

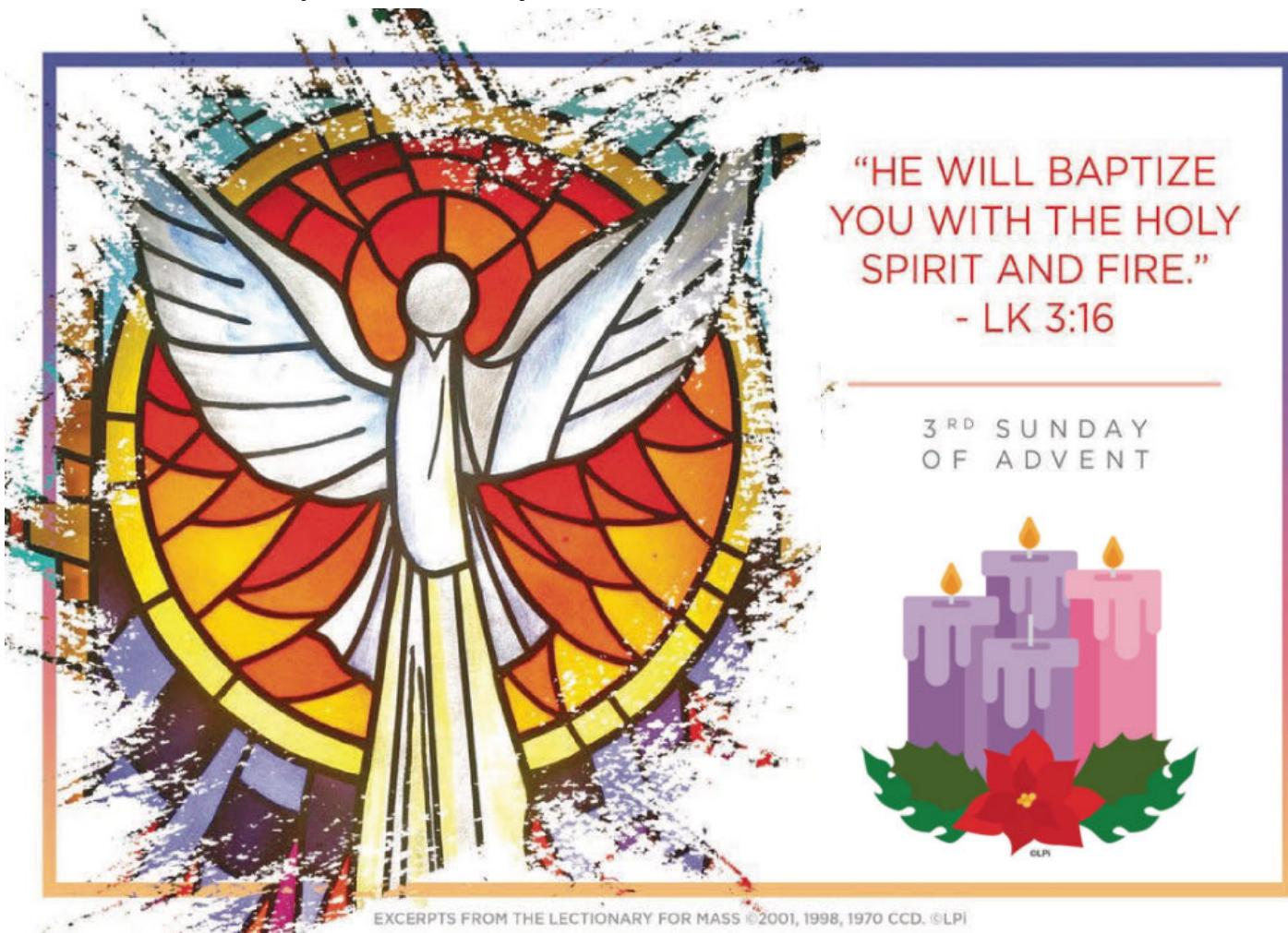
St. Cletus Parish Canticle

Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ
Through Worship, Education and Service

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



December 15, 2024 | Third Sunday of Advent



Mission and 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
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eromero@stcletusparish.com

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Associate Pastor
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Pastor Emeritus

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Rev. John Lodge and
Rev. Ron Kalas
Senior Priest for Weekend
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Sara Hodak
Parish/School Life Coordinator
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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 December 14	Rev. Michael Novick	5 p.m.	† James Chiostri † Delphine Marciszewski † Ellen Benrus	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Camille & Cherin Rykaczewski
Sunday December 15	Rev. Elmer Romero	7:15 a.m.	† Sophie Bautista † Jean Comer † Robert & Helen Callaghan	† Julia Kopacz Michael Zimmerman Family (Special Intention)
	Rev. Michael Novick	8:45 a.m.	† Tim & Lor Glennon † Patrick Glennon † Robert & Stella Konieczny † Frances Konieczny	Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † Joseph & Adeline Kulikowski
	Rev. John Lodge	10:30 a.m.	† Valerie Moskus † John Joyce † Josephine Sorrentino	† Eileen Marchetti † Dr. Henry Terone
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	
Monday December 16	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Nanci Makris † Mary Ann Faitz	† Paul Ricciardone Pookie Kleinke (Birthday)
Tuesday December 17	Rev. Elmer Romero	8 a.m.	† Byron, Josephine and Loretto Walter	
Wednesday December 18	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† BC & Rip Collins † Monsignor Philip Reilly	† Edward Vonesh
Thursday December 19	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† Joseph Vais	
Friday December 20	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Louie Marasovic † Mike Thuma	Laura Brooks (Living) † Monsignor Philip Reilly
Saturday December 21	Rev. Elmer Romero	5 p.m.	† Susan Taylor † John R. Madden † Winnie Weisgerber	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Marcia A. Petricig
Sunday December 22	Rev. Alexander Garcia	7:15 a.m.	† David Trzesniewski † Marco, Emilia Rattin & Bill De Pasquale † Maria & John Wisniewski	Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living) † John & Frances Kennedy † Patrick Mahoney
	Rev. Michael Novick	8:45 a.m.	† Dr Thomas OConnor † Tom Kammer † Monsignor Philip Reilly	† Gerald Dudek Michael Zimmerman Family (Special Intention)
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	10:30 a.m.	† Zofia Mika † Ken Herzog † Gail Saban	† Henry Scaccia † Caroline Mhley † Frank Niwa
	Rev. Elmer Romero	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Richard Madsen | Asis Gonzalez | Frank Orrico |
Joanne Kasang | Jorea Touranjzau | Debbie Coté |
Vincent Austrevich | Bonnie Kakareka

Please remember our dead in your prayers:

† Dolores Bochniarz , Mother of Frances Jacobs
† Zianna Pompei, Mother of Barbara Boland
† Monsignor Philip Reilly, Uncle of Philip Moore

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

“The Lord, your God is in your midst, a mighty savior, he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.”

Zephaniah 3: 17-18

Dear Friends,

The Scripture passage above gives us a remarkable image of God. It says that he sings *because of you, as one sings at festivals!* Wow! This image of God is beautiful and inspiring. Now I understand more the reason why I appreciate so much the leadership, witness, and ministry of the members of the choirs we are blessed to have at our parish. We see and hear God singing for us through each of them. How blessed we are seeing and hearing God singing for us and with us every time we gather to worship him at Mass.

Perhaps this week, The Third Sunday of Advent, you can approach and spend time with God who sings because of you. Perhaps you can sing along with him. Perhaps you can include members of your family, friends, or a neighbor to sing along with you. Could you imagine the effects and fruits of singing with God? Nowadays, we have Advent hymns, Christmas carols, and worship songs available online. I am learning to use them often. Consider trying it.

Turning to God who sings is exciting. This means that he does not only give us commandments, sermons, and speeches. He sings joyfully because of us. This is mind-blowing. We mean so much to him. The saints--think of St. Francis, Mother Teresa, or Dorothy Day—they are like great songs God composed for us. How about Beethoven, Pavarotti, Bocelli, Sinatra, Bach, or Taylor Swift? God gave them to us. They and so many others are ways that God sings joyfully because of us. In a real sense, we are his songs.

At our Thanksgiving Day Mass (11/28) the desire to give thanks together for our blessings was beautifully expressed, shared, and celebrated. We

all felt the presence of God in our midst. He gave us his grace and blessing to feel at home and pray well together. He gave us the opportunity to thank him in two languages: English and Spanish. Michael Burns and Beronica Martinez made us feel welcomed with their kind words at the beginning of Mass. We were led in song by an amazing choir: children and adults. We heard the voice of God singing through them. We had two homilists: Fr. Novick and Fr. Garcia. We were joined by Fr. Ron Kalas, who loves praying and celebrating Mass at our parish. We noticed the sanctuary of our church arranged beautifully for the special Thanksgiving Day Mass. We were also inspired by the witness of all ministers who served and fulfilled their ministries with care, joy, and love. Thank you for making our bilingual Thanksgiving Day Mass special with your presence, active participation, and love.

We have two amazing Christmas concerts taking place at our parish this week. The first one, *Bending Towards the light: a Jazz Nativity* will be happening this afternoon (12/15) at 4:00 PM in the Parish Center sponsored by the Ed Ward Fine Arts Series. The second one: *A Child Is Born! A Christmas Choral Concert* hosted by the St. Cletus Music Ministry will be taking place next Sunday, December 22nd at 4:00 PM in our beautiful church. Bring along members of your family or friends or a neighbor. The Lord is giving us two wonderful opportunities to grow in fraternity, community, and friendship with him and one another. Remember, God sings, and you are his songs. I hope you can join us.

May the Lord continue to renew us in his love so that our hearts are better prepared for the birth of his Son.

Fr. Elmer Romero

A Note from the Associate pastor's Desk

Once again, we have arrived at the weekend of a slight and very quick color-change in these Advent days. Yes, it's Gaudete Sunday, and the Church marks this day of joy by focusing on a shocking color to help us realize that Jesus is nearer to us than ever before. I sometimes wonder why the Church chose this option of rose vestments and not some other color. Orange would have been just as shocking, don't you think? But then again, maybe orange would be considered a color to proceed with caution. So why rose? For one, it certainly has a shock value. It is also near violet in the color wheel spectrum. But more than those reasons, while the violet colors of Advent remind us to wait in joyful hope, rose is supposed to get us to be excited that Jesus is very close and that we need to focus on making final preparations for his arrival.

This week, on Tuesday, the Church kicks off the Octave (eight days) before Christmas. The fathers of the Church were very deliberate about what readings we ought to have from December 17th thru the 24th. And December 17th starts us off right by the reading of the genealogy of Jesus at the very beginning of St. Matthew's gospel. (Did you know that St. Luke has a version of Jesus' genealogy too?) Yes, I know that so many of those long Hebrew names mean absolutely nothing to us, but the Church says otherwise. Like so many people

who have researched on Ancestry.com or watched "Finding Your Roots" on PBS channels, we subconsciously want to know where we came from, trying to go back as many generations as possible. That's is the beauty of the genealogy of Jesus. It goes back 42 generations starting with Abraham, working its way forward to Joseph and therefore to Jesus.

The genealogy also has King David as a part of the lineage. That is the same King David of whom it was prophesied that the Savior would descend from. It's the same David who overcame Goliath with a sling and a stone. It's also the same King David whom the Book of Psalms is credited. Jesus also came through the same people who had been in exile for a couple of generations. So this person is not going to be any ordinary person. This long-awaited Savior is going to be someone with great power and will show us the glory of the God of Israel. Neat, right? Read ahead this week to the gospels for each day of the Octave. It may not hold for the 4th Sunday of Advent simply because the 4th Sunday doesn't fall on the same date each year, but if you read them all together, you have a clearer picture of not only WHO Jesus is, but what His ultimate mission would be – hope for the salvation of all people.

Fr. Mike

A Note from Fr. Ron Kalas

To the Parish Family of St. Cletus

Sisters and brothers, I would like to extend to you my sincere good wishes and prayers for this season of joy as we remember yet again the love of our heavenly Father who sent Jesus to be a part of the human race and to show us how to live a happy, productive and a life of service and care for each other.

I enjoy the opportunity extended to me by Fr. Elmer Romero to come among you and to celebrate the liturgies and Sacraments. I also have enjoyed meeting you on those occasions and sharing greetings and sharing some meaningful words with you.

May the New Year of Jubilee, that we will celebrate with believers all over the world, bring us all the fulness of God's Blessings.

Fr. Ron Kalas

Parish Life

Date	Time	Events	Location
Monday, December 16	6:00 p.m.	Faith Formation Classes	School
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study	Gallagher Room
	7:00 p.m.	Faith Formation/School Reconciliation	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Morrissey Hall
Tuesday, December 17	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Church
Wednesday, December 18	1:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Living Rosary	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Morrissey Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Solemn Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Thursday, December 19	4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution	Food Pantry
	4:30 p.m.	Kid's Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Morrissey Hall
		Chancel Choir Rehearsal	
Friday, December 20	9:30 a.m.	School Christmas Mass	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Morrissey Hall
Saturday, December 21	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Morrissey Hall
Sunday, December 22	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Choral Concert	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Novena (Posada)	Morrissey Hall

Readings of the week

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/
Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,
8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt
1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt
1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-
17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-
12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-4

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the
Church

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent



SOLEMN EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



⊕ DECEMBER 18TH

⊕ 7:00PM

*Come to this hour of adoration
to encounter Jesus. Your heart is made for
Him and will be restless until it knows Him.*

600 W. 55TH STREET
LA GRANGE

Order of Advent Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024.

7:00 PM

Please join us!

Outline

I. Introduction and Welcome

II. Procession

- Song: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v1-2)*
- Lighting of the Advent Wreath
- Opening Prayer

III. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- Song: *O Salutaris Hostia*
- Silent prayer (-minutes)

IV. Adoration and Reflection

- Advent Reflection by a parishioner
- Silence (-2 minutes)
- Song: *O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine*
- Lighting of candle (*The congregation will be invited to come forward towards the altar to light a candle as they make their personal intentions to the Lord*).
- *Psalm 138 (Recited together by the congregation)*
- Silence (- 5 minutes)

V. Benediction

- Song: *Tantum Ergo*
- Prayer and blessing with the Blessed Sacrament
- Divine Praises (*Led by the Presider*)

VI. Reposition

- Returning the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle after a time of exposition.

VII. Closing Song: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v3-4)*

School News

Dual Language Immersion Program

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting our current and prospective Dual Language Immersion parents for an informational meeting. We were also delighted to welcome representatives from the University of Notre Dame and the Archdiocese of Chicago. Our guests toured the school and visited classrooms to see first hand the amazing work happening here at St. Cletus!



Celebrating St. Nick's Day

Jolly old St. Nick visited our students on St. Nicholas Day with his elves and delivered candy canes to all of our students!! Oh what fun!!



WIN AN OCULUS QUEST 3!

Our Vegas Night 2025 is coming up on April 5th To kick things off we are raffling off an OCULUS QUEST 3 just in time for Christmas! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20! Winner will be announced on December 18th!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!!

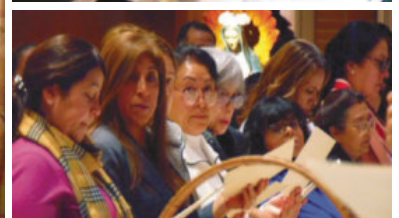


Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 15 de Diciembre	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español	Iglesia
16-23 de diciembre	7 p.m.	Posadas	Escuela
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



Misa de la Inmaculada Concepción, 9 de diciembre, Consagración a la Virgen María



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

Giving Tree

This weekend we will be distributing the Christmas gifts, food and grocery gift cards to our local recipients.

A HUGE thank you to our volunteers last weekend! We had over 100 different volunteers move and organize (literally) over a thousand gifts donated by generous St. Cletus families and community members!

Thank you for your continued generosity to those in our community.



Closed
December 26
January 2

Cerrado
el 26 de diciembre
el 2 de enero



St. Cletus Food Pantry

**The Parish Office will be closed
on December 24th and 25th**



2024 HO HO Holiday Breakfast with Santa in Review

The delight of children of all ages filled Clark Hall last Sunday as we shared our Hoho Breakfast with Santa. The youngsters got to chat with Santa & Mrs. Claus and write a little gift from the heart for baby Jesus. They made ornaments and had breakfast and played the cake walk game. Meanwhile the adults shared in their joy and visited with one another over coffee and hot chocolate. What a beautiful display of our St. Cletus family gathering to enjoy one another. 400+ attendees participated in this holiday tradition!

All this would not be possible without FSA & CCW volunteers, “elves”, patrons, and donations from parishioners & businesses. A special thanks to all those individuals who dropped off goodies used as prizes for the cake walk and a huge shout out to the following businesses who provided goods/services: Kirschbaum’s Bakery, BB Donuts, Smallcakes (all Western Springs) and Cuomo Catering (Northlake). We couldn’t do this without you. Thanks to our priests for joining us, to our amazing maintenance staff who helped before, during, and after this event, and to the entire parish staff for your support. We hope everyone who attended plans on joining us again next year!



Jubilee Year of Hope December 24, 2024 to December 28, 2025

Spes non confundit - Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 (9 May 2024) | Francis

The Holy Father has designated the Jubilee of Hope, a Holy Year beginning December 29, 2024 and ending on December 28, 2025. The Holy Father Francis wants the coming Jubilee Year 2025 to be lived as a "year of hope," very symbolic in times when the world's wars seem to be unending and multiplying.

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate sites as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

As part of the observance of the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence. One of the means for obtaining the Indulgence is that the faithful make a pilgrimage to a parish or shrine designated as a Jubilee Pilgrimage Site. At these parishes or shrines the faithful experience and obtain the indulgence by spending time in prayer, adoration before the tabernacle, or participating in the celebration of the Eucharist or Reconciliation (as well as by making a profession of faith and praying for the Holy Father's intentions).

Requests of a pilgrimage site of the Archdiocese of Chicago:

- By being designated a site for the Jubilee of Hope Indulgence, these parishes would agree to welcome the faithful at designated times (determined by the parish) for prayer, or for the celebration of Mass or Reconciliation at their scheduled times.
- When the archdiocesan list of parishes and shrines is publicized, parishes designated as Jubilee Year pilgrimage sites will be listed along with the times the church is open, and the schedule of Masses and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- There are no specific or "extra" liturgies or celebrations that would be required.

For more information, please visit:

[Uscgb.org/jubilee2025](https://uscgb.org/jubilee2025)



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a Jazz Nativity

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ST. CLETUS MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS:

"A CHILD IS BORN!"

A CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

4:00 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AS WE RAISE OUR VOICES (AND YOURS!) TO JOYFULLY SING OUR PRAISE TO THE LORD!

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT FUTURE MUSIC MINISTRY EVENTS WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

2024 Christmas
 Mass Schedule

St. Cletus Parish

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Navidad 2024
 Horario de Misas

🎄 **Tuesday, December 24th** 🎄

3:00 PM	Church	English
3:15 PM	Parish Center	English
5:00 PM	Church	English
7:30 PM	Church	Spanish
10:30 PM	Church	English

We invite all to bring their baby Jesus to our Christmas eve Mass for a Special Blessings.

Los invitamos a todos a traer a su niño Jesús a nuestra Misa de Nochebuena para una Bendición Especial.

🎄 **Martes, 24 de diciembre** 🎄

3:00 PM	Iglesia	Ingles
3:15 PM	Parish Center	Ingles
5:00 PM	Iglesia	Ingles
7:30 PM	Iglesia	Español
10:30 PM	Iglesia	Ingles

🎄 **Wednesday December 25th** 🎄

7:15 AM	Church	English
10:00 AM	Church	English
12:30 PM	Church	Spanish



🎄 **Miercoles, 25 de diciembre** 🎄

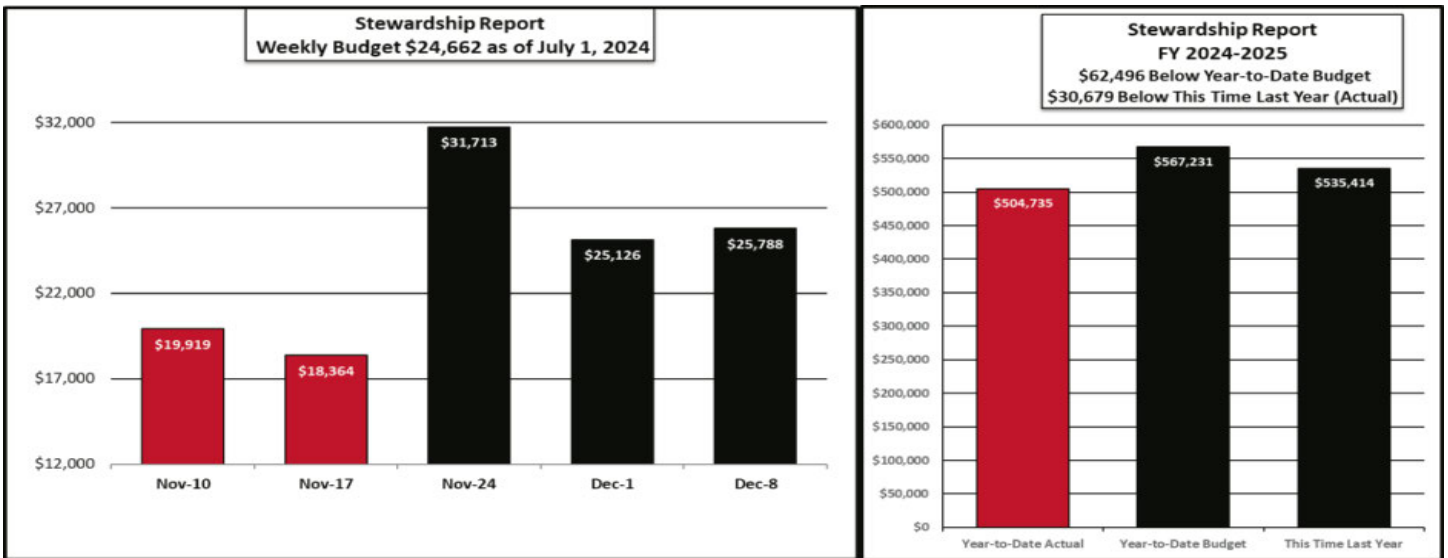
7:15 AM	Iglesia	Ingles
10:00 AM	Iglesia	Ingles
12:30 PM	Iglesia	Español



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For parishioners, Pushpay offers the benefit of a convenient, secure, and accessible way to make donations to their church online, with features like quick one-time or recurring giving options, the ability to view their giving history, and streamlined access through a mobile app, all while decreasing the need for physical envelopes or checks; essentially making donating to their church simpler and more flexible.

There are currently 101 parishioners registered in Pushpay and 72 parishioners in Give Central that have not yet converted to Pushpay. If you need help setting up your account on Pushpay, feel free to call the parish office at (708)352-6209. You can also scan the QR code to give a one time donation or set up your recurring gift.



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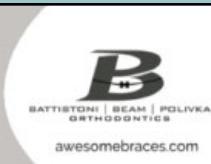
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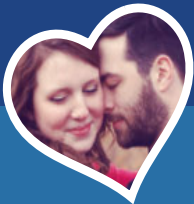
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