to see the truth of their actions. Once it was claimed that "Dorothy's vocation was to comfort the afflicted increasingly and to afflict the comfortable unceasingly."*

*There are many ways to be prophetic today. Adults, you could speak the truth to your spouses, your significant others, family members, the school board, the city council or congressional representatives. Teens, you can reject drugs if offered or the put-downs that draw laughter from friends. You could befriend the friendless. Children, you could stand up for a classmate or neighbor being bullied. You could encourage those who are sad or are having a bad day. The options for being prophetic are only limited by your own creativity. How will you be prophetic this Advent? How will you "Light Our World with Peace?"*

### Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal

*Today we will collect for the annual Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal during our second collection. These monies go to assist the women and men of religious communities who have faithfully and generously served in our schools, hospitals, parishes and communities for years. Our church and our nation have been blessed beyond measure by these dedicated religious. They ministered in the spirit of the Gospel, asking little in return. Please be generous in helping to share in the care of our aging women and men religious. It is a wonderful way for us to "Light Our World with Peace."*

*Advent Blessings,  
Father Bob*



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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - The wild voice of prophecy

The world has never known what to do with prophets. In every generation they must be faced, killed, or kept at bay. Prophets don't look like us, talk like us, or value what we've been taught to value. Yet they are the ultimate reality check for the soul. As wild man and prophet Walter Brueggemann says in *The Prophetic Imagination*, Jesus "announced the coming of the kingdom. But surely implicit in the announcement is the counterpart that present kingdoms will end and be displaced." In a season celebrating all things material, be sure to celebrate the peaceable kingdom that has no end.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12*

*"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"*

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY - Put forgiveness under the tree

What's the No. 1 gift yearned for on many people's holiday list? If you guessed a Ferrari, you're wrong. What a surprising number of people sigh about toward the end of each year is the aching need for reconciliation with parents or children or a spouse or a friend. For many of us who feel injured or who have caused injury to others, the Ferrari often and unhappily seems more within reach than the possibility of healing that broken relationship. So surprise someone this year with the ultimate luxury gift: Offer them unilateral amnesty for wrongs received.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26*

*"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?'"*

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY - God's roadwork ahead: no delays

In our pragmatic world, the answer to Jesus' question about whether a shepherd would leave 99 sheep in order to find one stray might not be obvious. But expedience and efficiency are not the prime virtues of the kingdom: Love is—the kind of love that compels the shepherd to get out his flashlight and hiking boots. It is the love that flattens mountains that get in the lover's way and fills in chasms so that God can find his beloved. To think of yourself as a little lost lamb may be neither flattering nor apt, but you are without doubt the object of God's love. It is for you that God comes "with power" and a "strong arm" to bring you home.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14*

*"Does the shepherd not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?"*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

#### FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - The Lady of Mexico

It's hard to overemphasize the impact of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the culture of the United States. As Lourdes and Fatima bolstered the faith of countless European immigrants who nurtured and developed the American experience, so now Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe provides identity and encouragement for the millions who are changing the face and language of American society. In many U.S. Catholic parishes, today's celebration rivals that of Christmas. Santa Maria is the reminder that Catholics of every race and language are one people, united by a common faith, working together to bring the love of God to bear in the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38*

*"Then Mary said, 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord.'"*

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

#### FEAST OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR - This little light of Lucy's

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD), also known as winter depression, is believed to be related to a reduction in the amount of sunlight during the winter in the northern hemisphere. In the ancient Julian calendar, December 13 was the shortest day and longest night of the year. Thus the church chooses to remember on this day Saint Lucy, whose name means "light." Devotion to Lucy is particularly strong in Scandinavian countries, where the lack of light in the winter is experienced most keenly. As we await the arrival of the Light of the World, we can pause today to remember Saint Lucy, one of the church's early martyrs, who through her courageous witness helped keep that Light alive in the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15*

*"Do not fear, I will help you."*

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

#### FEAST OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

##### Be aware—be very aware

We tend to think of mystics as people to whom God gives some extraordinary supernatural experience or who possess an incredible capacity for prayer most of us will never approach. While the history of the church has certainly seen such people, even the great mystics have taught that mysticism is more available to all of us than we might think. Saint John of the Cross (1542-1591), for example, said mysticism is simply attentiveness to the presence of God in everything. It is an awareness that God pours love into the human heart and that the response to that awareness of God's loving presence is love of others. It's that simple. Try a little mysticism in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19*

*"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you for your own good, who leads you in the way you should go."*

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY - Waiting for Jesus

Some say there are two kinds of believers: "Crucifixion Christians" and "Resurrection Christians." One kind views the suffering Christ as the focal point of their faith. The other kind prefers the "Glory Hallelujah" approach to religion. Maybe there ought to be a third category: "Baby Jesus Christians." These find the manger central to their understanding of what God did for us. And Baby Jesus Christians will object to today's gospel selection. Why talk about suffering during Advent? Can't we lay off the Passion for a while? Well, yes and no. The Jesus we await today remains the Lord of the Second Coming.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13*

*"At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury."*

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

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

### SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, DECEMBER 8/9

The Catholic Church assists the financial needs of elderly religious through the national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Today, 5,452 women and men religious need skilled nursing care that costs an average of \$49,850 each.

Please take a moment to say thanks by giving generously. Envelopes are available in the pews today.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS



### GIVING TREE

Please remember to place your Giving Tree gifts under the tree this weekend with the tag securely attached to the package. The gifts will be organized for delivery today after the 11:00AM Mass. Thank you to all who are so generous!!!

### FOOD BASKET REMINDER

Next Sunday, December 16, is the date to bring the **food baskets to Morrissey Hall between 7:30AM and 11:00AM.** We ask that you securely attach the food basket tag to your package. Please arrange with a friend or family member to bring in your food basket, if you are going to be out of town. The teens in our Confirmation program will be on hand to help carry the baskets from your car. Also, a suggestion: Laundry Baskets make excellent containers for the food...and are useful to our recipients all year long. Thank you for your generosity!

*Mary Beth Ford*  
Director of Social Concerns

## WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

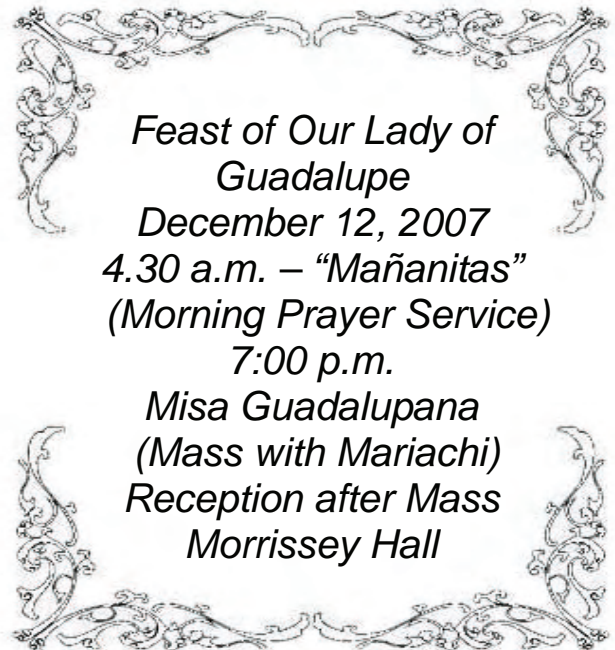
We are pleased to welcome these newly registered parishioners to our parish family: Shannon Bourn, Allison Barrett, Joan and Sandra Marie Eckrich, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Michalski, Mr. & Mrs. Ravirdj Mohil and Family, Kathleen Murray, David Patterson, and Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Rife and Family.

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

## EVENING OF REFLECTION FOR ADVENT

Please join us for an evening of reflection and friendship this Tuesday, December 11, at 7:00pm in church, as we focus on the true purpose of Advent. *Keeping Christ in Christmas* is a reflection on the history of the Christmas tradition. From the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels to Living those Gospels today, we will explore the development and struggle to be faith disciples in a difficult world that has taken our religious symbols and used them for profit.

Our presenter, Friar Johnpaul Cafiero, OFM is a Franciscan Priest of the Sacred Heart Province of Chicago/St. Louis. As a follower of St. Francis of Assisi, Friar Johnpaul's love of the poor and the outcasts is only surpassed by his love of scripture. This comes through in his many speaking and preaching engagements. Please attend this very moving presentation.



### ATTENTION - Ministers of Care!

*Minister of Care* schedules are available for pickup in the Minister's Room this weekend. Please remember to stop by for your copy. Thank you.

*Dolores Wauk*  
Director of Ministry of Care

**CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY  
MASS SCHEDULE**



**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

2:00PM.....  
2:15PM...MORRISSEY HALL  
3:30PM.....  
3:45PM...MORRISSEY HALL  
5:30PM.....  
7:30PM...SPANISH  
10:30PM.....



**ACCOMPANIMENT:**

VOCALIST/PIANO  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE  
SPANISH CHOIR  
CHANCEL CHOIR

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

7:00AM.....  
8:00AM.....  
9:30AM.....  
11:00AM.....

**ACCOMPANIMENT:**

TRADITIONAL (ORGAN)  
VOCALIST/ORGAN  
CONTEMPORARY CHOIR  
CHANCEL CHOIR

**ATTENTION! LEISURE LOAFERS**

There is still time to celebrate New Year's Eve at Niko's Restaurant, 7600 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, at Noon on December 31, for a very good luncheon and a glass of champagne. Door opens at 11:30am and the cost is \$31.

All are welcome! Call Mary White at (708) 246-0340 before December 20 to make a reservation. Happy Holidays!

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS...**

The Teen Advisory Commissions Board is planning a mission trip next summer! We will be going to Cass Lake Reservation in Minnesota to work on house projects and with children in the community. The trip will take place July 20-25, 2008 and is through a Christian organization called YouthWorks. We need to reserve spaces quickly and the deposit is \$50 per person. We have only a few spots left, but if you are a high school teen and are interested in joining the board, please contact Amy Cranny for further details at (708) 215-5419 or [acranny@stcletusparish.com](mailto:acranny@stcletusparish.com). We will take permission forms on a first come/first serve basis.

*Amy Cranny*  
Youth Director

**MANNA** will be available after all Masses in the church vestibule next weekend, December 15/16. **MANNA** is an ongoing fundraising program through the St. Cletus FSA, which purchases gift cards at a discount, sells them at face value and the proceeds then go to the school. Order forms will be available at the **MANNA** table the day of purchase. **CHRISTMAS is just around the corner!** Give gift cards as gifts or use them to purchase holiday items. Any questions, please call Caryn Dombro at (630) 789-8560 or Lisa Heim at (708) 354-4257.



**MINISTERS OF CARE  
FOR BRIAR PLACE**

We will collect our small items for **Briar Place Nursing Home** residents' Christmas packages again this year. We need your help. Please leave your donations of lotions, shampoo, combs, brushes, tooth paste and tooth brushes, playing cards, small books, pens, note pads, etc., at the rectory. Donations marked for **Briar Place** may be dropped off before December 20 (no later) when we will assemble our packages. (Please no shaving lotions.)

Any questions, please call Virginia at (708) 354-7282 or me, (708) 246-0340. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

*Mary White*

**ALCOHOLIC ANONOMYOUS MEETING**

There will be a closed AA meeting each week on Thursday evening, at 8:00pm, Room 213, in the Education Building. Please use the flag pole entrance.

**STEWARDSHIP**

*“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”  
Matthew 3:10*

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk? As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season, now might be a good time to evaluate what gifts do we give to God?

**Christmas Season Stress Relief (Part One)**

1. **Being not buying.** Give the gifts of personal presence. Examples include promising to pray for someone, committing to a date-night with your spouse, or making a coupon book of services such as babysitting, cooking, and helping with housework.
2. **Know what is important.** Focus on the birth of Christ and spend time with your family.
3. **Alternative Gifts.** Contribute to a charitable organization in the name of the gift recipient. Buy items that have been obtained using fair trade practices, that support local artisans, or encourage environmental conservation.
4. **Celebrate with those who are waiting.** Look to see who is living the Advent experience today: parents waiting for a child, the elderly and infirm waiting to die, those waiting for healing, the unemployed waiting for a job, and the anxious waiting for news.
5. **Plan ahead.** Buy all your gifts early. Spend December doing activities with those you love such as skating, baking, decorating, attending Christmas concerts, and church services.
6. **Keep in mind the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.**

**Weekly Giving Summary**

Last Weekend .....	\$ 27,815
A Year Ago .....	29,732
This Fiscal Year (thru 12/02/07) .....	\$610,912
Last Fiscal Year (thru 12/03/06) .....	582,094

As always, we sincerely thank all who generously give of their treasure, as well as those who give of their time and talent, to support the work our parish does in the name of Jesus Christ.



Please remember our sick in your prayers: Leslie Imholt, Ryan Cosgrove, Vincent Trauth, Ann Fahey, Joan Klein, Sheila Nash, Rosemary Sylvester, Rose Olferchek, Steve Zeman, Mary Jane Taylor, Robert Orrico, Sister Arlene Gibson, Zach Sperka, Marguerite May, Mike Patzelt, Richard Taylor, Rita D’Onofrio, Marilyn Matesevac, Hunter Peters, Mario Aguilar, Cacilia Ziegler, Jackie Dudley, Ruth Calandriello, Ann Marie Nabor, Patty Johnson, Connie Kostecki, Jonii Patterson, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Bridie Boyce, Stephanie Yakowicz, Virginia Wilson, Josie Spoto, Larry Wojnar, Louise Jaunich, Frank Werner, Agnes Olszowka, Michael Karpinski, Emil Chlapecka, Augustin Jaso, Marie Krolecki, Mary O’Rourke, Debbie Broz, Scott May. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or homebound and unable to attend Mass. Please know we pray daily for our sick.

**COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY**

Wondering what to do with that basket from the floral arrangement you got for Christmas? Please save it for the Compassionate Care Ministry! We are in need of baskets with handles about 10-12” in diameter. We fill these baskets with food items, literature, a candle, and a journal for those who are grieving. One team of volunteers gets together to assemble the baskets, and another team delivers them to our grieving families.

Other items we need are .41-cent postage stamps, tea in foil packets (such as Bigelow, Trader Joe’s, etc.), tissue paper, wire-edged and 1/4” satin or grosgrain ribbon, and medium size silk flowers.

Please put any donations in the box marked Compassionate Care in the Usher’s room. Thank you for helping us provide compassion to our grieving families. If you would like more information about our ministry, please contact Rita Pawlowicz at (708) 839-0848 or e-mail at CCM@stcletusparish.com.

**ST. CLETUS EARNS WITH GOODSEARCH**

Since joining the program where web searches earn the parish technology program money, we were able to purchase replacement mice in the school library. Find easy links to *GoodSearch* on the parish & school home pages and continue to help us raise funds for our technology program without spending a dime!

**MASSES**

Saturday Evening: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am,  
11:00am, 6:00pm (Spanish)

Weekdays: Monday thru Saturday: 8:00am

Evening before Holy Day: 7:00pm

Holy Day: 6:30am, 8:00am

**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 (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 (215-5407).

**CONFESSIONS**

Confessions every Saturday of the month 4:15-4:45pm.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION**

1st Monday of the Month immediately following the 8:00am Mass with Benediction at 6:45pm.

*Adoración Nocturna* continues until 8:00pm with song and prayer.

**Rectory Office Hours**

Monday thru Friday:	9:00am-5:00pm
Saturday:	9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday:	8:00am-1:00pm

**Bulletin Articles**

The deadline for Canticle article submission is 5:00pm Friday, **one full week** prior to Sunday's publication. Articles may be submitted electronically to [canticle@stcletusparish.com](mailto:canticle@stcletusparish.com).

**PARISH STAFF**

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*Pastor*

**Rev. Patrick O'Neill**  
*Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Charles Watkins**  
*Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Charles Gallagher**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

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**Kathy Lifka**

*Assistant Principal*

**Denise Parlier**

*Administrative Assistant*

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS