

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle



WELCOME

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THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Mass Intentions for January 1 - January 7 2023

Day	Time	Presider	Intentions
January 1	8:00am	Fr. Novick	James O’Keefe, St. Cletus Purgatorial Society, Jim Smilor
January 2	8:00am	Fr. Kalas	John Luppino, Jim Smilor
January 3	8:00am	Fr. Novick	Benedict Dybas, BC and Rip Collins, Jim Smilor
January 4	8:00am	Fr. Novick	Jim Smilor
January 5	8:00am	Fr. Kalas	Louie Marasovic, Deborah O’Keefe, Nan and Bob Rettig, Gary Verhoeven
January 6	5:00pm	Fr. Belauskas	Edward Novick, Jack Kielczynski, Daniel Klepczarek, Daniel and Rose Moore, Grace Creighton
January 7	7:15am	Fr. Kalas	Janet Broucek, Benedict Dybas, Julia Kopacz
	8:45am	Fr. Novick	Robin Anne, Renee Saban
	10:30am	Fr. Kalas	Steve and Sophie Kaminski, Stacy Baker, John Baker, Al Zukauskas, Louis Berger
	12:30pm		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.

December - Mary Lue Buchler

November -

October - Debbie García, Carina Orona

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



Drawing by St. Cletus School 3rd Grader Reagan Solis

Pastor's Note

*"The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him."
Luke 2:40.*

Dear Friends,

Today is the last day of 2023. With faith, appreciation, and gladness we thank the Lord for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us this year. Today, we are also invited to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We are truly loved by God.

The year 2023 has been a good year for us at St. Cletus Parish. Our sense of belonging, feeling welcomed and at home, and our care for each other have been strengthened through the many community building opportunities we had such as the Fish Fry, Pig Roast, Ed Ward Fine Series, and Fall Festival, just to name a few. Our souls were also nourished through the Evening of Prayer and Reflections, Music Ministries, prayerfully celebrated Masses on weekdays and weekends, and through many other spiritual gatherings and prayers our parish was blessed to have.

The Social Concern Ministry, led by Kendall Grant, has been a source of blessing for all of us at our parish. Kendall, through her countless kind and caring volunteers, has shared the love of Christ to every woman and man that came to our parish. Our Christmas Giving Tree Program was a success. I was moved seeing you picking up a name from the Christmas Tree and then delivering your gift to the parish. I noticed that every gift was carefully wrapped. I was also encouraged seeing many volunteers with smiles on their faces passing on the gifts to the many recipients on the weekend of December 16-17, 2023. I would like to thank Kendall, the volunteers, and each and every one of you, for sharing your blessings with care and love. It is through your witness that I continue to experience the closeness and love of God.

On December 12, 2023, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which was beautiful and filled with the love of God. We started her feast day at 4:45 AM by singing Las Mañanitas (Morning songs) to our Lady which was led by an excellent Mariachi. There were over 430 people that attended Las Mañanitas. Then, in the evening at 7:00 PM we had a special Mass with over 365 people in our beautiful church. After Mass all were invited to the Parish Center for fellowship which was another source of blessing for all. I felt the love of Our Lady of Guadalupe as we sang Las Mañanitas, celebrated Mass, and shared a meal together. I would like to thank Juanita Avila, Director of Hispanic Ministry, the volunteers, and the special committee, for their witness, ministry, and fine leadership.

I am happy to share with you that after The Mañanitas had completed, one of our parishioners, Manuel Ruiz, approached me and asked if he and some of his fellow workers could have permission to clean up the parish grounds in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He said that they had spoken to their employer, Tony Colant, the owner of Colant Landscaping, and explained to him that December 12 is a very important Feast Day for them, and could they please take the day off from work, which Tony granted. They also asked if they could borrow his company equipment to use at the parish for the day, which Tony also gave approval for. Consequently, Manuel, his son Antonio, Martin Martinez, and Sergio Nuñez spent most of Tuesday morning diligently working around the entire St. Cletus campus leaf blowing, mulching, and pruning back bushes in preparation for Spring next year, all in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On behalf of St. Cletus parish, I gratefully say a big "Thank You" to Mr. Colant for allowing his landscaping company equipment to be used, for the dedication and generosity of Manuel, Antonio, Martin, and Sergio in giving of their time and talent cleaning the parish grounds, and for their inspiring devotion to and love for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

I grew up hearing my father saying, "*generosity begets generosity.*" After a long time, now I feel like I am starting to understand what he wanted me to learn and appreciate. Since July 1st, 2021, you have been showing me this with that special love you have for St. Cletus Parish and the Lord. As we conclude this year, 2023, I would like to offer you my sincere gratitude for your witness, generosity, and for having the Lord as part of your life.

May the favor of God continue to be upon us!

Happy New year, 2024!

Fr. Elmer Romero



Note From Father Mike

What makes a family holy?

I think I've heard this question posed before and I hope anyone who has asked was not thinking that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph shouldn't be considered holy. Au contraire, of course, they ARE THE Holy Family. Still, was it merely because of the gifts that were bestowed on Mary's Immaculate Conception, and the Annunciation of Jesus when Mary said yes? Where does Joseph fit in? There wasn't anything special or divine about him. Why should he be considered as a member of the Holy Family?

My hope is that we can all appreciate the role of Joseph in raising Jesus as if He were his own flesh and blood. Some places I've seen where Joseph is referred to as either a "foster father" or an "father by adoption" for Jesus. I can see how that makes some sense; however, Joseph is much more.

Go back and read the two opening pieces of St. Matthew's gospel. It's different from St. Luke. Luke's gospel drips with dramatic scenes. It has Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) having an encounter with the Archangel Gabriel, who brings news similar to the news he brings to our blessed mother. Joseph has a similar encounter too in Luke's gospel, where St. Matthew simply says that Joseph had a dream as he was told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife "for it is through the Holy Spirit that she is with child." They are subtle differences but what it boils down to is that Matthew and Luke had two different audiences whom they were writing for – Jews and the Gentiles respectively.

The Jews St. Matthew was writing to would have needed an explanation of just how Jesus is connected way back through Abraham, and Joseph is the common person. That is why Joseph is told what to name Mary's child – because Joseph is from King David's royal bloodline that works all the way back to Abraham. On the other hand, while that might not have been as important to the Gentile community, there had to be something more extraordinary about the child Jesus and his connection with this figure we came to know as John the Baptist.

So what makes a family holy? Can we any family be considered holy? The answer is yes. I think my family is holy. It's not because we don't argue or hurt on another's feelings – we do. Or because we have anything unique and special about us. We are holy because in the heat of a world filled with discord, we know what it takes to be together and united in purpose. We don't even do things exactly the same way, but when we need to band together, that bond is forged in our hearts, because God gave us each other as gifts.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Mike



Sunday Notes

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next 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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

Welcome Hospitality Reception and Ministry Fair

Ring in the New Year at our first Welcome Hospitality reception and Ministry Fair of 2024. Join us Sunday, January 7th, 2024 in the Parish Center after the 7:15 and 8:45 masses.

We welcome all new parishioners along with everyone we see each week at church and school so we can continue to build our strong community. During the reception, you'll have the chance to visit with our various ministries and find the perfect match to your talents.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and welcoming in a new year.

Save The Date!

ST. CLETUS SUPER BOWL PARTY!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 3PM

ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER

TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND!!

SPONSORED BY THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



Sharing Our Graces and Blessings



School News

FESTIVE FUN!

Recently our students had fun with an ugly Christmas sweater dress down day! They all got in to the festive spirit and some got VERY creative!



CHRISTMAS SCHOOL MASS

Our preschool and junior kindergarteners sure let their light shine this Christmas season! So proud of them and all their hard work as they prepared for their Christmas program! Of course, thanks is also in order for all of their teacher who made this festive and fun performance possible!



CHRISTMAS BAND CONCERT

A few days before Christmas our concert and cadet band traveled out to St. Barnabas for their Christmas concert! It was an evening full of the beautiful sounds of Christmas! The perfect way to spend the night this time of year!



Social Concerns Ministry



**ST. CLETUS
FOOD PANTRY**
THURSDAYS
4-8PM

Wish List:

- Canned meats
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Detergent and soap
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Baby wipes

Follow us on
Facebook:
[@StCletusFoodPantry](#)
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

FOOD PANTRY



GIVING TREE

"I'm totally shocked. Thank you! Please tell the donors thank you so much! This is going to make a huge difference to me and my kids! Thank you!" S.C.

"Please thank all of the volunteers and donors for the ways they have helped our family this year." G.G.

"We moved away a few years ago but we still come back every year to take tags off the tree. It's a favorite family tradition for us." L.T.

We are humbled and grateful, for your time, energy, hard work, and also your amazing generosity, and support! Words cannot express, how profoundly appreciated and thankful, we are. You are in my daily prayers. M.M. & T.M.



Note From Cardinal Cupich

Dear Father Romero,

With your valued leadership and the assistance of your staff, the people of St. Cletus Parish have very generously supported this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. Together, you have raised gifts and pledges exceeding your 2023 Appeal goal of \$ \$101,103.05. Thank you so much and please communicate my gratitude to your staff and parishioners.

The theme of this year's Annual Catholic Appeal is *Walking on the road with Jesus*, and it draws us into Pope Francis' vision of a synodal Church. I know that you face many demands and challenges, yet your pastoral initiatives in promoting the Appeal process and our Archdiocesan renewal helps all of us to more and more become the Church God wants us to be. I very much value your collaboration. Thank you.

Again, as you deem appropriate, let me suggest that you let your people of St. Cletus Parish know my personal gratitude and the gratitude of this entire local Church. Additionally, they may be interested in knowing that the parish will receive their first rebate distribution in October. The support of your parish community enables all to assist parishes in need so that we can walk together on the road with Jesus and advance his mission in the world. That is a great blessing.\

Finally, Father Romero, please invite your people to pray for me and for all their sisters and brothers in the Archdiocese of Chicago and for the universal Church in communion with Pope Francis. May we all be attuned to the ways that we can walk together on the road with Jesus.

Archbishop of Chicago

Cardinal Blase Cupich

Christmas Season Greetings!

Dear parishioners of St Cletus, I would like to extend my good wishes to you and prayers for you as we celebrate the great festival of Holy Christmas. May these days bring you peace and much joy along with peace of mind and heart. I enjoy the opportunities that I have to be with you and to-celebrate the liturgy as well. Thank you. Fr Ron Kalas.



Sorry I am not with you this Christmas, but my prayer is that all your wishes for happiness will come true as you let the Lord of Christmas work through you so that you become sources of his care for others now and throughout the new year. Fr. Lodge.

Hispanic Ministry

FECHA-DATE	HORA-TIME	EVENTO-EVENT	LUGAR-PLACE
2 de enero, 2023	7:00 p.m.	Adoración al Santísimo Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament	Iglesia Church
31 de diciembre 2023	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español Spanish Mass	Iglesia Church
Segundo Sábado de cada mes Second Saturday of each month	8:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.	Adoración Nocturna Night Adoration	Iglesia Church
Sábados	8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Confesiones	Iglesia



ADORACIÓN NOCTURNA

Cada segundo sábado del mes el Ministerio Hispano lleva a cabo la Adoración Nocturna, comenzando con una Misa a las 8:00 p.m. seguido de la Adoración al Santísimo hasta las 5:00 a.m. Todos están invitados a participar.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION

Every second Saturday of the month the Hispanic Ministry conducts Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration, beginning with a Mass at 8:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 5:00 am. Everyone is invited to participate.

INTENCIONES DE MISA:

Si desea una intención de misa para la Misa de 12:30 p.m., llame a la oficina principal 708 352-6209 o al 708-215-5441. Las intenciones de misa deben solicitarse antes del miércoles si su intención es para ese fin de semana. Las intenciones de misa deben solicitarse antes del día, la donación sugerida por cada intención es de \$10.

MASS INTENTIONS:

If you would like a mass intention for the 12:30 p.m. Mass, please call the main office 708 352-6209 or 708-215-5441. Mass intentions must be requested by Wednesday if your intention is for that weekend. Mass Intentions should be requested prior to the day, suggested donation per Mass Intention is \$10.

GUADALUPANA RAFFLE

The lucky winner for Our Lady of Guadalupe Raffle is Mr. Pedro Fulgencio - #5273856

Congratulations to Mr. Pedro! Thank you to everyone who participated and made this raffle possible.

RIFA GUADALUPANA

El ganador afortunado de la Rifa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es el Sr. Pedro Fulgencio - #5273856. Felicidades al Sr. Pedro. Gracias a todos los que participaron e hicieron posible esta rifa.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Hispanic Ministry of St. Cletus Parish, we want to thank everyone for their participation and support in the celebration of the Posadas, the Posadas are a very important tradition for our Hispanic community. We would also like to thank everyone who made this wonderful celebration possible and provided music and songs, as well as enjoying the delicious traditional food. **Thank you all.**

¡GRACIAS!

En nombre del Ministerio Hispano de la Parroquia de San Cleto, queremos agradecer a todos por su participación y apoyo en la celebración de las Posadas, las Posadas son una tradición muy importante para nuestra comunidad Hispánica. También nos gustaría agradecer a todos los que hicieron posible esta maravillosa celebración y amenizaron con música y cantos, al igual que disfrutamos de la deliciosa comida tradicional. **Muchas gracias a todos.**



Ministry News

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY



The St. Cletus Purgatorial Society currently has 51 prayer warriors praying for 520 holy souls. **Enroll your deceased loved ones AT NO COST**, become a member of the purgatorial society by joining us in prayer for the holy souls! May purgatory be emptied!!! May no soul be forgotten!!!

Upcoming Mass intentions for the SCPS will be offered on:

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Monday, 1/1/2024 @ 8am

Information pamphlet and enrollment forms can be found in the narthex or visit: <https://stcletusparish.com/purgatorialsociety/>

JOIN THE CCW JANUARY 10TH AT 7PM

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

The holidays are fast approaching and as we think of gift giving, let us also consider our friends and neighbors who need assistance with rent, utilities, transportation, etc. The St. Cletus St. Vincent dePaul chapter needs your help. The need for assistance has increased while many local agencies have run out of funds. There are green envelopes in the narthex that you can place a donation in. Envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Parish Center. Thank you for your help, especially at this time of year.

Jacqueline Kennedy

It is one year after her husband's assassination and the former first lady, besieged by tourists and paparazzi, is struggling to cope. As she attempts to determine her next step, she looks back on her life, sharing stories about her marriage, her fight for privacy amidst intense media scrutiny, her work to restore the White House, and her attempts to showcase the arts. Historian and actress Leslie Goddard portrays Jackie Kennedy in this unforgettable portrayal where you will meet the private woman behind the public myth.



Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., is an award-winning scholar and actress who has been portraying great women in history for more than twenty years. She holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. from Northwestern University as well as a master's degree and an undergraduate degree in theater. A former museum director, she currently works full-time as an actress, public speaker and author. Recognized as one of the top historical performers working today, her portrayals have been seen by audiences in more than thirty-five states, including scores of universities, museums, libraries, civic organizations and Chautauqua festivals.

Community News

VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

We beg you good and holy priests. In every age you call men to follow you as servants and shepherds of your people. Open their hearts to your call and give them the courage to follow you. Be their rock of refuge and their lights as they discern.

Help us to support them on their journey, and to love them as your disciples.

We thank you for all that you are and all that you do. In your name we pray.

Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 

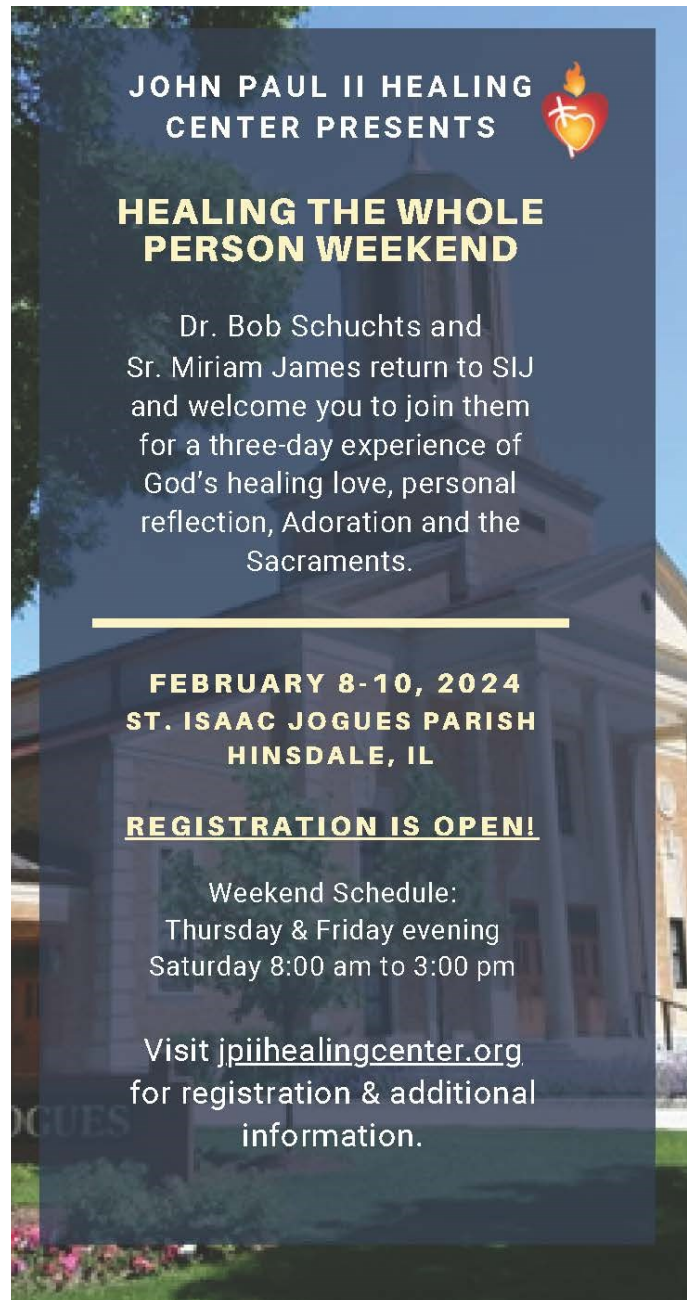
SAVE THE DATE!



Kairos 42 Retreat, February 22-25, 2024. This amazing 4-day retreat is specifically designed for Juniors and Seniors. Kairos is a unique opportunity to grow in your faith, and your relationship with God and others. Give yourself the gift of retreat this Christmas!

Registration for K42 opens on January 9, 9AM. We anticipate these spots will go quickly. Please see our website for more information and to access the link on January 9, 9AM.

HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON RETREAT



JOHN PAUL II HEALING CENTER PRESENTS

HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON WEEKEND

Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miriam James return to SIJ and welcome you to join them for a three-day experience of God's healing love, personal reflection, Adoration and the Sacraments.

FEBRUARY 8-10, 2024
ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH
HINSDALE, IL

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

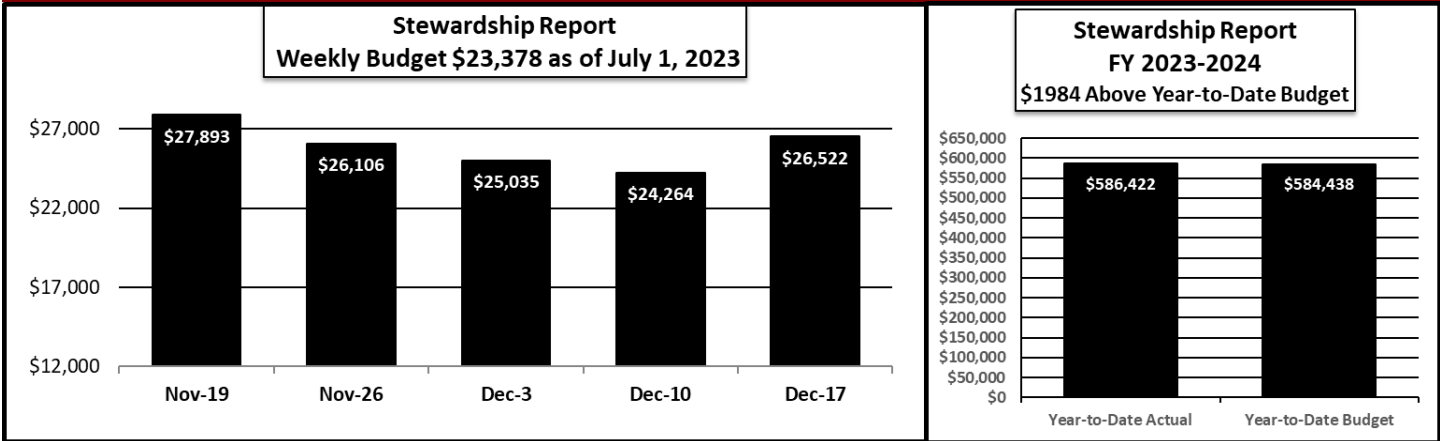
Weekend Schedule:
 Thursday & Friday evening
 Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Visit jpiihealingcenter.org for registration & additional information.

Week At A Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 31			New Years Eve
Monday, January 1			New Years Day
Tuesday, January 2	7pm 8pm	Church Parish Center	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament-Spanish Senior Basketball Practice Church League
Wednesday, January 3	9am-12pm 1-1:45pm 8-10pm	Gallagher Room Church Parish Center	Mission Ladies Living Rosary School Fathers Basketball
Thursday, January 4	8-10pm	Parish Center	Church League Basketball Team Practices
Friday, January 5	7pm 8-9pm	Gallagher Room Parish Center	Holy Name Society Meeting Frosh/Soph Church League Practice
Saturday, January 6			
Sunday, January 7			

Stewardship Report



Preferred Partners

Thank you!



M+J
MJWORKS.COM



FCI Construction, Inc.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS



UNIQUE PLUMBING
CO.



Napleton's
COUNTRYSIDE MAZDA



BATTISTONI | BEAM | POLIVKA
ORTHODONTICS



ADOLF
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICES



Hallowell & James
Funeral Home



La Grange
Breakfast Cafe



Argo Roofing

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.

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..... Monday thru Friday 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*
Deacon Franco Foti, *Operations Director*
Rev. Michael Novick, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. John Lodge, *Senior Priest for Weekend Liturgy*
Mr. Ramón Cazales, *Deacon*
Rev. Robert Clark, *Pastor Emeritus*

PASTORAL STAFF

Tina Norton, *Pastoral Associate* (708) 215-5412
Ryan Rump, *Music Ministry* (708) 215-5423
Kendall Grant, *Social Concerns* (708) 215-5418

HISPANIC MINISTRY STAFF (708) 215-5441

Juanita Avila, *Head of Hispanic Ministry*

SCHOOL STAFF (708) 352-4820

Gregory Porod, *Principal*
Christy Schaefer, *Assistant Principal*
Mary Lee Krieger, *Administrative Assistant*
Kate Townsend, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant*
Sara Hodak, *Marketing/Development*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF (708) 352-2383

Lawrence Manetti, *Director of Faith Formation for Children*

Hector Obregon-Luna, *Director of Evangelization and Renewal*

Clara Santin, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*

PARISH OFFICE STAFF (708) 352-6209

Jim Dion, *Business Manager*
Olga Montalvo, *Parish Administrative Assistant*
Silvia Castellanos, *Parish Secretary*
Sara Hodak, *Bulletin Editor and Director of Social Media*
Doug Morrissey, *Parish Finance Council Chairperson*,
Email: finance@stcletusparish.com
Helen McComiskey, *Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson*
Email: ppc@stcletusparish.com

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor Fr. Elmer Romero
Chairperson..... Bob Wasik

LIAISONS

FSA PresidentJoleen Kirchens
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.