

St. Cletus Canticle

December 16, 2007

Third Sunday of Advent



ADVENT

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600 West 55th Street • La Grange, Illinois 60525 • 708-352-6209 • 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 17 - December 23

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Joseph Megla, Monika & Anton Mataitis, Edward Vonesh
Tuesday	8:00am	Maureen Fahy
Wednesday	8:00am	Johnston Family, Timothy Benrus
Thursday	8:00am	Brother Robert Fisher
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Roger Vandriessche, Erik Geyer
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	Abe Katzmarek, Tom Zima James & Catherine Ellis, Robert Suchy, Monica Ann Kensek, Jozef Slowik, Deborah Schaefer, Irene Louvar, Michael Sanderson, Belfonte Sanderson
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	Marco & Emelia Rattin, Howard Madsen, Jeanne Witkowski, Florence Rossi, Ken Johnson, Frank Baggio, Special Intention Arlene Defino Kenneth Wolf, Frank Baggio, John Burns Charles Hook, Jack Lewis, Felicia Pontecorvo, Sam & Joanne Mate, Michael Arpaia Ethel McNeil, John Pavlik, Carolyn & Carrie Kopman, Ray Tobolski, Timothy Benrus, Kadlec Family, Albert & Antoinette Chrabaszcz, Sophie Egieski

Altar Servers - December 22/23

- 5:00pm - T. Lenz, J. Rodriguez, D. Pett
- 7:00am - B. Lively, R. Temple, A. Boland
- 8:00am - B. Kelly, A. McQuillan, Z. Quick
- 9:30am - K. Callahan, P. Kelly, M. Figura
- 11:00am - D. Bendyk, C. Mosquera, N. Magats

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 22, 2007

5:00 pm	
SM Kalata, M	LR Pfeiffer, I
B2 Andrews, D	C1 Richards, M
B3 Beales, D	C2 Sheridan, E
B4 Ghera, A	C3 Beales, N
B5 Chlapecka, R	C4 Kalata, M
B6 Chera, A	C5 Boyer, K
	C6 Delaloye, J

9:30 am

SM Samuelson, D	LR Demonte, L
B2 Mulderink, K	C1 Schump, C
B3 Heyes, S	C2 Williams, A
B4 Kunkel, J	C3 Heyes, M
B5 Nilles, C	C4 Samuelson, D
B6 Burke, K	C5 Rotunno, P
	C6 DalPorto, K

11:00 am

SM Bolton, P	LR Bolton, W
B2 Pavlik, L	C1 Nash, S
B3 Fisher, H	C2 Severino, S
B4 Brannigan, R	C3 Ficaro, J
B5 Pavlik, L	C4 Bolton, P
B6 Mangahas, A	C5 Augustyn, R
	C6 Neuwissen, J

Sunday, December 23, 2007

7:00 am	
SM Wouk, D	LR McDonnell, M
B2 Wouk, D	
B3 Fahy, A	
B4 Hagen, C	
B5 Hagen, J	
B6 Hinton, G	



8:00 am	
SM Welch, J	LR Hagen, K
B2 Karch, T	C1 Hogue, K
B3 Biesadecki, C	C2 Karch, J
B4 Kwak, T	C3 Biesadecki, B
B5 Curotto, L	C4 Welch, J
B6 Hagen, J	C5 Ford, M B
	C6 Hagen, C



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Please pray for those who have died and their families:

† *Lucille McGhee*

Wife of Robert

† *Lillian Michelin*

Mother of William



**PARISH FORGIVENESS SERVICE
MONDAY
DECEMBER 17th
7:00PM**



Wedding Banns

Kathleen Cirese and Tim Kress

Notes from Father Bob...

Third Sunday of Advent

“Great Expectations”

This was the message of John the Baptist to his own contemporaries. The Baptist was regarded equally as a messenger from God and as a madman, a holy man and a troublemaker. The people asked John “What shall we do to make ourselves ready to meet the Lord when he comes?” John gave them simple gospel answers. Share with those who have nothing. Do not exploit others for money or power or position. He reminded the rich and the military that true wealth, true influence, and true power are spiritual things, not matters of money and guns.

Twenty centuries later, in our own time, someone like Bishop Oscar Romero gave the same message to his people. “The Church says to the rich: Do not sin by misusing your money. It says to the powerful: Do not misuse your political influence. Do not misuse your weaponry. Do not misuse your power.”

The abuse of power has brought great suffering to millions of people. In every human life we are tempted to misuse our power over others. The Baptist tells us today, “The one who is coming is more powerful than I am.” He is the one we must face. And so a feeling of expectation grew among the people.

We continue our journey through Advent with this same sense of expectation and wonder. Let us continue to reflect on how well we have done as instruments of assisting Christ as He continues to “Light Our World with Peace?”

Advent Forgiveness Service

Please remember that our Parish Advent Forgiveness Service is December 17, Monday evening, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. This is a perfect opportunity to prepare ourselves more fully for the coming of the Lord on Christmas. Let us use this moment to reflect on our faults and to ask for God’s forgiveness for the times we have failed to be the faithful followers of Christ that we are called to be. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful gift given to us that allows us to recognize our need for God’s mercy in our lives and to experience God’s forgiving love more fully.

Christmas Giving Tree

Once again the generosity of all our parishioners was overwhelming this past weekend in your response to our annual giving tree requests. Truly our call to reach out to all those in need through our gifts was answered with a resounding YES LORD!!! You not only made it possible for many people to have a joyous Christmas this year you truly helped “Light Our World with Peace.” I, as your pastor, could not be more thankful to or proud of the wonderfully generous parishioners. May Emmanuel (God with Us) truly bless each of you.

Women’s Club Christmas Tea

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of our newly formed Women’s Club for the wonderfully successful Christmas Tea that took place last week at the LaGrange Country Club. There were more than 145 women in attendance and it was a great afternoon. Kudos to you all! What a fantastic sight it was to see everyone having such a good time together. Congratulations on a job well done!!!!

*Continued Advent Blessings,
Father Bob*



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2007—

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; GAUDETE SUNDAY

Jesus is coming to a location near you

Today is called Gaudete Sunday, when the violet of our pre-Christmas vigil yields to the rose-colored dawn. The light is breaking, yet it is sometimes difficult to rejoice just because we're told to be happy! Yet there is plenty to be happy about. The blind see, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead rise, and the poor have us to announce good news. Our own world and church can be so preoccupied with the pain and evil around us (which must be redressed and healed), but these must not blot out the ordinary and extraordinary good, the dawn, that God is doing through willing instruments. Rejoice indeed.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

This family tree bears interesting fruit

For a Jew in ancient times it was not extraordinary to be able to recite one's lineage back through a dozen generations. The lineage of a Hebrew man was essential to understanding him. So for Matthew to begin his discussion of Jesus with a detailed genealogy would have been nothing startling. Consider, however, that Matthew, in a highly unorthodox practice, includes five women in Christ's genealogy. Not only were they women, but a few of disreputable standing, such as Tamar, a Canaanite who seduced her father-in-law, and Rahab, a prostitute. Why unnecessarily point out these figures in the descent of our Lord? Matthew makes clear that Jesus breaks the boundary of traditional heritage. He comes from sinners—men and women, Jews and Gentiles—to break the lineage of our first fall.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17*
"An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

Joseph's story

Let Your Life Speak is the title of a book by teacher/activist Parker Palmer. He might have been writing about Mary's husband Joseph. When Joseph learns that Mary is pregnant, he makes up his mind to divorce her quietly so she won't be punished. Before he can act, however, an angel commands him in a dream "not to be afraid to take Mary into his home." He obeys and, in doing so, sets himself up to be the subject of gossip and likely even scorn in his hometown.

From this brief, silent sketch, we understand that Joseph was righteous (but not self-righteous), obedient, compassionate, and humble—to name only a few of his qualities. What wordless action might I offer today that demonstrates who I really am?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25*
"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

Hidden gifts

Any child will tell you part of the magic as Christmas approaches is anticipating the surprise that will come from opening a wrapped gift or digging into a stocking and finding what is hidden inside.

Elizabeth must have felt an enormous wave of surprise when she discovered "what was hidden inside"—that she was pregnant at an advanced age. Surprise was followed by gratitude for the gift that had been given to her. We might pause for a moment today to unwrap the many surprising gifts with which God already has graced our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25*
"This is what the Lord has done for me."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

ADVENT WEEKDAY; EID AL-ADHA

Honor your parents and spiritual ancestors

As Christians (followers of Christ), we share spiritual ancestors with Jews (followers of Judah) and Muslims (submitters to the One God). Our common patriarch is Abraham, whose story of utter surrender to God and parental sacrifice we know well. As we continue to prepare for the birth of the Lamb of God—the ultimate parental sacrifice offered for humanity's salvation—we'd do well to remember along with Jews and Muslims (who today celebrate Eid al-Adha, the "Feast of Sacrifice") all the sacrifices our parents have made for our sakes and the sake of God's reign.

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

"He will be the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

FEAST OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

The longest night

Here's a quote suitable to toast the winter solstice, the waning year's longest night: "Let the world indulge its madness. Let it wear itself out, for it cannot endure and passes like a shadow. But we, buried deep in the wounds of Christ, why should we be dismayed?" This comes to us courtesy of Peter Canisius (1521-1597), Jesuit theologian and defender of the church during the burgeoning Protestant Reformation. Often we cannot ignore the world's madness and must vigorously oppose it, as Peter did. But sometimes our candle lit against the darkness is all the opposition that's required.

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

"The Lord, your God, is in your midst."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

Melt away your troubles

If we focus only on our own well-being and interests, we are likely to end up with a head full of confused and scattered thoughts. There is a remedy, however, to the trap of becoming self-absorbed. This is the time of year to get outside of our own circular thoughts and extend a hand to another. An act of charity or kindness, no matter how minor it may appear to be, is likely to warm our hearts and melt away our troubled thoughts.

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

"He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts."

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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

**CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY
MASS SCHEDULE**



CHRISTMAS EVE:

2:00PM.....
 2:15PM...MORRISSEY HALL
 3:30PM.....
 3:45PM...MORRISSEY HALL
 5:30PM.....
 7:00PM...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
 CHANCEL CHOIR
 CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

Christmas Food Baskets

The Christmas Food Baskets will be distributed to our local recipients this weekend on Sunday. If you took a "Food Basket" tag from the Giving Tree, please bring your basket to Morrissey Hall on Sunday, December 16, between 7:30am and 11:00am. Remember to securely attach your tag to the basket, so we know the size of the family for which it is intended.

Thanks for helping make the holidays brighter for a needy family in our community.

Mary Beth Ford
 Director of Social Concerns

**MINISTERS OF CARE
FOR BRIAR PLACE**



There is still time to donate small items for **Briar Place Nursing Home** residents' Christmas packages. 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 Merry Christmas.

Mary White

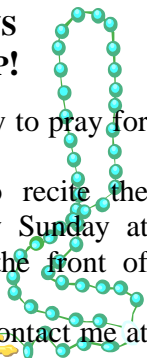
**PLEASE JOIN ST. CLETUS
ROSARY PRAYER GROUP!**

This group meets every Sunday to pray for their and our parishioner's intentions.

Please bring your Rosary to recite the Glorious Mysteries. We meet every Sunday at 12:00 Noon near the tabernacle in the front of church.

If you have questions, please contact me at (708) 482-7768. May God bless you.

Patti Boland



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.

ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS MEETING

CORRECTION: 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.

A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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Be patient until the coming of the Lord

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Did St. Francis of Assisi invent the Christmas crib? Not exactly, but his devotion to the Incarnation and his love for the poverty of the Christ Child certainly popularized this beloved custom. Long before Francis, it was a custom at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to enshrine a rich image of Mary, gilded and bejeweled, embracing the child Jesus. This church was founded as a kind of home for the feast of Christmas in the fourth century. In 1223, Francis was ready to celebrate this feast in a new way. In the tiny city of Greccio, he asked friends to prepare a place where they could experience the poverty and suffering embraced by Christ in his birth. It was a living scene: an ox from the barn, an ass from the stable, and peasants standing in for shepherds and kings. The night of the celebration was beautiful, the weather was warm, and people came in crowds, bearing candles and singing hymns that echoed through the forest. Francis himself chanted the Gospel and preached. The custom spread quickly, and by the sixteenth century cribs were seasonal features not only in church, but in the home.

On December 17, the liturgy begins to unfold the Lord's birth before us, and it's the right time to follow this beautiful tradition. In Germany, each night throughout Advent children prepare a bedding for the manger. At bedtime prayer, a child places a single straw in the manger for each act of devotion or virtue performed during the day. If the children are good, then the Christ child will have plenty of soft bedding when he is placed in the manger on Christmas.

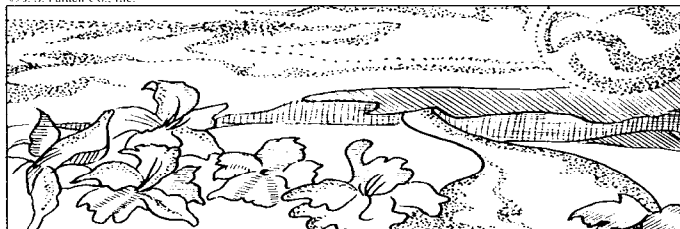
--Rev. James Field, (c) Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt :117
- Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
- Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



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**Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2007**

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.

*ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH
READING SCRIPTURE*

Stewardship

Weekly Giving Summary

Last Weekend\$ 28,315
 A Year Ago..... 28,653

This Fiscal Year (thru 12/09/07).....\$639,227
 Last Fiscal Year (thru 12/10/06).....610,747

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.

**FOR A LIMITED TIME
 PARISHIONERS CAN MAKE
 CHARITABLE GIFTS
 DIRECTLY FROM THEIR IRA**

Through December 31, 2007, parishioners over age 70½ can make tax-free distributions up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to their parish, parish school, archdiocese and other Church ministries.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- These distributions to charity can qualify as your IRA required minimum distribution.
- They are never included in your adjusted gross income and so are not taxable to you.
- Even taxpayers who don't itemize their deductions enjoy a tax benefit from giving.

Don't Miss This Opportunity

Please call Michele O'Brien at the rectory office at (708) 352-6209 for more details, or call the Archdiocese's Office of Planned Giving at (312) 655-7622.

This article is not intended to provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your professional advisors before taking action.

WATCHING AND WAITING

In his love Christ has filled us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes at the end of time he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.



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.



Holy Name Society member, George Popp (left) hands a raffle prize to HNS member Bill Wettstein at the group's annual Usher's Party on December 6, 2007.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent;
 Las Posadas begins
 Friday: St. Peter Canisius
 Saturday: Winter begins

WINTER REMINDER

AS INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER APPROACHES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE CAUTION IN OUR PARKING LOT AND WALKWAYS ON THE PARISH GROUNDS.

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.

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Pastor

Rev. Patrick O'Neill
Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Watkins
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Rev. Charles Gallagher
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