

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

He saved us through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
— TITUS 3:5



A VOICE CAME
FROM HEAVEN,
“YOU ARE MY
beloved SON;
WITH YOU I AM
well pleased.”

LUKE 3:22

THE
BAPTISM
of the LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022

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Mass Intentions for January 10 - 16, 2021

Day	Time	Presider (subject to change)	Intentions
January 10	8:00am	Fr. Baker	St. Cletus Parishioners
January 11	8:00am	Fr. Romero	St. Cletus Parishioners
January 12	8:00am	Fr. Costello	St. Cletus Parishioners
January 13	8:00am	Fr. Baker	Veronica Ann Ulrich, Mary Cranny
January 14	8:00am	Fr. Costello	St. Cletus Parishioners
January 15	5:00pm	Fr. Baker	Ed Stec, Rosemary Kegl, Joshua Cech, Mary Marasovic
January 16	7:15am 8:45am 10:30am 12:30pm	Fr. Romero Fr. Costello Fr. Romero Fr. Hays	Kathy Boucher, Richard Gomez Delphine Marciszewski, Frank Wojcik Anthony Perkovich, Robert Seliga, Giulio and Angioletta Innocenti St. Cletus Parishioners

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

We always welcome names for the sick. Please note that requests must only be made by the individual or an immediate family member. Names will remain in this prayer list for 3 months.

January - Debbi Pach, Steve Romanowski

December - Gerda E. Dorso, Steve Hubona, Edward Kwak, Nora McKeehan

November - Joseph Busta, John Duda, Sandra Eckrich, Howard Eggert, Marlene Heyes, Joan Klemak, Marian Mozden, Patricia Rodey, Jean Tomazin

Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound unable to attend Mass.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY TO THIS FACILITY



Masks are required indoors for all clergy, staff, volunteers and parishioners inside archdiocesan facilities in Suburban Cook County and in the City of Chicago, including Masses, liturgies and all activities/events within our parishes.

RECEPTION FOR FR. KEN BAKER



Please plan to join us after the Saturday 5:00pm Vigil Mass on January 15 for a reception for Fr. Ken Baker.

Registration is required and can be found on our website, www.stcletusparish.com.

Fr. Ken will also be available on Sunday, January 16th, in the Parish Center, to say goodbye following each of the Sunday masses.

Please note: We are closely monitoring the current COVID-19 climate. We will post updates on the website and send a parish email if there are any changes to the current plans to gather.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ST. CLETUS PARISH EMAILS

If you have not signed up to receive Parish emails please register on our website, stcletusparish.com, using the box in the bottom right of the page titled "Subscribe To eNews". Enter your email address and click the "Email Me!" button.

Subscribe To eNews

Email Me!

Pastor's Note

Dear Friends,

Back in December 5th, 2021, at our Advent Gathering, Dr. Paul Hilliard reminded us that saints use kindness in their endeavors. As I prayerfully look back at our recent Christmas celebration at our parish, a word that keeps popping up in my head again and again is kindness.

Our parish offered nine Masses for Christmas: six Masses on December 24 and three Masses on December 25th, 2021. For Fr. Costello and I this was our first Christmas with you. Both of us had never before been in a parish with as many Masses offered for Christmas. We both prepared for it diligently. We both relied on and benefited greatly from Fr. Baker's experience and suggestions. There was kindness received and shared among us.

Our Church looked so beautiful for Christmas. The Christmas decoration in the Parish Center and in the sanctuary of our church was marvelous and stunning. I was so happy to see so many children accompanied by their parents or godparents gazing and spending some time with baby Jesus, his parents, and companions. Fr. Ken Baker and Paulette Bolton, members and leaders of the art and environment committee, did an outstanding job. They were assisted by Derek Sawicki, Brian Jungles, Roger Ketza, and Ricardo Murillo. Each of them shared their kindness with us by giving us such a warm, welcoming, and beautiful environment to celebrate Christmas. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to each of them.

We are blessed to have an amazing Music Ministry at our parish led by our talented and passionate Karen Ziemba. It is known to us that each one of them share their time, passion for liturgical music, and above all, love for those who consider St. Cletus Parish as their spiritual home. For Christmas they gladly served and sang in more than one Mass. In a special way, I would like to acknowledge and thank each one of them for their generosity and for radiating kindness towards us as they led us in worship. It is my understanding that they rehearse every Thursday at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in joining the choir, I am sure they would be delighted to have you. For more info, please contact Karen Ziemba, Director of Music Ministries.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, it would be helpful to recall our own baptism. There was joy, excitement, and for sure prayers being offered and received. Our family came together to celebrate our baptism. Kindness was something felt and experienced.

My prayer for this new year, 2022, is that each one of us use kindness in our daily or weekly encounters and ministries.

Fr. Elmer Romero
Pastor



Celebrating Fr. Ken Baker



Fr. Ken’s ten years of ministry at St. Cletus will be wrapping up shortly and Fr. Elmer along with the parish staff are planning an appropriate farewell the weekend of January 15 and 16. Many of us are already bidding Fr. Ken our best wishes in person after Masses and perhaps in a written note as well. It is always a challenge to offer one particular time to have a gathering, so we have planned a reception with a short program, after the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, January 15, which will be Fr. Ken’s last Mass in our parish.

Given our space limitations in the gym and the continued public health concerns at this time, we have set up a Sign-Up Genius on the parish website, www.stcletusparish.com, for parishioners to use in reserving a spot at the reception after the Saturday Vigil Mass on January 15. The limited gym space will require a reservation for entry and will help us gauge all that is necessary for the evening. Thank you for understanding this limitation.

Fr. Ken will also be available after all the Masses on Sunday, January 16 in the parish center where we will have coffee available for all who can come by that day.

We will need some able-bodied volunteers to help with the set-up and clean-up, as well as helping with checking guests in, and with refreshment stations for the Saturday evening reception. Please use this Sign-Up Genius on our parish website to volunteer for this event. Thank you for your help!

Thank you for helping us create a joyous time of farewell for our beloved priest, Fr. Ken Baker.

The New Sound of St. Cletus

Dear Friends,

Back in August, we formed a committee called: “The New Sound of St. Cletus.”

The following people were part of the committee.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bob Floss | Dick Maday | Tom Reisel | Mary Delaney |
| Barb Weyrick | Bill Murdoch | Karen Ziembra | Chris Wagner |
| Fr. Dan Costello | Jon Parlier | Fr. Ken Baker | |

They did an excellent job in working and reviewing proposals we received from three different vendors. Then, they emailed me their recommendation.

Below on the far right is a photo of the Parish Finance Council. They helped me to make the final decision to move on with the project. (Not pictured: Bob Persa and Mike Burns)

Fr. Elmer Romero
Pastor



St. Cletus School

Greg Porod, Principal
 (708) 352-4820 | gporod@stcletusparish.com

Christy Schaefer, Asst. Principal
 (708) 352-4820 | cschaefer@stcletusparish.com

MUSIC FILLS THE HALLS

In December we had some wonderful mornings filled with song. Thanks to our 7th and 8th grade band members who played music as the students entered the building, and our choir who sang for us during the morning announcements!



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

INVEST IN KIDS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Get Ready to Donate on Dec. 1! Illinois Letter ID Drive

You can support Catholic education by donating to the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program! If you are a new donor, who would love to take advantage of a tax credit but don't know where to start, we can help you get started and take advantage of the 2-for-1 Matching Gift Program.

By following the step-by-step instructions below, you can initiate your donation by first applying for your Illinois Letter ID. Obtaining a Letter ID is the first step. Once your request is received by the state, it takes about a week to receive your Letter ID via the USPS.

Be ready on Dec. 1 to take advantage of the 2-for-1 matching opportunity! Your support will help provide access to a high quality, faith-based education for thousands of Illinois students.

Step-by-step instructions on how to obtain your Letter ID can be found by going to schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship and selecting "Begin the Process."

"YOUR GENEROSITY HAS PUT MY ENTIRE FAMILY AND I AT EASE KNOWING THAT MY SON IS GETTING THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE."

—Parent, St. John Berchmans School

Ready to get your Letter ID?
 Visit mytax.illinois.gov today to start!

If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Hotline at 312.534.2617 or tcs@archchicago.org. You can also visit archchicago.org/tcs for more information.

Request your Letter ID in 3 easy steps

If you are a first-time donor, here is what you need to know about the first step of the donation process. If you have not activated an account with the Illinois Department of Revenue, you need to request a **Letter ID**.

Step 1
 Log on to mytax.illinois.gov to REQUEST LETTER ID

- If you already have an account, enter your username and password to verify.
- If you do **not** have an account, scroll down to the "Individuals" box on the left.

Step 2
 Click on "Request a Letter ID."

Step 3
 Enter your Social Security Number and one of the following:

- IL-PIN
- Most recent adjusted gross income
- IL driver's license number
- IL state identification number

Click "Submit" and enter; confirm your email address; then click "OK" to submit and receive your confirmation.

You will receive your Letter ID in the mail at the address on your last year's tax return within 7-10 business days. Call 312.534.2617 or email investinkids@archchicago.org with questions.

Once you've received your Letter ID, wait until Dec. 1 to make your donation when the 2-for-1 Matching Program begins. Please view bit.ly/DonationSteps2021 to find detailed instructions on how to continue with your donation after Dec. 1. As a reminder, under the Invest in Kids Act, corporate donors are not permitted to select a specific school to support tax credit scholarship donations.

Social Concerns Ministry



**ST. CLETUS
FOOD PANTRY
THURSDAYS 6-8PM
CHURCH PARKING LOT**

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST:

Thank you so much for your generous donations! We are blessed to have many, many holiday food drives going on right now to support the pantry. Please consider holding food donations for a few weeks. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook:
@StCletusFoodPantry
Now on Instagram:
@St.CletusFoodPantry

If you have questions or would like to volunteer with the Social Concerns Ministry contact Kendall Grant (708)215-5418 kgrant@stcletusparish.com

GIVING TREE

We wanted to pass along just a few of the kind thank you messages we are getting. Thank you for all of your generosity that makes this possible.

Thank you and the crew for an outstanding response for our brothers and sisters in need.

My daughter and I are so blessed and grateful to our St. Cletus Family! Thank you for your love and giving. You are in my prayers daily. Merry Christmas to all!

We are one of the families that picked up the gifts from Giving Tree today. I am overwhelmed with joy at the generosity; it literally brought tears to my eyes.

Thank you so much for the gifts for Christmas. It just made our Christmas and we really appreciate all the effort and what you do.

We are GRATEFUL for what you have done!

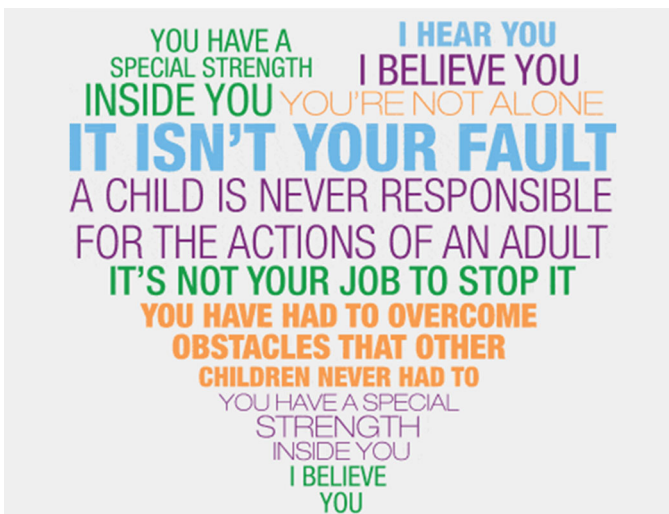
INTERFAITH CAREER NETWORK

Creative Job Searching/Career Changes - Ready to start the New Year? Looking for a career change but can't figure out how to begin or where to start? Are you in a job you never intended to have or no longer want? Be sure to join ICN on Thursday, January 20 from 7-9 pm for some creative ideas and direction.

As you evaluate your 2022 career path, our presenter, Teri Guercio, can help you focus on a solution that works best for you. Teri is an HR technology professional with earlier roles as Director of Career Development and Recruiter. Discover strategies to map your career future!

We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, in Western Springs. This will be a Hybrid meeting both in-person and via Zoom. The link to the Zoom meeting can be found on our website at <http://www.interfaithcareernetwork.org/calendar>. If you attend in person, masks are required. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend. Visit www.interfaithcareernetwork.org for additional resources

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH
— ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO —
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION
www.domesticviolenceoutreach.org



CALL THE
24-HOUR PHONE
FOR HELP:
708.485.5254

In an emergency, dial 911, call the National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline at 800-799-7233 or the local 24 hour hotline for Pillars, found in the box to the right. You are not alone.

Hispanic Ministry

ADORADO SEA EL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO



Por Siempre...

La comunidad hispana de San Cleto, ha estado realizando la Adoración Nocturna todos los segundos sábados de cada mes en el horario de 7:00pm a 10:30pm. A partir del mes de diciembre 2021 comenzamos hacerlo durante toda la noche con el debido permiso de nuestro párroco P. Elmer Romero. El nuevo horario ahora será de 9:00pm a 5:30am. Para este mes de enero, (01/08/22) el padre Kevin Hays nos estará asistiendo celebrando la Santa Misa a las 8:00pm y posteriormente escuchando confesiones. Todos son bienvenidos a rendir Adoración a nuestro Señor. Para cualquier pregunta dirigirla al consejo parroquial 708 5024891.

Ave María Purísima

Sin pecado concebida ...

New Year Resolutions Based Upon Papal Audiences

“Ready or not, the new year is here and with it our annual opportunity to take stock and set goals, with a little help from Pope Francis.”

Fr. Dan mentioned in his homilies over the New Year’s weekend about an article in America Magazine (www.americamagazine.org), the Jesuit bi-weekly, which listed some New Year resolutions written by a couple of their editors. They poured through the notes from Pope Francis’ audiences last year and came up with this list of resolutions based upon public statements from the Holy Father last year. He found this article to be a fun read and hope we all can consider these opportunities for growth in all our lives this blessed year.

(<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/12/29/new-years-resolution-pope-francis-242050>)

1. Volunteer for a local charity or non-profit.
2. Stop judging others.
3. Take Scripture to heart.
4. Take one concrete step to become more environmentally conscious.
5. Pray every day. Even when it is hard.
6. Let go of a grudge or two.
7. Get off Twitter.
8. Call your loved ones regularly (and truly listen to them.)

May the Lord help us each day!



Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash/CNS photo/Paul Haring

Sunday Notes

A VOICE CAME
FROM HEAVEN,
"YOU ARE MY
BELOVED SON;
WITH YOU I AM
WELL PLEASED."

LUKE 3:22

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022



BAPTISMAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also honor our own baptism as our initiation into the Christian life and community. In the Gospel, the baptism of Jesus, with his immersion and then emergence from the water, points to his later submission to God at his death, and his emergence from the grave at his resurrection. This pattern of death and resurrection is our path too, as followers of Jesus. Throughout life, often in small ways, we learn to surrender our limited and self-centered agendas. This surrender often feels like death. The sacrament of Baptism ritually enacts this pattern to remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we too might embrace the deaths and resurrections of our own lives. As Jesus emerged from the water, he encountered his Father and the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, we can know we are God's beloved, empowered by the Spirit.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*.

Psalms — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or *Psalm 104*.

Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38) or *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7*.

Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time
Thursday: St. Hilary
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10;
Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;
Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7;
Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11;
Jn 2:1-11

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What can I do this week to be well pleasing to God?

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TURNING THE TIDE

When everything goes against you, till it seems as though
you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then,
for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

HURTFUL SIN

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but it is
forbidden because it is hurtful.

—Benjamin Franklin

TEMPER AND PRIDE

Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what
keeps us there.

—Anonymous

El Bautismo del Señor

Del cielo
llegó una voz
que decía:
“Tú eres mi hijo,
el predilecto;
en ti me
complaceo”.
LUCAS 3:22

EL
BAUTISMO
del
SEÑOR

9 DE ENERO DE 2022



MUERTE Y RESURRECCIÓN BAUTISMAL

A medida que celebramos el Bautismo del Señor, también honramos nuestro propio bautismo como nuestra iniciación en la vida y comunidad cristiana. En el Evangelio, el bautismo de Jesús, con su inmersión y posterior salida del agua, indica su posterior entrega a Dios en su muerte, y su salida del sepulcro en su resurrección. Como seguidores de Jesús, esta forma de muerte y resurrección también es nuestro camino. A lo largo de la vida, y a menudo de manera limitada, aprendemos a renunciar a nuestros planes egoístas y limitados. Esta renuncia a menudo se siente como la muerte. El Sacramento del Bautismo ritualmente representa este camino para recordarnos la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, para que nosotros también podamos aceptar las muertes y resurrecciones de nuestras propias vidas. Cuando Jesús salió del agua, se encontró con su Padre y el Espíritu Santo. Como Jesús, podemos saber que somos los amados de Dios, fortalecidos por el Espíritu.

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Miren a mi siervo, en quien tengo mis complacencias (Isaías 42:1-4, 6-7) o *Isaías 40:1-5, 9-11*.

Salmo — El Señor bendice a su pueblo con la paz (Salmo 29 [28]) o *Salmo 104 (103)*.

Segunda lectura — Dios ungió con el Espíritu Santo a Jesús de Nazaret (Hch 10:34-38) o *Tito 2:11-14; 3:4-7*.

Evangelio — Después del bautismo de Jesús, el cielo se abrió (Lucas 3:15-16, 21-22).

Salmo responsorial: *Leccionario Hispanoamericano Dominical* © 1970, Comisión Episcopal Española. Usado con permiso. Todos los derechos reservados.

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

Domingo: El Bautismo del Señor
Lunes: Primera Semana del Tiempo Ordinario
Jueves: San Hilario
Sábado: Santa María Virgen

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Sal 116 (115):12-19; Mc 1:14-20
Martes: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mc 1:21-28
Miércoles: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Sal 40 (39):2, 5, 7-10;
Mc 1:29-39
Jueves: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Sal 44 (43):10-11, 14-15, 24-25;
Mc 1:40-45
Viernes: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Sal 89 (88):16-19;
Mc 2:1-12
Sábado: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Sal 21 (20):2-7;
Mc 2:13-17
Domingo: Is 62:1-5; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11;
Jn 2:1-11

ORACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

El Bautismo del Señor

Dios todopoderoso y eterno,
que proclamaste solemnemente a Jesucristo
como tu Hijo muy amado,
cuando, al ser bautizado en el Jordán,
descendió el Espíritu Santo sobre él,
concede a tus hijos de adopción,
renacidos del agua y del Espíritu Santo,
que se conserven siempre dignos de tu complacencia.
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo,
que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo
y es Dios por los siglos de los siglos.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Qué puedo hacer esta semana para ser digno de la complacencia de Dios?

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CAMBIO EN LA MAREA

Cuando todo va en contra tuya, al punto que parece que ya no puedes asirte ni por un minutos más, no te des por vencido entonces, porque en ese lugar y en ese tiempo es cuando la marea cambia.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

PECADO DOLOROSO

Pecar no es doloroso porque es prohibido, sino que es prohibido porque es doloroso.

—Benjamin Franklin

MAL HUMOR Y ORGULLO

El mal humor es lo que más nos mete en problemas. El orgullo es lo que nos mantiene ahí.

—Anónimo

Youth Ministry

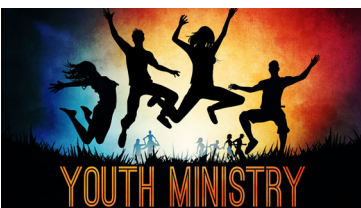
KAIROS



Last weekend teens from St. Cletus, St. Francis Xavier, and St. John of the Cross attended a Kairos retreat at the Carmelite Retreat Center in Darien.

We are so blessed to be able to offer this retreat once again!

ALL TEEN EVENTS



**All Teen Night
Sunday, January 9
6:00-7:30pm
St. John of the
Cross**

Join us for our January 9 ALL TEEN NIGHT following the 5 p.m. Mass at St. John of the Cross Parish, 6-7:30 p.m. in the SJC Parish Center. We will share a meal (Chick Fil-A), share our faith and share our time and talent doing service for others.

We continue to follow Archdiocesan and IDPH COVID-19 Guidelines: Masks are required indoors.

All Teens of the parish are invited to attend!

Please sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4ea5ac2ba3f85->

Barb Campbell
Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
bcampbell@stcletusparish.com | (708) 352-2383
www.stcletusparish.com

Baptism of the Lord



The Advent/Christmas cycle that began on November 28 ends with the Baptism of the Lord. We likely have an image in our minds (based on details from the Gospels and works of art) of what that scene looked like. We might wonder, “Who else was there and who wasn’t?” No disciples were present because Jesus had not yet begun his ministry. They would have to wait until the Transfiguration to hear a similar message. However, the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are accounted for: the Father (the voice from heaven), the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, Luke alone notes that it was *after* Jesus had been baptized and while he was praying that the voice was heard. All of the Gospels show Jesus praying at turning points in his ministry; this is but the first example of Jesus’ need to root himself in prayer throughout his life—a model for us to follow.

ON THE CUSP OF A NEW CREATION

It was on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this past December that we first heard of the two cousins, John and Jesus, meeting. Then it was in the womb of their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary. Now the cousins meet again on the shore of the Jordan River. John is already well known—so much so that people had begun to wonder if he was the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus, on the other hand, is about to begin his ministry. One could say that Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan as a private person and came out of them as a public one. The voice from heaven left no doubt about that. As we come to the end of the Christmas season our readings echo Isaiah and Titus (see Advent and Christmas Day readings) and together with today’s Psalm 104 they point us to Pentecost. We are on the cusp of a new creation.

JOHN THE BAPTIST: PATRON SAINT OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS?

John the Baptist was what we might call today a “social influencer.” People paid attention to what he had to say. And what he said affected the choices people made. Yet today’s Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist’s ultimate goal: “One mightier than I is coming.” The Baptizer walks the fine line between drawing attention to himself with his fiery preaching and then re-directing that attention to Jesus, the “beloved Son.” John the Baptist could be considered the “patron saint” of those who minister as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the eucharist, cantors, greeters, acolytes, and musicians. Isn’t John’s teaching a good goal for a liturgical (or any!) minister? Rooted in the graces of their own baptism, ministers must be skilled and confident enough to draw people’s attention (or, at least, not turn them off!) and then gradually re-focus that attention on Jesus. It is a dynamic and awesome responsibility.

Ministry News

BOOK DISCUSSION



For the next book discussion, we are reading **The Patron Saint of Liars** by Ann Patchett. We will meet on February 8, 2022 at 10 AM in the Fr. Gallagher Room of the Parish Center. Please note, this is a time change from previous discussions.

For those who like to look ahead....

April 12, **What Alice Forgot** by Lianne Moriarty

June 14, **Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles

As always, all are welcome.

Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

MISSION LADIES

Hi Everyone,

Hope you all had a Blessed Merry Christmas and started with a Happy New Year.

Just a note to say Mission Ladies will be starting up on Wednesday Jan. 12th at 9:00 a.m. and a small reminder that we will be starting up on Wednesday Jan. 19th at 9:30 a.m. Please keep these DATES and TIME IN MIND.

For any questions call me - 708-839-9605

Thank You - Dolores Scaletta

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES



St. Cletus and St. John of the Cross Parishes will be hosting a Confirmation prep program for any adult Catholic who has received First Holy Communion, but not the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is open to all parishioners at St. Cletus, St. Francis Xavier, and St. John of the Cross Parishes.

Sessions will be held on Wednesday nights on Zoom, January 5, January 12, January 19, January 26, February 2, February 9, and February 16. We will meet on Zoom from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Registration is required. Please use this link to sign up: <https://stcletusparish.com/learn/adultconfirmation/>

For more information, please contact Barb Campbell at St. Cletus (bcampbell@stcletusparish.com) or Steve Weigand at St. John of the Cross (sweigand@stjohnofthecrossparish.com).

WORD OF LIFE



“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“How to Build a Culture of Life” (respectlife.org/culture-of-life)

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL FATHER’S CLUB



SAVE THE DATE!!!

1st Annual Father’s Club Lenten Fish Fry

Friday, March 11th @ 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the St. Cletus Parish Center

All Parishioners and their families and friends are welcome!

Please contact Jim Ludden at (630) 880-2415 if you are interested in helping out!.

PARISH LAUNCHES MOBILE APP



We are excited to announce the release of a new mobile app for Android and iOS. The app is a new and effective way for the parish to communicate with you and for you to stay

connected. We’ve included prayer resources including Liturgy of the Hours, Daily Mass Readings, the Order of the Mass, Sunday Reading Reflections, the Bible, the Catechism, a digital rosary and on and on. It is also packed with educational resources, parish events, mass schedules, and photo capture tools. Best of all, we can alert you of extra special happenings and cancellations via the app’s push notifications system.

Search for St. Cletus Parish in your app store or find direct links on the home page of our website at <https://stcletusparish.com>.

Questions or feedback? Email us at itservices@stcletusparish.com.

Community News

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Please register/find out about more about programs at The Well Spirituality Center online: www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048. All programs are currently on ZOOM.

REVISITING AND EXTENDING *BRIDGING THE DIVIDES, TENDING THE GAP* CONFERENCE

Five Tuesdays, Jan 11—Feb 8, 12:30—2 PM
Facilitators: Pat Bergen CSJ, Leslie Ritter-Jenkins

Do the divisions in this country cause your heart to ache, your blood pressure to rise, or leave you feeling helpless? Did you attend our *Bridging the Divides, Tending the Gaps* Conference and want to enter more deeply into the content of our presenters? Did you miss the event, but are drawn to experience some part of it? All are welcome to join! \$15/session.

FLOURISHING: JOURNEYING INTO WHOLENESS WITH POETS IN THEIR WISDOM YEARS

One-day Retreat, Saturday, Jan 15, 8AM—2 PM
Facilitator: Mark S. Burrows

This retreat draws on poems that invite us to live into a healthier wholeness and cultivate the deep longings of our hearts. Together we will explore the wisdom found in the later poems of Mary Oliver, Stanley Kunitz, Denise Levertov, William Stafford, and W. S. Merwin, among others. \$60.

FLOURISH WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 13 9-11AM AT ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

All women of St. John of the Cross, St. Francis Xavier and St. Cletus Parishes are invited to join the Flourish Women's Bible Study group as we begin two studies this winter/spring. Our 5-session winter study will be *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* and our 5-session spring study will be *No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion*, both written by Dr. Edward Sri. *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. As the study guides you through the last hours of Christ's life, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

The group will meet twice a month on Thursdays from 9-11am in the SJC Parish Center beginning January 13. Cost per study is \$14.99-\$26.95 plus shipping. Interested in one or both studies? Please email Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net with your study choices and whether you plan to order study materials with the group or on your own. Deadline if ordering with the group is Wednesday, January 5. We hope you will join us!

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the *Bending Towards the Light: Jazz Nativity Concert*. It was wonderful to bring live entertainment back to St. Cletus. We are eager to continue that momentum and excited to announce three additional musical events this season.

First, our annual "Cabaret" evening is well known by many - we are excited to welcome back Tony Kidonakis as we turn this space into a dueling pianos venue. This is our single fundraiser for the season, and we hope that many of you will join us on Friday, February 4th.

Next, on Sunday, March 20th at 4:00 pm, we will present "Sing!" Join us for an afternoon of songs you love to sing along with! From folk to pop, rock to jazz and more - this concert will be led by faces familiar to the Fine Arts Series and will encourage not just enjoying and appreciating the music, but singing along from the audience too!

Finally, on Sunday, April 24th at 4:00 pm you can experience "A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim." Join some of the area's finest vocalists and instrumentalists as we share an afternoon of songs by arguably one of the greatest composers and lyricists in recent history. You are sure to find songs that are familiar - and you may learn some lesser known Sondheim pieces. Both "Sing!" and the tribute concert are free of charge.

BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Please note that all Canticle articles are to be emailed to canticle@stcletusparish.com as text with pictures attached separately. All articles are due 5p.m. Friday a full week (9 days) before Sunday's publication.

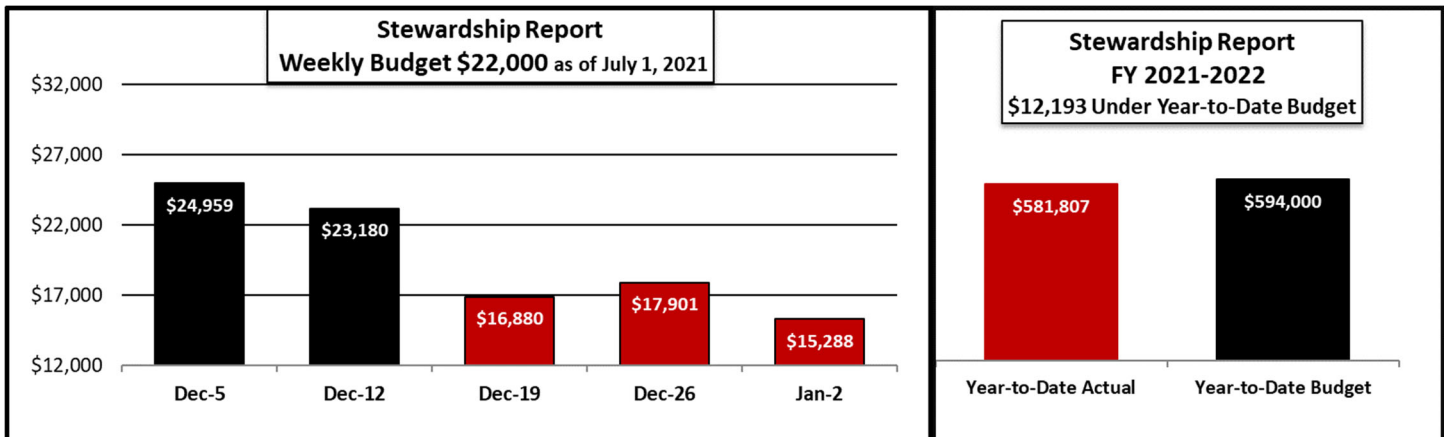
Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, January 9			
Monday, January 10	7:00pm	Parish Center Meeting Room	Baptism Class
Tuesday, January 11	7:00pm 7:00pm	Parish Center Meeting Room Church	RCIA Spanish Holy Hour
Wednesday, January 12	9:00am 7:30pm	Parish Center Meeting Room Parish Center Gym	Mission Ladies Church League Practice
Thursday, January 13	7:30pm	School Music Room	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 14			
Saturday, January 15	8:30am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Church Parish Center Gym Parish Center Gym	Confessions 8:30-9:15am Church League Games Reception for Fr. Ken Baker (RSVP Required)
Sunday, January 16	8:00am	Parish Center	Farewell for Fr. Ken Baker after Masses

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY GIVING REPORT

The total collected for Christmas, as of January 3, 2022, is \$162,275.17. Thank you for your generosity.



YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY


As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2021 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the office @ (708) 352-6209 with your request. You may also email jdion@stcletusparish.com and submit your request electronically. Rather than mail statements to everyone in the parish, it seems more prudent and conservative to only mail them to those who need them for tax returns. Of course, your statement is available anytime a need for it may arise. Thank you.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Envelope # _____

St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

Parish Center.....(708) 352-6209
 School(708) 352-4820
 www.stcletusparish.com.....  stcletuschurch

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Please note that all deliveries and inquiries should be made to the parish center office. Food pantry will remain in the rectory.

Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday and SundayClosed

MASSES

Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
 12:30 p.m. (SPANISH)
 Weekdays..... Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

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

BAPTISMS

Parents must be registered parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at (708) 352-6209.

WEDDINGS

Dates and times are reserved for registered parishioners. Initial arrangements must be completed five months in advance of the wedding date.

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at (708) 352-6209.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care Office (708) 352-6209

STAFF

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Elmer Romero, Pastor
Rev. Kenneth Baker, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dan Costello, Associate Pastor
Rev. Robert Clark, Pastor Emeritus

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Baker/Paulette Bolton, Worship (708) 215-5422
Karen Ziemba, Music Ministry (708) 215-5423
Kendall Grant, Social Concerns (708) 215-5418
Christopher Wagner, Technology (708) 215-5420

HISPANIC MINISTRY (708) 352-6209

SCHOOL STAFF..... (708) 352-4820

Gregory Porod, Principal
Christy Schaefer, Assistant Principal
Mary Lee Krieger, Administrative Assistant
Jeannie Scalzitti, Receptionist/Office Assistant
Kate Townsend, Receptionist/Office Assistant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF (708) 352-2383

Barb Campbell, Director of Religious Education
Griselda Rahman, Coordinator of Religious Education
Paulette Bolton, Director of Adult Faith Formation and Assistant Director of Worship

PARISH OFFICE STAFF (708) 352-6209

Jim Dion, Business Manager
Olga Montalvo, Parish Administrative Assistant
Silvia Castellanos, Parish Secretary
Elizabeth Goellner-McLean, Bulletin Editor

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

PastorFr. Elmer Romero
 Chairperson Bob Wasik

MEMBERS

Bob Malham
 Kevin Hogan
 Mike Napleton

LIAISONS

FSA President Rhonda Aumann
 Athletic Association..... Tina Pryor

PARISH MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement

St. Cletus is a dynamic Catholic community dedicated to spreading the Good news of Jesus Christ through worship, education, and service.

Vision Statement

We welcome all. We encourage all parishioners to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, by sharing their talents and faith with our parish and community.

Experience the Difference

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La Grange | 708.352.4500
Oak Park | 708.848.5900



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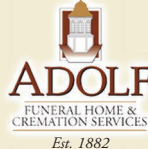
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