

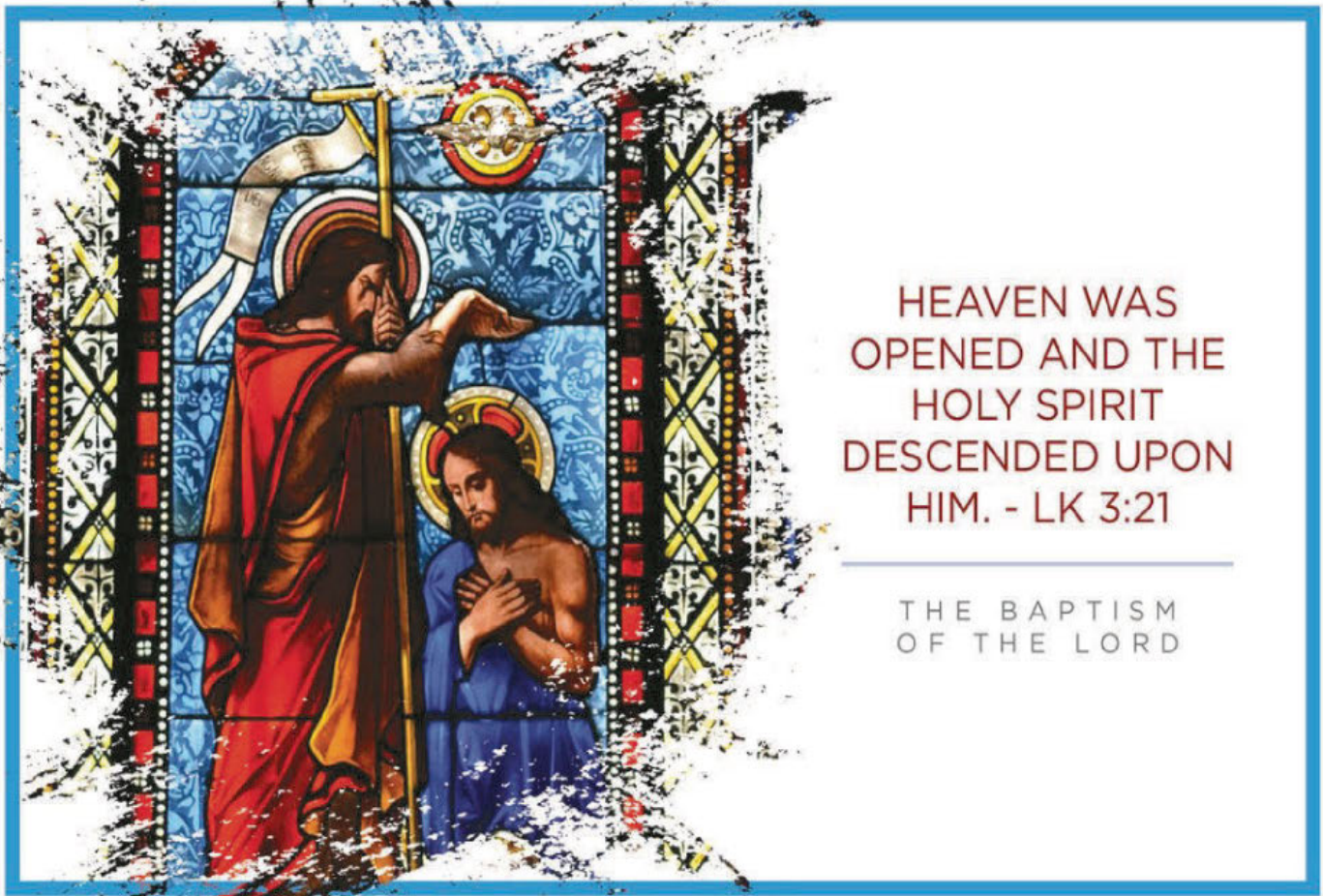
St. Cletus Parish Canticle

DESIGNATED PILGRIMAGE
SITE FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

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



January 12, 2025 | The Baptism of the Lord



HEAVEN WAS
OPENED AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT
DESCENDED UPON
HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Vision Statement

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Mt 28:19-20

Parish Office

(708) 352-6209
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



stcletusparish.com



St. Cletus Parish



St. Cletus Church

St. Cletus School

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



Directory

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Elmer Romero
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

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
lmanetti@stcletusparish.com

Kendall Grant
Social Concerns
kgrant@stcletusparish.com

Operations Staff

Jim Dion
Business Manager
jdion@stcletusparish.com

Luis Lopez
IT Manager
llopez@stcletusparish.com

Derek Sawicki
Maintenance Supervisor
dsawicki@stcletusparish.com

Giselle Rico
Office Manager
grico@stcletusparish.com

Olga Montalvo
Assistant Office Manager
omontalvo@stcletusparish.com

School

Greg Porod
Principal
gporod@stcletusparish.com

Mary Lee Krieger
Administrative Assistant
mkrieger@stcletusparish.com

Frank Ochoa
Dual Language Immersion
Coordinator
fochoa@stcletusparish.com

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday January 11	Rev. Elmer Romero	5 p.m.	† Winnie Weisgerber † Robert Suchy † Frank Mamolella	† Sammy Colonna Janet Boyer (Special Intention)
Sunday January 12	Rev. Michael Novick	7:15 a.m.	† Natalie Krawczyk	† Frank Mamolella
	Rev. Elmer Romero	8:45 a.m.	† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Konieczny † Monsignor Philip Reilly † Jess Birks	† Jean Burke Health blessings for John Prusko, Sr. (Living)
	Rev. John Lodge	10:30 a.m.	† Anthony Perkovich † C. Rodger Brown † Amalie Moravee	† Zianna Pompe † Kathleen Davies
	Rev. Elmer Romero	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	
Monday January 13	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† Elaine Rynders	† Kathy Birmingham
Tuesday January 14	Rev. Elmer Romero	8 a.m.	† Charles F. Rybowskiak	
Wednesday January 15	Rev. Ron Kalas	8 a.m.	† Evelyn Prevenas † BC & Rip Collins	Mary Marasovic (Birthday)
Thursday January 16	Rev. Michael Novick	8 a.m.	† Mary Rinaldo	
Friday January 17	Rev. Elmer Romero	8 a.m.	† Louie Marasovic	Virginia Kriho (Special Intention)
Saturday January 18	Rev. John Lodge	5 p.m.	† James Chiostri † Frank Baggio	Janet Boyer (Special Intention) Virginia Kriho (Special Intention)
Sunday January 19	Rev. Elmer Romero	7:15 a.m.	† Andrew H. Martorano	† Greg Popp
	Rev. Michael Novick	8:45 a.m.	† Harold & Delores Martin † Frank Wojcik	† Tom Kammer † Monsignor Philip Reilly
	Rev. Elmer Romero	10:30 a.m.	† Zianna Pompe † Sammy Colonna	† Angela Sass † Donald Kotrba
	Rev. Alexander Garcia	12:30 p.m.	† Por las Benditas Almas del Purgatorio † Elias Gallardo	Mila Ruvalcaba (Presentación de 3 años)

Please remember our sick in your prayers:

Joanne Kasang | Jorea Touranjzau | Debbie Coté |
Vincent Austrevich | Bonnie Kakareka | Mary Ann
Vokurka | Cynthia Gosse

Please remember our dead in your prayers:

† Marie Pristo, Grandmother of Jennifer Tsai
† Sandra Tybor, Mother of Sara Clark
† Joan Eckrich, Mother of Nancy Eckrich



A Note from the Pastor's Desk

**“And a voice came from heaven,
‘You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased.’”
Luke 3:22**

Dear Friends,

Why am I here, dear God? What am I supposed to do with the precious life you have given me? How do you want me to use and share the gifts, talents, and blessings I receive daily from you? How much longer do you still plan in keeping me around? These are some crucial questions we reflect on and ponder quite often if not daily.

Saint Augustine (354-430), after turning his life to God, spent his whole life contemplating and growing in friendship with God who was always so close to him. In *The Confessions* (c. 400) he writes, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” God blessed him to come to know the reason of his existence. After discovering his why, he spent the remaining years of his life helping others to come to know this amazing God. He wanted everyone to know, including us, that we were made for God and that our hearts will be restless until they rest in him.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) is another excellent saint who can help us see and understand our why. In his *Spiritual Exercises* (1522-1524) he wrote, “Man is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save his soul.” We were created to praise, reverence, and serve God. Wow! This is awesome. This is a very good reminder. It requires further exploration.

Simon Sinek, in his book “*Start With Why*” writes, “I get to wake up every day to do something I love. I get to inspire people to do the things that inspires them. It’s the most wonderful thing in the world.” Wow! How often do we hear something like this? Any idea? Simon is on to something here. He is

inviting us to find our purpose in life, which we all have. Simon’s works are worth exploring.

Our Christmas Choral Concert hosted on Sunday, December 22nd, 2024, in our beautiful church, was a success! The talented and gifted cantors and musicians captured our full attention with their peaceful and angelical voices. Every song was carefully chosen by Ryan Rump, Director of Music Ministries, for the special occasion. From the beginning of the concert all the way to the end, our souls felt embraced by the peace, gentleness, and love of Jesus. Many who attended the concert said, “Father, the concert was glorious” or “It was a magnificent Christmas Concert” or “It was inspiring.” I was touched by their positive feedback, joy, and kind words. Please join me in offering our sincere gratitude to the amazing women and men who offered us an extraordinary Christmas Choral Concert. In a special way, I would like to acknowledge and thank Ryan Rump for his fine ministry and leadership with the Christmas Choral Concert.

My visit and time with my parents and siblings in Peru went well. Everyone is doing well. My parents (86 and 84), despite the health challenges they face, found the way to share and instill kindness and love in me. They find peace, strength, and hope in God. The questions at the beginning of my letter originated while I spent time with them. I felt being led to God by their presence, stillness, and witness. It was beautiful. Thank you.

Today and every day, may we remember that we are a beloved son or daughter of God.

Fr. Elmer Romero

A Letter from the Associate Pastor's Desk

Life is Good

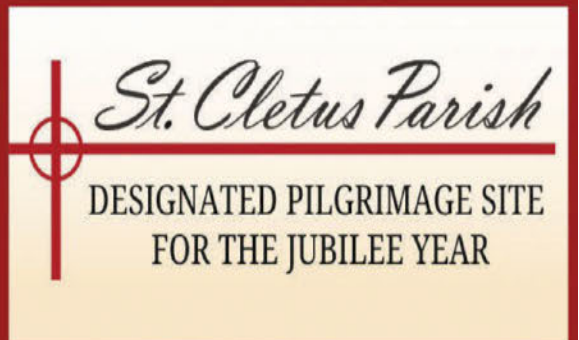
Everyone in the world has some sort of motto or theme by which they live their lives. My dad's older brother (God rest his soul) lived by the above motto "Life is good." Back in the early 1980s, my own father would say "Hi. I'm Ed and I'm charming." My motto for how I try to live out my priesthood is what I have called "professional fun," which I define as "If you are not having fun in what you do for a living, you probably need to change direction." I came to this conclusion in watching my dad with his siblings, friends, workmates, and customers. Even in the darkest of times, and even when someone might have had a bad day, getting up the next day is worth the effort. Jesus had his own motto – "Love one another."

If you look throughout the gospels, this is not only what Jesus spoke about but how he lived in relation to others. I remember something from a retreat this past year which I know I have used in past articles, but recall "God is relational before He is rational." And the relation begins within himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity exists before God speaks. That is such a great image for me. The Father and the Son share their love for each other in the Holy Spirit.

How did Jesus himself live his life? "Love one another." Everywhere he went, even from the manger at the beginning of his life outside of the womb, he shows his love for others not only for Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi, but for ALL people. God the Father, in the gospel for this weekend, the Father speaks to show his love for us such that Jesus loves us.

Last Sunday, I witnessed a young person (maybe 8 years old) run to the front doors of the church, and instead of just going in, he stopped and looked back to see a person getting out of their car into a wheelchair. As if it were simply all of time stopping, the young person decided to wait so that they could hold the door open for the person in the wheelchair. As I type this, I am tearing up to cry tears of inspiration. How many adults would be so aware of their surroundings to do something so selfless, let alone a child? I don't know what that child's motto or theme for life will be when they grow up, but it should be something very cool like "kindness is not an option" or "stay human – be kind." I think that would be fitting. My hope, however, would be that the child remembers that moment for the rest of their life. I hope that not only do they remember the moment but that through their example others might be inspired to do similar acts of kindness.

Fr. Mike



For more information, visit :
pvm.archchicago.org/es/jubilee-2025
or scan the QR Code



Parish Life

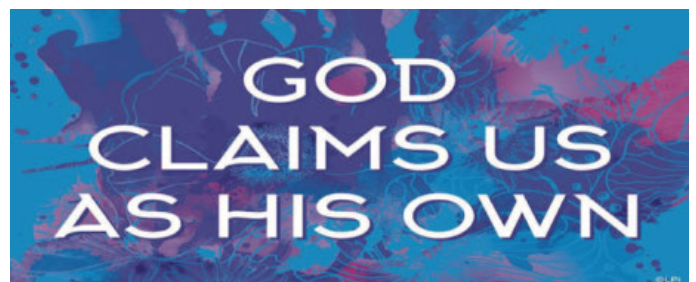
Date	Time	Events	Location
Monday, January 13	6:00 p.m.	Faith Formation	School
	7:00 p.m.	Spanish Baptismal Prep	Rectory Basement
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study	Gallagher Room
Tuesday, January 14	7:00 p.m.	English Baptismal Prep	Gallagher Room
Wednesday, January 15	9:00 a.m.	Mission Ladies	Gallagher Room
	1:00 p.m.	Living Rosary	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Faith Formation - Teen Seekers	School
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball	PC- Gym
Thursday, January 16	4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution	Food Pantry
	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
	7:00 p.m.	First Communion Parent Meeting	Morrissey Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
Friday, January 17	7:00 p.m.	21 an Over Trivia Night	Clark Hall
Saturday, January 18	9:00 a.m.	Vicariate V Commission with Training of Ministers in Spanish	Gallagher Room
Sunday, January 19			

Readings of the week

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-1

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Monday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Saturday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Year-End Statement by Request Only

As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2024 financial offering to the parish, call the office at (708) 352-6209 with your request. You may also email jdion@stcletusparish.com and submit your request electronically. Rather than mail statements to everyone in the parish, it seems more prudent and conservative to only mail them to those who need them for tax returns. Of course, your statement is available anytime a need for it may arise. Thank you.

Catholic Ministry of Care training

Offered by Vicariate V Deanery A in conjunction with the Ministry Commission Also in Collaboration with University of Chicago Advent Health

Single Day!

Jan 18th, 2025

8:30am-4:30pm (Check-In 8AM)
(Lunch Provided)

Location:

La Grange Hospital

5101 Willow Springs Rd,
La Grange, IL 60525

Use the Main Entrance @ Bldg 1
Ask for directions to Dixon "C"
Education room at Lobby

Presenters:

Chaplain Dr. Colleen Hagen
Deacon Tom Carlson

Ministers of Care bring the Eucharist to Catholics from all walks of life who are unable to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy at their parishes. Recipients may include Catholics who are home bound, residing in Nursing Homes, or Patients in Hospitals.

The Archdiocese conducts periodic training to help insure those called to Ministry are educated in the spirituality, theology, and the rites of Pastoral Care of the Sick. This training also insures people are properly prepared to participate in this important ministry.

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our Catholic Faith.

Topics to be covered:

- Spirituality of the Minister
 - Experience of Suffering
 - Pastoral Listening Skills
 - Theology of Suffering and Sickness
 - Ministerial Procedures
 - Prayer and Sacraments
 - Other Considerations
-

A FREE Copy of the "Minsters Of Care" Book will be provided to each participant in the training.

Vicariate V Parish Stipends cover some of the cost for the books. Special Thanks to Fr Tom May and Vicariate V Deanery A.

Parishioners, Men and Women 18 years of age and older, with support from their local Pastor. Important to let your Pastor, and the Minister of Care Coordinator from your Parish, know of your desire to attend the training.

(Your Pastor will request you be mandated for service after we verify completion of the training.)

Participation is limited to the first 35 People to enroll. There is NO Cost for the training however, a "Free Will Donation" can be made during Check-In to help offset some of the costs.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Please contact:

Deacon Tom Carlson
To enroll or to answer any questions.
Email: tcarlson@archchicago.org
Mobile: 630 746 8384

Sharing Reflection of Kindness

"Here, I thought you might need these," a mom said to me as she handed over a bag of gently used school uniforms in the school parking lot. This was not the first time someone gave me something I needed, even though I hadn't asked. Was there a sign on my back that said, "Mom of four young children - needs your help?" Accepting the act of charity was awkward; nevertheless, I was grateful and thanked her for the items. She was right; I did need the uniforms.



At some point, that mom must have been looking through her children's drawers, saw things that they had grown out of, and thought of me. "Yes, I'll give those to her because her children are younger and will use them," she thought. The "yes" is what lies at the center of an act of kindness. Kindness is both the recognition of a need and the willingness to do something about it. It is not only a commentary on a situation. How many times at the supermarket, with a toddler on my hip and a baby in the cart, had I heard someone say, "Wow, your hands must be full!" How many times had I jokingly wanted to reply, "They sure are. Would you like to hold one of these kids for a bit?"

Kindness is also the humility to receive someone else's help, even when that help is unbidden. Who was I to decline someone else's "yes" to generously giving of their material things when I was at the same time saying "yes" to giving of my time as a volunteer at my children's grade school? We were both engaging in acts of kindness to each other and to the greater community. Therefore, kindness exists in both the giving and the receiving, the perception of the need and the meekness to accept assistance.

When I ponder the scripture passage about the centurion in the Gospel of Luke, I reflect not only on the centurion's great faith but on the words of the elders to Jesus: "This man deserves to have you do this because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue" (Luke 7:4-5). In other words, just in case you missed it, Jesus, this man has been kind to us. As if Jesus, in his divine wisdom, needed the info. At the heart of the elder's words, though, is a knowledge of being loved by someone. Kindness is a reminder that you are loved and compelled to love in return. What does Jesus do but recognize their acknowledgment when He goes with the elders toward the centurion's house?

At work, we have a saying in our department: see a need, fill a need. Kindness sees the need and fills it with no expectation of a return. We are all called to see the needs around us and fill them out as we are able. In this way, we keep each other's cups full.

-Margaret Kelliher, St. Cletus Parishioner



Kindness can be found in both the halls and classrooms of St. Cletus School. Through our staff initiated PBIS (Positive Behavior In School) program students have been observed by staff for demonstrating kindness to one another. It is something that student's experience when students open the door for one another; help each other pick up items that may have fallen on the floor; assist each other with understanding a concept in class; encourage each other to do their best; apologize to one another for a hurt feeling; assist substitute teachers in the classrooms; and help our little Cardinals in church. These are just some of the ways kindness is spread throughout our school campus. Students are learning to let go and "Let God" work in their lives to create an environment of kindness both in and outside of their school experience.

Together, let's continue to spread kindness like confetti to everyone. Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year 2025!

- Principal Gregory N. Porod

Sharing Reflection of Kindness

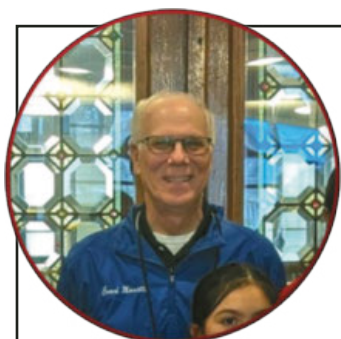
In my role at St. Cletus, I am surrounded by acts of kindness both big and small. Recently, some of our middle school volunteers from Gurrie reached out with an interest in learning more about the state of homelessness in our community and in our country. I have been absolutely blown away by their serious interest and concern, professionalism, creativity, hopefulness, and initiative. Here is just part of a recent letter they gave me.



“To raise money and awareness for the food pantry, we did a 50/50 raffle throughout LaGrange. We raised a grand total of \$151...When it came time to bring the winner their money, they decided to donate it back. We then went to the local Dollar Tree and bought 12 toiletry kits, which included toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant and razors...While we were there, an anonymous individual donated enough money to purchase two dozen cans of tuna and ten boxes of cereal. Also, enclosed is a check for \$60.”

I encourage you to read their full note on page 12 of this bulletin. Colin, Luke and Dylan are the young men taking on this project and have dedicated themselves to learning more about how to help others. I hope their kindness inspires you, as it has inspired me!

- Kendall Grant, Director of Social Concerns



As we prepare to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord and the end of the Christmas season, it is a good time for us to reflect on the graces of the season. Christmas gives us a chance to pause and reconnect with ourselves and rediscover what it means to be human. The heart of the season we remember Christ coming into the world and showing us how to live. How to show kindness to our family and neighbors, watching Christmas films show us the power of kindness and how it can change our relationships.

Leading up to Christmas I observed many smiling faces and experienced many simple acts of kindness from store clerks, shoppers holding doors and elevators for people and many thank-yous. Those simple acts of kindness: how important and meaningful they can be.

Just prior to Christmas I had some minor surgery. I know its part of their job but I thought about the kindness of the nurses, especially the pre-op and recovery room nurses. I know they were doing their job, what they were trained for, but it was the attitude and kindness, the caring and compassion I felt in the way they performed their jobs. I don't think I will forget their smiles.

May the blessings of Christ be with you and your families during 2025.

-Lawrence Manetti, Coordinator of O.C.I.A

School News

January Dining 4 Dollars

Western Springs

Eat to support St. Cletus School



Use promo code
GPFUND24



4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Monday, January 13th



Lou Malnati's
Western Springs 4700 Gilbert Ave.

Order online at loumalnatis.com, in the mobile app or call



New Cardinal Mural!

Our cardinal is very excited about the new addition to our hallway! Thank you to our Father's Club for helping sponsor this awesome mural!



21+ TRIVIA NIGHT

Gather a team of no more than 10 people (less is fine!) and come join the fun!

January 17th
In the Parish Center

Doors Open at 6:30, Trivia begins at 7pm

\$20 per person

Drop payment off at the school office or pay at the door

This event is BYOB. Feel free to bring snacks too!

Team Name: _____

Number of People on Team: _____

Make Checks Payable to St. Cletus FSA

Ministerio Hispano

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
Domingo, 12 de enero	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español	Iglesia
Sábado, 18 de enero	9 a.m.	Formación para ministros litúrgicos	Centro Parroquial
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

VICARIATE V |  ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

La Comisión Ministerial presenta:



Entrenamiento de liturgia

DÍA Y FECHA DE PRESENTACIÓN:

Formación para ministros litúrgicos

Fecha: sábado 11 de enero de 2025

Parte I - Todos los Ministros Litúrgicos deben asistir.

Hora: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lugar: San Cleto, Gallagher Room

Fecha: sábado 18 de enero de 2025

Parte II - Formación específica para Lectores.

Hora: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lugar: San Cleto, Gallagher Room

Presentador:

Diacono Franco Foti

Fecha: sábado 25 de enero de 2025

Parte II - Formación específica para Ministros Extraordinarios de

Comunión de EM.

Hora: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lugar: San Cleto, Gallagher Room

Para registrarse, escanee el código QR:



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.

Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe

El Ministerio Hispano lleva a cabo la devoción de rezar el Rosario todos los días 12 de cada mes en la iglesia a las 7:00pm. Se les anima a todos a participar.

Hoy domingo 12 de enero, 2025 el Rosario se llevará a cabo inmediatamente después de la Misa de 12:30 pm. Gracias

Social Concerns



St. Cletus Food Pantry

Thursdays
4-8 p.m.

Wish List:

- Tuna
- Coffee
- Cereal
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Crackers, cookies, snacks

Follow us on

Facebook:

StCletusFoodPantry

Instagram:

@St.CletusFoodPantry

If you have questions or would like to volunteer
Kendall Grant
(708)215-5418
kgrant@stcletusparish.com

Food Pantry Updates

It has been such a joy and honor to work with Colin, Luke and Dylan in the past few weeks with their project on homelessness in our community. These three young men are students at Gurrie Middle School. They first approached me while volunteering at food pantry distribution. They had some thoughtful questions about homelessness in the United States and asked if they could interview me for a school project.

Before the interview, they sent about two dozen questions that they had. I was blown away! It was clear that they had given this lots of thought and were very concerned with this issue. At a recent food pantry distribution, they surprised me with donations and this letter below.

I've been so inspired by the kindness of these young men. Their initiative to learn more about a problem and take action is exactly what we need in this world. Thank you Colin, Luke and Dylan!

Dear Mrs. Kendall Grant,

We cannot express our gratitude enough for you and your charity. It means so much to not only us at Gurrie, but all of the community, knowing that everyone can wake up to heat in this chilly winter, and food on their plates. It is so important what you guys do and there's really no way to show the amount of thanks that you deserve.

For our group project, we wanted to take on the challenge of homelessness. First, we decided to explore what homelessness really is, and how it happens. Once we got the full understanding, it was time to learn how we could help. While we looked into many organizations, we were especially intrigued by yours. We thought that the St. Cletus Food Pantry was strictly taking on food insecurity, but boy were we wrong. Throughout our experience with you, we learned that you do so much more than just food insecurity. Like how you help when people are experiencing trouble with heat, or lights. Also, helping people who cannot afford Christmas presents.

To raise money and awareness for the food pantry, we did a 50/50 raffle throughout LaGrange. We raised a grand total of \$151, and sold around 50 tickets to the residents of Spring Ave. When it came time to bring the winner their money, they decided to donate it back. We then went to the local Dollar Tree and bought 12 toiletry kits, which included a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant and razors. Those cost around \$4 each. While we were there, an anonymous individual donated enough money to purchase 2 dozen cans of tuna and 10 boxes of cereal.

Once again, thank you, it is an honor to have you helping us with our project.

Enclosed in our package is:

- 24 cans of Starfish Tuna
- 10 boxes of cereal
- 12 toiletry kits
- 20 extra razors
- A check for \$60

*From,
Colin, Luke, and Dylan*

O.C.I.A Order of Christian Initiation

Rooted from the very beginning of Church tradition, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) is the path for welcoming new inquirers into our community of believers. If you, or someone close to you, are considering becoming a member of the Catholic community here at St. Cletus Parish, then please accept our invitation to join with us.

In a small group discussion format, we use this opportunity to discuss topics surrounding our Catholic Faith. Most importantly, we share the relevancy of these topics in our lives today. We also discuss questions regarding the Rite itself, look at what the Rite offers all of us during this wonderful spiritual journey, and how the Church uses the Rite for those seeking any or all of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist.

By our Baptism we are called to spread the message of Jesus Christ. We encourage those already members of the St. Cletus Parish community to consider being a part of the OCIA team where by sharing your faith you will receive the gift that comes by helping others grow in theirs.

For more information please contact Lawrence Manetti, Coordinator of OCIA by calling the parish office or email: lmanetti@stcletusparish.com.



Take our hearts, Lord
Jesus, and open them
to the truth which will
set us free. Accompany
us on our way, Lord
Jesus, as we seek to
share our Roman
Catholic faith and life
in your Spirit.
Amen

Interfaith Career Network

Revolutionizing Your Job Search - How AI Can Help You Stand Out

Join us Thursday, January 16 from 7-9 pm and discover how to unlock your job search potential by harnessing AI creatively. This dynamic presentation will guide job seekers on how to leverage AI for success. Covering AI skills, it will delve into crafting AI-enhanced resumes and maximizing AI tools to streamline the job hunt, empowering you to navigate the modern employment landscape with confidence and innovation. Presenter, Tiffany Sharkey, brings a wealth of expertise to the table as an HR Consultant at Acrisure, specializing in managing the full spectrum of the employee lifecycle. With a background spanning recruitment, onboarding, terminations and offboarding, she has provided invaluable support to companies of all sizes and stages across multiple states. A member of the local chapter of Society for Human Resources Management, Tiffany serves as Social Media Chair. Leveraging her enthusiasm for technology and marketing, she spearheads transformative initiatives that advance the organization's mission with enduring impact. We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road in Western Springs. Everyone is welcome! There is no cost to attend.

Visit interfaithcareernetwork.com for additional resources.

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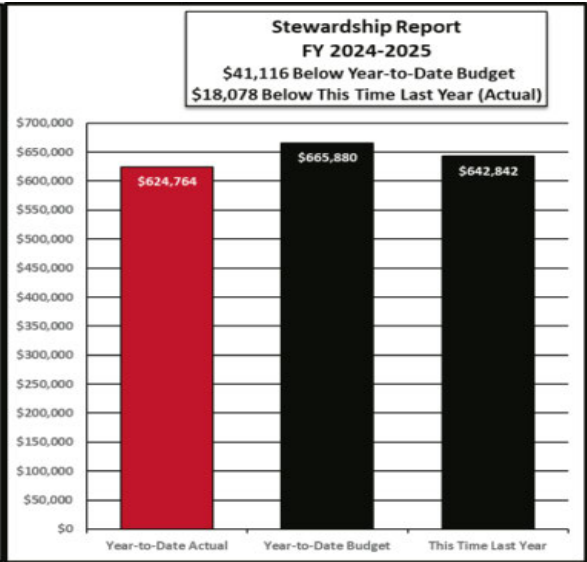
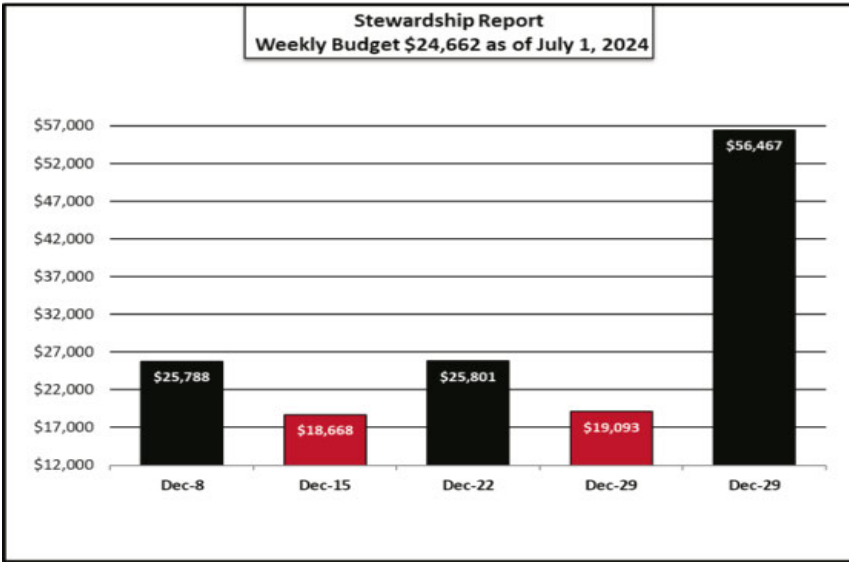
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The Christmas finance report will be published in next weeks canticle.

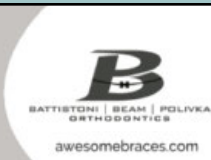
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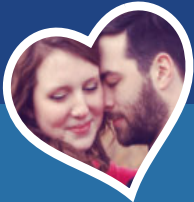
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