Rev. Robert Clark

Pastor

Rev. Patrick O'Neill

Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Watkins

Associate Pastor

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

Justin Sisul

Music Director

Christopher Wagner

Information Technology

Dolores Wouk

Minister of Care Coordinator

PASTORAL OFFICES

700 W. 55th Street

La Grange, IL 60525 708-352-6209

PARISH SCHOOL

708-352-4820

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / RCIA

708-352-4856

YOUTH MINISTRY /

SOCIAL CONCERNS

708-352-4641

LITURGY / MINISTRY OF CARE

708-352-4834

MUSIC DIRECTOR

708-352-4547

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

708-352-8597

ST. CLETUS CHURCH

Rectory 600 W. 55th Street LaGrange, IL 60525 www.stcletusparish.com www.stcletusschool.com

WEBSITE EDITION



MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00p

Sunday: 7:00a, 8:00a, 9:30a, 11:00a, 6:00p (Spanish)

Evening Before Holy Day: 7:00p

Holy Days

6:30a, 8:00a, 9:00a

Monday - Saturday

8:00a

BAPTISMS

 $1^{\rm st}$ & $3^{\rm rd}$ Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation Class. Please make arrangements by calling the rectory office at 708-352-6209.

WEDDINGS

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

HOME / HOSPITAL VISITATION & COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the Ministry of Care office at 708-352-4834

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 PM



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2006 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT What are you waiting for?

While Advent and Christmas call up many different feelings, memories, and thoughts, ulti-

mately we cannot exhaust the meaning of this mysterious season. But if we use a word to describe Advent, it might be expectation. The first Sunday of Advent brings home the fact that Christmas is coming. We enter a purple-and-green-tinged time of candles, trees, nativity scenes, and wreaths. And then there are the gifts and gatherings to plan, even worry about. If you do only one thing to prepare this Advent, take some time every day to contemplate this basic fact: God has come to dwell among us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is near."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

FEAST OF JOHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR Decorating tips for Advent

It's probably too late to salvage the word icon, reduced to an electronic cartoon on a computer screen, but we can take a cue from John of Damascus, who in the eighth century vigorously defended the use of images in churches against people known as Iconoclasts who wanted to destroy them. "The image is a memorial, just what words are to a listening ear. It brings us understanding." Why not seek out truly fine religious art for our homes? It's true, much of what passes for religious art today is sentimental kitsch responsible for a good deal of bad theology and superstition. But with care, Catholic homes can once again be characterized by the presence of beautiful, graceful reminders of the Holy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 ADVENT WEEKDAY Rooted in faithfulness

The tradition of the Jesse Tree comes from the prophet Isaiah. A Jesse Tree helps families and church communities connect the Advent Season with the faithfulness of God throughout biblical history. The tree incorporates references to God's promises of fidelity through special ornaments placed on the branches. The ornaments are usually a handmade symbol or drawing that represents one of the major stories of the Old Testament, along with a brief scripture verse from that story. On Christmas Eve, the final symbol is added to the tree—usually a Star of David. Allow the season to take root in your heart: Participate in the decoration of a Jesse Tree in your faith community, or create your own this year.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
"But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 FEAST OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP The real Saint Nick

With Christmas looming on the horizon, it's interesting to think about how we speak of exchanging gifts. When someone gives a present, most of the time she or he expects to get one in return, or at least a thank you. But what about giving with no thought of getting? Before morphing into the red-suited Santa Claus of department-store fame, Saint Nick was a real person: the fourth-century bishop of a city called Myra, in what is now Turkey. He

was famous for his enormous generosity—which even extended to death, for he gave his life as a martyr. He saw needs and met them, without fanfare or even thanks. So did Jesus, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate. This Christmas season, in honor of the real Saint Nick, plan to give some gifts—of yourself, of your time, energy, and love—without thought of return.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
"I have compassion for the crowd, because they have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 FEAST OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR We're expecting!

Expectant mothers and fathers hear the stories of the coming of the Christ child with new ears. They know what it was like for Mary, large with child and focused on an inward life; and for Joseph, large with anxiety and focused outward on protecting and providing for this expanding family. Yet even those of us who do not anticipate carrying an infant in our arms anytime soon are Christ-bearers, as Saint Ambrose (c. 340-397) reminds us: "Christ has only one mother in the flesh, but we all bring forth Christ in faith." Prepare a place for the newborn!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
"Everyone who hears these words and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Freed from sin

Since Pope Pius IX first introduced the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception on this day in 1854, it has caused many Catholics nothing but consternation. Many believe that it celebrates Christ's conception rather than that of the Virgin Mary, who was exceptional from all humanity in being conceived without original sin. Still others find it an uneasy reminder of their own inherent sin. What the Immaculate Conception affirms, however, is the eternal redemptive power of Jesus, that, in fact, the sacrifice of the son saved the mother from sin. Just as Christ's sacrifice on the cross breaks all temporal bounds, so it breaks the bindings of our sin today. How may we look to Mary as a model of our freedom?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

"Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your Word."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 FEAST OF JUAN DIEGO, HERMIT Cultivate a rosy perspective

The tradition surrounding Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to Juan Diego, a simple man who worked the earth, tells us that when Juan's bishop asked for a sign of the apparition, Juan opened his cloak and red roses poured forth. The message would have been clear to the agricultural people of the day—the high altitudes of central Mexico in December are far too chilly for roses to bloom. Many of us have lost a connection to the earth's cycles in our daily lives, to our own peril and that of our planet. Find a simple way today to reestablish the connection—a quiet walk, perhaps imagining roses blooming in December, might be a good place to start.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1,

"Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest."

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Scripture quotes come from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Contributors: Father Paul Boudreau, Alice Camille, Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, Ann O'Connor, Sean Reynolds, Joel Schom, Patrice J. Tuohy

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mass times for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception are as follows: Vigil Mass, Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm and Friday, December 8 at 6:30, 8:00 and 9:00am.

Giving Tree Reminder



Please remember to return your Giving Tree gifts to the church next weekend, December 9 & 10 when you come to Mass. Please arrange for a friend or family member to return them for you if you will not be in town. After Sunday Masses on December 10, gifts are sorted for distribution to St. Agatha's or to the needy in our community. Be sure the gift tag is securely attached to the packages. If you have any questions, call Maureen at (708) 839-0345 or Mary Beth at (708) 352-4641. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Adult volunteers are needed here at St. Cletus on Sunday, December 17, to help check-in and distribute food baskets. If you can help for a few hours between 7:30am and 4:30pm in Morrissey Hall, please call Mary Beth (708-352-4641) or Maureen (708-352-4641). Thanks!

A special request: If there is anyone in our parish who is able to donate some new boxes for us to use for the groceries we are distributing to our local Giving Tree recipients on December 17, please contact Mary Beth (708-352-4641) or marybeth.ford@stcletusparish.com and we can work out details. Thank you!

Leisure Loafers

New Year's Eve at Noon! We are again planning to celebrate New Year's Eve at noon at Niko's Restaurant, 7600 S. Harlem in Bridgeview. Door opens at 11:30am and you will be entertained for five hours. Cost is \$31, which includes lunch and entertainment with Guy Lombardo style music by the Nelson Big Society Band playing the sweetest music this side of heaven. Reservations and money are needed by December 15.

Please call Mary (708) 246-0340 or Alice, (708) 354-7054.

Mary White

Eucharistic Adoration

Come and adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament Monday, December 4, and every first Monday of the month. Adoration begins immediately after the 8:00am Mass and continues in the church until Solemn Benediction and Evening Prayer at 6:45pm. Volunteer adorers please keep your usual schedule.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Mass Schedule

Please note: We will follow our regular Mass schedule for the weekend of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23/24.

Christmas Eve	Masses:	Accompaniment:
2:00pm		Chamber Ensemble
2:15pmMorri	issey Hall	Vocalist/Piano
3:30pm		Children's Choir
3:45pmMorri	issey Hall	Vocalist/Piano
5:30pm		Chamber Ensemble
7:30pmSpani	sh Mass	Spanish Choir
10:30pm		Chancel Choir
Christmas Day	Masses:	Accompaniment:
7:00am		Traditional (Organ)
8:00am		Vocalist/Organ
9:30am		Contemporary Choir
11:00am	•••••	Chancel Choir
New Year's Ev	re: 5:00pm	

New Year's Day: 8:00am and 9:30am

Please Pray for

...our sick in your prayers: Mike Patzelt, Richard Taylor, Rita D'Onofrio, Anthony Regalado, Marilyn Matesevac, Joanne Mate, Adrianne Welenc, Hunter Peters, Mario Aguilar, Cacilia Ziegler, Jackie Dudley, Ruth Calandriello, Dorothy Salvato, Ann Marie Nabor, Nadine Pankow, Patty Johnson, Connie Kostecki, Jonii Patterson, Catherine Meyers, Luigi Iacopetti, Mary Jean Sternquist, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Rose Ptak, 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, Judy Hofstetter, Michael Karpinski, Emil Chlapecka, Augustin Jaso, Marie Krolicki, Mary O'Rourque, Debbie Broz, Scott May,



CARDINAL CORNER

News from the St. Cletus School Board

St. Cletus Scholars

St. Cletus conducted a speech competition on Nov. 2. Twenty students participated in the event coordinated and sponsored by Gina McAndrew. Thanks to Mrs. McAndrew for coaching the children and preparing them for this and future competitions.

St. Cletus 8th graders participated in the Fenwick Grade School Math Contest on Nov. 4. Congratulations to those six students, along with the four 7th graders and seven 8th graders who were invited to compete in the Fenwick Junior High Science Contest. Both St. Cletus teams represented our school well. Results are not back yet on the math contest, but our team placed 8th in a field of 17 public and Catholic school teams in the science competition.

Thanks for Making a Difference

Special thanks to all the St. Cletus families who volunteered to make a difference for senior parishioners on Oct. 28 and 29. Ten families pitched in to do light yard work for eight seniors in our parish. Look for the next Make a Difference Day next fall.

Reading, reading, reading

Thanks to everyone who bought books at the St. Cletus Book Fair on Nov. 9 and 10. We raised more than \$6,000 for books for the school library! Your purchases go a long way in developing St. Cletus Scholars!

The Family Reading Night on Nov. 7 was a huge success. Known for his whimsical, colorful illustrations and funny yet poignant stories, author Kevin Luthardt entranced St. Cletus students to kick off the annual book fair. He spoke with students and shared stories from his books, which include popular titles like "Mine", "Zoom!" and his



latest, "You're Weird." In addition to entertaining the students, Mr. Luthardt signed several copies and talked personally to several children about the importance of reading and writing.

Mary and Martha



We will again collect and fill Christmas gift bags for Briar Place Nursing Home residents. We usually prepare 75 bags and need your donations. We can use socks, playing cards, pens, pencils, note paper, bar soaps, shampoo, combs, brushes, toothpaste and tooth brushes, jewelry, small books, puzzle books, lotions, slippers, etc. The home does request **NO** candy, perfumes or shaving lotions due to medical reasons.

Please leave your donation at the rectory marked for Briar Place or Mary and Martha before December 19, as the gifts will be prepared and delivered soon after that.

We thank you again for being so faithful in our endeavor. If you need something picked up, call Virginia at (708) 354-7282 or Mary at (708) 246-0340. Have a prayerful and healthy Christmas. We thank you and the nursing home thanks you!

Mary White



As we continue our journey of faith during Advent, we look to Mary, who embraced her call to offer herself as a sign of hope for all people. This year St. Cletus Hispanic Ministry will once again celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is the Patroness of Mexico and has world devotion as the Patroness of the Americas.

Our special celebration honoring Our Lady begins on Sunday, December 10, at 6:00pm with a procession starting at the Lenzi apartments and arriving at St. Cletus Church for Mass. On December 11 starting at 7:30pm, an all night Veneration will take place in the church concluding with the traditional "Mananitas" or morning song at 4:00am. On December 12 at 7:00pm a solemn Mass with Mariachi will be held.

Following the Liturgy, all are invited to partake in a Fiesta with Mariachi and tamales held in Morrissey Hall.

First Sunday of Advent

The Lord is near! Are you reading the signs of the times? Is the Lord calling you to consider Priesthood or religious life? For more information, contact Sr. Peter Mary Hettling, CSJ, in the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at (312) 751-5234 or phettling@archchicago.org.

Manna Cash and Carry Dates

Manna is available this Sunday, December 3, after all the Masses. Support our school by stopping by our Manna table. Get some great ideas for Christmas stocking stuffers! Look for the Manna Moms! Watch the Canticle for more information!

"Favorites for All Seasons"

Anyone wanting to purchase a parish cookbook, please call either Mary Jane at (708) 579-5586 or Mary at (708) 387-9578. This is a great gift for the holidays as a hostess gift or for any occasion. Cookbooks are \$15. All the funds raised from this fund raiser will go to St. Cletus School and is sponsored by the St. Cletus Family School Association. Thank you for your support.

New Ministry at St. Cletus...

One of the many ways we as a parish provide for the spiritual welfare of our members is through the conduct of funerals for deceased loved ones and friends. For some time now Fr. Bob and I have been working to create a new ministry addressing the bereavement issues for families at this critical time. A new group is emerging called *Compassionate Care* that will help us address many of the defined needs. We would like to invite your inquiry and interest in being a part of this very visible and important ministry in the parish. If you have an interest, and would like to volunteer or pursue this further, please contact the rectory office at (708) 352-6209. Thanks.

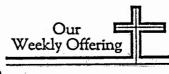
Fr. Charles

Stewardship

"We follow your will and put our hope in you... Everything that we achieve is the result of what you

Share in the Care

Next weekend is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. Please help assist the men and women religious who have generously and tirelessly served in our schools, hospitals, parishes and communities for so many years. Though they may withdraw from compensated, full-time ministry, religious continue for as long as they are able to visit the sick, and volunteer in parishes that are in need of help. Your donation helps alleviate the spiraling costs of health care. Please take a moment to say thanks by giving generously. Envelopes are available in the pews today.



Novem	ber	19
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NUVEILLUCI 19		
Budgeted revenue:		\$29,061
Collection Received:		24,300
Shortfall last week:	-	4,761
Revenue to budget		-
Shortfall for this fiscal year:	-	63,271
# of envelopes returned:		815
November 26		
Budgeted Revenue:		\$29,061
Collection Received:		24,493
Shortfall last week:	-	4,568
Revenue to Budget		
Shortfall for this fiscal year:	-	67,840
# of envelopes mailed:		3,187
# of envelopes returned:		811
Thank you for your continued	supp	ort.

Awaken the Christ in You

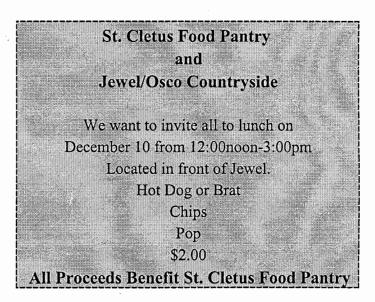
Led by Fr. Steve Kimmons, S.J., this retreat experience invites you to a fuller understanding of how God is alive in your life and is calling you to reflect on how Christ became alive in the created world and in you. The Alive in Christ Retreat is Friday, December 8, 7:30-9:00pm and Saturday, December 9, 9:00am-3:30pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse and Ministry Center, 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in La Grange Park. The fee is \$65. For more information, call (708) 354-9200, ext 5048 or 5088.

Cenacle Retreat House

Rev. Tom Borkowski will present "Glimpsing God in Time and Eternity" an evening of prayer on New Year's Eve, December 31. The evening will include presentations by Fr. Tom, time for personal prayer, group conversation, Mass and refreshments. The offering is \$45 for the evening only, which includes program and refreshments, or \$85 for the evening option, which includes program, refreshments, accommodations and a continental breakfast on New Year's Day, January 1. The Cenacle Retreat House is located at 29 W 012 Batavia Rd., Warrenville, IL. A \$15 deposit secures your reservation. For further information or to register, please call (630) 393-1231.

Nazareth Academy Open House

Nazareth Academy invites all 6 th, 7th, & 8th grade students and parents to their Open House on December 7, at 7:00pm. The school is located at 1209 West Ogden Avenue in La Grange Park. For more information, please call Kristen Stojetz or Cissy Thunander, (708) 387-8505 or 387-8536.



Support Our Advertisers

We encourage you to patronize the businesses using our bulletin for advertising. Tell them you saw their ad in our bulletin.



December 4 - December 10

Day	Time	Intention	
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Mary Pogar, Angela Clifford, Bruno Bransberger, Velma Gartland, Stella Kadlec, Sr. Bernice Kruczek	
Tuesday	8:00am	William Taylor, Grabowski Family, Marcie Johnston, Virginia Kallal	
Wednesday	8:00am	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Haraburda, Joseph George Kutta	
Thursday Vigil	8:00am 7:00pm	Pauline Novak Tom Benka	
Friday Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary	6:30am 8:00am 9:00am	Purgatorial Society Stanley Pienta, Mary McMahon, Sophie Wojcik, People of St. Cletus	
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	Sam & Maria Scopelliti Frances Ference, Sophie Klein, Stella & Felix Gembala	
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	Gerry Rincon Janet Dujsik, John Gil Francis Lusson, Thorbie Murphy, Stanley Pienta Helen Pluta, Amanda Kulas, Stefan Dziabuda	

Altar Servers Solution December 9/10

5:00pm - A. Pusatera, J. Jaskierki, K. Kages

7:00am - M. Bruce, A. McQuillan, E. Maldonado

8:00am - N. Dentamaro, N. Lobraco, C. Callahan

9:30am - J. Ward, B. Franklin, C. Usher

11:00am - M. Garvey, K. Tosheff, C. Mosquera

Д₽Д Baptism

This Past Week We Welcomed... Noah Daniel Fitzgerald to Our Parish Family.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for those who have died and their families:

- ...Tracy Huml-Ariss, wife of John
- ...Paul Bentley, father of Mark
- ...Thomas Przyborowski, brother-in-law of Jon and Denise Parlier
- ...Frank Ferrandino

Winter Reminder

As inclement winter weather approaches, please

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Th	ursday, Dece	mbe	er 07, 2006
7:	00 PM	LR	Pisane, Mary Lou
SM	Kalata, Marcie-	1)	Schump, Cathy-
B2	Hoskins, William	C2	Hoskins, Celine
B3	Ryva, James-	(3	Hogue, Kay-
B4	Sipek, Sarah-	C4	Kalata, Marcie-
B 5	Richards, Marge-	C5	Bartucci, Carol-
B6	Koch, Barbara-	C6	Andrews, Diane

8:00 AM



Friday, December 08, 2006					
6:30 AM		LR Caruso, Carole-			
SM	Curnutt, Rose-	C1			
B2	Curnutt, Rose	(2			
B3	Mezan, Mary Ann	(3	NO		
B4	Hagen, Colleen-	C4	WINE		
B5	Parlier, Denise-	C5			
B6	Biesadecki, Carol	C6			
8:	00 AM	LR	Chaney, Marlene-		
SM	Swindall, Vic	CI	Walsh, Mary Jane		
B2	Dunkovich, Alice-	(2	Horak, Veronica-		
B3	Burke, Jack-	(3	Beales, Dave-		
B4	Swindall, Toni	(4	Swindall, Vic		
B 5	Karch, John	C5	Karch, Terri		
B6	Hullinger, Shirley-	C6	Welch, Jerry-		

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

LR Goethals, Kyle-

Auxiliary Minister		
Saturday, December 09, 2006 5:00 PM	9:30 AM SM Micek, Judy B2 Reichl, Mickie- B3 Kelliher, Larry B4 Micek, Dan B5 Schump, Cathy-	LR Demonte, Linda- (1 Severino, Laurie- (2 Maday, Josephino (3 Kelliher, Karen (4 Micek, Judy (5 Dalsin, Pat-
B4 Benkert, John (4 Benkert, Kim B5 Beales, Nadine (5 Beales, Dave B6 Chlapecka, Rick- (6 Ghera, Alicja-	B6 Kach, Barbara-	C6 Thuma, Mary- LR Reisel, Tom
Sunday, December 10, 2006 7:00 AM LR Chlapecka, Thama	SM Curnutt, Rose- B2 Provan, Karen B3 Heyes, Marlene	C1 DalPorto, Karen C2 Pravan, Jim C3 Heyes, Stuart
SM Swindall, Toni B2 Swindall, Toni B3 Swindall, Vic B4 Fahey, Ann B5 Parlier, Jon B6 Parlier, Denise	B4 Nilles, Carolyn- B5 Brannigan, Rita- B6 Rogan, Janina-	C4 Curnutt, Rose- C5 Gleich, Sharon- C6 Nash, Sheila-