

July 28, 2024 | The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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. Michael Novick

mnovick@stcletusparish.com

Senior Priest for Weekend

ffoti@stcletusparish.com

Coordinator of Faith Formation

nhernandez@stcletusparish.com

Associate Pastor

Rev. John Lodge

Deacon Franco Foti

Norma Hernandez

Kendall Grant

Social Concerns

for Children and Teens

Liturgies

Rev. Elmer Romero Pastor eromero@stcletusparish.com

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

Rev. Robert Clark Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Ramón Cazales rcazales@stcletusparish.com

Ryan Rump Music Ministry rrump@stcletusparish.com

Juanita Avila Hispanic Ministry javila@stcletusparish.com

Operations Staff

Deacon Franco Foti Operations Director ffoti@stcletusparish.com

Giselle Rico Office Manager grico@stcletusparish.com

Luis Lopez IT Manager Ilopez@stcletusparish.com Jim Dion Business Manager jdion@stcletusparish.com

kgrant@stcletusparish.com

Olga Montalvo Parish Office Coordinator omontalvo@stcletusparish.com

Derek Sawicki Maintenance Supervisor dsawicki@stcletusparish.com

School

Christy Schaefer Assistant Principal 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

R.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.

St. Cletus School

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

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 July 27	Rev. John Lodge	5 p.m.	† John Nisbet † Benjamin Patrick Hyink † Joseph Bartkowiak	[†] Deceased Member of St Cletus CWC [†] Daniel Klepczarek Janet Boyer (Special Intention)
Sunday July 28	Rev. Elmer Romero	7:15 a.m.	† Irene Schoenberger † Julia Kopacz	† Marco, Emilia Rattin & Bill De Pasquale
	Rev. John Lodge	8:45 a.m.	For peace in the world	
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	10:30 a.m.	† Robert Suchy † Mary Ann Cicero	+ Ann Pizzuto+ Deborah and Doug Cooper
	Rev. Elmer Romero	12:30 p.m.	† Por las benditas almas del purgatorio	Soledad Fernandez (Special Intention)
Monday July 29	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Delphine Marciszewski	† Julissa Plata
Tuesday July 30	Rev. Elmer Romero	8 a.m.	† Phyllis Prevenas	
Wednesday July 31	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	⁺ For B.C. & Rip Collins	
Thursday August 1	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	† Margaret Kelly	
Friday August 2	Rev. Alexander Garcia	8 a.m.	† Louie Marasovic † Nan & Bob Rettig	† Frank Wojcik
Saturday August 3	Rev. Alexander Garcia	5 p.m.	 Frank Sr. and Irene Skrip Frank Condor Regina Condor 	[†] Daniel Klepczarek Janet Boyer (Special Intention)
Sunday August 4	Rev. Alexander Garcia	7:15 a.m.		
	Rev. Ron Kalas	8:45 a.m.	+ Gary Verhoeven	† Louis Berger
	Rev. Michael Novick	10:30 a.m.	† Mary Ann Morici † Sue Schiller	[†] Kenneth "Ken" Raymond Hickey
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	12:30 p.m.	† José	* Mateo De Jesus Esparza (Special Intention)

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Tom Dombrowski | Cynthia Gosse | Armando Almaraz | Patti Boland | Janet Boyer | Debbie Cote | Joanne Kasang | Korea Touranjeau

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

Please remember our dead in your prayers:

⁺ Joan Klemak, Friend of Marion Wojcik

+ Matthew Engels, Husband of Danielle Engels

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

"He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."" Mark 6:31

Dear Friends,

This weekend is Weekend Mission Appeal at our parish. We are blessed to have Friar Mario Serrano, OFM Conv., who will be the homilist at all Masses. Everyone will have the opportunity to greet, welcome, and pray this weekend with Friar Mario. He delights praying and leading others to Christ. In his community, he serves as the Provincial Secretary of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation and as Vocation Director. Let us offer him our warm welcome and support his mission financially and with our prayers.

The Independence Day Mass went well. We were blessed to have Most Rev. Jeffry Grob, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, as the principal celebrant and Homilist. I was encouraged by his graciousness, kindness, and joy. The Independence Day Band (volunteers), conducted by Justin Sisul, animated our spirit and enhanced tremendously our experience of and community. The presence and active participation of our veterans and those on active duty made our worship even more special. The Ministry and leadership of the Special Committee was crucial and helpful. They are: Justin Sisul, Karen Ziemba, Juanita Avila, Paul McCaffray, Leonard

Bertin, Charlie Schiller, Deacon Franco Foti, and Fr. Michael Novick. I would like to offer them and everyone else my sincere gratitude for their fine contribution. They inspire me with their generosity. They are witnesses of kindness. Please hold them in prayer.

On the weekend of July 6-7, 2024, Fr. Alex Garcia, Associate Pastor, introduced himself at all Masses. He also was the principal celebrant and homilist of our 12:30 PM Mass. I was encouraged seeing him making a good connection with all of you. I was also moved by the warm and kind welcomed you gave him. Fr. Alex felt this at each Mass. Thank you for being kind, welcoming, and caring. Let us hold Fr. Alex in prayer as he shares his faith, life, and priesthood at our parish.

l am

excited to let you know that our next Evening of Prayer and Reflection: Exploring Ignatian Spirituality, will be on Wednesday, August 7th, 2024, at 7:00 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Deacon Jim Kennedy, SJ. He grew up in our parish. He went to our Parish School. Currently, he is completing his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Loyola Hospital in Maywood, IL. On weekends, since June, he has been serving as a deacon and homilist at our parish. His parents (Elaine and Jim) are active members of our parish. He is excited about his vocation and is a witness of the closeness of the Lord. I hope you can join us.

As we enjoy Summer, may we continue to seek opportunities to rest with Jesus.

Fr. Elmer Romero

praver

A Note from the Associate Pastor's Desk

A break from Saint Mark

As happens every three years, we have been following Jesus' journeys through the narrative of St. Mark. However, as also happens each year we listen to St. Mark's gospel, there is a six week "break" and we listen to St. John's gospel accounts of what is known as "the Bread of Life discourse." Not all of the stories are directly mentioning that phrase, but the theme throughout these coming weeks centers on Eucharistic allusions.

Obviously, this year it should take on a more relevant role in our souls during this Eucharistic Revival. This is a moment in the Church that we have sought to help people recover a true sense of the importance of regular reception of the Eucharist. Ever since the recent pandemic shook up people's faith, and they couldn't go to Church because of the health risks, the number of Catholics physically receiving the Eucharist is significantly lower than it has been in decades. Fear is the number one cause of this phenomenon. I would venture to say that complacency would be a close second cause for people not receiving the Eucharist.

Complacency is an unhealthy attitude in which many people are believing in that watching Mass on TV or computer (thereby praying with the many others watching and receiving spiritual communion) is sufficient. While the United States Bishops made the proclamation at the beginning of the pandemic that the obligation was lifted due to the health risks to all, it was always meant to be a temporary thing. Probably 90-98 percent of bishops have removed that temporary dispensation, but many choose to ignore that and continue to believe spiritual communion is enough. That attitude needs to change.

People have asked whether or not missing Sunday Mass is a sin. Some people say "no." Some say "yes." The reality is that it depends on the circumstance. Many people confess that they missed Mass because they were in the hospital or were traveling. In circumstances like these a person cannot be held accountable to have sinned. There was not opportunity. And some people don't think about even trying to celebrate on TV nor internet. People who have indeed made their first communion but consciously choose not to make an effort to attend Mass could be considered to be guilty of sin by disobeying the first and third commandments. People who miss Sunday Mass by accident (where maybe there could have been opportunity to attend), might be guilty of sin but in a lessened sense as their intent was to go. The best example I can give for this is that a person's car literally runs out of gas on the way to Mass.

We all have to dig deep into our souls to help make real for the world the one which many cannot see, but we believe to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Fr. Mike



Parish Life					
Date	Time	Events	Location		
Monday, July 29	5 p.m.	Summer Basketball Camp	Clark Hall - Gym		
	7 p.m.	CREDO-Chosen Discussion Group	Gallagher Room		
Tuesday, July 30	5 p.m.	Summer Basketball Camp	Gallagher Room		
	5:30 p.m.	Quinceañera Rehearsal	Church		
Wednesday, July 31	9 a.m.	Food Pantry Volunteers	Food Pantry		
	1 p.m.	Living Rosary	Church		
	5 p.m.	Summer Basketball Camp	Clark Hall - Gym		
	8 p.m.	School Father's Basketball	Parish Center - Gym		
Thursday, August 1	5 p.m.	Summer Basketball Camp	Clark Hall - Gym		
	4 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution	Food Pantry		
	7 p.m.	ILP Presentation	Gallagher Room		
Friday, August 2	5 p.m. 7 p.m.	Girls Volleyball Practice Our Lady of Guadalupe Committee Meeting	Parish Center Gym Gallagher Room		
Saturday, August 3	11:30 a.m.	Spanish Baptisms	Church		
	After Mass	Fall Fest Ticket Sales	Church		
Sunday, August 4	After all Masses	Fall Fest Ticket Sales	Church		

Readings	of the week
----------	-------------

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18				
(see 16)/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15				
Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Ps 32:18-19, 20, 21/Jn 11:19				
-27 or Lk 10:38-42				
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt				
13:36-43				
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11,				
17, 18/Mt 13:44-46				
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt				
13:47-53				
Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58				
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-				
34/Mt 14:1-12				
Next Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24,				
25, 54 (24b)/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35				

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Tuesday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Thursday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

Next Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



We invite you to partner with us as a sponsor of our 2024 Fall Fest. This exciting opportunity will place your business directly in the spotlight among our community! This is your chance to gain valuable marketing exposure while supporting our parish and school!

As a sponsor, you have the unique opportunity to showcase your commitment to our community while enjoying the following benefits:

- Prominent Visibility: Your brand prominently featured throughout the fest venue, ensuring maximum exposure to attendees.
- Community Engagement: Connect directly with hundreds of local residents who value community support and involvement.
- Gratitude and Recognition: Receive heartfelt recognition in event programs, social media shoutouts, and parish communications.



Scan here to learn more about our sponsorship levels

Or Please email fallfest@stcletusparish.com to learn about opportunities such as being a beer tent sponsor, ride sponsor, stage sponsor, and more!





Purchase yours after all masses beginning next weekend! Don't miss a chance to win

2nd Prize \$2,500 3rd Prize \$1,000 4th Prize \$500

There will be 3 EARLY BIRD drawings to win \$50 August 25th, September 1st, and September 4th

Sharing our Blessings, Graces, and Holy Moment

Sisters and brothers last week, a friend took me to a Chicago Dogs baseball game at Impact Field in Rosemont. Beside the game there were a lot of families with children in attendance. Prices are such that families can afford the parking, the tickets and the concessions. Between innings there is entertainment and games that involve children and kids can run the bases after the game. I thought about that as I came to the parish last Saturday. No parking or admission fees and wonderful food some of which was served up by Fathers: Mike and Alex. What a variety was at hand. For entertainment the kids had games, a piñata, and they were enjoying the disk jockey and the music and showing off their dancing skills along



with the adults present. I had an opportunity to walk about and meet folks who were present some of



whom I knew and others that I met for the first time. All this

along with a perfect evening from a weather standpoint. Kudos to all the leadership people who planned and executed the event. I hope you might consider joining in the future events that your parish offers. It is always fun, entertaining, and always affordable. Enjoy!

Fr Ron Kalas

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The gospels relate that one of things that Jesus enjoyed the

most in his public ministry was to share with the crowds. People felt respected, considered and worthy of being loved at the presence of Jesus. Our Lord was fully aware that for many he was unjustly considered a "glutton and drunkard" (Mathew 11, 19). Wherever Jesus was, there was joy and happiness. Wherever

Christians are, there should be joy and happiness too. Somebody told me last Saturday that the picnic was my "baptism of fire" here at St. Cletus. That the picnic was just a foretaste of the hard work that waits for me in the Parish. I can say that it was really inspiring to me to see the volunteers sharing their time, effort and talent to build community. It was a true testimony of communion to look at all parishioners coming



together to share food, music, faith, culture and above all, to share the joy of being Christians. If the hard work that waits for me in St. Cletus is as enjoyable as the picnic was, I am sure I will enjoy my



service, work and ministry here among you.

Fr. Alex

Sharing our Blessings, Graces, and Holy Moment

It was such a joy to be a part of the St. Cletus Family Picnic this past weekend! We gathered as a parish family - the whole family! - and the joy was evident all around. As the chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council, seeing our community come together at one event that included our parish, school, Spanish- and English-speaking communities was wonderful to see. We have something really special here and I hope that this spirit of joy and



inclusion continues to grow at St. Cletus and spread beyond it. Moments like these remind me of the goodness and nearness of God to us. The same people who will offer to flip burgers will offer a hand when we need it the most. The children laughing on the playground are growing up in a safe environment surrounded by loving families. Our priests and parish staff lead us in prayer and serve right alongside us. The blessings we have at St. Cletus are abundant, but they aren't exclusive to us -- they deserve to be shared! Can you think of a neighbor who could use a friend, a good meal, or a family-friendly environment for their kids? God can work through all of those things (especially a plate of carnitas, I can personally



attest:) I hope you can join me in inviting that person to St. Cletus sometime soon. What a gift we have to offer a world in distress! I look forward to working with the Parish Pastoral Council to continue to support events and opportunities like this that bring us together and closer to the Lord. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to email me at monicamherron@gmail.com. Finally, immense thanks goes to Michael Burns who chaired the planning committee, and all those on the staff and volunteer teams who made the event seem effortless. We could not have done this without you!

- Monica Herron

What I loved about the picnic this past Saturday was watching so many of the children not only having a good time, but helping to serve in various ways, especially around the sno-cone and popcorn machines. The adults were doing a great job of supervising the kids and having a good time with them at the same time. A few of the teens helped serving water and soda and were very attentive to everyone. Also, as I was serving

around the food area, there were many people who had said they had never tried carnitas before and came back to me saying they were delicious. I believe the Lord knew what He was doing for us in giving us a great event. I didn't one complaint for the evening – food, music, and the weather. It was perfect.



Social Concerns



St. Cletus Food Pantry

Thursdays 4-8 p.m.

Wish List:

- Cereal
- Condiments
- Boxed Potatoes
- Baby Wipes
- School Supplies
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Hand Soap

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



Compassionate Care Ministry in Need of Postage Stamps

The Compassionate Care Ministry is again badly in need of postage stamps for its notes of sympathy and support during the first year following the loss of a loved one. Each bereaved family receives six cards during that year. This means that if there are ten funerals during a period of one month, 50 stamps are needed in that month alone. Your generous donations have meant so much in the past and we are very grateful. If you are able to contribute to this worthwhile ministry in this way, it will be very much appreciated. Simply put them in an envelope marked CCM and drop them off at the parish office—or right into the collection basket on Sunday. Please, Forever stamps only. Thank you.

Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 27 de Julio	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español Spanish Mass	Iglesia
Martes, 30 de Julio	7:00 p.m.	Adoración al Santisimo Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament	Iglesia
Segundo sábado de cada mes	8 p.m 5 a.m.	Adoración Nocturna Nocturnal Adoration	Iglesia
Sábados	8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Confesiones	Iglesia

Reunión del Comité de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Miembros del Comité Guadalupano tendrán una reunión el jueves 2 de agosto, 2024 a las 7:00 pm. en el salón Gallagher.

Continuaremos planificando los eventos para la fiesta Guadalupana. Si alguien quisiera ser parte de la planificación, es bienvenido.



Members of the Guadalupe Committee will have a meeting on Thursday, August 2nd, 2024 at 7:00 pm. in the Gallagher Room. We will continue planning the events for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. If anyone would like to be a part of the planning, they are welcome.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Committee Meeting



School News

A letter form the School Principal

Principal Porod's Perspective

We had a wonderful time at the St. Cletus Family Picnic this last weekend. God provided us with a beautiful Saturday late afternoon liturgy in church followed by a picnic in our courtyard. People in attendance enjoyed a great deal of fun including: delicious food,

Roof work on the school along Stone Avenue and the new school intercommunications system are in their initial stages of installation. We are very pleased and blessed with the upgrades that are happening in our school for our students and staff. The school building is occupied during the day

for our full day enrolled students in our school and also for our Faith Formation program on Sundays and during some evenings. We are all called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all of our children and adults through various learning opportunities in all of our facilities.

Before the summer break ends, we still have camps being offered including volleyball, basketball, cross country and Chess. Call our School Office for more information at 708-352-4820. Thanks again for supporting the efforts of our students this past weekend in the Musical "Annie Kids." The students had a great deal of fun over the last two weeks preparing for their performances.

Go Cardinals! Gregory N. Porod, M.Ed., Supt. End.

games, music, and most of all fellowship among church and school families. A special "Thank you" to School Board President Mike Burns and Operations Director Deacon Franco Foti and numerous volunteers for coordinating this special event.

Approximately twenty-five days to the start of another school year at St. Cletus. But whose counting!

Our custodial staff continues to work on both the inside and outside of our campus in preparation for the start of the year. We still have some openings in our classrooms for new students. Be a St. Cletus recruiter by sending a new family our way to experience a Catholic Education in our church, school, and parish center.

Ms. Jennifer Pavic

Jennifer graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and has been teaching since 2003. She is a mom of two, Emily is twelve and Ben will be six.

Jennifer loves spending time with family, reading, watching movies, and traveling. She grew up in Chicago Ridge and now lives in Garfield Ridge area near Midway.

Lets Welcome our New Teachers





Mrs. Nikki Gorman

Nikki received her bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Literature from the university of Maryland. She previously worked as a federal agent for the

United States Secret Service.

Nikki is a wife and mom of three St Cletus graduates. She grew up on the east coast and has lived in La Grange for the past 12 years.

Nikki is a runner and triathlete who is passionate about health and fitness.

CREDO: The Chosen Discussion Group for Season 4

If you have been watching the series *The Chosen*, please come join our discussion group for Season 4. We meet at 7pm on Monday nights in the Gallagher Room. We watched the first episode of Season 4 on July 15th, and will continue with an episode most Mondays until September 16th. We hope you can join us.



Delve into the Bible

This one day workshop will teach us what the Bible really IS - and how we, as Catholics, are called to read it. If you have ever felt called to read the Bible before, but perhaps have not known where to begin, then this is the workshop for you, whether just a beginner or

INSTITUTE of PASTORAL STUDIES

an advanced learner! Come and enjoy the experience for FREE and let the Word of God change your life.

Saturday, August 10, 2024 9:30am - 3:30pm, bring your own lunch! St. Cletus Parish | 600 W 55th Street, La Grange, IL 60525 All are welcome!

Workshop is free of charge; however a small donation is encouraged from attendees to help cover administrative costs. Thank you so much for your support!

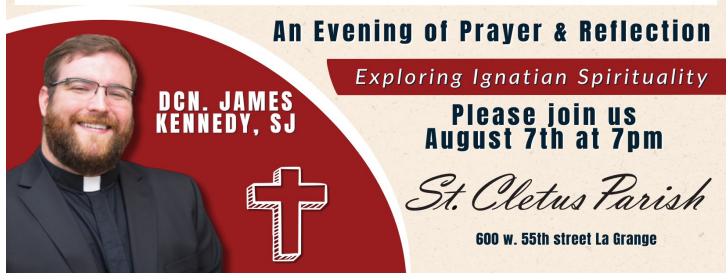
Please RSVP by scanning the QR





Facilitator Dr. Dorothy Jonaitis Co-Author, Catholic Biblical School Program, Institute of Pastoral Studies

Deacon Jim Kennedy, SJ grew up in La Grange as a member of St. Cletus Parish and a graduate of St. Cletus School. After joining the Jesuits in 2014, Deacon Jim studied philosophy at Fordham University in the Bronx and served at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, teaching history and directing student retreats. During the academic year, Deacon Jim is completing a theology degree at Regis College in Toronto and is serving as a chaplain this summer at Loyola Medical Center. He has given numerous talks on the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, and has served as a director on a number of retreats. Ordained a deacon in May 2024, he will be ordained a priest in June 2025.



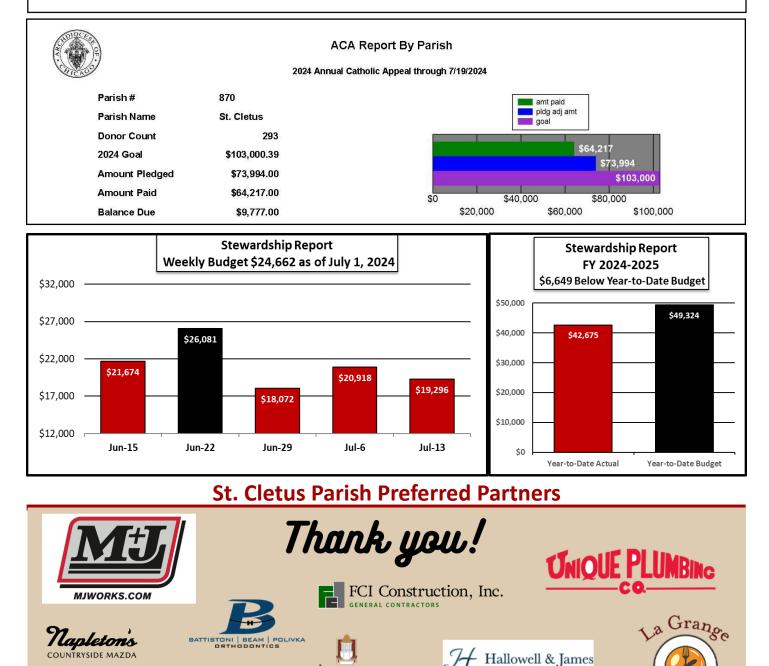
Vatican announces theme for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

The Catholic Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents. This year it is July 28.

For more information, visit: https://www.usccb.org/ news/2024/vatican-announces-theme-world-daygrandparents-and-elderly

Argo Roofing





Page 14

Breakfast Cafe

Funeral Hom