

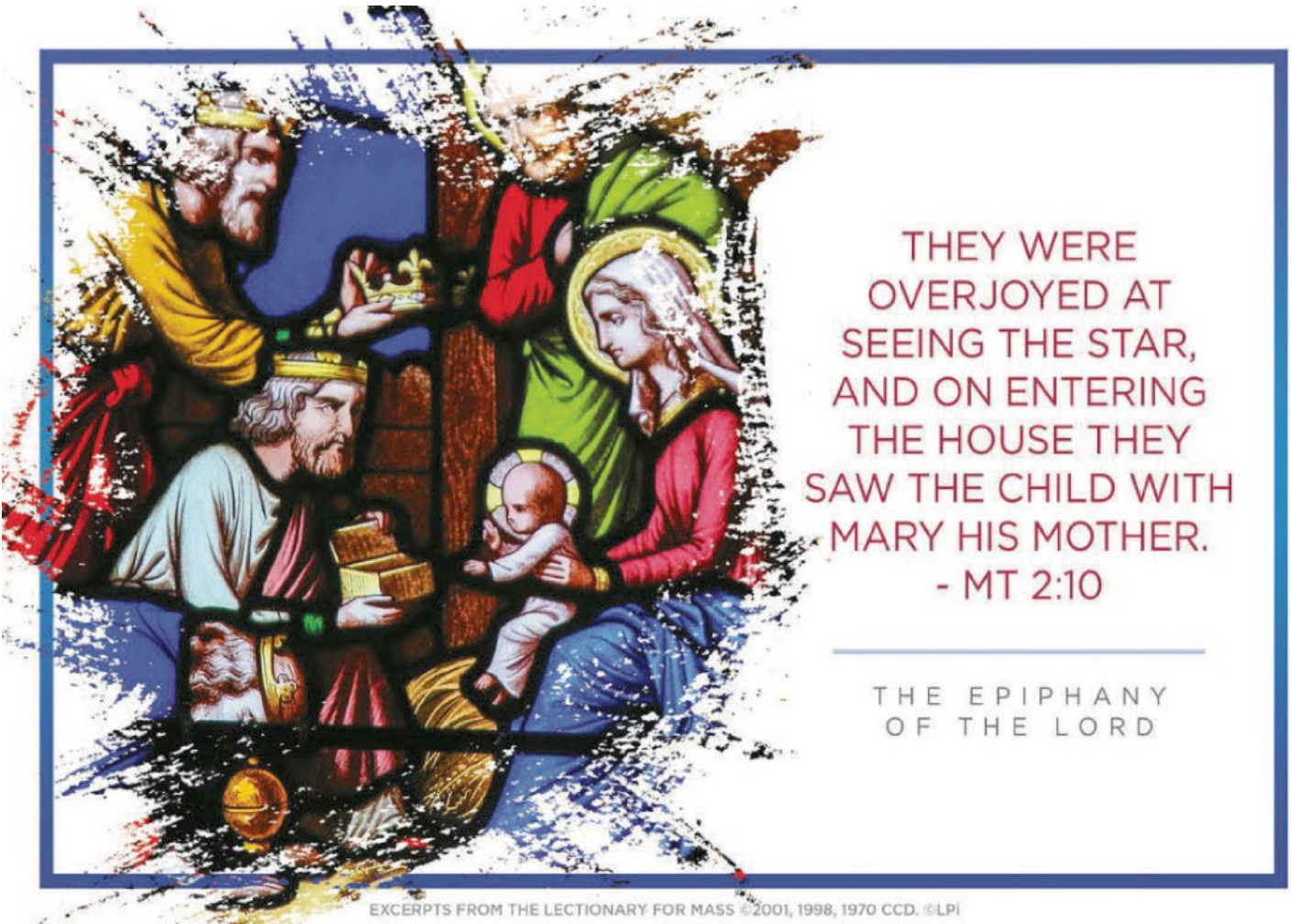
St. Cletus Parish Canticle

DESIGNATED PILGRIMAGE
SITE FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

600 W. 55th St, La Grange, IL 60525



January 5, 2025 | The Epiphany of the Lord



THEY WERE
OVERJOYED AT
SEEING THE STAR,
AND ON ENTERING
THE HOUSE THEY
SAW THE CHILD WITH
MARY HIS MOTHER.
- MT 2:10

THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Vision Statement

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Mt 28:19-20

Parish Office

(708) 352-6209
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



stcletusparish.com



St. Cletus Parish



St. Cletus Church

St. Cletus School

(708) 352-4820
stcletusschool.com
700 W 55th St, La Grange, IL 60525



Directory

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Elmer Romero
Pastor
eromero@stcletusparish.com

Rev. Javier Alexander Garcia
Associate Pastor
jgarcia@stcletusparish.com

Rev. Robert Clark
Pastor Emeritus

Norma Hernandez
Coordinator of Faith Formation
for Children and Teens
nhernandez@stcletusparish.com

Juanita Avila
Hispanic Ministry
javila@stcletusparish.com

Ryan Rump
Music Ministry
rrump@stcletusparish.com

Rev. Michael Novick
Associate Pastor
mnovick@stcletusparish.com

Rev. John Lodge and
Rev. Ron Kalas
Senior Priest for Weekend
Liturgies

Deacon Franco Foti
ffoti@stcletusparish.com

Deacon Ramón Cazales
rcazales@stcletusparish.com

Larry Manetti
O.C.I.A
lmanetti@stcletusparish.com

Kendall Grant
Social Concerns
kgrant@stcletusparish.com

Operations Staff

Jim Dion
Business Manager
jdion@stcletusparish.com

Luis Lopez
IT Manager
llopez@stcletusparish.com

Derek Sawicki
Maintenance Supervisor
dsawicki@stcletusparish.com

Giselle Rico
Office Manager
grico@stcletusparish.com

Olga Montalvo
Assistant Office Manager
omontalvo@stcletusparish.com

School

Greg Porod
Principal
gporod@stcletusparish.com

Mary Lee Krieger
Administrative Assistant
mkrieger@stcletusparish.com

Frank Ochoa
Dual Language Immersion
Coordinator
fochoa@stcletusparish.com

Christy Schaefer
Assistant Principal-Director of
Academics
cschaefer@stcletusparish.com

Kate Townsend
Receptionist/Administrative
Assistant
ktownsend@stcletusparish.com

Sara Hodak
Parish/School Life Coordinator
shodak@stcletusparish.com

Parish Information

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. Mass

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil, 5 p.m. (English)
Streamed live: <https://www.youtube.com/@stcletusparish/streams>
7:15 a.m. (English)
8:45 a.m. (English)
10:30 a.m. (English)
12:30 p.m. (Español)

Confessions

Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Baptisms / Bautizos

Contact the parish office
(708) 352 - 6209

Religious Education For Children Educación Religiosa Para Niños

Contact / Comuníquese con
Norma Hernandez (708) 968 - 6474

O.C.I.A

Contact the parish office.

Weddings

Please contact the parish office 6
months prior to the wedding date.

Quinceañeras y Presentaciones

Comuníquese con Juanita Avila al
(708) 215 - 5441.

Funerals

Contact the parish office.

Parish Canticle

For any request, please email
canticle@stcletusparish.com

Mass Intentions

Saturday January 4	Rev. Andy Matijevic	5 p.m.	† Herb Klein † Ezequiel Mendez	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Pat DeBello
Sunday January 5	Rev. Michael Novick	7:15 a.m.	† Eugene Gurga † Benedict Dybas	† Mary Campbell † Irwin Campbell
	Rev. Anthony Muraya	8:45 a.m.	† Nancy Konieczny † Eugene Sorrentino † Monsignor Philip Reilly	Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † Bernadine Sekula, Rosemary Daleo, Rose Haddad
	Rev. Anthony Muraya	10:30 a.m.	† Patrick Cullen † Kenneth "Ken" Raymond Hickey	† Zianna Pompe † Pete Medina † Donald Kotrba
	Rev. Emmanuel Torres Fuentes	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	
Monday January 6	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† Richard W. Zaremba	† St. Cletus Purgatorial Society
Tuesday January 7	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	† Renee Saban	
Wednesday January 8	Rev. Jim Antiporek	8 a.m.	† Anthony Perkovich	† BC & Rip Collins
Thursday January 9	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† J.J. Farrell	
Friday January 10	Rev. Henry Kricek	8 a.m.	† Louie Marasovic	
Saturday January 11	Rev. Elmer Romero	5 p.m.	† Winnie Weisgerber † Robert Suchy	Janet Boyer (Special Intention)
Sunday January 12	Rev. Michael Novick	7:15 a.m.	† Natalie Krawczyk	
	Rev. Elmer Romero	8:45 a.m.	† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Konieczny † Monsignor Philip Reilly † Jess Birks	Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † Jean Burke
	Rev. John Lodge	10:30 a.m.	† Anthony Perkovich † C. Rodger Brown † Amalie Moravee	† Zianna Pompe † Kathleen Davies
	Rev. Elmer Romero	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Joanne Kasang | Jorea Touranzau | Debbie Coté | Vincent Austrevich | Bonnie Kakareka | Mary Ann Vokurka | Cynthia Gosse

Please remember our dead in your prayers:

† Barbara Varak
 † Andrew Wuchek, Mother of Wendy Becker
 † Scott G. Kahoun, Husband of Bernice Kahoun
 † Hugh Edward McCabe, Father of Ann M. Stiltner
 † Frank Burens, Husband of Rebecca Burens

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

Dear Friends,

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Jesus Christ. Epiphany literally means the “manifestation” or “appearance” or “showing” of Jesus Christ not just to Mary and Joseph and not just to Israel but to the whole world. He desires to be known, experienced, and accepted by all of us. He wants to be part of our lives. He offers us his presence, friendship, and love. He makes himself available to us every day. As we enjoy the New Year 2025, shall we consider being more intentional in letting him be part of our lives and the lives of our loved ones?

Two weekends ago, we shared with you our *Seasons of Blessings* through our parish bulletin. We (Parish Staff) wanted to share with you the manifestations of the Lord in our parish last year, 2024. As you saw in the bulletin, last year was a year filled with the rich and generous manifestation of the Son of God. We truly felt his presence, guidance, and blessing in every step and action we took together as a parish/school family. Guests and visitors felt and noticed the closeness and presence of the Lord as they spent time with us. Join me in praying and asking the Lord to bless our initiatives and desires to grow as a parish family where everyone feels welcomed, appreciated, and loved.

Since our parish is an Archdiocesan Official Designate Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee Year, and

inspired by the counsel of the Parish Pastoral Counsel, I would like to ask you to consider spreading kindness not only at the parish but everywhere you find yourself during the winter. Can you imagine the impact and positive influence of our joined efforts and actions? Our heart, minds, and souls will be healed and refreshed by the kindness of Jesus Christ. Let us try it.

Christmas Eve/Day Masses at our parish are always special. All Masses were well attended and celebrated. Everyone brought faith and joy to each celebration of the Mass. All ministers did an outstanding job. Their dedication, faith, and love for the Lord and St. Cletus Parish was admired and appreciated by all. We even had a special team of volunteers who kept the Parish Center and the Church clean and ready for each Mass. I was humbled by their witnesses, commitment, and generosity. Our Associate Pastors were also attentive and offered support where it was needed. In each of their actions, I saw the manifestation of the Lord.

It is my prayer and hope that in 2025 we keep our focus more on the manifestation of Christ in our lives, parish, city, country, and the world.

May the manifestation of Jesus Christ be the foundation of our actions.

Fr. Elmer Romero



A Note from the Associate Pastor's Desk

God reveals himself to the nations

Three wise men were traveling together in the sandhill dunes of the desert. As they stopped to rest for a short time, they noticed something in the far, night sky. A new star appeared. In their traditions, that could only mean one thing – a new king. These wise men were not from Israel, but they noticed that was where the star was leading them to go. They had to follow. Imagine the excitement of meeting and being in the presence of a new king. What a privilege! They just had to show their welcome and respect.

When they noticed that the star was at its brightest and it came to rest over Bethlehem, they were even more excited. They had to go to the star, for that is where the new king would be. When they arrived and dismounted their camels, they took with them their special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The place was not what they expected to find. It was not a palace, but quite the opposite. It was a stable. But they didn't question if it was the place, for the star was directly above them. They walked in and saw a baby with his parents. They dropped to their knees in humble adoration and gave their gifts. His parents didn't understand fully since they were foreigners.

The kindness shown by the wise men to an unlikely king shows us that things are not always what they appear to be. There tends to be a larger picture that we need to be open to seeing and react to people or situations with the same kindness, not the ugliness many show in the world we live in. Any one person we meet could be the key to unlocking a new understanding of kindness, but the source of kindness always ought to be in the Holy Spirit. Kindness is one of His fruits. And kindness tends to be "contagious." The more we show kindness, the more others are likely to follow. But if someone asks you about why you are kind to them or how you could possibly be to someone who may not "deserve" it from you, just tell them you learned from Jesus and the Holy Spirit encouraged you in the moment.

The Jubilee Year 2025 for the Catholic Church is focusing on being "Pilgrims of Hope." I have really only been on one pilgrimage in my life officially, but there have been times that I felt called to be somewhere only God would lead me to be. I feel like that is who the wise men were "pilgrims of hope."

What does it mean to be a "pilgrim of hope?"

I am quite certain there will be plenty of articles written over the coming year, some that will be in response to Pope Francis' promulgation of this Jubilee. I am going to be keeping a close eye on just what Pope Francis is saying and how he reflects his thought by his actions. I checked out the document that institutes the Jubilee. His opening is from St. Paul's letter to the Romans and a good place for us to begin "Hope does not disappoint." (Rom. 5:5) Hmmm. Interesting.

I recall leading a prayer service back in 1996 when I was still a student at the seminary. I used this piece of Scripture as my basis for my reflection. Why do we become so despondent when we lose a loved one to death even when we believe in eternal life? It's a pertinent and valid question. It's not a super-simple answer, however. I have often said that hope needs a vision. While I know that sort of defeats the purpose of hope because it relies on faith, we all need something to look forward to – a light at the end of a long and dark tunnel. Sometimes it takes a while to get to that light, but as long as the light keeps getting brighter and we move closer, our hope increases along the way. When Jesus is our light and our way, our pilgrim journey is much easier.

More soon,

Fr. Mike



Parish Life

Date	Time	Events	Location
Monday, January 6	4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball Faith Formation	PC– Gym School
Tuesday, January 7	3:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball	PC– Gym
Wednesday, January 8	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mission Ladies Living Rosary St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball CCW General Meeting FSA Meeting Faith Formation - Teen Seekers	Gallagher Room Church PC– Gym Gallagher Room Room 201 Room 213
Thursday, January 9	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball Food Pantry Distribution Kids’ Choir Rehearsal Chancel Choir Rehearsal	PC– Gym Food Pantry Music Room Music Room
Friday, January 10	3:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball	PC– Gym
Saturday, January 11	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Vicariate V Commission with Training of Ministers in Spanish St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball St. Cletus Church League Basketball	Gallagher Room PC– Gym PC– Gym
Sunday, January 12	9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Faith Formation St. Cletus Boys & Girls Basketball CREDO - <i>The Way</i> , Talk and Movie	School PC– Gym Gallagher Room


Readings of the week

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord




St. Cletus Parish
 DESIGNATED PILGRIMAGE SITE
 FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Sharing Reflection of Kindness



In the infinite universe, our time is limited. How we spend these moments shapes the legacy we leave, and our faith provides us with a roadmap.

Our parish exemplifies kindness through our food pantry, serving those in need.

Kindness should extend to everyone, especially those who experience discrimination. Each interaction with others presents an opportunity for kindness.

Despite the troubling nature of current events, which lie beyond our control, what we can influence is our own community. One person's efforts might seem small, but together, our actions can become contagious, spreading hope and love, overcoming evil through acts of kindness, one at a time.

- John Hodak, Co-chair of the Fall Festival.

There is no better time than Christmas to reflect on firsthand experiences of kindness. At St. Cletus Church, I witnessed kindness from our volunteers donating their personal time including but not limited to altar servers, choir members, eucharistic ministers, greeters, lectors, and ushers. I have even witnessed some of our younger parishioners escorting various senior parishioners to and from their cars before and after Mass.



At a public bus stop, I witnessed someone exit their vehicle in the middle of traffic to donate a meal and cash to a homeless person. At a long-term care facility, I witnessed children delivering homemade Christmas cards to cheer up some of their residents. At a local store, I witnessed someone allow a senior citizen shopper to move ahead of the line and cover the cost of her groceries as well. At home, I witnessed my daughter assisting with the preparation and clean-up of our dinner table, despite not being asked to do so.

What do all of these reflections have in common? Each involved a demonstrated action of assistance, consideration, and unselfishness where nothing was expected in return. Please continue to demonstrate and spread kindness from within your heart.

- Michael Burns, President of the School Board



Kindness is a gift to give freely. It is as simple as offering a smile to a passer by or holding the door for the person behind you. It comes easily for some and spreads when delivered. I have experienced kindness in so many ways. Someone sharing their appreciation with me or trusting me to listen to their thoughts shows me that they have kindness in their heart. Sharing a meal with someone, having good conversation and laughter fills one with joy and thankfulness, allowing kindness to shine in abundance. The unexpected colored picture or fist bump from a student shows me that children are learning the act of kindness in our classrooms.

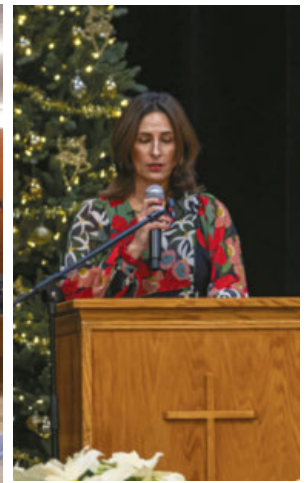
I have Kindness in my heart and try to share it as often as possible. I know the light in my heart is strengthened by my faith in God. He helps me to do my best and be my best for others. I fall from that light sometimes, as we all do. But my faith brings me back and my kindness comes through. Kindness is abundant at St. Cletus School and Parish. It helps to strengthen the soul. Try a smile the next time you see a passerby and see if they don't just smile back. The saying, "Spread Kindness like confetti" is a blessing to remember and deliver.

-Christy Schaefer, Assistant Principal and Director of Academics

Sharing our Blessings: Christmas Concert



Sharing our Blessings: Christmas Mass



School News

January Dining 4 Dollars



Eat to support

St. Cletus School

Monday, January 13th

4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Lou Malnati's,
4700 Gilbert Ave., Western Springs
Western Springs



www.groupraise.com/events/292756



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ©LPi

JOIN US FOR OPEN HOUSE

January 26th

11:30AM-2:30PM

Tour Our Campus:

Visit our Classrooms and see how we create a safe, supportive environment for students to grow

Meet Our Teachers:

Talk with passionate educators who integrate faith and learning in every day

Learn About Our Values:

Experience how we inspire students to live out Catholic values, build character, and excel academically



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Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 5 de enero	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español	Iglesia
Sábado, 11 de enero	9 a.m.	Formación para ministros litúrgicos	Centro Parroquial
El día 12 del mes	7 p.m.	Devoción Guadalupana con rosario	Iglesia
Segundo sábado de cada mes	8 p.m. - 5 a.m.	Misa, confesiones, adoración nocturna	Iglesia
Sábados	8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Confesiones	Iglesia

Gracias

El Ministerio Hispano desea agradecer a todas las personas de la Parroquia de San Cleto por sus oraciones y apoyo en los eventos Guadalupanos. Muchas gracias a todas las familias que fueron anfitrionas cada noche de la Novena Guadalupana y de las Posadas. gracias por compartir toda esa deliciosa comida que disfrutamos cada noche.

VICARIATE V



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

La Comisión Ministerial presenta:

Entrenamiento de liturgia

DÍA Y FECHA DE PRESENTACIÓN:

Formación para ministros litúrgicos

Fecha: sábado 11 de enero de 2025

Parte I - Todos los Ministros Litúrgicos deben asistir.

Hora: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lugar: San Cleto, Gallagher Room

Fecha: sábado 18 de enero de 2025

Parte II - Formación específica para Lectores.

Hora: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lugar: San Cleto, Gallagher Room

Presentador:

Diacono Franco Foti

Fecha: sábado 25 de enero de 2025

Parte II - Formación específica para Ministros

Extraordinarios de Comunión de EM.

Hora: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lugar: San Cleto, Gallagher Room

Para registrarse, escanee el código QR:



Social Concerns



St. Cletus Food Pantry

Thursdays
4-8 p.m.

Wish List:

- Tuna
- Coffee
- Cereal
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Crackers, cookies, snacks

Follow us on

Facebook:

StCletusFoodPantry

Instagram:

@St.CletusFoodPantry

If you have questions or would like to volunteer Kendall Grant (708)215-5418 kgrant@stcletusparish.com

Food Pantry Updates

We served 26% more families at the food pantry this year than last year. **Our biggest year at the pantry EVER!** Thank you!!! We could not do this important work without you.

We are humbled by your generosity and support. We are grateful that we are able to keep up with the continued demand and even expand our programming this year to include home delivery. We also **increased our direct financial assistance this year by 105%**! Financial assistance funds go directly towards rent, utilities, and other essential bills. This year **we exceeded \$64,000 in direct financial assistance.** Wow!

However, this isn't the type of work where we celebrate exponential growth year after year. We know that **"the biggest year ever"** means that **more people are struggling.** More people are going without. More are experiencing financial distress, and making difficult choices between paying for medicine, housing, groceries and utilities.

Your dedication to your neighbors and your belief in this important work helps make this all possible. We celebrate the generosity of this community. We pray for, and continue to work towards, ending food insecurity in our country so that no one must make these difficult choices. Thank you!

We have had many food drives over the holiday! Thank you to:

- Kwak's Spread Joy
- Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Foundation
- Monroe School



Ladies of all ages, start the New Year with a bang and join the fun at the CCW meeting!
Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 7 PM in the Gallagher Room/Parish Center

There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation by Leslie Goddard who will become Lucille Ball! She will pay tribute to the comic legend and the real woman behind the myth. Don't miss it!
Questions? Call Pat at 630-330-1884 or email: ccw@stcletusparish.com

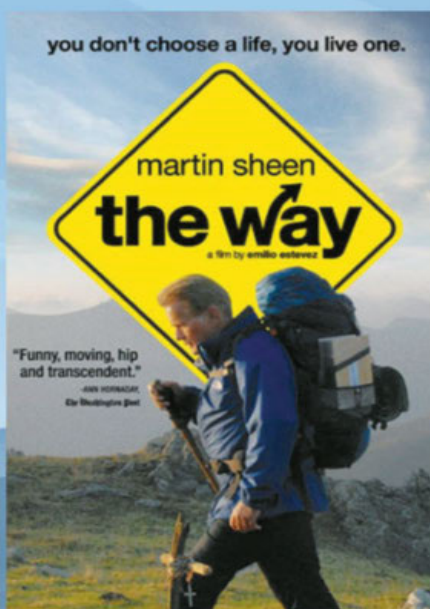
AARP Tax-Aide Needs Volunteers for the 2025 Tax Filing Season

Looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a difference in your community?

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is now seeking volunteers for the upcoming 2025 tax filing season. It's not necessary for you to be an AARP member or to have a tax or an accounting background to volunteer. However, some knowledge of your own personal tax matters is very helpful. All returns are prepared on computers; thus, volunteers should be somewhat computer literate. Training classes will be held in January, 2025. Minimum time commitment during the filing season is 4 to 5 hours one day per week from early February to mid-April.

This income tax preparation and assistance service is offered to low and middle income individuals with special attention to those 60 years and older. Won't you help?

For further information about the program and to sign up as a volunteer, please visit: <https://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer> or contact parishioner John Wagner at 708-352-0170.



“The Way” Talk and Optional Movie

January 12, 2025
2:00 PM in Gallagher Room



First, we will hear a talk by two parishioners who recently walked the Way of St. James.

Then you may stay if you wish to watch the movie The Way.



We hope you can join us!

The Camino de Santiago or the Way of St. James is a spiritual (and physical) journey that pilgrims of all faiths and backgrounds have traversed for over a thousand years.



Support St. Cletus Parish with Pushpay

As we continue to fulfill our mission, we invite you to remember that you can easily make a financial gift, Sunday Offering, or fulfill a pledge by using Pushpay.

Your Support Matters

Your contributions support our ongoing capital projects, spiritual, social, and educational initiatives. Every gift helps us spread the message of discipleship and serve our parish community.

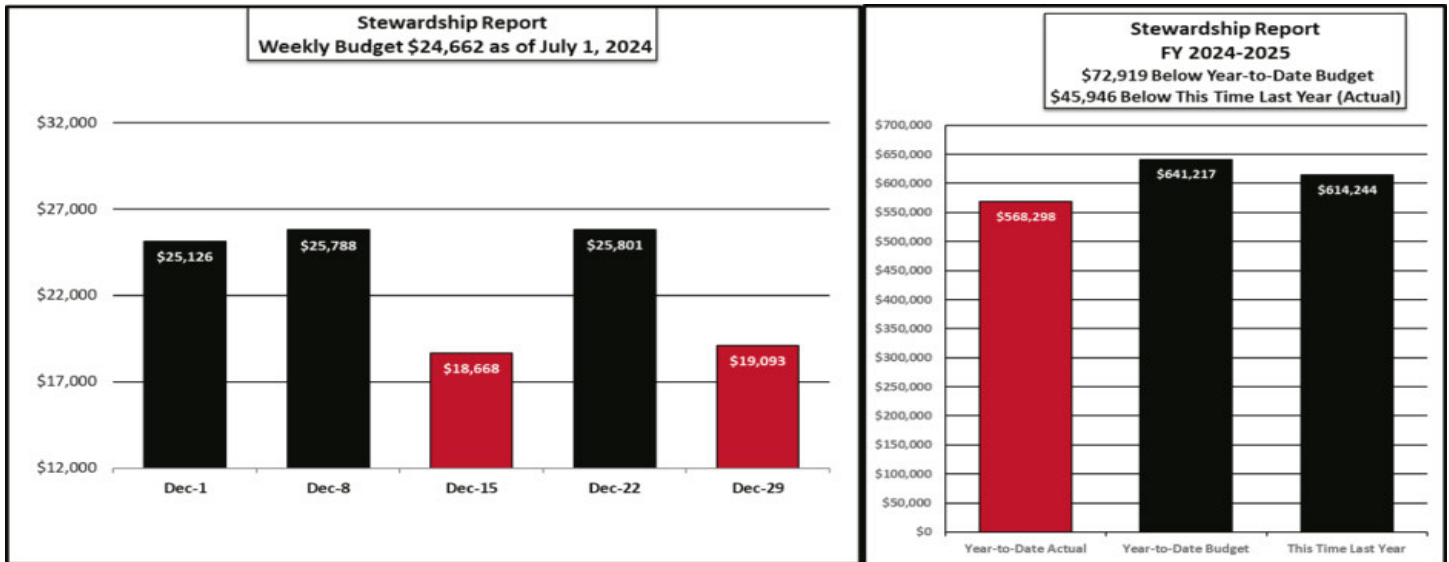
Give Today

Registering is quick and easy:

1. Scan the QR code with your phone's Camera.
2. Follow the link to complete your registration.
3. Make your first gift today!



Thank you for your continued support of St. Cletus Parish.



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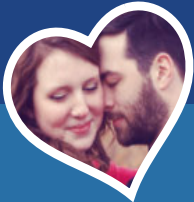
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