

ST. CLETUS CHURCH

Rectory

600 West 55th Street
LaGrange, Illinois 60525
www.stcletusparish.com

WEBSITE EDITION

Rev. Raymond Klees
Pastor

Rev. Patrick O'Neill
Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Gallagher
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Patrick Marshall
Weekend Associate

Maria Arias
Director of Hispanic Ministry

Mary Beth Ford
Youth Director/Social Concerns

Jolene Hillgoth
School Principal

Patricia Kahl
Director of Religious Education

Bobbie Kallal
Business Manager

Kathie O'Neill
Art & Environment Coordinator

Carol Pogar
Liturgy Coordinator

Justin Sisul
Music Director

Christopher Wagner
*Director of Grounds/
Technical Support*

Dolores Wouk
Minister of Care Coordinator

PASTORAL OFFICES:
700 West 55th Street
LaGrange, Illinois 60525
352-6209

PARISH SCHOOL
352-4820

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/RCIA
352-2383

HISPANIC MINISTRY
352-4856

**YOUTH MINISTRY/
SOCIAL CONCERNS**
352-4641

LITURGY/MINISTRY OF CARE
352-4834

ART & ENVIRONMENT
352-4834

MUSIC DIRECTOR
352-4547

GROUND/TECHNICAL SUPPORT
352-8597



MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 PM
Sundays: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,
11:00 AM, 6:00 PM (Spanish)
Evening before Holy Day: 7:00 PM
Holy Day: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM
Weekdays: 8:00 AM

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation Class. Please make arrangements by calling the Rectory office (352-6209).

WEDDINGS

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

HOME/HOSPITAL VISITATION AND COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care office (352-4834).

CONFESSIONS

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month: 4:00 PM

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop

Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

February 8, 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you know, in June 2002, the U.S. Bishops promised that victims of sexual abuse would be attended to: that priests who were shown to have ever abused a minor, even once, would be permanently removed from public ministry if not from the priesthood; and that programs would be set up to protect young people from harm. The Archdiocese had started on all of this long before 2002, but new initiatives were begun for training all adults to protect children and the processes to examine allegations were reviewed and strengthened. Records were re-examined to be sure that all priests ever accused of any such sinful activity were not in ministry. The Archdiocese has had a deservedly good reputation in responding to this crisis. It has conformed to national standards and deservedly good reputation in responding to this crisis. It has reported, for many years, to the civil authorities every allegation it has received. Many fine and dedicated people have cared for victims and reviewed cases. In particular, we should all be proud of the Victims' Assistance Ministry, the Independent Review Board and the Professional Fitness Office. These people's work has been conscientiously and professionally done.

The case of Father Daniel McCormack undermines all this now. When an accusation of sexual abuse of a minor is made against a priest, the Professional Fitness Review Administrator receives it from the accuser, reports it to the civil authorities and presents it to the Independent Review Board for their consideration. During this first investigation, the priest accused is told of the allegation. If the Board decides, after their preliminary, but careful, consideration of the accusation, that there is reasonable cause to suspect something happened, I remove the priest from ministry, the various parishes at which he served are notified, any other victims are asked to come forward, the investigation is completed and the case is sent to the Holy See for permission to remove the priest from public ministry. This process did not occur in the case of Father McCormack.

Father McCormack was not in any sense "protected" from the civil authorities by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Before any allegation came to the Archdiocese, he was arrested by the police, questioned and let go. When I learned of his arrest three days after it occurred, I restricted his ministry while we waited for an allegation to begin the process of investigation. It now seems that additional information was available that did not reach our offices. The process we have used well to remove predators was not engaged quickly enough.

I must apologize to all of you for the great embarrassment every Catholic must now feel in the light of media scrutiny of these events. In particular, I am deeply sorry for the pain of those Catholics who are part of St. Agatha's Parish. They were especially in my prayers on February 5, their feast day. I pray as well for those who have brought these allegations against Father McCormack. He and his family also warrant inclusion in our prayers.

To be sure that the protection of children remains paramount, we will continue to examine what happened with the help of experts not connected to the Archdiocese of Chicago. We will work to be more immediately responsive and to move cases along more quickly. We'll have to be sure that all information from any source gets to the Archdiocesan offices and is more widely shared, with the civil authorities as usual, but also with others. A case ordinarily begins with a call to the Archdiocesan hotline for sexual abuse reporting (312-751-5205), and we will check on how we might improve that service.

All of this is necessary; none of it will of itself remove the pain of the moment. We can only pray that pain will be redemptive in this case and that the Lord will heal us. I pray that a failure to act more quickly on my part will not harm the Archdiocese itself. You are in my prayers; please keep me in yours. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

A Time for Reflection – the Archdiocese of Chicago Annual Catholic Appeal

The theme of the campaign is: "He has put His seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts." 2 Corinthians's 1:22.

The Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is much different than a one time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, payable over five months. Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our Archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But, it does, because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many will enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

This weekend and next weekend we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses.

As always, what you give should be given in gratitude for what God has given to us.

Confirmation Candidates/Team Members

This week please remember in prayer our Year 2 Confirmation Candidates, our young adult team members, and all who are preparing to spend next weekend, February 25/26, in retreat and reflection at Lake Lawn Lodge in Delevan, Wisconsin. May their time apart from us and their daily schedules help them deepen their commitment to the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church and our parish community.

Mary Beth Ford
Youth Ministry

St. Cletus Parish Lenten Mission 2006

A review for you: The Mission begins on March 4/5 with the Saturday/Sunday Liturgies. Monday evening, March 6, 7:00pm the presentation is Reverence the Past.

On Tuesday evening, March 7 at 7:00pm, Fr. Bill will talk about ways that we can Honor the Present. How do we experience the grace of God in our own life and the life of the parish? What areas in our life do we fail to recognize God or the presence of the Spirit? The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

Pat Kahl
Director of Religious Education

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday. Baskets will be in the church foyer the weekend of February 25/26 for collection of old palms.

Stations of the Cross

...will be observed each Friday during Lent at 2:00pm in church. St. Cletus faculty and students will lead this observance each week and all parishioners, family and friends are invited to attend.

On Good Friday, April 14, the Year II Confirmation candidates will enact the living stations during the 7:00pm Liturgy.

Carol Pogar
Liturgist

Food Pantry Thank You!

A big **Thank You!** to the parishioners of St. Cletus who once again came through to help us replenish the shelves in our Food Pantry for our February distribution. We were most grateful for your overwhelming response to the specific items we needed this month. We again had about 100 families, so we are now concerned with replenishing our shelves. Your continued faithfulness in supporting this much needed ministry is greatly appreciated! There are many people in our community who continue to struggle to make ends meet...and our monthly Food Pantry helps to ease some of their worries. Several reminders:

- All non-perishables are greatly appreciated, especially our staples of rice and dry pinto beans; cereal; soups (non-cream) & meals in a can; macaroni & cheese; tuna; pasta and pasta sauce; canned fruits and vegetables; peanut butter and jelly.
- Please check the expiration dates on your contributions. We are unable to use outdated items.
- These items should be dropped off in the Minister's Room in church when you come to Mass, **especially on the first weekend of the month.**
- The Food Pantry distributes groceries from the vestibule of the church on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (708) 352-4641, or marybeth.ford@stcletusparish.com. Thanks again!

Mary Beth Ford
Social Concerns

Please Pray for

...our sick in your prayers: Ruth Calandriello, Jack Carter, Dorothy Salvato, Ann Marie Nabor, Nadine Pankow, Patty Johnson, Michael Abalos, Connie Kostecki, Connor Farrell, Jonii Patterson, Catherine Meyers, Luigi Iacopetti, George Mrozek, Andy Rasch, Mary Jean Sternquist, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Rose Ptak, Robert Frost, Robert Salbego, Bridie Boyce, Stephanie Yakowicz, Louis Cesario, Virginia Wilson, Gail Pankow-Locker, Josie Spoto, Larry Wojnar, Louise Jaunich, Frank Werner, Virginia Tenerelli, Agnes Olszowka, July Hofstetter, Michael Karpinski, Emil Chlapecka, Augustin Jaso, Marie Krolicki, Mary O'Rourke, Debbie Broz, Bill Gilmer, Scott May, and Jackie Zaccari. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

Athletic Association Dinner/Dance and Silent Auction

This year's St. Cletus Athletic Association Dinner Dance and Silent Auction is set for Saturday, March 4, at 7:00pm at St. Cletus School in Morrissey Hall.

The theme is the "Wild West". Everyone in the parish is invited. Please call Marty O'Shea at (708) 482-9204 for tickets (\$35). If you would like to make a donation, call me at (708) 352-1755.

Tracy Flannery


Put the Nuns in Charge!

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the classroom! "Sister is back with a vengeance" – Chicago Reader – "Sharp, funny, and richly humane" – Chicago Tribune. ... "Put the Nuns in Charge" is coming to St. Cletus School, 700 W. 55th St., on Saturday, March 11 at 7:30. Doors will open at 6:30pm, with open seating. Food & Drink is available. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. To purchase tickets contact, Mary Jane Walsh (708) 579-5586 or Christine Tosheff at (630) 662-0991.

Stewardship

Stewardship shows us how to live as disciples of Jesus. We start by acknowledging all that we have is from God.

February 12

Budgeted revenue:		\$ 30,000
Collection Received:		27,226
Shortfall last week:		- 2,775
Revenue to budget		
Surplus for this fiscal year:		1,059
# of envelopes mailed:		3,181
# of envelopes returned:		869

Thank you for your continued support. Please remember to use your offertory envelopes.

Please remember, using your envelope allows you to place your gift in the collection basket in a consistent manner. It also allows the parish the latitude to budget effectively. Supplementary offering envelopes are available in the pews each week.

Please note: Many parishioners have elected to have their weekly Sunday offering contribution debited out of their checking account once or twice a month. If you would like more information, contact Bobbie at (708) 352-6209, at the rectory office.

Raffle Ticket Sale This Weekend

11th Annual John Paul II Newman Center

"\$25,000 Super Raffle"

April 7, 2006

Grand Prize	\$15,000
Second Prize	\$ 5,000
Third Prize	\$ 3,000
Ten Weekly Prizes	\$ 200*

(* \$200 Prize per week)

Each Chance \$200 (A maximum of 600 tickets will be sold. Entries sent by mail must be received by Friday, April 7. Winner need not be present For weekly updates, check out our website. WWW.JP2Newman.com.

Mission Chicago

On Thursday, February 23, Fr. Robert Barron will give the first of his six talks as part of Mission Chicago at St. John of the Cross Church in Western Springs. Fr. Barron's talk, "What's Missing in My Life?" will focus on our need for Jesus Christ and his Word. Come on February 23 at 6:30pm to pursue your personal mission of faith, and bring a friend or family member who may be interested in more fully practicing our Catholic faith. After Fr. Barron's talk, each parish in our area will have information available on upcoming events and ministry opportunities.

What's Worthwhile is Worth Waiting For

Various groups are traveling around high schools and colleges today promoting chastity among young people. They aren't always getting an enthusiastic reception.

One commentator recently quipped: "They're telling young people to save it for that one special person they will one day marry. Well, that sounds a lot better when you're 19 and waiting for that special person than when you're 39 and not sure what you're waiting for!"

There's enough raw truth in that to merit a symposium. What's expressed here is the despair we feel when life begins to pass us by, when our real dream for love seems over, and when, daily, we become more and more unsure as to whether or not we are on the side of life or not. Waiting seems pretty foolish then and the temptation becomes strong to begin to bend the rules.

But the rules don't change because we lose our dream. What changes are our feelings for chastity and waiting: How do we wait then? How do we wait when, it seems, there is no longer much worth waiting for?

We don't have a lot of healthy models on this: Liberals too easily write off the ideal and conservatives too easily refuse to see the hard truth, but the secret lies neither in compromise nor in denial. What we need when we begin to lose heart for the ideal is to get our hearts in touch with what, deep down, they really want. And how do we do that? By committing ourselves to what will give us real life in the long run.

Allow me an example, namely, the infamous, unenthusiastic, but deep, commitment that Peter gives to Jesus at a low point in his discipleship.

The incident takes place in John's gospel. Jesus had just given a teaching that both confused and upset everyone, the disciples included. He told the people: "Unless you eat my flesh, you will not have life within you!" John reports that, after he said this, everyone walked away, saying this was an intolerable teaching. Jesus then turned to his disciples and asked: "Do you want to walk away too?" Peter answered: "Yes, we would like to, but you have the words of everlasting life!"

This response, devoid of all enthusiasm, speaks though of real maturity: "You have the words of everlasting life!" What gives us life sometimes calls for commitment even when our hearts aren't outside.

In essence, Peter is saying this: "We don't get it, but we know that we're better off not getting it with you than getting it with somebody else.

I once used those exact words in a class when explaining this story and a man quipped: "That sounds like my marriage!" There was snicker in the classroom, but he said: "I'm serious. Anyone who's ever been married or committed in a relationship knows that there are times when that relationship will be full of tension, disappointment, and even flat-out coldness. It might feel dead, but you're smart enough to know that, for you, life lies there, not elsewhere. For you, long-range, life means staying in that relationship even though, on this day, it seems lifeless. Deep down, all of us know exactly what it means to say: "I'm not getting it with you, but I'm better off not getting it with you than getting it with somebody else!"

What's at issue here, obviously, is not just chastity and waiting until marriage, but a wisdom and a maturity that intuit the big picture and know that what ultimately brings life is not just what helps us make it through a bad night or a bad season.

Love is a decision, not a feeling. We find that hard to believe because, long before we have to decide for love, we first fall into love. Initially it chooses us more than we choose it. But that changes, as we know, and real maturity comes at that exact moment when, like Peter, we commit ourselves to something beyond what feels best in the present moment. Maturity waits, even when it's 39 years old and not sure any more what it's waiting for.

And sometimes too, eventually, we know the joy of realizing that it was all worthwhile.

On his wedding day, G.K. Chesterton handed a note to his wife on which he had written that, in all the years previous to their marriage, he was a man who had *"four lamps of thanksgiving always before him. The first is for his creation out of the same earth with such a woman as you. The second is that he has not, with all his faults, 'gone after strange women'. You cannot think how a man's self-restraint is rewarded in this. The third is that he has tried to love everything alive, a dim preparation for loving you. And the fourth is – but no words can express that. Here ends my previous existence. Take it: it led me to you."*

Patience, waiting, chastity, and commitment are, in the end, worth it.

Oblate Father Ron, Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.



**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Monday, February 20

8:00 a.m. - Purgatorial Society

Mary Therese Kennedy-Campbell, Stacy Baker,
Thomas Cecil

Tuesday, February 21

8:00 a.m. - Josephine & Anton Kuchta,

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Haraburda, Eric Geyer,
Lucille Tertinger, Thomas Cecil

Wednesday, February 22

8:00 a.m. - John Ruzas, Thomas Cecil,

Bob Knutsen, Christine Cihak, Johnston Family,
Elizabeth Hefler

Thursday, February 23

8:00 a.m. - Ed Ryan, Patricia Owsiak,

Mary Louise King, Florence Curtis

Friday, February 24

8:00 a.m. - Purgatorial Society

Sandy Fisher, Joseph Megla, Louis J. Kadlec,
Janet Flanagan

Saturday, February 25

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 26

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

Altar Servers



February 25/26

5:00 p.m. - S. Boland, M. King, E. Mrazek

7:00 a.m. - C. McCollom, A. Condotti, K. Caplice

8:00 a.m. - C. Madden, K. Kelliher, H. Heim

9:30 a.m. - K. Baro, M. Micek, S. Lenz

11:00 a.m. - J. Newman, A. Driscoll, B. Okkema

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers these parishioners
or loved ones of parishioners who recently died:

...Celeste Klees, mother of Fr. Raymond Klees

...Hermina Messich, mother of Phyllis Grozich

We extend our condolences to all families who have
lost a loved one during this past week.

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, February 25, 2006

5:00 PM
SM Curnutt, Rose- C1 Zaremba, Elizabe
B2 Bozec, Betty C2 Bamberger, Mary
B3 Andrews, Diane- C3 Hockman, Susan-
B4 Sheridan, Erin- C4 Curnutt, Rose-
B5 Severino, Laurie- C5 Richards, Marge-
B6 Micek, Judy C6 Micek, Dan

9:30 AM

LR Dalsin, Pat-
SM Kach, Barbara- C1 Farnsworth, Vicki
B2 Kelliher, Karen C2 Kelliher, Larry
B3 Opila, Margo C3 Opila, Andy
B4 Nolan, Jeannine C4 Koch, Barbara-
B5 Horak, Veronica- C5 Warren, Catherin
B6 Stumreiter, Earl- C6 Zupancic, Robert

11:00 AM

LR Hagen, Jim
SM Samuelson, Debra- C1 Hagen, Colleen
B2 Keating-Gay, Susa C2 Schump, Cathy-
B3 Nilles, Carolyn- C3 Gleich, Sharon-
B4 Nash, Sheila- C4 Samuelson, Debra
B5 Hayes, Marlene C5 Hayes, Stuart
B6 McCaffray, Paul- C6 Meuwissen, Jean

Sunday, February 26, 2006

7:00 AM
LR Hagen, Emily-
SM Stamm, Barbara
B2 Stamm, Barbara
B3 Stamm, Richard
B4 Hinton, Gari-
B5 Swindall, Vic
B6 Swindall, Toni



8:00 AM
LR Curatto, Louis-
SM Welch, Jerry- C1 Kuchta, Ann-
B2 Biesadecki, Carol C2 Biesadecki, Bob
B3 Thornton, Madeline- C3 Thornton, William
B4 Severino, Shirley- C4 Welch, Jerry-
B5 Hogue, Kay- C5 Stopka, Sharon-
B6 Nicosia, Christine- C6 Anfield, Therese-

Breaking Open the Lenten Readings

The Lenten Sunday readings invite us to conversion and holistic living. As we bring readings into dialogue with understandings of the sacred, interconnected universe, contemporary issues of justice will emerge calling us to deeper conversion. Breaking Open the Lenten Readings will be held for six Tuesdays beginning March 7 from 1:00-2:30pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse and Ministry Center, 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in La Grange Park. The fee is \$100. The facilitator is Pat Bergen, CSJ. For more information or to register, call The Well at (708) 354-9200, ext. 5088 or 5058.

We Have Never Seen Anything Like This

We won't promise you the healing of a paralytic on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend as in today's Gospel. However, when describing their Weekend, many couples say that they have rarely experienced anything so positive for their sacrament. The next Weekend will be April 28/30. For reservations or information consult our website at www.mewwchicago-gary.org or call Jim and Chris at 1-800-442-3554.