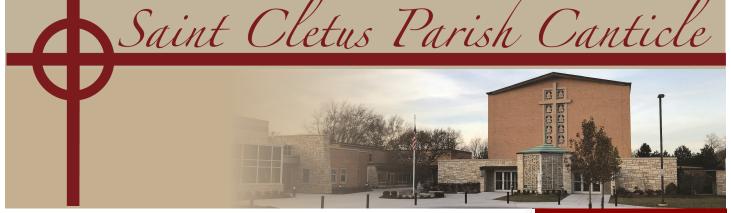
ST. CLETUS CHURCH 600 W. 55TH ST. LA GRANGE, IL

JANUARY 7, 2024





Drawing by St. Cletus School Student

WELCOME

- 2 Mass Intentions and Important Notes
- 3 Pastors Note
- 4 Note From Father Mike and Sunday Notes
- 5 Super Bowl Party and Trivia Night
- 6 Art and Environment
- 7 School News
- 8 Social Concerns Ministry
- 9 Kids Corner
- **10 Hispanic Ministry**
- 11 Church Women United, Faith Formation, and CCW Event
- 12 Community News
- 13 Week at a Glance
- **14 Parish Information**

Mass Intentions for January 8- January 14 2024ayTimePresiderIntentions

Day	Time	Presider	Intentions
January 8	8:00am	Fr. Novick	BC Collins, Aurora Jimenez
January 9	8:00am	Fr. Kalas	J.J. Farell, Rafael L. Acevedo, Amalie Moravec, Aurora Jimenez
January 10	8:00am	Fr. Novick	BC and Rip Collins
January 11	8:00am	Fr. Kalas	Joanna Pacanek
January 12	8:00am	Fr. Romero	Louie Marasovic
January 13	5:00pm	Fr. Romero	Daniel Klepczarek, James Moles, Robert Kruse Sr., Rosalie Kruse, Roger Kruse
January 14	7:15am 8:45am 10:30am 12:30pm	Fr. Romero Fr. Lodge Fr. Novick Father Romero	Julia Kopacz Joseph and Adele Stopka Stacy Baker, John Baker, Joanne Sourek, James G. Condon, Steven Gregg Por las benditas almas del purgatorio

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.

January -

December - Mary Lue Buchler

November -

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

ST. CLETUS PARISH WELCOMES...

James Mayer Banko

Son of Andrew James Banko and Lauren Elizabeth Mayer

TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



May she rest in peace....

WELCOME HOSPITALITY RECEPTION AND MINISTRY FAIR THIS SUNDAY!

Ring in the New Year at our first Welcome Hospitality reception and Ministry Fair of 2024. Join us this Sunday in the Parish Center after the 7:15 and 8:45 masses.

We welcome all new parishioners along with everyone we see each week at church and school so we can continue to build our strong community. During the reception, you'll have the chance to visit with our various ministries and find the perfect match to your talents.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and welcoming in a new year.

Page 3

Pastor's Note

"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you." Isaiah 60:1

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." In other words, today we celebrate the many ways that the Son of God has made Himself known to us. The Gospel of Matthew tells us about the visit of the Magi (Mt 2:1-12), Mark about the baptism of Jesus (Mk 1:9-11), and John about the miracle at Cana (Jn 2:1-11). Each of them carefully shows us the mission and divinity of Christ.

How is the Son of God making Himself known to you in your daily life? Are you able to notice his presence, spirit, and love in your life, the life of your loved ones, and at work? How are others noticing his presence and closeness through you?

I am happy to let you know that he has been present and even closer to me since my arrival to St. Cletus Parish, July 1st, 2021. I have felt and continue to feel his spirit, guidance, and love every day. Quite often he wakes me up early in the morning. He likes to take me out for a walk which I am learning to enjoy more and more. He is also making himself known to me through your kindness, friendship, and prayers. He has been and truly is behind every effort and initiative that has brought us together and enables us to celebrate at our parish.

Another place where I notice the Lord's presence, love, mercy, and kindness is in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At our parish, we offer Confession every Saturday at 8:30 AM to 9:15 AM. I am noticing that more people are coming to Confession. There have been times when I heard confession until 10:15 AM. Other times, Fr. Michael and I would be hearing confession on a given Saturday morning due to a large crowd seeking reconciliation. People want to be forgiven, to experience, and to receive the love of God through the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Novick and I want to make ourselves available and be there for you. I see this as a clear manifestation of the closeness of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Thank you for bringing me closer to Him.

As we grow in our awareness of the presence and action of Jesus Christ in our lives and parish and after consultation with our Parish Staff, I am delighted to let you know that we will be hosting two opportunities that will help us grow in friendship, collaboration, and appreciation. On February 12th, 2024, starting at 6:30 PM we will host: "An Evening of Encounter with Our Parish Staff." This encounter will take place in the Parish Center. Then, on April 17th, 2024, at 7:00 PM we will host: "An Evening of Encounter and Prayer with Our Deacons and Priests." That will take place in our beautiful church. Please mark your calendars accordingly and assist me with your prayers so that in both encounters we can sense and celebrate the action of Jesus Christ.

If you feel the Spirit of Jesus Christ is inspiring you to write and share your own experience of the manifestation of Jesus Christ in your life or in the life of a loved one, please feel free by emailing it to me at <u>eromero@stcletusparish.com</u>

I would love to have your experience in our parish bulletin, without using your name. Others will find your experience of Christ helpful.

May Jesus Christ dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart in 2024.

Fr. Elmer Romero



Note From Father Mike

God knows what He is doing!

It sometimes remains a mystery as to why the story of the Magi happens a couple of weeks after the Savior is born. Of course, we have the story of the Holy Family on the Sunday in between Christmas and Epiphany, which also doesn't feel right because on that occasion we are told about Jesus' being found in the temple as a young boy, not as an infant, but the following week, Jesus is back to being an infant. Wouldn't you think it's the other way around?

YET, God knows what He is doing! The Holy Spirit particularly knows what He is doing in putting these events and celebrations in the order in which they come to us. Even a few days before we celebrate the Holy Family, the Feast of the Holy Innocents is celebrated – that fateful day when an outraged and jealous King Herod orders the slaughter of all boys in Bethlehem 2 years old and under. Talk about evil – evil that arose from fear. Did Herod think he was God? Was this mimicking the first Passover? Interesting thought. So many little lambs sacrificed that THE Lamb would live.

For many years, January 1st was known in the Church as the feast of the circumcision of Jesus. While the focus of the holy day changed from the circumcision to the motherhood of the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of God, it's the same scene from the gospel read that day. The man in the temple area named Simeon praises God for allowing him to see the Christ before he should die. Nothing is said of the circumcision taking place, but it's understood that is the eighth day after Jesus is born, and named at the temple according to Mosaic law. Again, why do we hear this story? It's for the sake of the community St. Luke was writing to – it was proof that the man of whom he was writing was in fact a human being from among the Jews.

YES. God knows what He is doing!

So what about the Magi? It's very interesting to note one major piece of information. The story happens in Matthew's gospel, not Luke's. Wouldn't you think that since Luke's audience is the Gentile community a story of outsiders visiting Jesus would make more sense? No, Matthew tells his audience in Rome that God has not only revealed His plan in Christ to the Jews, but to all nations. "They (the Magi) departed for their own country by another way."

These are all little things that I've clung to for many years in hopes that one day they would blossom. Maybe there will be more growth in the future.

Fr. Mike (HAPPY NEW YEAR)



Sunday Notes

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

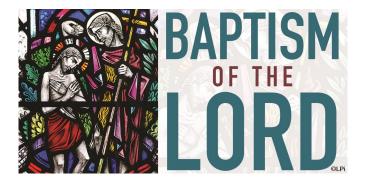
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM



Super Bowl Party Tickets Are On Sale!

ST. CLETUS SUPER BOWL PARTY!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024 DOORS OPEN AT 3PM ST. CLETUS PARISH CENTER TICKETS ARE ON SALE BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND!!

SPONSORED BY THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



Art and Environment

To the entire St. Cletus Community, it has been a pleasure to design, plan, and execute the various set-ups of the sanctuary over the last year and a half. It all started with making a recommendation on how some flowers should be arranged in a vase, one thing led to another, and Arts and Environment "Committee" came to be. Since then, we have completed:

(2) Thanksgiving, (2) Advent Seasons, (2) Christmas, Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter, Confirmation, First Communion, Month of Mary, Pentacost, Holy Trinity, Graduation, 4th of July, Adoration, Holy Moments Service, Ordinary Time, Our Lady Of Guadalupe, and All Souls Altar.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has supported this ministry. Especially all those that shared photos of loved ones for All Souls Day. Many of you have shared your sincere appreciation and gratitude with real feedback, not just words after one or more of these events. You have stopped to share the wonderful experience and a moment of gratitude. It is all for the heart for you, the St Cletus Community.

Those who have been interested in volunteering, are always advised that it is a lot of bending, twisting, squatting, reaching, lifting, and very delicate work that requires attention to detail. And we all do the work side by side. As my grandfather would always say, "para mandar tienes que saber trabajar." If you're going to be in charge, you have to know how to do the work. Yes, it can also be time-consuming, which is why we appreciate those who can help. We have taken days off of work to ensure everything is on point and can bring the very best to our parish.

All of this, however, would not be possible without the assistance of a few very special individuals.

The Maintenance Team, Derek, Ricardo, and Roger. They do all the heavy lift and climbing on ladders for us.

Camille Koch, who has been with us at Easter and 2 Christmases. She is such a loving, positive, and hardworking person who makes large setups so much easier. She is completely committed to seeing the vision come to life.

This year, we had Eugenia Callison and Monica Herron stop by for a bit at Christmas to unload and unwrap close to 100 poinsettias, and both took time out of their busy day.

Fr. Mike who is always present start to finish and ready to lend a hand anywhere necessary.

Of course, all of these natural plants and arrangements need regular care and watering. Nancy Johnson has been dedicated since last year, making sure everything is watered and last as long as possible.

THANK YOU!!!!

Finally, to my beautiful wife, Clara, who keeps me grounded and level-headed, especially when something isn't going to work as planned. She is my right hand, and I couldn't do it without her.

Thank you, everyone, at St. Cletus! It has been challenging at times, but it is a pleasure to do this for all of you. While this can't be forever, we'll see what 2024 may bring.

God Bless.

Kris

Arts and Environment



School News

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MASS

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas break! Before beginning our break we gathered together for our Christmas mass put together by kindergartners and 8th graders. Following mass students put on a beautiful Christmas performance! Thank you to all the students who clearly worked so hard preparing for this mass and performance as well



JANUARY DINING 4 DOLLARS!



Social Concerns Ministry

FOOD PANTRY



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

St. Cletus School

St. Cletus School Student Council helped organize a winter food drive. Each grade was assigned an item or two to bring in. They also collected \$623 for the pantry! Thank you so much!



We celebrate the generosity of this community and the many ways we are able to support our neighbors. However, we pray for and continue to work towards ending food insecurity in our country. No one should have to worry about buying groceries and affording their home, medical expenses, or utilities. We have all experienced the increased cost of food this year and it shows. Thank you for your generous support of this important work and for enabling us to continue to meet the growing needs of our neighbors.

We have had many food drives over the holiday! Thank you to:

- Kwak's Spread Joy
- Lyons Township High School

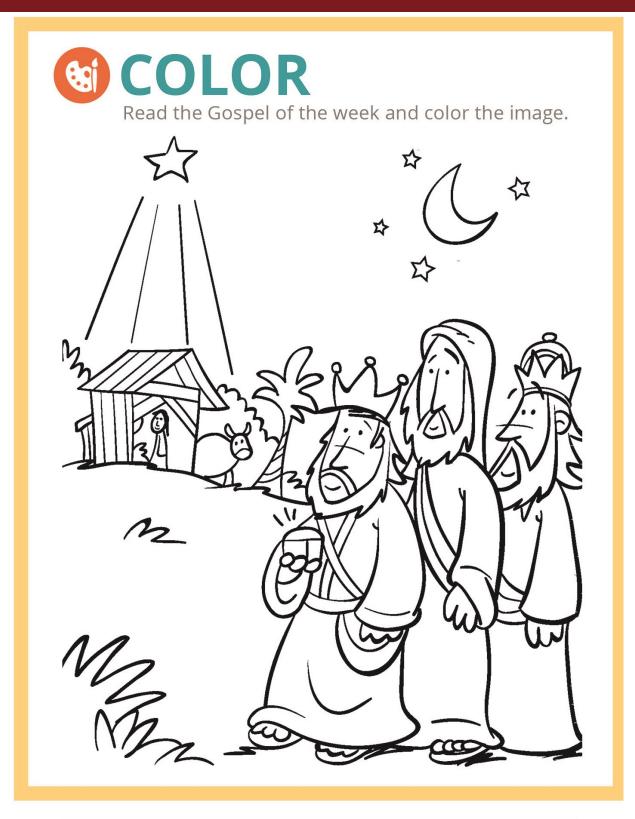
Thank you!!!

- Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Foundation
- Jewel-Osco Countryside



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

Kids Corner



Epiphany of the Lord • Matthew 2:1-12

Sábados

Hispanic Ministry					
FECHA-DATE	HORA-TIME	EVENTO-EVE	NT	LUGAR	-PLACE
9 de enero, 2024	7:00 p.m.	Adoración al San Adoration to the B		Iglesia Church	Š.
7 de enero 2024	12:30 p.m.	Misa en Español Spanish Mass		Iglesia Church	
Segundo Sábado de cada mes Second Saturday of each month		Adoración Nocturna Night Adoration	Iglesia Church		

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.

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

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.

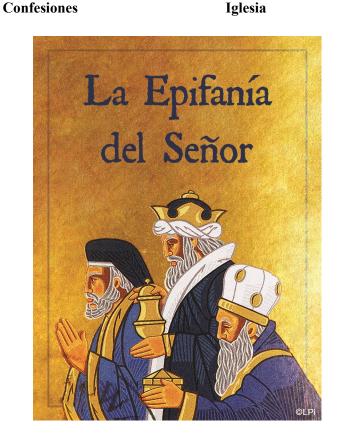
MASS INTENTIONS:

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.

¡FELIZ DIA DE LOS TRES REYES MAGOS!

La fiesta de los Reyes Magos es comúnmente llamada «Epifanía», palabra que en griego significa «manifestación», en el sentido de que Dios se revela y se da a conocer. Esta festividad se celebra el 6 de enero en diferentes partes del mundo.

The feast of the Three Wise Men is commonly called "Epiphany", a word that in Greek means "manifestation", in the sense that God reveals himself and makes himself known. This holiday is celebrated on January 6 in different parts of the world.



Church Women United La Grange/Western Springs

ALL WOMEN WELCOME TO ATTEND



Church Women United LaGrange/Western Springs Unit invites all area women to attend their Annual Meeting/Brunch on Friday, January 19, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. The event will be held at St. Cletus Parish, 600 55th Street, LaGrange. In addition to breakfast, there will be a brief update on the state of organization followed by guest speaker, Kendall Grant, St. Cletus Director of Social Concerns who will address the topic: "Beyond the Pantry". She will explore how the St. Cletus Food Pantry collaborates to provide food for people in need and support people beyond "just" groceries. A tour of the departmentalized pantry will be included.

Cost for the morning is \$10. Advance reservations are requested by January 12th. Questions/Reservations may be directed to* Karen Ziemba at 708.710.0644.

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive, international Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Their motto is: Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve. The local unit was established in 1941 and will soon celebrate its 103rd anniversary.

Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation Classes are in session this weekend, January 7 – 8. Due to the holiday on Monday, our classes will not meet on Sunday, January 14 & 15.

Our Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, January 27. Our facilitator for this year's retreat will be Ms. Jenny Kumdrick. Jenny has been a youth minister and retreat facilitator. We are very happy to welcome her to St. Cletus Parish.

Join the CCW for a Special Event!



Join us as historian and actress Leslie Goddard portrays Jackie Kennedy in this unforgettable portrayal where you will meet the private woman behind the public myth.

January 10th at 7pm in the Gallagher Room

Community News

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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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 relational for the formation of the f

tionship 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.

INTERFAITH CAREER NETWORK



Helpful Advice from HR While Conducting your Job Search

Thursday, January 18th from 7-9pm -Leslie Kelley, Presenter

• Think your resume is good? You may be way ahead of others who you are competing against! You may not!

• Think your business protocol during your search is good? You may be way ahead of your competition! You may not!

Think you may want to learn more from the corporate, "other side" of recruitment – YES! Come join us to get out ahead of your competition! Be the best you can be during your job search!

Our speaker is Leslie Kelley, Director of Human Resources for Chervon North America, Inc. in Naperville, IL. She holds a Bachelor's degree in HR and a Master's degree in Organizational Behavior. Leslie is actively involved in recruitment each week and can share some important tips that may launch your job search to the next level in a market that is topsy-turvy!

We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross, 5005 Wolf Road in Western Springs. Everyone is welcome! Visit www.interfaithcareernetwork.com for additional resources

MOTHER MCAULEY GALA



A BENEFIT TO PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO MOTHER MCAULEY STUDENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF CHICAGO

76 E MONROE ST. | CHICAGO, IL 60603 6PM - 10PM Cocktail attire, Red encouraged

COCKTAILS | DINNER | MISSION MOMENT | RAFFLE | SILENT AUCTION



CATHERINE MCAULEY LEADERSHIP AWARD: Bridget Gainer '86 | Nora Gainer '88 | Maureen Gainer Reilly '93 Mary Gainer, MD '96 | Sheila Gainer '99

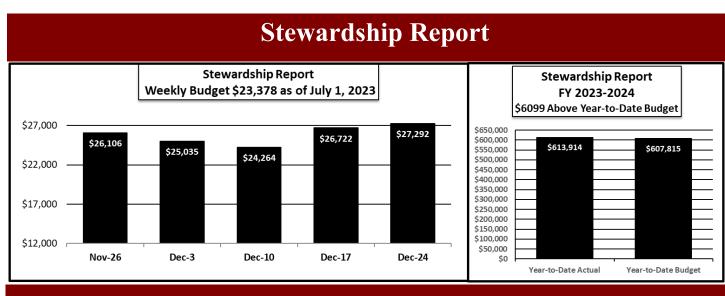
> LIFE TRUSTEE: Sister Marion Johnson, RSM

Sponsorship, Ads, and Auction Item opportunities available. Scan the QR Code for more details.



Contact Peggy Evans Rourke '76 | 773-881-6547 | prourke@mothermcauley.org

January 7, 2024		The Epiphany of the Lord		Page 13
Week At A Glance				
DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	
Sunday, January 7	8-2pm	Parish Center	Hospitality	
Monday, January 8				
Tuesday, January 9	8pm	Parish Center	Senior Basketball Practice Church League	
Wednesday, January 10	9am-12pm 1-1:45pm 7pm 8-10pm	Gallagher Room Church Gallagher Room Parish Center	Mission Ladies Living Rosary CCW Meeting with Leslie Goddard School Fathers Basketball	
Thursday, January 11	4-8pm 8-10pm	Food Pantry Parish Center	Food Pantry Distribution Church League Basketball Team Practices	
Friday, January 12	3-9pm 8-9pm	Parish Center	Chuck E Cheese Dining 4 Dollars in Darien Frosh/Soph Church League Practice	
Saturday, January 13	8-12am	Church	Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Sunday, January 14	12am-5am	Church	Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	



Preferred Partners



Breakfast Cafe

St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

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

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Please note that all deliveries and inquiries should be made to the parish center office.

Monday thru Friday	
Saturday and Sunday	Closed

MASSES

Saturday Evening	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
Weekdays	Monday thru Friday 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			
Deacon Franco Foti, Operations Di	rector		
Rev. Michael Novick, Associate Pas			
Rev. John Lodge, Senior Priest for			
Mr. Ramón Cazales, Deacon			
Rev. Robert Clark, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>	s		
,	,		
PASTORAL STAFF	(700) 215 5412		
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) 21	5-5441		
Juanita Avila, Head of Hispanic Min	istry		
SCHOOL STAFF (708) 352-4820			
Gregory Porod, Principal			
Christy Schaefer, Assistant Principa	al		
Mary Lee Krieger, Administrative A			
Kate Townsend, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant			
Sara Hodak, Marketing/Development			
Sala Houak, Marketing/Developmen			
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF	(708) 352-2383		
Lawrence Manetti, Director of Faith Formation for Chil-			
dren			
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@stcletusparish.com			
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.