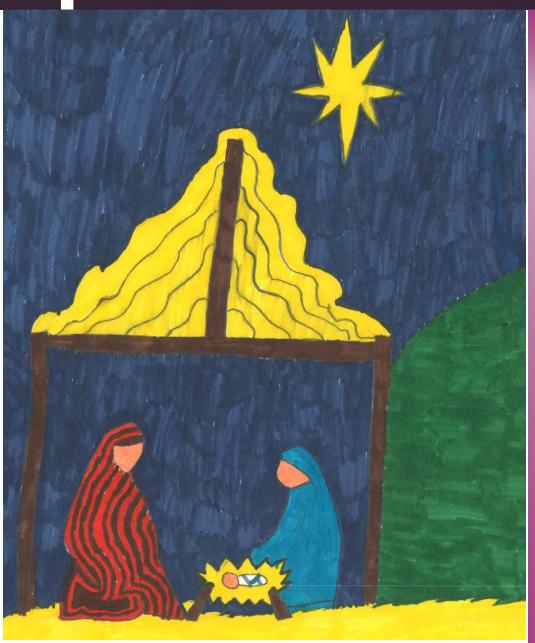
# Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

ENTER THE SEASON OF

## ADVENT

WITH GRATITUDE



#### Drawing by St. Cletus School Third Grader, Amelia Kobylarczyk

## WELCOME

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## Mass Intentions for December 25 - December 31 2023

Day	Time	Presider	Intentions
December 25	7:15am 10:00am 12:30pm	Fr. Belausakas Fr. Romero & Fr. Novick Fr. Romero	Frank O'Connor, Anthony Serritella, Natalie Nicoletti, John and Marie Wisniewski, St. Cletus Purgatorial Society  Anita Ferreira, Camilo Ferreira, Christine Jaskenski
December 26	8:00am	Fr. Romero	Ruth B. Peck, Ed Stec Sr., William Thomas Nihill
December 27	8:00am	Fr. Novick	BC and Rip Collins
December 28	8:00am	Fr. Novick	St. Cletus Parishioners
December 29	8:00am	Fr. Kalas	Frank Wojcik, Louie Marasovic
December 30	5:00pm	Fr. Novick	Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Rose Marie Hrzenjak, Harriet Baczynski, Fred Grosskopf, Daniel Klepczarek
	7:15am 8:45am	Fr. Kalas Fr. Kricek	John and Frances, Kennedy, Catholic Women Council, Julia St. Cletus Parishioners
December 31	10:30am 12:30pm	Fr. Belauskas Fr. Novick & Deacon Franco	Stacy Baker, John Backer, Eugene Sorrentino  Por las benditas almas del purgatorio(special intention)

## 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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THEIR FAMILIES...

Sebastian Condotti Father of Dean Condotti

Maria Cahue Mother of Nora Cahue

**Eileen Marchetti** Monther of John Marchetti

**Glen Peters**Father of Elizabeth Peters

May they rest in peace....



#### Pastor's Note

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word."

Luke 1:38

Dear Friends.

By the grace of God, we are here to celebrate Christmas. We feel ready and prepared for this amazing celebration. Our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude. Kindness, forgiveness, and love are given and received. We can clearly sense and see God everywhere and in everyone.

I am noticing that our attitudes, intentions, and generosity towards each other is filled with the kindness, gentleness, and love of God. It feels like the effects of Mary's response (above) to the Lord is taking root in our hearts. It seems like we are experiencing joy, peace, and encouragement as we do the will of God inspired by Mary. We know that she is an amazing mother, but she is also an amazing teacher, mentor, and influencer. I encourage you to let Mary show you how to become the person God has created you to be. She does this for me every day.

I am happy to share with you four moments where I felt the encouragement, influence, and love of Mary recently.

For the past few weeks, I have been meeting, greeting, and welcoming some men and women who are considering joining our parish community. They tell me that they feel welcomed and at home when they attend Mass with us. They are finding us to be a warm, kind, and caring parish community. Hopefully after a good discernment, they can choose St. Cletus Parish as their spiritual home. I would like to thank you for making them feel welcomed and at home.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was celebrated on December 8, 2023, went well. This year, after prayer and consultation, we made the decision to celebrate Our Lady's Solemnity by offering four Masses. The Mass schedule gave everyone more opportunities to come to Mass and nourished their relationship with our Lady. I am grateful to Fr. Michael Novick, Associate Pastor, Fr. Ron Kalas, Ryan Rump, Director of Music Ministries, and every minister for their generosity and contribution. Thank you for your prayers and for encouraging us to serve with the heart of Mary.

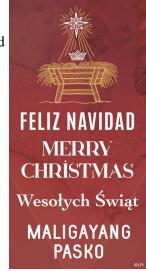
Our special **Mass with the Anointing of the Sick** was well celebrated. This special celebration took place on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 AM in our beautiful church. Over 85 people came to Mass to receive the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It was a privileged moment of prayer, community, and love. After Mass, we proceeded to the Parish Center for lunch. We were able to taste some delicious soup, salad, bread, and soft drinks. It was another special moment where gratitude and joy were shared. Next year, we anticipate having a **Mass with the Anointing of the Sick** on April 6 and October 12, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

As in the previous two years, the **Advent Reconciliation Prayer** service took place at St. John of the Cross on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 1:30 PM. It was well attended. Priests that minister at St. Francis Xavier, St. Cletus, and St. John of the Cross came together to serve as confessors. It was a festival of faith and mercy. Seeing many celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation gave me hope and joy. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to our host, Fr. Marc Reszel, Pastor of St. John of the Cross, for his ministry and leadership. Please notice that for Lent we at Cletus will be hosting a **Lenten Reconciliation Prayer** service on March 11<sup>th</sup> and with another service at St. Francis Xavier on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

It is with a heart filled with gratitude, appreciation, and joy that I wish you a Merry Christmas.

May our desire to do the will of God continue to be strengthened by the gentleness of Mary and Jesus.

Fr. Elmer Romero



## Note From Father Mike

#### **Advent 4/Christmas**

It's been a very odd year as I had mentioned these last three weeks in terms of Advent. So this article has two purposes.

That first reading for the 4th Sunday of Advent goes hand in hand with the gospel reading from St. Luke's story of the Annunciation. It's about the fourth time during the season we hear this gospel story, but today it has a different purpose as we listen. It reminds us that today's first reading from the second book of Samuel is fulfilled. God promises that David's throne would stand firm forever, and Gabriel announces that as a part of his message. It's pretty straight-forward. And for the community that St. Luke was writing to (the Gentiles), it is important to have that link. He goes on later to have his own version of Jesus' lineage, but while St. Matthew begins with Abraham, St Luke takes it all the way back to the beginning in Adam. The Gentiles wouldn't have cared about the promise being only made to Abraham. Adam was as close to God as they came for the Gentiles. Remember, it was the Hebrews, and then everyone else (Gentiles).

Time then marches in this major shift in the Church's calendar. Seasons change.

Within hours of the morning, we hear about the birth of that promised Savior in a small town named Bethlehem. Who hears about this excellent event first from the choir of angels? Shepherds. Why? Some of the subtleties of Scripture are very clever. Doesn't it follow logically that the royal bloodline would be announced to the group of men whom David – a young shepherd become king – would be told before the rest of world. The shepherds are given the task of announcing the news, glorifying God as they go. But the news of Jesus' birth is not supposed to stop with the shepherds, nor is it their sole responsibility. Everyone who hears the message needs to spread the message. It's not like it's some sort of gossip.

From age to age, the Message that God is love and the proof of His love is the birth of His Son should still not only make us joyful, but should get us to think ahead about our own lives. Are we sharing the good news of Jesus to everyone we meet, not by our words but by our actions? Are we living like the Savior of the World HAS INDEED returned?

Happy Advent/Merry Christmas to all! Fr. Mike





## **Sunday Notes**

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/ Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**Monday:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1 -18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Thursday**: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next 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

#### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Monday:** The Nativity of the Lord Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the

Church

Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

**Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



## **Sharing Our Graces and Blessings With Gratitude**



## **Finance Council Update**



#### SAINT CLETUS PARISH

Living our Faith, Building our Future.

The week of November 19, 2023, we published the FY 2023 Parish Financial Report that summarized the Parish's 2023 fiscal year, ending June 30, 2023. We encourage you to read about your continued support & generosity in providing the financial foundation that sustains all of our Parish ministries and initiatives.

Of course, one important component of our community is our Parish elementary school, which has 280 students enrolled in Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. According to Archdiocesan guidelines, parish schools are required to be self-sufficient through tuition and any needed fund-raising, not relying on Parish financial support. Our school has been very successful in completing & following this mandate.

However, a serious setback was dealt to our school and other private schools when the Illinois State Legislature chose to allow the Empower Illinois Scholarship program to expire without renewal. The five-year-old tax credit scholarship program that 9,700 students across the state used, including 23 St. Cletus students was allowed to "sunset" after the 2023 - 2024 school year. Our St. Cletus school received \$113,218 in scholarships this year to help pay either partial or full tuition of \$6.900 per student at St. Cletus. This has caused a huge budget concern for our school and many individual families seeking a Catholic education for their children who now must consider other school options for the next year.

We are writing to you for a couple of reasons. First, to ensure that you are aware of how this short-sighted (in our opinion) decision by the legislature will directly affect our St. Cletus community. This is a real, serious issue for several school families and school administration, and ultimately, our entire Parish. This brings us to our second point.

Three weekends have been set aside for a second collection during Mass to help offset this deficit. The weekends of January 27/28, 2024, which is the start of Catholic Schools week, and the weekends of February 24/25 and April 27/28, 2024. These three weekends also correspond as Family Mass weekends at 10:30 Mass. We realize that many of your budgets are probably already stretched thin, especially after the holidays. However, after examining your family's bottom line and praying about your options, please consider this choice to further show your gratitude for God's blessings. Another option to consider, if this would work for you, would be to sponsor one student for the entire year. As mentioned earlier, this would be \$6,900, probably more as tuition increases. If this is an option for you, please contact our school principal, Mr. Greg Porod 708/352-4820 or email at <a href="mailto:gporod@stcletusparish.com">gporod@stcletusparish.com</a>.

Thank you, fellow parishioners, for your continued support, prayers, and generosity!

Sincerely,

The St. Cletus Parish Finance Council

Doug Morrissey, Chair

finance@stcletusparish.com

## **Envelope Delay**

#### MAILING OF ENVELOPES

Due to a delay with our envelope company, the packet containing your donation envelopes for January and February may be delivered a bit late by the Post Office.

Please, feel free to use a regular envelope and write your name, envelope number, and address. We will be sure to credit your donations accordingly.

I'm sorry for any trouble this may cause.

Deacon Franco

**Operations Director** 

## **School News**

#### **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

What a truly beautiful morning we had celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Some of our 6th graders presented a beautiful skit explaining the miracle of Juan Diego which has become a highly anticipated tradition at our school. Thank you to Mr. Ochoa for always taking such time and care to prepare the students for this wonderful event.







#### 1ST-8TH GRADE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our 1st-8th graders did a marvelously merry job last week at their Christmas program! Thank you to Mrs. Prosen for working so hard with them to prepare for this special night! They really put us in the Christmas spirit!













#### **GRINCH**



That silly old Grinch has been up to his same tricks this year around our school!!!



## **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

#### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

What an incredible year it has been for St. Cletus Social Concerns. This year we doubled our distribution hours to better meet the needs of our community. Week after week, we continue to see more people experience food insecurity and attending the pantry. We have set new records this year on Thursday nights.

Also, this year, we became a Food Rescue Hub with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. We have been given a refrigerated truck to increase our food rescue donations from area retailers, while also picking up food donations and supporting two other area pantries. We were selected because of you! Because of our strong community, dedicated volunteers, and the commitment you all have to our pantry. Thank you!















Are you on our email list? Stay up to date with all the things happening in the food pantry! Scan the QR code to sign up on our email list or follow us on social media. Or you can email kgrant@stcletusparish.com.

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



## **Social Concerns Ministry**

#### **GIVING TREE**

A HUGE thank you to our volunteers from the past two weekends of Giving Tree! We had over 200 different volunteers move and organize (literally) 1,200+ gifts donated by generous St. Cletus families and community members! WOW! Thank you for your continued generosity to those in our community.















## **Christmas Mass Times**



## Hispanic Ministry

#### FECHA-DATE HORA-TIME EVENTO-EVENT LUGAR-PLACE

26 de diciembre, 20237:00 p.m.Adoración al SantísimoIglesiaAdoration to the Blessed SacramentChurch

24 de diciembre 202312:30 p.m.Misa en Español<br/>Spanish MassIglesia<br/>Church

Segundo Sábado de cada mes 8:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. Adoración Nocturna Iglesia Second Saturday of each month 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Night Adoration Church Sábados 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Confesiones

#### 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.

#### THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Hispanic Ministry and the Guadalupe Committee of St. Cletus Parish, we want to thank everyone for their participation and support in the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was a great inspiration to see so many people at the Guadalupe Celebration. Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful celebration possible.

#### **GRACIAS!**

De parte del Ministerio Hispano y el Comité Guadalupe de la Parroquia St. Cletus, queremos agradecer a todos por su

participación y apoyo en la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Fue una gran inspiración ver tanta gente en la Celebración de Guadalupe. **Gracias a todos los que hicieron posible esta maravillosa celebración.** 

Iglesia





## **Christmas Note From Cardinal Cupich**



## **Ministry And Community News**

ishes erected in its stead."

#### 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 de Paul 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.

#### GIRLS CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

We invite the high school girls of our parish who are interested to sign-up for our Church League Basketball Team. There has been a change in the scheduling and games will begin in January.

If interested please scan the code below and fill out the registration form. If you have question you may reach out to Lawrence Manetti, Director of Faith Formation at lmanetti@stcletusparish.com.

Thank you.

Please consult an attorney and financial advisor when drafting your will or trust. For more information, please visit **giving.archchicago.org/bequest** or contact Marguerite Q. Zappa, Philanthropy Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at M: 312.848.3068 or mzappa@archchicago.org].

#### **JOIN THE CCW JANUARY 10TH**

## 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.

#### **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!

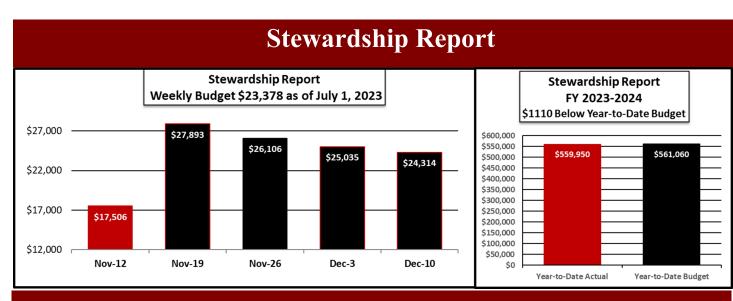
Registration for K42 opens on January 9, 9AM. We anticipate these spots will go quickly. Please see our website for more information and to access the link on January 9, 9AM.

#### PLANNED GIFT SUPPORT

During this most holy season, rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As stewards of our faith, please continue his good work on earth by considering a gift through your will or a planned gift in support of our Church. A bequest can be made to our parish using the following language:

"I give [insert specific dollar amount, or percentage of net or residuary] to The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Tax ID #36-2170826, a corporation sole located in Chicago, Illinois, to be used for the benefit of **St. Cletus Parish**, located in La Grange, Illinois. However, if St. Cletus Parish ceases to exist in its current form, then to the new parish or par-

Week At A Glance				
DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	
Sunday, December 24			Christmas Eve	
Monday, December 25			Christmas Day	
Tuesday, December 26	7pm 8pm	Church Parish Center	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament-Spanish Senior Basketball Practice Church League	
Wednesday, December 27	1-1:45pm 8-10pm	Church Parish Center	Living Rosary School Fathers Basketball	
Thursday, December 28	8-10pm	Parish Center	Church League Basketball Team Practices	
Friday, December 29	8-9pm	Parish Center	Frosh/Soph Church League Practice	
Saturday, December 30				
Sunday, December 31			New Year's Eve	



## **Preferred Partners**



# Thank you!

FCI Construction, Inc. GENERAL CONTRACTORS















### St. Cletus Parish Information

#### **CONTACT US**

Parish Center	(708) 352-6209
School	
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 Sunday	Closed

#### **MASSES**

Saturday Evening	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:15 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.
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#### **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 Morrisey, Parish Finance Council Chairperson,

Email: finance@stalatusnerish.com

Email: <u>finance@stcletusparish.com</u>

Helen McComiskey, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Email: ppc@stcletusparish.com

#### ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Pastor Chairperson	
LIAISONS	
FSA President	
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.