

February 16, 2025 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



#### **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.

St. Cletus Parish St. Cletus Church **St. Cletus School** (708) 352-4820 stcletusschool.com 700 W 55th St, La Grange, IL 60525

stcletusparish.com

### 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

Katie McGovern Operations Director kmcgovern@stcletusparish.com

Jim Dion Business Manager jdion@stcletusparish.com

Luis Lopez IT Manager Ilopez@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 Imanetti@stcletusparish.com

Kendall Grant Social Concerns kgrant@stcletusparish.com

#### **Operations Staff**

Giselle Rico Office Manager grico@stcletusparish.com

Olga Montalvo Assistant Office Manager omontalvo@stcletusparish.com

Derek Sawicki Maintenance Supervisor dsawicki@stcletusparish.com

### <u>School</u>

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

#### Greg Porod Principal gporod@stcletusparish.com

Mary Lee Krieger Administrative Assistant mkrieger@stcletusparish.com

Frank Ochoa Dual Language Immersion Coordinator fochoa@stcletusparish.com

### **Mass Intentions**

Saturday February 15	Rev. Michael Novick	5 p.m.	Nancy Eckrich (Living) † Daniel Klepczarek Eva Adan (Living)	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) † Joan Eckrich
Sunday February 16	Rev. Gus Belauskas	7:15 a.m.	† Greg Popp	
	Rev. John Lodge	8:45 a.m.	<sup>+</sup> Mr. & Mrs. John Popiscil	+ Phyllis Prevenas
	Rev. Ron Kalas	10:30 a.m.	<ul> <li>† Eleonore &amp; Henry</li> <li>Romanowski</li> <li>† Paul Budvitis</li> </ul>	† James Moles † Dolores Delaney † Betty & Frank Niwa
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	12:30 p.m.	† Vicente Jaramillo † Rosendo Medina † Julita Corral	† Alejandro Gomez † Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio
Monday February 17	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Louis Vieceli	
Tuesday February 18	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	† Paul Edmund Pilarski	
Wednesday February 19	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† BC & Rip Collins	† Joseph Vais
Thursday February 20	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	<ul><li>† Ed Stec (Special Intention)</li><li>† Giovanna Vieceli</li></ul>	† Father John Doyle † Nina Cech
Friday February 21	Rev. Elmer Romero	8 a.m.	† Maryanne Farrell † Louie Marasovic † Natalie Nicoletti	† Peter Dixon † Joseph Kulikowski
Saturday February 22	Rev. Elmer Romero	5 p.m.	† Rose Marie Hrzenjak † Anna Cottone † Daniel Klepczarek	<ul> <li>James Chiostri</li> <li>Janet Boyer (Special Intention)</li> <li>Bob Rettig</li> </ul>
Sunday February 23	Rev. Alexander Garcia	7:15 a.m.	† Robert Spyrison	† Mark Dante
	Rev. Michael Novick	8:45 a.m.	† Anne Nabor † John Jacobs	<sup>+</sup> Mary Elizabeth Spetter
	Rev. John Lodge	10:30 a.m.	St. Cletus CCW Members (Living) † Angela Sass † Sammy Colonna	† John Jacobs Verdin Adan Family (Living)
	Rev. Elmer Romero	12:30 p.m.	† Dolores Zamora	† Juan Hernandez

#### Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Jorea Touranjzau | Debbie Coté | Vincent Austrevich | Bonnie Kakareka | Mary Ann Vokurka | Cynthia Gosse | Mario Avila Jr.| Darlene Donarski | Laura Terrazino

#### Please remember our dead in your prayers:

- Margaret M. Greene , Mother of Kathleen Zydek
   Elizabeth Zaremba, Mother of Nichola Centomani

+ Theresa Sisto, Wife of Louis G. Sisto
 + Joseph Halac , Father of Melissa Shields

"He is like a tree planted near running water, that yields its fruits in due season, and whose leaves never fade." Psalm 1:3

Dear Friends,

The gift of life is beautiful. We get to enjoy it every day of our lives. Think for a moment the day you were born. Your parents welcomed you with joy and love. Now consider the moment you were baptized. You were embraced by joy, faith, and love. Perhaps another crucial moment was when you made your First Communion. You were filled with joy as you received the Body of Christ for the first time in your life. Your parents along with the community felt and celebrated your faith and joy. All of these precious gifts that God has given us make our lives beautiful.

Notice, God is blessing you with the gift of life. He wants you to be a sign of life and hope for others. How is this beautiful and most precious gift being shared, celebrated, and affirmed at our parish community? How do you think your prayers, words, and actions are nourishing and facilitating all the good things God wants for St. Cletus?

On Monday evening (2/10), we were blessed to have Cardinal Cupich at our parish. He came to share his vision of the *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call* capital campaign to the representatives and leaders of 14 parishes including ours. He spent the evening greeting everyone, answering their questions, and asking them to join him in this very important capital campaign. I am encouraged by the witness and leadership of Cardinal Cupich. Let us hold him in our daily prayers.

The St. Cletus Super Bowl party (2/9) was a success. It was well attended. Everyone had a great time. Life, friendship, and community was shared, nourished, and celebrated. Care, good leadership, and love was offered by our leaders. In a special way I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Emily and Bob Wasik for leading this important parish event as Co-chairs. I also would like to thank Katie McGovern, Operations Director, for working and offering support to Emily and Bob. Please join me in holding them in prayer.

The recent Confirmation Retreat (02/01) went well. It was held at the Parish Center. It was attended by 88 children. They engaged the retreat with openness and generosity. They were blessed to have their retreat being led by the members of the National Evangelization Team (NET). The youngest member of the team was 18 years old. He and the other members of the team were on fire. They gave a wonderful witness to our children. The retreat concluded with the celebration of Mass at church. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Norma Hernandez, Coordinator of Faith Formation, for leading the retreat so well. Please hold the children in prayer as they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

May our appreciation of the gift of life continue to grow.

Fr. Elmer Romero



### A Note from the Associate Pastor's Desk

#### Time marches on...

great time to remember that Lent is approaching just over two weeks away! Ash Wednesday is on may see or experience that potentially could give a March 5<sup>th</sup>.

We can always think of how we have spent our Lent in the world. trying to be a little holier before the celebration of Those are just a few ways that we can see to it that Easter – no candy, no soda, or social media. We've not only are we trying to improve our own souls this promised to read more, pray more with the

Scriptures, or watch our language. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a community (not using general absolution). But what might be something different for us this year?

St Cletus has just such an opportunity for trying something different in preparation. We are a

Hope – Pilgrims of Hope. That means we could have a great influx of people who will be visiting our parish then a chain reaction begins with one domino after from all over the Archdiocese – even if that simply means to come and pray for some time in our Church. During Lent, St. Cletus always offers a little something extra like Stations of the Cross as many parishes do. We have TWO Evenings of Prayer and Reflection scheduled, both by one of the most dynamic priests in our Archdiocese, Fr. Mike Knotek. And then, there is also our newest opportunity that was thought up by the Parish Pastoral Council – kindness cards. If you have not seen these business card-sized reminders of yourselves." (Phil. 2:3b) Offer hope! how spreading kindness can lead us to being a people of hope for others, they are strategically placed with the Canticle holders near the doors of the church. Try one!

On the back of the kindness card, there is an email In these days of the Annual Catholic Appeal, it's also a address kindness@stcletusparish.com where we are all invited to share the random acts of kindness we reader the gift of hope they need to know still exists

> coming Lent, but that we also want the same thing for all of humanity. Kindness may begin by a very small act toward another, but we just don't ever know how one act may inspire the other or someone else who sees our action and thinks, "I wish someone would do that for me." A person with that thought might think, "Maybe I can do that or something

designated pilgrimage parish in this Jubilee Year of similar for somebody." And then, you see, it's a matter of a the "domino effect" - knock over one, another falling. Imagine the domino as an act of kindness - simple as opening a door for someone who has his or her hands full to helping a child who can't find a parent in a shopping mall.

> There is proof of how good we feel about ourselves when we perform random acts of kindness. The paradox is that we are not the intended target of those random acts.

"Humbly regard others as more important than

Fr. Mike

### 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal

#### Together we bring hope

Many families in our parish have received the Annual Catholic Appeal mailing from Cardinal Cupich. On behalf of those served by the ministries of the parishes and the schools that receive funding from the Appeal, we thank you for your gifts. Please return your response as soon as is possible. The Annual Catholic Appeal offers us an opportunity to join with others and affirm that "together we bring hope." As we consider God's many gifts to us, we should also reflect on our gratitude in using and sharing those gifts. Your financial support for the work of our parish, our archdiocese and the Church throughout the world is one way to express this gratitude. Please give what you are able to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal.

### Parish Life

Date	Time	Events	Location
Sunday, February 16			
Monday, February 17	10:00 a.m.	No School/Parish Offices Closed - President's Day	Church
	7:00 p.m.	St. Cletus Volunteer Meeting	Gallagher Room
Tuesday, February 18	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Compassionate Care Meeting Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Gallagher Room Church
Wednesday, February 19	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Mission Ladies Living Rosary Faith Formation - Teen Seekers Men's Basketball	Gallagher Room Church Room 213 PC-Gym
Thursday, February 20	4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution	Food Pantry
Friday, February 21	7:00 p.m.	Alpha in Spanish	Parish Center
Saturday, February 22	9:00 a.m.	ICN Resume Review	Gallagher Room
Sunday, February 23	9:00 a.m.	Faith Formation Classes	School

#### **Readings of the week**

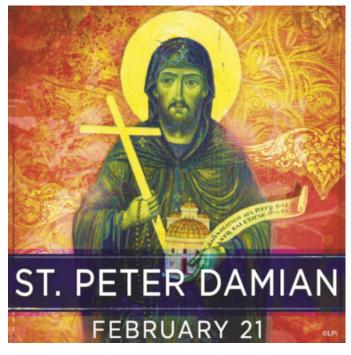
**Sunday:** Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-2 Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20 -21/Mk 8:11-13 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21 Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26 Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33 Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 8:34-9:1 Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38



#### Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Monday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order; Presidents' Day Friday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle



### St. Cletus Super Bowl Party 2025

Another successful Super Bowl Party is in the books!! Thank you to everyone who came out to spend the evening with us. A HUGE thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who helped ensure our event was a success! A special shout out to Emily and Bob Wasik for spearheading the event this year!



### Social Concerns



St. Cletus Food Pantry Thursdays

4-8 p.m.

#### Wish List:

- Jelly
- Chicken Soup
- Coffee
- Tea
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- 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.co m

#### **Donation Reminder!**

We have seen a recent uptick in donations of items we cannot accept. WE DO NOT ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MEAT, PERISHABLES (including fruits/vegetables), CLOTHING OR HOUSEHOLD GOODS. Please also be mindful of putting donations in the outside donation bin during freezing temperatures as items can expand and burst. Donation bins are also located in the Church Narthex, for your convenience. If you have any questions about a donation, please do not hesitate to ask first! *foodpantry@stcletusparish.com* or 708.215.5418. Thank you!

#### Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for 1-2 more volunteers to join our home delivery outreach team. Volunteers commit to helping weekly on Thursdays from 12:00-2:00pm. Must be comfortable talking on the phone with clients. Volunteers help prepare grocery orders for home deliveries.

ST. CLETUS

VOLUNTEER 📀

FOOD PANTRY

# HOME DELIVER OUTREACH Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CALL Homebound clients, chat, take their orders & pack groceries to prepare them for delivery.

### THURSDAYS 12:00-2:00PM

- **6 708-215-5418**
- SKGRANT@STCLETUSPARISH.COM

### **Mission Ladies**

The Mission Ladies are in need of white eyelet fabric to make Baptismal Bibs. If you have any to donate, it can be placed in the church food pantry donation bin or brought to the Parish Center. Thank you!



### Social Concerns

#### **Resume Review**

Join us on **Saturday, February 22nd, from 9-11** am for a helpful 20-30 minute one-on-one conversation with an HR or other search-related professional. Pick up some new ideas and suggestions that could refresh or enhance your resume. Need some coaching with your elevator speech? Want to brush up on LinkedIn? This is your opportunity to add impact and clarity to your existing resume.

We look forward to seeing you at St. Cletus Parish Center, 600 W. 55th Street in La Grange.

Everyone is welcome, there is no cost to attend. Visit <u>http://www.interfaithcareernetwork.com</u> for more resources

### **O.C.I.A News**

### + O.C.I.A. Bible Study + What is O.C.I.A?

Standing for "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults", Our O.C.I.A. group is a small group that meets weekly coordinated by Lawrence Manetti for the purpose of furthering our spiritual growth and learning about our Faith



Gather with us to pray and spend time studying the Gospel of Luke. We will be using the Six Weeks With the Bible Series by Loyola Press.

When: Weekly Tuesday Evenings Beginning February 25th at 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

If you think this might be something you would be interested in, please contact Lawrence Manetti, Coordinator of O.C.I.A. for more information through the Parish Office or by e-mail: lmanetti@stcletusparish.com.



Please scan here to register. Payment of \$15 can be made in the Parish office to help us cover the cost of the books



### **School News**

In the wake of Hurricane Helene last year our student council coordinated a fundraiser for the Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools and were able to send over \$800 to help them in relief efforts. We received the beautiful note below in response. We are grateful to our students for reaching beyond our community to assist wherever they are able.



Dear Jim Dion,

I hope you are having a wonderful 2025! I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your generosity toward our mountain schools recovering from Hurricane Helene. Your charitable spirit reflects the very mission we share as Catholic educators - to form students to know and love Jesus. Your kindness has been a beacon of hope for Immaculata, Asheville Catholic, and Canongate Catholic High School during these challenging times.

The funds and gifts your school community so graciously provided have made a profound impact. They have helped supply meals, essential items, and, most importantly, restored a sense of normalcy for our students. Many of our families feared they wouldn't have a joyful Christmas, but thanks to you, we were able to create a "Christmas Gift Room" where parents could select presents to surprise their children. These moments of joy would not have been possible without your support.

Please know how deeply we appreciate your generosity and the difference it has made. You are always welcome to visit us here in the Appalachian Mountains, and we would love to show you firsthand the fruits of your kindness.

Wishing you, your faculty, and families abundant blessings in 2025. We are holding you in our prayers and are here to support you in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can ever be of service to you.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Gregory P. Monroe, Ph.D. Superintendent Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools



### Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 16 de febrero	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español	Iglesia
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



#### Viacrucis 2025

Este jueves 20 de febrero, 2025 a las 7:00 pm., comenzaremos las prácticas de la representación del Viacrucis viviente en la iglesia, necesitamos voluntarios para llevar s cavo el Viacrucis Viviente en español aquí en la Parroquia de San Cleto. Les pedimos consideren ser parte de este evento de cuaresma para que podamos ofrecer este actor de fe a la comunidad. Si usted desea participar en el Viacrucis, favor de hablar con Juanita Avila al 708-215-5441.

This Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm, we will begin the practices of the representation of the Living Stations of the Cross in the church. We need volunteers to carry out the Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish here at St. Cletus Parish. We ask that you consider being part of this Lenten event so that we can offer this act of faith to the community. If you would like to participate in the Stations of the Cross, please contact Juanita Avila at 708-215-5441.

### Don't Miss Our Production Of Frozen Jr.!



### Save The Date For Fall Fest 2025!



#### Are you widowed and still hurting? What: Attend a Joyful Again! 2 day Workshop

and Spiritual Retreat When: March 1st and 2nd, 2025

Where: University of St Mary's of the Lake, Mun-

delein, IL. (Commute or stay overnight.)

For further information , call: 708-354-7211. e-mail us at <u>info@joyfulagain.org</u>



Join us for the monthly Perpetual Novena to St. Rita of Cascia

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to the next monthly St. Rita of Cascia Novena Mass at the St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel, 7740 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL. Confession is available at 6:00 p.m. Mass and novena prayers will begin at 7:00p.m. Stay after mass to enjoy a slice of the famous Racine Danish Kringle and socialize with new friends. Secure and ample parking is available. Visit our website at stritashrinechicago.com for more information.

### Fish Fry



## Parish Center 600 W. 55th Street La Grange, IL

## Adult Menu

Fried fish, fries, cole slaw, salad, dessert and drink (non-alcoholic) **\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door** 

12 & Under <u>Kids Menu</u> 12 & Under Fried fish or chicken tenders, fries, mac-ncheese, cole slaw, salad, dessert and drink \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door

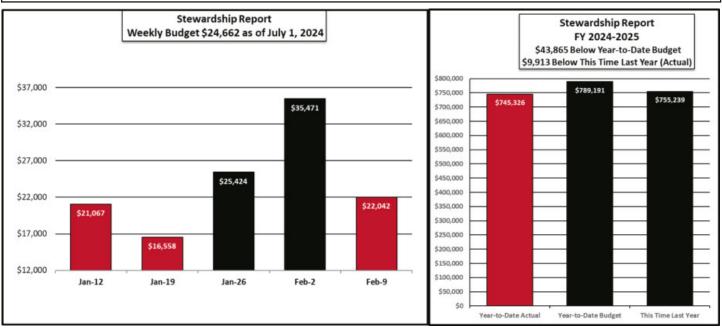
To help us accommodate everyone, please adhere to the following:

Arrive as close to your reservation time as possible Conclude your meal within an hour to make your table available for the next seating Tickets (\$5 per drink) will be sold for beer & wine purchases Split-the-Pot (cash only) to benefit the Parish and School will be offered

### BRING CASH FOR BEER/ WINE & SPLIT THE POT

### Save The Date





### **St. Cletus Parish Preferred Partners**





For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Cletus Church, La Grange, IL

B 4C 01-4044



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