

# St. Cletus Canticle

December 23, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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600 West 55th Street • La Grange, Illinois 60525 • 708-352-6209 • [www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com)



All are welcome. Handicapped parking is located in front of church.  
Personal hearing devices are available from the ushers/greeters.

## Mass Intentions for the Week of December 24 - December 30

Day	Time	Intention
<b>Monday Christmas Eve</b>	2:00 2:15 3:30 3:45 5:30 7:00 10:30	<b>ALL MASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR OUR PARISH PRIESTS' INTENTIONS</b>
<b>Tuesday Christmas Day</b>	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	<b>ALL MASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR OUR PARISH PRIESTS' INTENTIONS</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00am	<b>Stella Waszak, Dan Rosko, Elsie Wagner</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00am	<b>John O'Rourke, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph Haraburda</b>
<b>Friday</b>	8:00am	<b>Purgatorial Society</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00am 5:00pm	<b>People of St. Cletus Robert Suchy, Walter Maveety &amp; Family, Bennie M. Carnevale, Special Intention Mary Nelson, Belfonte Pieri, Irene and Arthur Louvar</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	<b>Ken Johnson, Jean Nowik, Howard Madsen, Marco &amp; Emelia Rattin Rose Mary Ptak, John Burns, Kenneth Wolf Grace DeMato, Sr. Amalia, Sr. Infanta &amp; Sr. Maureen, Lorraine O'Connor John Pavlik, Sophie M. Egielski, Joe White, Lottie Mendrala</b>

### Auxiliary Minister Schedule

<u>Saturday, December 29, 2007</u>		
5:00 pm	LR	Okk3mq, P
SM	Kalata, M	C1 Okkema, A
B2	Richards, M	C2 Sheridan, E
B3	Ghera, A	C3 Bartucci, C
B4	Bozec, B	C4 Kalata, M
B5	Delaloye, J	C5 Loch, L
B6	Reichl, M	C6 Richards, M

<u>Sunday, December 30, 2007</u>		
7:00 am	LR	Chlapecka, T
SM	Wouk, D	
B2	Wouk, D	
B3	Karch, T	
B4	Hagen, C	
B5	Hagen, J	
B6	Karch, J	

<u>8:00 am</u>		
SM	Hullinger, S	LR Curotto, L
B2	Biesadecki, C	C1 Kwak, T
B3	Kigin, B	C2 Biesadecki, B
B4	Hogue, K	C3 Stopka, S
B5	Meade, M	C4 Hullinger, S
B6	Bliss, G	C5 Nicosia, C
		C6 Saban, J

9:30 am		
SM	Wiley, J	LR Reichl, T
B2	Schump, C	C1 Burke, K
B3	Heyes, M	C2 Mulderink, K
B4	Williams, A	C3 Heyes, S
B5	DalPorto, K	C4 Wiley, J
B6	Hagen, C	C5 Garske, E
		C6 Hagen, J

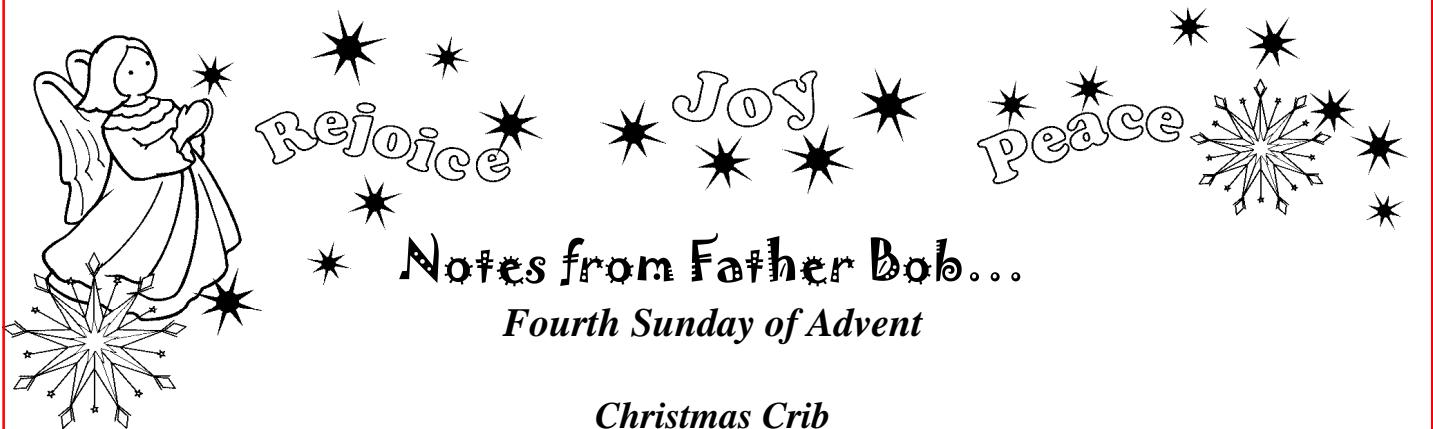
  

11:00 am		
SM	Dunkovich, A	LR O'Dowd, M
B2	Fisher, H	C1 Augustyn, R
B3	Ficaro, J	C2 Hoskins, C
B4	Pavlik, L	C3 Brannigan, R
B5	Bemlert, J	C4 Dunkovich, A
B6	Gleich, S	C5 Bemlert, L
		C6 Meuwissen, J



Please remember our sick in your prayers:  
 Ryan Cosgrove, Vincent Trauth, Ann Fahey,  
 Joan Klein, Sheila Nash, Rosemary Sylvester, Rose  
 Olfercheck, Steve Zeman, Mary Jane Taylor, Robert  
 Orrico, Sister Arlene Gibson, Zach Sperka, Marguerite  
 May, Mike Patzelt, Richard Taylor, Rita D'Onofrio,  
 Marilyn Matesevac, Hunter Peters, Mario Aguilar,  
 Cacilia Ziegler, Jackie Dudley, Ruth Calandriello,  
 Ann Marie Nabor, Patty Johnson, Connie Kostecki,  
 Jonii Patterson, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Bridie  
 Boyce, Stephanie Yakowicz, Virginia Wilson, Josie  
 Spoto, Larry Wojnar, Louise Jaunich, Frank Werner,  
 Agnes Olszowka, Michael Karpinski, Emil Chlapecka,  
 Augustin Jaso, Marie Krolecki, Mary O'Rourke,  
 Debbie Broz, Scott May.





*The Christmas Crib warms the heart of every person who looks upon it. How could it not? For there, in that tender scene, in the form of a helpless child, we see the tenderness of God. That same child will be helpless once again, when his life is snatched from him on a cross, and once more we will look upon the helplessness of God.*

*What message is this that God is trying to give us? Why this helplessness, why this vulnerability to the pain of the world? The answer lies in a most forgotten word...the word is "innocence." Innocence is a total inability to hurt others, and as such, it is the greatest ability of all. Looking upon the crib, many of us have recognized the face of God in a helpless child. This is the sign that has been given to us, Mary's child. In that child we see not only the loveliness of God, but also the beauty of every human being.*

### New Children's Chapel

*Our newly designed Children's Chapel is just about complete. We are still working out some details regarding the speaker system that has been installed and the lighting but in general most of the work is finished and it is ready for use. I would like to particularly thank our wonderfully talented parishioner, Margaret Prescott, who painted the beautiful new painting of "Jesus with the Children" which now hangs on the back wall of our new chapel.*

*The chapel was created in response to many requests from young families with very young children who felt uncomfortable or felt that their children were disturbing others in the main part of the church. The only alternative that they felt was available to them was to go out in the church vestibule or outside the church. The new chapel provides a new opportunity for them to remain part of our worship experience.*

*Please always remember that ALL are welcome in the main part of our church at ALL times. The new Children's Chapel just provides another space for families who choose to use it.*

### Christmas Blessings

*I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Fr. Charles Gallagher, Fr. Pat O'Neill, Fr. Charles Watkins and myself to wish each of you and your families a blessed and holy Christmas. Our prayer for you is that you may experience the Light of Christ in your world and the world around you. May God's abundant grace in Jesus Christ be yours this Christmas and always.*

*Peace of the Christ Child,  
Father Bob*





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

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2007

##### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Three little words

If you had to capture in three words the essence of your Christian faith, “God with us” would say it all. To say that God is with us means that our worldview has been turned upside down and the distinctions we’ve made between divine and human, time and eternity, natural and supernatural are no longer valid. God, maker of heaven and earth, isn’t out there in the cosmos somewhere busy creating the next universe with no thought for earthly creation. This superpower appears before us as a crying baby needing love and protection; as a preacher calling for our repentance; as an enemy of the state suffering and dying for our sins; as our savior promising life everlasting and an ever-present Holy Spirit among us. God is as close as your next breath. Breathe deeply.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24*

“*Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’*”

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

##### VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - Manger scenes

For those of you with Nativity sets, the wait is over: You can finally put Baby Jesus in the manger—unless he’s already there. In some families an annual debate centers on when to put the little fellow out. If before Christmas, one side argues, then we’re getting ahead of ourselves. If after, the other side says, then you spend all of Advent looking at Mary and Joseph and the other figures staring at an empty crib.

There’s something to be said for the wait-until-Christmas-to-put-Jesus-in-the-manger crowd, besides being technically correct: Does not that tiny bed represent an emptiness, a longing, an expectation in us for the presence of God? Nativity scenes work so well because in a sense we join them. We are at the back of the crowd with all the others, peering around a camel or over the shoulder of a shepherd. And with them, our season of waiting has come to end and we have God with us, right before our eyes.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14*

“*This will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.*”

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

##### VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

##### Christ is born in Bethlehem

The story of Jesus’ birth has all the hallmarks of a great fictional epic: Good news comes to those in lowly places; they now share a secret that kings will never appreciate. The human race, doomed by its own history, is rescued by the birth of an insignificant infant in an obscure location. Heavenly creatures deliver the message of glad tidings to the most unlikely recipients. Great joy fills the earth. It may sound like classic fiction, but, believe it or not, it’s absolute gospel. Give glory to the newborn king.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18*

“*To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*”

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

##### FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

##### Whoever endures to the end will be saved

Long-suffering deacons can take some comfort in today’s feast of Saint Stephen, both the church’s first deacon and first martyr. The celebration of Stephen’s witness of service and sacrifice could not come at a better time: the day after Christmas. Does not Jesus call all Christians to care for the vulnerable and to be faithful to him to the last? Though we have Jesus’ birth fresh in our minds, it is to the end of Christ’s earthly life that Stephen’s death points us. Like Jesus, Stephen at the moment of his death forgave his killers and commended his spirit to God. His imitation

of Jesus serves as an example for deacons and all disciples.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22*

“*Then Stephen knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.*”

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

##### FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST-Call your first witnesses

The church celebrates John, the evangelist and the apostle, who were not one and the same. Whichever John we may refer to, the apostle or the author of three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation, the stories of these disciples help us to see how our faith tradition goes back to people who *witnessed* Christ, both having personal contact with him and living out their faith in him. They call us to a similar vocation: Know Christ and live as if you do.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8*

“*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands.*”

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28 - FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

##### Not to be overlooked

In 2005 the remains of a preschooler were discovered in a laundry bag next to the Reagan Memorial Tollway in suburban Chicago. The child showed no signs of neglect; it could have been, said an investigator for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, “a problem with the family or with somebody close to the family. Or it could have been an accidental death and they were afraid to report it.” Two years later the identity of the boy remained unknown, and the local Catholic diocese donated a burial plot so the remains could be put to rest. The Center has a database of 2,000 cases and is currently investigating 210. On this feast of the Holy Innocents, those King Herod had killed in an attempt to eliminate the child Jesus, we remember all the children that fear or malice have left by the side of life’s road and pledge to find some way, however small, to help them.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18*

“*Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, for Herod is about to destroy him.*”

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 - MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE

##### Dreams yet to be realized

“When the Sun died, I went up to heaven and saw God and all the people who had died a long time ago. God told me to come back and tell my people they must be good and love one another . . . He gave me this dance to give to my people.” A rancher named Wovoka spoke these words in 1889 while describing a dream that inspired the birth of the Ghost Dance. The ritual was meant to heal and sustain Native Americans during their difficult times, but it was seen as an act of aggression among settlers and government agents when the Lakota Sioux at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota became swept up in the movement. Fear of the Ghost Dance was one of the contributing factors that led to the massacre at Wounded Knee. Help bring about revelations of peace and salvation through your love of all peoples.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35*

“*My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.*”

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Contributors: Father Paul Boudreau, Alice Camille, Daniel Grippi, Father Larry Janowski, Ann O’Connor, Sean Reynolds, Joel Schorn, and Patrice J. Tuohy

***CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY  
MASS SCHEDULE***



**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

2:00PM.....
2:15PM...MORRISSEY HALL
3:30PM.....
3:45PM...MORRISSEY HALL
5:30PM.....
7:00PM...SPANISH
10:30PM.....

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

7:00AM.....
8:00AM.....
9:30AM.....
11:00AM.....

**NEW YEAR'S EVE:**

7:00PM.....TRADITIONAL
8:00PM.....SPANISH

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:**

8:00AM
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**ACCOMPANIMENT:**

VOCALIST/PIANO  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE  
SPANISH CHOIR  
CHANCEL CHOIR

**ACCOMPANIMENT:**

TRADITIONAL (ORGAN)  
VOCALIST/ORGAN  
CHANCEL CHOIR  
CONTEMPORARY CHOIR



<b>Auxiliary Minister Schedule</b>	
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
<u>Monday, December 24, 2007</u>	
<u>2:00 pm</u>	LR Hagen, K
SM Hagen, C	C1 Garske, E
B2 Andrews, E	C2 Andrews, D
B3 Ryva, J	C3 Loch, L
B4 Hagen, J	C4 Hagen, C
B5 Hagen, E	C5 Hagen, J
B6 Benkert, J	C6 Benkert, K
<u>2:15pm</u>	
SM Koch, B	LR Reynolds, C
B2 Koch, B	
B3 Bozec, B	
B4 Meade, M	
B5 Charney, M	
B6 Ward, L	
<u>3:30pm</u>	
SM Zmuda, R	LR DalPorto, C
B2 Dilane, J	C1 Meuwissen, J
B3 Smith, D	C2 Caruso, C
B4 Zmuda, L	C3 Smith, P
B5 DaPorto, K	C4 Zmuda, R
B6 Delaloye, J	C5 Tosheff, C
<u>10:30pm</u>	
SM Micek, J	LR Pisone, M L
B2 Provan, J	C1 Kwak, T
B3 Heyes, M	C2 Provan, K
B4 Micek, D	C3 Heyes, S
B5 Rotunno, P	C4 Micek, J
B6 Hogue, K	C5 Blecic, D
<u>3:45pm</u>	
SM Samuelson, D	LR McLaughlin, S
B2 Pogar, C	C1 Kuchta, A
B3 Reichl, M	C2 Skupien, K
B4 Thuma, M	C3 Nolan, J
B5 Wouk, D	C4 Samuelson, D
B6 Mangahas, A	C5 Wiley, J
<u>5:30pm</u>	
SM Micek, J	LR Pisone, M L
B2 Provan, J	C1 Kwak, T
B3 Heyes, M	C2 Provan, K
B4 Micek, D	C3 Heyes, S
B5 Rotunno, P	C4 Micek, J
B6 Hogue, K	C5 Blecic, D

<b>Auxiliary Minister Schedule</b>	
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
<u>Tuesday, December 25, 2007</u>	
<u>9:30 am</u>	LR Haggerty, F
SM McCaffray, P	C1 Stumreiter, E
B2 Burke, K	C2 Herzog, T
B3 Zupanic, R	C3 Horak, V
B4 Hullinger, S	C4 McCaffray, P
B5 Blecic, D	C5 Hullinger, S
B6	C6
<u>11:00 am</u>	
SM Pawlowicz, R	C1 Bartucci, C
B2 Dunkovich, A	C2 Gebka, M L
B3 Nilles, C	C3
B4	C4 Dunkovich, A
B5	C5
B6	C6
<u>7:00 am</u>	
SM Swindall, T	LR
B2 Swindall, T	
B3 Swindall, V	
B4 Mezan, M A	
B5	
B6	
<u>8:00 am</u>	
SM Stamm, R	LR
B2 Nicosa, C	C1 Warren, C
B3 Zaremba, E	C2 Guide, A
B4 Stamm, B	C3 Saban, J
B5 Bliss,, G	C4 Stamm, R
B6	C5 Nicosa, C
<u>10:30am</u>	
SM Stamm, R	LR
B2 Nicosa, C	C1 Warren, C
B3 Zaremba, E	C2 Guide, A
B4 Stamm, B	C3 Saban, J
B5 Bliss,, G	C4 Stamm, R
B6	C5 Nicosa, C



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## RCIA WELCOME MASS



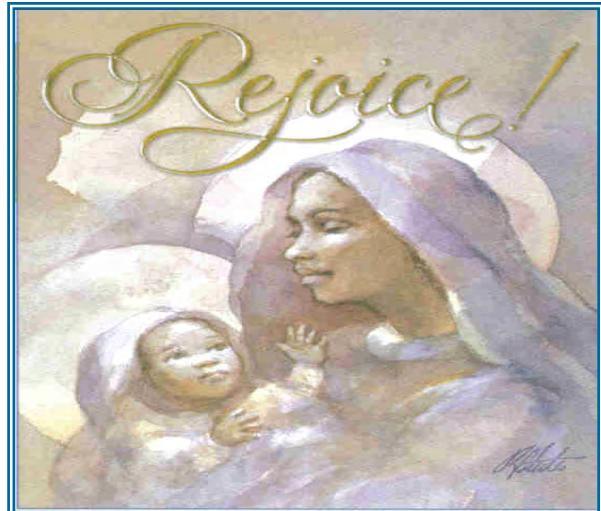
Pictured with Fr. Pat O'Neill are RCIA Candidates: Kelly Broderick, John Larson, Melissa Cepak and Monica Cole who just received their blessed Catechism books.



The Candidates being introduced to our Parish Family.



Brad Markham pictured with the entire group at a Wednesday night session.



Unto us a child is born...  
and his name shall be called...  
Prince of Peace

—Isaiah 9:6 KJV

### Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Sharing Parish:

Greetings of peace, hope and joy from the St. Agatha Parish Family! What a joyful season to celebrate the Lord's coming and to give thanks for those who walk with us on our journey of faith! The Lord has come once in history, but He continues to come to us through the gift of the Scriptures, the gift of the Eucharist, the gift of the Spirit and the gift of a loving and supportive community of faith and sharing partners like yourselves who gather each Sunday to give praise and thanks.

Over the past year our Sharing Parishes have given us so much in support of the mission of Jesus Christ here at St. Agatha. Through your generosity of sharing food, we have given out over 2000 bags of food to needy area families and seniors. In addition, our sharing partners have helped students at St. Agatha Catholic Academy and St. Agatha Family Empowerment (SAFE) with tutoring and tuition assistance. You have also helped us offer Christmas gifts to needy parishioners and area families who struggle to have a nice Christmas. And, of course, we have been blessed by your prayers. We thank you for that spirit of generosity that comes from our shared love of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest! Jesus Christ is born to us... and in us... and through us! May God bless you and your family in a special way this Christmas!

Gentle peace! Fr. Larry & the Staff of St. Agatha

Please pray for those who have died  
and their families:



**† Eleanor Dods**  
Mother of

**† Evelyn Wagner**  
Wife of Elmer

## Stewardship

### The First Christmas Gift

Christmas and Year End Giving is not only a Catholic tradition, but Christmas marks the beginning of the Ultimate Gift - God's gift of His only son, Jesus Christ. Christmas, of course, celebrates the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Tradition holds that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the newborn king, beginning a tradition of gift giving to the Christmas season we enjoy each and every year.

But what about the gifts that God has bestowed upon each and every one of us during the year and throughout our lifetimes? We are merely stewards of these gifts. Christmas and year's end is a spiritual opportunity to make a return to God of His many blessings at Christmas and year's end... Catholic Gift of Faith.

### An "Investment" in Your Parish

For many years, our Catholic parishes have benefited from the enormous contributions and dedication of religious men and women (priests, brothers, and sisters) who have given their entire lives in the service to parishes, schools, dioceses and many other Church ministries.

Now, our Catholic Church and educational ministries are even broader and serve more people than ever before despite the decline in the numbers of religious. Many dedicated lay people now staff these programs and must be compensated with just and living wages. Your Christmas and year-end gift is an investment in these quality programs.

### Weekly Giving Summary

Last Weekend .....	\$ 24,487
A Year Ago.....	28,063

This Fiscal Year (thru 12/16/07).....	\$663,714
Last Fiscal Year (thru 12/17/06).....	638,810

As always, we sincerely thank all who generously give of their treasure, as well as those who give of their time and talent, to support the work our parish does in the name of Jesus Christ.

### ST. CLETUS WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club held their first Christmas Tea on December 8, at La Grange Country Club. It was attended by 145 ladies who enjoyed great food, raffle prizes, as well as entertainment by a comedian. As a result, the Women's Club has donated \$4,000 to the parish to fund new Christmas Decorations that include the outdoor Nativity Scene, wreaths & brackets on the parking lot light posts, artificial wreaths that will be used for years to come, wreaths and garland in the vestibule and Christmas flowers.

We also collected 200+ children's books at the tea that will be used for both the Giving Tree Program as well as the January food pantry. A special thanks to all who attended - your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Pictured below are members of the Women's Club.



**MASSES**

**Saturday Evening:** 5:00pm

**Sunday:** 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am,  
11:00am, 6:00pm (Spanish)

**Weekdays: Monday thru Saturday:** 8:00am

**Evening before Holy Day:** 7:00pm

**Holy Day:** 6:30am, 8:00am

**BAPTISMS**

**1st & 3rd 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 (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 (215-5407).

**CONFESIONS**

Confessions every Saturday of the month 4:15-4:45pm.

**EUCARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION**

**1st Monday of the Month immediately following the 8:00am Mass with Benediction at 6:45pm.**

*Adoración Nocturna* continues until 8:00pm with song and prayer.

**Rectory Office Hours**

**Monday thru Friday:** 9:00am-5:00pm

**Saturday:** 9:00am-5:00pm

**Sunday:** 8:00am-1:00pm

**Bulletin Articles**

The deadline for Canticle article submission is 5:00pm Friday, **one full week** prior to Sunday's publication. Articles may be submitted electronically to [canticle@stcletusparish.com](mailto:canticle@stcletusparish.com).

**PARISH STAFF**

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*Pastor*

**Rev. Patrick O'Neill**

*Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Charles Watkins**

*Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Charles Gallagher**

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352-2383