



Saint Cletus Parish Canticle

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding
in kindness.
— PSALM 103:8



LET'S "LENT TOGETHER"

Daily Mass (Monday - Friday)
8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Stations of the Cross
Mar. 25, Apr. 1, 8 - 7:00 p.m.

School Stations of the Cross
Mar. 24, Apr. 1, 8, 14 - 2:30 p.m.

Taizé Prayer
Monday, March 21 - 7:00 p.m.

Parish Evening of Reflection
Thursday, March 24 - 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker - Fr. Tony Pizzo

Communal Reconciliation Service
Saturday, April 2 - 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier
Monday, April 4 - 7:00 p.m. St. Cletus

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday, April 10
Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
Please return your CRS Rice Bowl



LENT

2022

WELCOME

So glad you could join us!

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Mass Intentions for March 21 - 27, 2022

Day	Time	Presider (subject to change)	Intentions
March 21	8:00am	Fr. Costello	Mary Dybas, Wayne Kral, Delphine Marciszewski, Joe & Kay Klemak
March 22	8:00am	Fr. Romero	St. Cletus Parishioners
March 23	8:00am	Fr. Costello	Rosemary Kegl, Delphine Marciszewski, BC Collins
March 24	8:00am	Fr. Romero	Frank Wojcik
March 25	8:00am	Fr. Costello	St. Cletus Parishioners
March 26	5:00pm	Fr. Hays	William Bergin, Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Dan Klepczarek
March 27	7:15am	Fr. Costello	Richard Gomez, Lois Warren, Susan Felice
	8:45am	Fr. Hays	Helen Lyons, Mary Kay Rios, Delphine Marciszewski, Moore Family
	10:30am	Fr. Costello	Ola Maveety, Walter Maveety, Ethel Maveety, Thomas Birks
	12:30pm	Fr. Hays	St. Cletus Parishioners

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

Susan Felice
Wife of Peter

May she rest in peace. Amen.

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.

March - Dan Keller

February - Sandra Eckrich, Matthew O'Connell, Peter Spizzirri, Peggie Smith

January - Debbi Pach, Steve Romanowski, Laura Terrazino, Gerda E. Dorso, Steve Hubona, Edward Kwak, Nora McKeehan, Joseph Busta, John Duda, Sandra Eckrich, Howard Eggert, Joan Klemak, Marian Mozden, Patricia Rodey, Jean Tomazin

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

JOIN US FOR TAIZÉ PRAYER ON MONDAY



Join us for our second evening of Taizé prayer on Monday evening, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. in church. Taizé is a form of prayer involving scripture, chanting and reflection during sustained periods of silence. We invite you to take a break from the hubbub and join us for prayer in the quiet.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

(from Ash Wednesday, to the Paschal Triduum)

Abstinence from meats is to be observed by all Catholics 14-years-old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Please note: Health concerns and "doctor's orders" should always take precedence over the practices of fast and abstinence. Fast and abstinence should never jeopardize one's physical health.

Pastor's Note

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter into the third week of Lent, I would like to extend to you a special invitation to join me for our Lenten Gathering and Reflection which will be held on Thursday, March 24th, 2022, at 7:00 PM in our beautiful church. We are blessed to have Very Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, OSA as our especial guest speaker. Fr. Pizzo is a joy-filled speaker. With his presence and reflection, he will help us deepen our relationship with one another and the Lord. I am confident that he will engage you and let you go home giving thanks to the Lord. Please extend this invitation to your entire family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

I am also pleased to share with you some updates about the Renew My Church Process in which we have been engaging since January 2022. We were asked by the Archdiocese to gather a team (staff and parishioners) and attend five meetings. The fifth and last meeting was held on Monday, March 7, 2022. As part of the process, we were asked to host a parish gathering, conversation, and listening, which we did on Thursday, February 24th, 2022. We were also asked to write a document stating clearly how our parish is currently doing.

Following the direction given to us by the Archdiocese, implementing insights from the five meetings we attended, Team discussions, and Parish listening session and the recommendations we received from you, we were able to produce a comprehensive document, which I share with you today (below). This document has already been sent to the Archdiocese and will be reviewed by an Archdiocesan special committee. On April 29th, 2022, Tina Norton, Pastoral Associate, and I along with the pastors of St. John of the Cross and St. Francis Xavier, are scheduled to attend a Zoom meeting with the special committee. Please say some prayers for us so that we can have a good and productive meeting.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the St. Cletus Renew My Church team, Juanita Avila, Barbara Campbell, Leonard Bertin, Lilia and Steven Dziak, Kendall Grant, Camille Koch, Gregory Porod, and Tina Norton. They faithfully attended all the meetings, organized our own parish Renew My Church Meeting, shared their experience of the process with you through the parish bulletin, and helped with the preparation of the document. In a special way, I would like to acknowledge and thank Tina Norton, Pastoral Associate, for writing the document which is thorough.

As we continue to journey with one another and the Lord, may He grant us his grace so that we might gladly welcome and receive his forgiveness and healing.

Fr. Elmer Romero
Pastor

RENEW MY CHURCH—ST. CLETUS PARISH



St. Cletus Parish generally incorporates the southern half of LaGrange between 47th St. and 79th St., and generally between Wolf Road and the railroad tracks on the east side. While geographically large for Chicago (approximately 10 square miles), much of the property included in the parish is not residential, consisting mostly of small factories and retail. The parish was established in 1951 to accommodate post-war suburban growth in La Grange and

Western Springs. Currently, we have approximately 2500 registered families. We remain well-resourced and well-attended, with a strong school and strong outreach to the La Grange community.

As part of the Renew My Church process, we held an in-person parish conversation and asked our parishioners about the strengths and weaknesses of the parish. This was advertised in the bulletin and we established an email box to which stakeholders could send their thoughts. Some people did take advantage of this.

- Uniformly, people cited our energetic and enthusiastic parishioners, who are willing to take on all kinds of challenges. Our physical plant is in relatively good shape, and we have a new Parish Center with offices, a big conference room and a dedicated gym (which the school and intramural leagues regularly use). We just retired the debt on this building. Coming out of the pandemic, we have revived a strong, vibrant, active and dedicated Parish Finance Council, which meets monthly. Our Hispanic Ministry is strong; we have a weekly mass in Spanish and are trying to institute more bilingual prayer events. Six members of our staff, including both the pastor and the associate pastor, are bilingual in Spanish and English. Our school is strong and well-supported by the parish. We have a thriving religious education program and a large RCIA process. Earlier this year we confirmed over 100 candidates, including adults. We had a large number of baptisms, an above-average number of weddings, and, sadly, an above-average number of funerals. We are sure that as we come out of the pandemic these sacramental numbers will shift slightly. We already have 13 weddings on our books (50% increase over last year) and our baptism classes are full.

Pastor's Note Continued

- St. Cletus suffers from the same cultural problems that many parishes face in 2022—we lost a lot of attendance during the pandemic, and young single people and younger families do not attend church as often as they might have ten or twenty years ago. We believe we have also lost a lot of younger people because of things out of our control—divisions in the church, the church's attitude toward the LGBTQ community, political divides in the US, etc. We as a parish try to be welcoming and hospitable to all, but the institutional church is perceived as negative and inflexible, and some people do not see an advantage to belonging. That said, we had a much greater turnout for Ash Wednesday than we expected. Our pastor distributed ashes at the La Grange village center to staff and police and firefighters, and we visited several facilities and individuals to distribute ashes. The people we visited seemed to really appreciate this.
- We also find opportunities in that a significant percentage of the parish staff, including the pastor, is new in the last year, bringing new energy and new ideas. Our pastor places great emphasis on being present to parishioners and being transparent with them. They are responding positively to this. As we come out of COVID, we plan to provide more adult formation opportunities and to reach out into the community, as well as collaborating with the other parishes in our cluster to provide ministries at scale (larger and better confirmation retreats, speaker series, common missions with nationally-known speakers, etc.). We had a number of good suggestions for formation from the parish conversations.
- Our social concerns ministry is very strong, overseen by a paid minister. We are especially proud of a large and well-supplied food pantry that services both our parishioners and the community at large. Our food pantry recently moved into a larger space on the campus and we have attracted a substantial matching grant as we fundraise for our food pantry operations. Our parish conversation surfaced a number of suggestions for social concerns activities, including a blood drive, community service day, recycling, etc.
- Challenges: We lost one of our associate pastors and our liturgy assistant this year. This stretches our professional pastoral staff (although we have hired a pastoral associate), and we will need to turn to recruiting volunteers to cover some of our ministries. Our current cadre of volunteers remains enthusiastic, but we need to be careful not to burn them out. We feel that potential volunteers are definitely there, but we need to tell them what they can do. Another recent challenge was the discovery of a substantial debt to the Archdiocese remaining from the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign. Between the pandemic and the turnover in staff, the existence of this debt was not immediately front and center for us. We have been transparent with the community about this and are making efforts to reduce it as quickly as possible.
- Parishioners pointed out that at the moment they feel our Hispanic community and the English-speaking community are almost two separate parishes. We are instituting some bilingual services now and making an effort to bring the communities together more often.

Some interesting suggestions came from our parish conversation:

- Provide opportunities for parishioners to get together offsite
- Children's Liturgies and teen masses
- Some people seem to want adoration. (We are providing adoration now; perhaps we just need to publicize it better.)
- Adult formation activities: Bible Study, speakers, etc. (As we come out of the pandemic, we will be resuming this)
- More hospitality of the coffee-and-donuts variety (again, as we come out of the pandemic we will be resuming this)
- More communication between parish organizations to avoid duplication of efforts

Many of these suggestions are already on our radar and we will be implementing them as we come out of the pandemic and as we have time and personnel to do so. We were gratified by a decent-sized turnout of thoughtful parishioners at our parish conversation meeting, and a much bigger-than-expected turnout at our liturgies on Ash Wednesday. We look forward to opportunities for collaboration with St. John of the Cross and St. Francis Xavier for formation and other events; we already do collaborative adult confirmation and youth ministry programs, and we will pursue a tri-parish Confirmation retreat event in the coming academic year. A number of people at our parish conversation suggested an "open house" of all three buildings on one day, with hospitality at each site. We also, as mentioned above, could perhaps hold common missions or common speaker events in order to work together with the other parishes. We are excited to re-energize St. Cletus and we look forward to our renewal as we go.

Fr. Elmer Romero
Pastor

St. Cletus School

Back WELCOME TO THE SHOW

SATURDAY APRIL 2nd at 6:00PM • ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER

Ladies and Gentlemen step right up to see something so spectacular – so remarkable – so elusive – that it hasn't been seen in 3 years! The St. Cletus Parish School Spring Auction In-Person Event! Lock in a sitter and join us on the evening of Saturday April 2nd for a night of festivity and fun to support St. Cletus School. This is a great opportunity to meet and reconnect with other parents. Friendships are made here.

What is the Spring Auction? It's the primary fundraising event of the year to support St. Cletus School. By tradition, the auction is put-together and hosted by the school's 4th-grade families. It's a volunteer effort, and believe us when we say we do this because we want St. Cletus School to be the best it can be for our kids, and yours. Consider attending the auction so that we can join together again. There is much to celebrate.

Auction-goers include parents, faculty, parishioners, and clergy. The dress code is casual. Expect music, games of chance, entertainment, food, drinks (alcohol too) raffles and auction items. Our goal is to have fun while raising money. There will be a variety of gift baskets displayed for bidding in the Silent Auction. These items can be bid on remotely. The Main Attraction is the Live Auction featuring jaw-dropping items of grandeur. You must be present to bid and win a Live Auction item. We hope that you can join us!



ST. CLETUS SCHOOL SPRING AUCTION FUNDRAISER



Event Tickets

\$60 each

Your ticket includes:

- Access to St. Cletus Spring Auction
- Music and Entertainment
- Food and drinks (including alcohol)
- Silent and Live Auction

Dress Code: Casual or Spirit Wear

Sponsorships Available

Sponsor a Teacher \$60 - Provides a teacher with a ticket to the Spring Auction

Family Sponsor \$200 - includes 2 Tickets and 2 Cardinal Pint Cups. Plus extras!

Two Ring Sponsor \$500 - 2 Tickets to Auction and 2 Cardinal Pint Cups. Plus extras!

Three Ring Sponsor \$1000 - 4 Tickets to Auction and 4 Cardinal Pint Glasses. Plus extras!

Tightrope Sponsor \$2500 - 6 Tickets to Auction and 6 Cardinal Pint Glasses. Plus extras!

Ringmaster Sponsor \$5000+ - 6 Tickets to Auction and 6 Cardinal Pint Glasses. Plus extras!

Please visit cardinalauction.org for Sponsorship information

Sponsorship Level _____ or Number of Tickets @ \$60.00 _____

We'd like to Sponsor a Teacher(s) @ \$60.00 _____

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Thank you for your support of the students and staff at St. Cletus School.

For more information and to access online payment options please visit: cardinalauction.org



Scan with phone camera

Donations and gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. St. Cletus School Endowment Fund is a 501(C) (3) tax-exempt fund. Please make checks payable to: St. Cletus School. Donations can be sent to: St. Cletus School 700 W. 55th Street, La Grange, IL 60525 or dropped off at the Parish Center. Online payments are accepted on our website at: cardinalauction.org

Sunday Notes

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD God appears to Moses and directs him to go and deliver the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) *or* Exodus 17:3-7.

Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) *or* Psalm 95.

Second Reading — We are not to grumble like the people with Moses in the desert (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) *or* Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

Gospel — If you do not repent, you will all perish (Luke 13:1-9) *or* John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
 - Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 - Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 - Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 - Friday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 - Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
 - Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Alternate readings (Year A):
 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;
 Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; Spring begins
- Wednesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
- Friday: Annunciation of the Lord; Abstinence

NOTE FROM FR. DAN

Lent is a season that calls us:

- to fast from discontent and to feast on gratitude;
- to fast from anger and to feast on patience;
- to fast from bitterness and to feast on forgiveness;
- to fast from self-concern and to feast on compassion;
- to fast from discouragement and to feast on hope;
- to fast from laziness and to feast on commitment;
- to fast from complaining and to feast on acceptance;
- to fast from lust and to feast on respect;
- to fast from prejudice and to feast on understanding;
- to fast from resentment and to feast on reconciliation;
- to fast from lies and to feast on the truth;
- to fast from wasted time and to feast on honest work;
- to fast from grimness and to feast on joy;
- to fast from suspicion and to feast on trust;
- to fast from idle talk and to feast on prayer and silence;
- to fast from guilt and to feast on the mercy of God.

(Based on a version often attributed to William Arthur Ward)

Hispanic Ministry

Fecha	Hora	Evento	Lugar
20 de marzo, 2022	12:30PM	Misa en español	Iglesia
22 de marzo, 2022	7:00PM	Adoración al Santísimo	Iglesia
Segundo Sábado de cada mes	8:00PM – 5:00AM	Adoración Nocturna	Iglesia
Sábados	8:30AM	Confesiones	Iglesia
Viernes	7:00PM	Vía Crucis Bilingüe (Inglés/Español)	Iglesia



El Ministerio Hispano será el anfitrión de las Estaciones de la Cruz este viernes 25 de marzo a las 7:00 pm. Todos están cordialmente invitados. Después de la celebración, todos están invitados a unirse con nosotros para una convivencia. Favor de marcarlo en su calendario.

El Viernes Santo 15 de abril, 2022 a las 11:00 a.m. se llevará a cabo el Vía Crucis viviente en la Iglesia. **Favor de hacer planes para ese día y únense a nosotros para recordar la crucifixión y muerte de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Después de la representación del Vía Crucis tendremos una convivencia en el Centro Pastoral. Todos están invitados.**

Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LENT EVENT – PRAYING, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING

Last weekend the RE community had the opportunity to come together to celebrate the holy season of Lent. We had activities, games, crafts and service opportunities to help them to put the practices of praying, fasting and almsgiving into action. We had a wonderful time, and it definitely helped us to see that Lent can be a holy and awesome time! Enjoy some of the photos from this special event.

This weekend there will be paper butterflies hanging from a tree in the narthex. These have the names of our RCIA Elect and Candidates on them. Please take a butterfly and bring it home as a reminder to pray for the person who is continuing their journey to the reception of sacraments at our Easter Vigil in four weeks.



Youth Ministry

MISSION TRIP

Our Mission Trip is only three months away! The 93 teens and adults who are participating in this life-changing event are excited, and very grateful for your support – both financially and spiritually. I sometimes hear comments asking where our teens are in the Church, or worries that this generation is disaffiliating with the Church. I want you to know that we have 78 teens who are on fire for Christ, and are demonstrating that by giving of their time to go and work hard to serve others, while living in very humble conditions for a week. They are witnesses to the youth in action in our local Church. They need your support. Thank you for being so generous in your support of our fundraisers for this Mission Trip. Today is our final fundraiser, which is a second collection at all masses. You will hear directly from one of these teens, expressing why they want to go and serve, and how they need your support to do so. Please be as generous as you can with your financial support and your prayerful support of us! We will be praying for you as well!

CHURCH LEAGUE

At the time of this printing, our St. Cletus Boys Senior Team has not yet played in the final championship game of the conference.



Regardless of the outcome of that game, we want to recognize this team and congratulate them for an amazing season and for outstanding sportsmanship. Their coach, Michael Grace, is a wonderful role model for these young men and we are grateful for his leadership. Thank you also to their parents and all who have supported them throughout this season!

Girls Church League will be starting up in late April! Watch next week’s Canticle for more information on the Girls Church League season and how to register!

Social Concerns Ministry



**ST. CLETUS
FOOD PANTRY
THURSDAYS
6-8PM
CHURCH
PARKING LOT**

Food pantry donations can be dropped off in the Church Narthex Monday -Friday between 8am-4pm, Saturday between 8am-6pm, and Sunday between 7am-2pm

Or anytime in the donation bin found past the flagpole, near door 4.



Please remember do double check expiration dates. We can only accept non-perishable food items, no fresh or frozen meat/dairy/etc.

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

Instagram:
[@St.CletusFoodPantry](#)

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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATES ON OUR NEW HOME

Lots of work and love is being poured into our new home! Included are some snapshots of recent and ongoing changes to the space:

- Creating a new entry way to the bathrooms
- Closing the original bathroom entry to create a storage room
- Upgrading the electric to accommodate our commercial cold storage units
- Closing off the three entryways to the Education Building
- Choosing paint colors
- Installing new flooring

The new flooring has absolutely transformed the space! It is incredible! An anonymous donor stepped in and offered to cover the cost of the new floors for this space. This was not something we originally intended to do and when these donors stepped forward interested in enhancing the space with new flooring we were shocked and excited! The flooring was professionally installed, troubled areas were repaired to even out the floor and make it not only safe for our volunteers and clients, but also beautiful and dignified.

We cannot wait to show you more!



LENTEN OUTREACH

Overcoming Disaster

In Bangladesh, cyclones and other natural disasters are increasing-destroying farms, homes and more-making it difficult for people like Noornobi to earn a living and support their families. But Noornobi has learned new techniques to protect his land and income, enabling his niece and nephew to go to school. How can you care for creation and help the planet and our global family?



Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Already more than 2.9 million people in need of assistance. There is great risk of additional suffering both within Ukraine and for those who are fleeing to neighboring countries for safety. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been providing emergency relief and recovery.



CRS is preparing across Ukraine and in bordering countries, ready to provide safe shelter, hot meals, hygiene supplies, transport to safe areas, counseling support and more. When you donate, you provide immediate assistance for your Ukrainian sisters and brothers affected by this crisis.

Your prayers and support will make so much difference. Donations can be made at crs.org or in your Lenten Rice Bowl (due Palm Sunday).

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY AND CREATION CARE RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS APRIL 29 – MAY 1



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Young adults (18-39) in and around Chicago are invited to join the Archdiocese of Chicago and Catholic Climate Covenant for a retreat getaway focused on integral ecology and creation care.

Throughout the world, young people are finding themselves overwhelmed before the many crises with which we are faced today, from the climate crisis to racism to mounting political polarization and a widespread disregard for life. At the same time, young people are organizing themselves like never before in response to the hurting world around them. We are longing for community even as we are creating it, aching for justice even as we fight for it. Learn about the Archdiocese of Chicago's efforts to implement the Laudato Si' Action Platform and find out how you can be involved in making history in your community. Young people have an important role to play in inspiring the U.S. Catholic community to meaningful action on the ecological crisis, and it starts in your backyard.

Cradle Catholic? Former Catholic? Catholic-adjacent? Catholic-curious? This retreat is offered from the context of Catholic faith. All are welcome to join. Register by April 12. Learn more and register online. For more information, contact Anna Robertson, Director of Youth and Young Adult Mobilization at Catholic Climate Covenant at anna@catholicclimatecovenant.org.

AREA RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

40 Days for Life Prayer

Father, all life is in Your care,
You have entrusted us to one another,
That we may show our brothers and sisters
The same love You have for us.
We pray, then, for the least among us,
The children in the womb.
Give new hope to their parents,
Grant conversion and compassion to the staff,
show us how we are to respond to the crisis in our midst.
And lead us to the day when this place
Will be transformed into a haven of life.
Guard us with your joy and your peace,
For in You, life is victorious.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



WORD OF LIFE



“There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those ‘brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves’... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life” (The Gospel of Life 86).

Note from Fr. Ken Baker

My Dear St. Cletus Family...

Thank you so much for your support, kindness, and thoughtfulness throughout my time at St. Cletus, and most especially for your generosity as I am departing our parish family. I take with me many wonderful memories which I will always treasure. As I am in my transition, please keep me in your thoughts and prayers as you will be in mine. Hopefully we will see one another soon.

If you would like to stay in touch, my new email is 2kj.baker@gmail.com

Also, in the future I may have the occasion to sing somewhere or present a *Ken Baker & Friends* concert. If you'd like to be notified, please visit www.kenbakersings.com and add your name to my email list.

May God Bless You Always.

With Love and Affection,

Fr. Ken



St. Cletus Parish

Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ
Through Worship, Education and Service



LENTEN GATHERING
&
REFLECTION

"RENEWING FAITH IN
A TIME OF CRISIS"



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
Very Rev. Anthony B. Pizzo, O.S.A

Please join us for an evening of
prayer and personal reflection as we
continue our Lenten journey as a
parish community.

Thursday, March 24, 2022
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

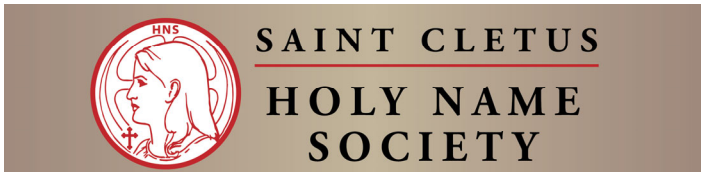
St. Cletus Church
600. W 55th St., La Grange, IL 60525



Fr. Tony Pizzo is the grandson of Italian immigrants born and raised on the Southside of Chicago. He was educated at St. Rene Goupil school, JFK High School and graduated from Villanova University where he became acquainted with the Augustinian Friars of the Midwest Province. Since his ordination to the priesthood by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in 1984, he has been assigned to Detroit, MI, Kenosha, WI and to the Chicago area in pastoral ministry as Parochial Vicar and as Pastor. His last assignment was St. Rita of Cascia Parish before being elected Prior Provincial of the Midwest Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel. He spent 12 years as Pastor and Dean in Vicariate V - A.

Ministry News

HOLY NAME SOCIETY



**SAINT CLETUS
HOLY NAME
SOCIETY**

The Holy Name Society is having the yearly pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 10, after a 2 year break because of COVID. Please plan on attending before and after at each Mass (7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.). Final seating is 12:00 p.m. We will be pre-selling tickets after all Masses on March 26/27 and April 2/3.

Any questions call Rod Bradford 708-370-9001.

THE ST. CLETUS COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN BAKE SALE IS BACK THIS YEAR!



All parishioners are welcome to stop by the Parish Center to purchase some sweet treats on Palm Sunday, April 10th from 7:30am to 1:00pm.

A portion of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go to funding our parish sound system and the CCW scholarship fund.

The Council would appreciate your donation of baked goods for the event. Drop off times are Saturday, April 9th from 4-7pm and Sunday, April 10th from 7:00-10:00am. Please bring donated bakery to the Gallagher Room in the Parish Center. Thanks for participating in this fundraising effort by baking, buying or both!

BOOK DISCUSSION



For the next book discussion, we are reading What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty. We will meet on April 12, 2022 at 10 AM in the Fr. Gallagher Room of the Parish Center. Please note, this is our new meeting time. For those who like to look ahead... June 14, Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

As always, all are welcome.

Questions – call Denise at 708.712.8294

SAVE THE DATE! VBS IS BACK!



We are now taking registrations for our upcoming Monumental VBS to be held on June 13-17, 2022. Please see

the parish website for more details and the registration forms!

LIVING ROSARY



Praying for Peace in Ukraine

The power of prayer is one of the best gifts we can give to the people of Ukraine. At Fatima, Mary asked us all to pray the rosary for peace and Ukraine is a perfect place to start. Rather than have

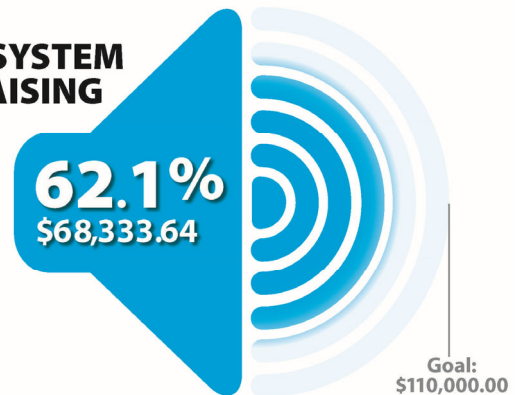
everyone gather in person, the Living Rosary is hosting two pray-from-home rosaries every Monday at 2 pm and 7 pm for peace in Ukraine. This way families can pray together at night or people can join in after work. Mary will hear our prayers together and our “mystical rosary” will bring our hopes and worries to the Lord.

No need to sign up or register, just know that others are praying with you at the same time from their homes.

If you have questions, call Mary Lu Gebka at 630-430-3338. Or come to church on Wednesdays at 1:00 and join us in person to pray the Rosary for our intentions.

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

SOUND SYSTEM FUND RAISING STATUS



ENROLL IN ELECTRONIC GIVING



Do you want to transition away from writing checks and contribute electronically? It is SO EASY!

Visit the St. Cletus Parish website at stcletusparish.com and click the “DONATE” BUTTON (pictured to the right). Click Sunday donations. We accept checks (ACH), debit and credit cards. If you have questions or need help, contact Jim Dion at jdion@stcletusparish.com or 708.352.6209.

Community News

ED WARD FINE ARTS SERIES CONCERT



Sing!
SONGS YOU LOVE
FEATURING MUSICIANS YOU KNOW

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 4:00 P.M.
ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER

FREE ADMISSION | More info at www.edwardfas.com

Join us today, Sunday, March 20th at 4:00 pm, as we present "Sing!" It will be an afternoon of songs you love to sing along with! From folk to pop, rock to jazz and more - this concert will be led by faces familiar to the Fine Arts Series and will encourage not just enjoying the music, but singing along from the audience too!

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER



Please register/find out about more about programs at www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048. All programs are currently on ZOOM.

LINES, SPIRALS, AND NEURO-GRAPHIC ART - Three Wednesdays, Mar 23—Apr 6, 1—2:30 PM
Facilitator: Carol Cummins Focus on giving your whole self to God during Lent, exploring internal wisdom in form and color! The emphasis will be on the experience of creating and how it makes you feel, rather than the end product. \$50 series. on Zoom.

WALKING WITH JESUS THESE DAYS - Monday, Apr 11, 9:30—11 AM, repeated 6:30—8 PM
Facilitator: Sallie Latkovich, CSJ, DMin This presentation offers a "tour" of the places in Jeru-salem that we recall during the Triduum, with photos, commentary, and pauses for reflection. \$15. In person at The Well.

JOYFUL AGAIN! RETREAT

Retreat/workshop for Widowed Men & Women
June 25 & 26, 2022 (2-day program)
St. Julie's Parish, Tinley Park, Illinois

Join us for this unique retreat/workshop which will be held at **St. Julie's Parish, Tinley Park, IL.**

The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life. All are welcome.

For further information, **708-354-7211**

joyfulagain7211@gmail.com | www.joyfulagain.org

ST. RITA OF CASCIA SHRINE CHAPEL'S "A FESTIVAL OF PEACE 2022"

The Augustinian Friars of the St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel invite you to join them for "A Festival of Peace 2022" taking place on Friday, March 25, 2022 from 12:00 PM until 12:00 AM. This festival will be an oasis in the city providing an opportunity to be anchored in love, mercy, and healing. The day-long event includes Mass, the Rosary, Novena Prayers, Adoration, Benediction, Praise & Worship Music, plus the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered continuously from 12:00 PM until 12:00 AM.

The St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel is located at 7740 S. Western Ave. in Chicago. Ample, secure parking is available. Additional information, including a complete schedule for the day, as well as a live stream of the event can be found at stritchicago.com.

HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH SPRING BAZAAR & BAKE SALE

Saturday, April 2nd, 9am – 3pm
Location: St. Barbara Parish Center
4015 S. Prairie Ave. Brookfield, IL
HGAParish.org

VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

We beg you good and holy priests.
In every age you call men to follow you
as servants and shepherds of your people.
Open their hearts to your call
and give them the courage to follow you.
Be their rock of refuge
and their lights as they discern.
Help us to support them on their journey,
and to love them as your disciples.
We thank you for all that you are
and all that you do.

In your name we pray.
Amen

Vocation Office | Bishop Quarter House
750 North Wabash Avenue | Chicago, IL 60611 |
Chicagopriest.com

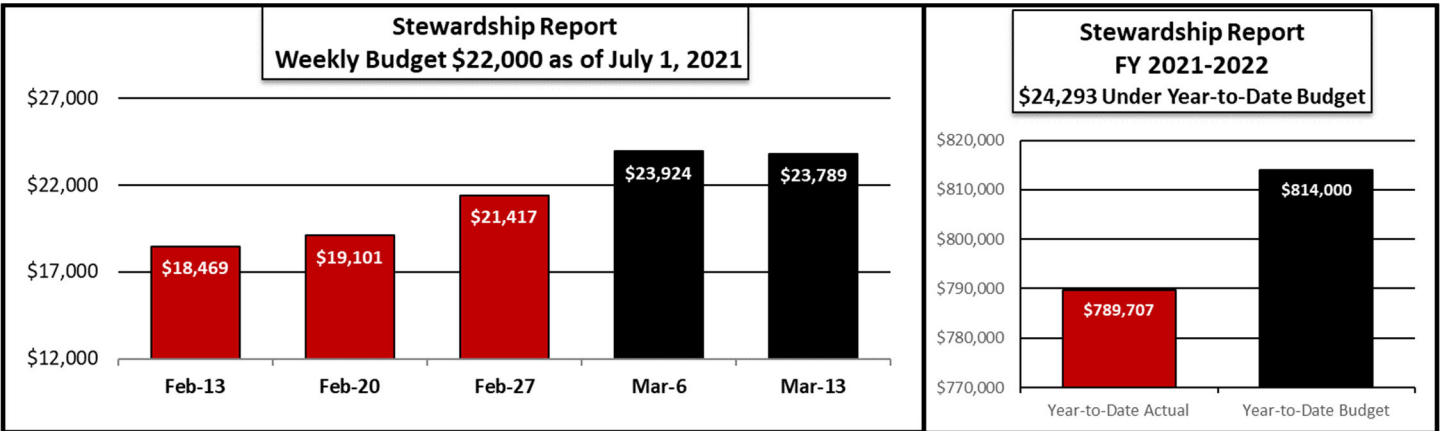
BULLETIN ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Please note that all Canticle articles are to be emailed to canticle@stcletusparish.com as text with pictures attached separately. All articles are due 5p.m. Friday a full week (9 days) before Sunday's publication.

Week at a Glance

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, March 20	2:00pm 4:00pm	Church Parish Center	Girl Scout Medal Ceremony Ed Ward Fine Arts Series Concert "Sing"
Monday, March 21			
Tuesday, March 22	7:00pm	Church	Spanish Holy Hour
Wednesday, March 23	9:00am 1:00pm 3:00pm 6:00pm	Parish Center Meeting Room Church Parish Center Meeting Room Parish Center Meeting Room	Mission Ladies Rosary and Prayers CREDO Meeting Ministry of Care Training
Thursday, March 24	2:30pm 6-8pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Church Parking Lot Church School Music Room	Stations of the Cross Food Pantry Distribution Parish Evening of Reflection Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 25	7:00pm	Church	Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 26	5:00pm	Narthex	HNS Pancake Breakfast Ticket Sales
Sunday, March 27	7:15am	Narthex	HNS Pancake Breakfast Ticket Sales

Stewardship Report



YEAR-END STATEMENT BY REQUEST ONLY


As tax time approaches, we ask everyone who would like a year-end statement of their Year 2021 financial offering to the parish to fill out the form below and return it or simply call the office @ (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.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Envelope # _____

St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

Parish Center.....(708) 352-6209
School(708) 352-4820
www.stcletusparish.com.....  stcletuschurch

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Please note that all deliveries and inquiries should be made to the parish center office. Food pantry will remain in the rectory.

Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday and SundayClosed

MASSES

Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. (SPANISH)
Weekdays..... Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

BAPTISMS

Parents must be registered parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at (708) 352-6209.

WEDDINGS

Dates and times are reserved for registered parishioners. Initial arrangements must be completed five months in advance of the wedding date.

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at (708) 352-6209.

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care Office (708) 352-6209

STAFF

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Elmer Romero, Pastor
Rev. Dan Costello, Associate Pastor
Rev. John Lodge, Weekend Associate
Rev. Robert Clark, Pastor Emeritus

PASTORAL STAFF

Tina Norton, Pastoral Associate (708) 215-5412
Karen Ziemba, Music Ministry (708) 215-5423
Kendall Grant, Social Concerns (708) 215-5418
Christopher Wagner, Technology (708) 215-5420

HISPANIC MINISTRY STAFF

Juanita Avila, Head of Hispanic Ministry

SCHOOL STAFF

Gregory Porod, Principal
Christy Schaefer, Assistant Principal
Mary Lee Krieger, Administrative Assistant
Jeannie Scalzitti, Receptionist/Office Assistant
Kate Townsend, Receptionist/Office Assistant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

.... (708) 352-2383
Barb Campbell, Director of Religious Education
Griselda Rahman, Coordinator of Religious Education

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

..... (708) 352-6209
Jim Dion, Business Manager
Olga Montalvo, Parish Administrative Assistant
Silvia Castellanos, Parish Secretary

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

PastorFr. Elmer Romero
Chairperson Bob Wasik

MEMBERS

Kevin Hogan
Mike Napleton
Jennifer Senyard
Bob Malham
Julio and Griselda Quintero

LIAISONS

FSA President Rhonda Aumann
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.

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