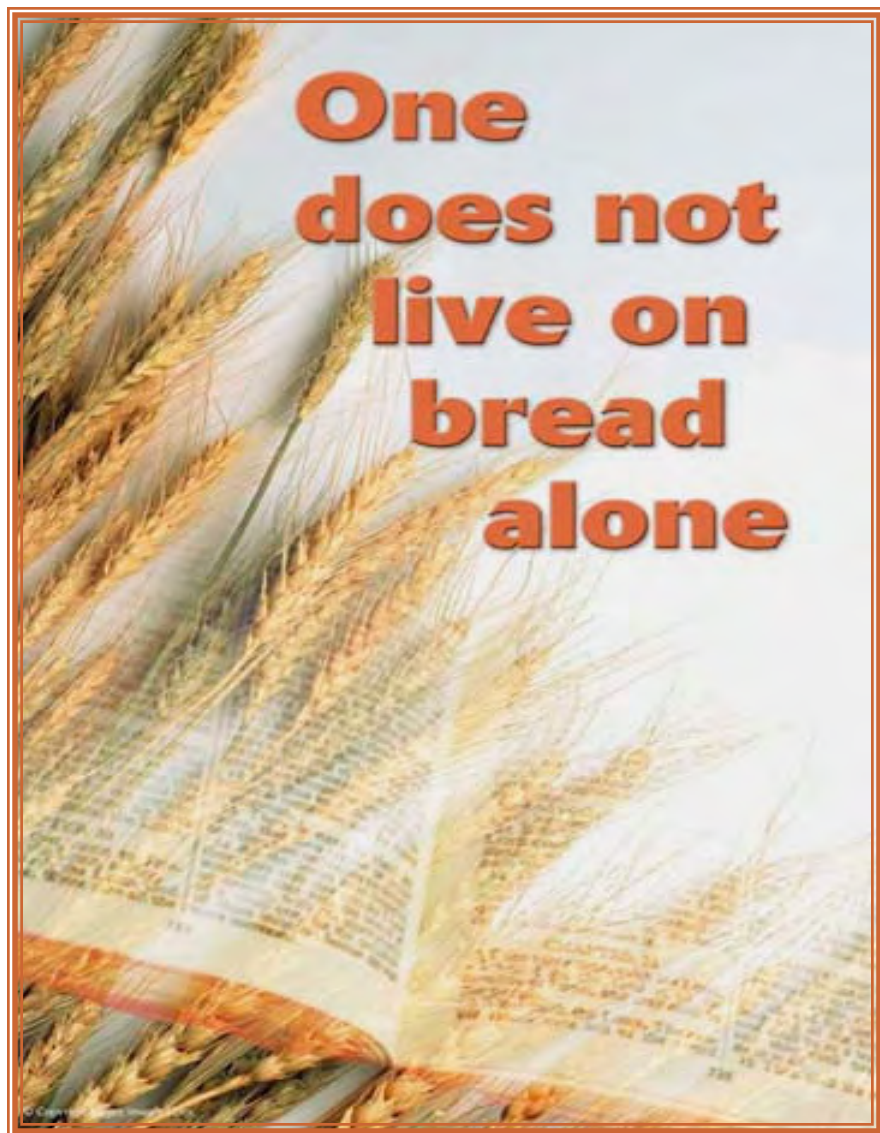


St. Cletus Canticle

February 10, 2008

First Sunday of Lent



600 West 55th Street • La Grange, Illinois 60525 • 708-352-6209 • 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 February 11 - February 17

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Johnston Family, John Hopp, Robert Grieve
Tuesday	8:00am	Walter Depa, Violet Vansickle, Abe Katzmarek, Walter Rogers
Wednesday	8:00am	Tom Kigin, Nancy Partipilo, Barb Dentamaro, Josephine & Anton Kuchta, Al Cooke
Thursday	8:00am	Barbara Lezak
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Clare J. Idzik, Joseph Megla, Frank Michalowski, Marcie Johnston
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	People of St. Cletus Ed Smithy, George & Helen Kutta, Jonii Patterson
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am	Jacqueline Dudley Jacqueline Dudley Karen Marie Wilson Timothy Benrus, Joseph Barrett, Sr., Jolana Vrabec, Ruth Hucker



February 16/17

5:00pm - K. Meade, J. Dombro, S. Garvey
 7:00am - C. Mosquera, A. Goethals, T. Gray
 8:00am - T. Ruggerio, H. Griffin, M. Thomas
 9:30am - C. Usher, K. Toscheff, J. Heim
 11:00am - P. Kelley, J. Ward, P. O'Malley

Auxiliary Minister Schedule

Saturday, February 16, 2008

5:00 pm LR Bamberger, J
 SM Wouk, D C1 Bamberger, M A
 B2 Benkert, K C2 Benkert, J
 B3 Ryva, J C3 Sipek, S
 B4 Richards, M C4 Wouk, D
 B5 Andrews, D C5 Hockman, S
 B6 Heyes, S C6 Heyes, M

Sunday, February 17, 2008

7:00 am LR Bellisario, J
 SM Zmuda, L
 B2 Zmuda, L
 B3 Zmuda, R
 B4 Ward, L
 B5 Skupien, K
 B6 Pogar, C



8:00 am LR Kuchta, A
 SM Stamm, R C1 Kalata, M
 B2 Biesadecki, C C2 Biesadecki, B
 B3 Warren, C C3 Nicosia, C
 B4 Stamm, B C4 Stamm, R
 B5 Borsilli, H C5 Stopka, S
 B6 Parlier, J C6 Parlier, D



Please pray for those who have died and their families...

† *Emil Chlapecka,*
 Father of Tom & Rick Chlapecka

† *Jacqueline Dudley,*
 Wife of William



May God Grant Them Eternal Rest. Amen

*We welcome these children into
 God's family.*

Catherine Margaret Moran

Daughter of Michael & Catherine (Hasenkamp) Moran

Molly Catherine Eskra

Daughter of Richard & Beth (Jeffers) Eskra

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 2:00pm

February 8, 15, 22, 29

March 7 & 14



Notes from Father Bob...

First Sunday of Lent

“Make Room for God...Jesus Christ will cause everyone to reign in life.”

In the days of long ago, the writer of Genesis considered these great antagonists – love and death. He was familiar with all their struggles and sought to tell their story in a way that was faithful to his experience.

The message of God’s love could be seen in his creation. This beautiful world is created out of love for us. It is a tremendous gift of God, and it is given to us, a Garden of Eden. But the beauty is marred and the joy is edged with sorrow, because of death. Death comes as the end. Not only death, but also the grievous sorrow, the spiritual death that comes wherever evil raises its ugly head: the serpent of sin that creeps in everywhere to destroy the peace and harmony of life. In the story of Adam and Eve, the ancient writer seeks to depict the history of humankind and the story of human unkindness, the story of evil. This evil touches every one of us in our lives, whether as affliction, circumstance, history, or personal temptation. Everyone must fight with the devil. We see in others “the evil that men do” and we feel in ourselves the terrible possibility of falling into such evil too.

Jesus, in his life, in his personal story and in his innermost self, was not spared the torment that temptation brings. His forty days in the wilderness bring him face to face with the evil one. His responses, when tested, give us a blueprint for wise and holy living. We do not live on bread alone, he says. We are spiritual beings, and we must take responsibility for the conduct of our lives. We must worship God alone, he says, and not sell our souls to the devil.

In reviewing all this, Saint Paul paints a great drama of Adam and Jesus: Adam, the man who fell from grace, and who swamped the whole world in sin; Jesus, the man who was raised on a Cross, and raised higher than the earth, and who raised all of us up with him to heaven.

As Jesus faces his own death and yields his spirit on the cross, as his dying breath escapes him, it whispers our name. His love is stronger than death, and his resurrection promises us life. This is God’s “love letter” to us, written on a cross, sealed in blood and opened in the resurrection. It is a letter to be read to the entire world: “Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death.” Let us then “Make Room for God” each day of our Lenten journey and through our whole life.

The Symbols of Our Lenten Journey

On this First Sunday of Lent we begin to notice some of the symbols of our journey through this holy season. We see that all the statutes in the church have been covered in purple except for the cross over the altar and our processional cross to help us to remain focused on the cross of Christ through lent. You will notice that the sanctuary environment is stark and barren much like a desert which reminds us to strip away all that distracts us in “Making Room for God” in our lives. The empty jars and the dry river beds at the foot of the altar help us to focus on our yearning for the living waters of our baptism that washes us clean. The well in the break of our church aisle calls us to be of service to others who are in need during this holy season. The prayer cards, banners on the parking lot light poles and in our vestibule reflect the busyness of our daily lives and our need to truly “Make Room for God” in our lives not only during these forty days of lent but every day.

Together let us “Make Room for God” with our time, talent and treasure.

*Love in the Cross of Christ,
Father Bob*



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The challenge of fidelity

Commitment. That's what it takes. Whether it's the commitment married couples make to each other that we honor on this World Marriage Day or the commitment our RCIA catechumens and candidates will make to Christ that we celebrate in the Rite of Election, a commitment is what puts a life on track and gets it to where it's supposed to go.

Jesus in the desert faced down the devil, even though ole Satan offered some pretty cool stuff. That's because Jesus was committed to the way of the Father. To accept the devil's deal, he'd have to break a sacred pledge. Lent for us is a time when we renew our commitment to God and get back on track to heaven. It's the best way to go.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*

"The devil said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'"

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES; WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK - Healing vision

It's often said you can judge the character of a nation or society by how it treats its weak and vulnerable members. Jesus might very well agree. He gave a list of such people—the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the imprisoned, the sick—in whom we are to see Christ himself and treat accordingly. We pray especially for those who are ill today on the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, which is coupled with the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, who has been associated with so much consolation and healing. This year also marks the 150th anniversary of this apparition of the Virgin Mary to Saint Bernadette and so gives us all the more reason to embrace the sick around us in prayer and care.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46*

"For I was ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

LENTEN WEEKDAY - Our daily bread

In reprimanding the false philanthropy of Judas, Jesus reminded his disciples, "You will always have the poor." While we may always have poverty, organizations such as Bread for the World point out that ending starvation and malnutrition is within our reach. Indeed, the estimated amount needed to end world hunger is less than what Americans and Europeans spend on pet food. So while we may heap up peions during Mass for the end of world hunger, there are practical steps waiting to be taken at home. This Lent, focus on combining your fasting with the redirection of your unneeded resources to those less fortunate.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15*

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases like the Gentiles do."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

LENTEN WEEKDAY - Belly ache

Why did Jonah end up in the belly of a whale? If you're not sure, open a Bible to the Book of Jonah and have a good read—it's quite a short book, only a few pages long. There you will encounter a story rich with the candor and humanity of a reluctant prophet. Jonah did all he could

to run away from God's call, but God pursued. It was quite a chase (thus the whale) but in the end, Jonah responded to the call, and so did the people of Nineveh. To be reluctant at times in our discipleship is human; to respond nevertheless, divine.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32*

"The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

FEAST OF CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP; VALENTINE'S DAY - Can you be too careful?

The philosopher Bertrand Russell once said, "Of all forms of caution, caution in love is perhaps the most fatal to true happiness." It would be easy to assume that the love to which Russell was referring is limited to romantic love. But love can and (on a good day) does inform everything that we do.

When we are not "cautious" in giving ourselves to the task at hand, when our duties and responsibilities are grounded in love, then our work—whether it only lasts until the next spill by our child or is destroyed after only 20 years like the liturgical translations of Cyril and Methodius—is an endless source of true happiness. Today is a good day to ask, "Am I too cautious in love?"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12*

"Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Leave your gift and go be reconciled

While Lent is about being turned around and setting things right with God, it is not only a matter of regular churchgoing. As a matter of fact, Jesus says that offering a gift, a ritual sacrifice to God, definitely takes second place to being in right relationship with one another. Today's a day of abstinence. Hunger pangs may be useful as physical reminders that we have fence-mending to do: becoming reconciled with family members, friends, coworkers, not only asking forgiveness (which is hard enough), but also offering forgiveness—whether it's requested or not. That, for sure, is a turnaround.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26*

"Lose no time; settle with your opponent while on your way."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

LENTEN WEEKDAY - The hardest prayer

Whoa, did you see *that*? The guy in the blue SUV just cut you off! And he didn't even signal! This calls for *road rage*. And regrettably we often answer the call. Anger behind the wheel might be a real mortal sin because its consequences can be deadly.

This Lent, instead of being road ragers, we can become road rangers for the Lord, preserving peace on our highways. Begin the discipline today. Instead of cursing the guy in the blue SUV, bless him. Surrender your spot on the road to him as Christ surrendered his life for you. You'll make the road safer and the world a better place.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48*

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

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



MAKE ROOM FOR GOD

Day by Day Through Lent

Lent is here. Ready or not, the Big Question is always: How are we going to “do” Lent this year? Let us fast from the various types of clutter in our lives, beginning with the “outer regions” of life—our personal habits and the clutter in our homes. Then we will move to mental and spiritual clutter as the weeks progress toward Easter. We can fast from the confusion and busyness that characterize our culture. If we use this period to open our hearts, we will be well prepared to celebrate Easter.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

CLEARING MY SURROUNDINGS OF CLUTTER

MONDAY: BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46 Does clutter and disorganization interfere with my growth in holiness? Today is a good day to begin paring down. I look through my kitchen for five or more items to give away.

TUESDAY: EXPECTING THE KINGDOM

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15 Does my home look as though I am expecting and praying for God’s Kingdom? Why or why not? I let go of more clutter by going through bookshelves for five or more books I could donate.

WEDNESDAY: A SIGN OF GOD’S LOVE

Jon 3:1-10; Lk:29-32 I can be a sign of God’s love to the world by living more simply and passing on my excess to those in need. Today, I gather five or more blankets, sheets or towels to give away.

THURSDAY: THE FATHER KNOWS MY NEEDS

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12 Am I in the habit of asking God to provide for my needs? Today, I look through drawers, on closet shelves and in storage areas for five or more items to donate.

FRIDAY: IF I REPENT, I WILL BE SAVED

Ez 18:21-28’ Mt 5:20-26 Like many in this culture, I need to repent of my excess. Today, I search through my clothes for five or more items to give away.

SATURDAY: BE PERFECT AS GOD IS PERFECT

Dt 26:16-19’ Mt 5:43-48 I have gathered at least 25 items to donate. How does it feel? Do I feel relief and freedom? Grief? Uncertainty? I trust that I do not need things to be happy. Today, I take my “give away” box to a favorite charity.



EVERY PERSON HAS BASIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT FLOW FROM OUR HUMAN DIGNITY AND BELONG TO US AS HUMAN BEINGS.

Thank you for your support as we work to follow the above Catholic Social Justice Principle to help provide clean water for our brothers and sisters in Africa. Here’s some information for you to think about when you put donations into your bottle during the Lenten Season:

- Some 258 million people lack access to improved water in rural areas of Africa today; these people comprise about 37 million households.
- Each flush of the toilet uses the same amount of water that one person in the Third World uses all day for washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking.
- The weight of the water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their heads is equivalent to the maximum baggage weight allowed by many airlines—44 lbs.

Each week in Lent we will give you an update and some more educational facts. Thanks again.

Kendra Josheff and Marie Johnson-Dahl

Prayer Opportunities

Wed., February 13 - 7:00pm - Taize Prayer

Wed., February 20 - 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross

Wed., February 27 - 7:00pm - Evening Prayer

Mon., March 3 - Parish Mission

Tues., March 4 - Parish Mission w/Reconciliation

Wed., March 5 - Parish Mission

Parish Mission: 7:00pm all evenings

Many of the seasons’ liturgical traditions follow a principle that is a good way to think about visuals throughout these days: During Lent we emphasize some things by their absence, which can create in us a holy hunger for things to be set right; in the rituals of the Triduum we welcome back that which was absent; at Eastertime we give what was absent pride of place. The custom of veiling sacred images has a ritual purpose. The cross will be veiled the last two weeks in Lent and uncovered on Good Friday; the statues at the Easter Vigil. We put aside our places of private prayer to focus on the community.

God Forgives



We Celebrate



**St. Cletus First Reconciliation
January 15, 2008**

SOCIAL CONCERNS...

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you for all your donations to the St. Cletus Food Pantry. Our shelves are well-stocked in most items. However, as we make bags for the February 14 food distribution, we find ourselves short of the following staples, listed in order of need: jelly, rice, and cereal. Please add one or more of these items to your grocery list, and bring them or any of your in-date non-perishables with you when you come to Mass. Food donation bins are located in the Madonna della Strada Shrine in the church vestibule. Thank you again for remembering those working poor who rely on the St. Cletus Food Pantry.

Remember to look for John Findley and members of his scout troop this weekend, as they distribute flyers with information about the Easter Basket project John is sponsoring as his Eagle Project. It will provide Easter baskets for the families who are clients of our monthly Food pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

St. Cletus Parish is a member of the coalition of 13 local Churches, Interfaith Community Partners, whose mission is to serve older adults through visitation, telephone reassurance or providing assisted transportation. Interfaith Community Partners is conducting a volunteer training session on Sunday, February 24, in the Education Building in Room 213, from 12:15 to 3:30 PM. Open to all. A light lunch will be served. Registration and questions: (708) 579-8929. Or if you need more information, contact Mary Beth Ford at (708) 215-5418 or mford@stcletusparish.com.

Mary Beth Ford

Director of Social Concerns

Stewardship

WEEKLY GIVING SUMMARY

Last Weekend.....	\$ 33,214
A Year Ago.....	27,126
This Fiscal Year-to-date (thru 2/03/08)	\$861,262
Last Fiscal Year (thru 2/04/07)	824,626

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.

MANNA THIS WEEKEND!

MANNA will be available after all Masses **THIS** weekend, February 9/10, in the church vestibule. MANNA will also be available at the school on Wednesday, February 13, 6-7pm, Friday, February 22, 2:00-3:15 pm, and again at church on February 23/24. MANNA is an ongoing fundraising program through the St. Cletus FSA, which purchases gift cards at a discount, sells them at face value and the proceeds then go to the school. Order forms will be available at the MANNA table the day of purchase. Consider purchasing some Fannie May gift cards to buy chocolates for your **sweetheart for Valentine's Day!** Any questions please call Caryn Dombro (630) 789-8560 or Lisa Heim (708) 354-4257.



Please remember our sick in your prayers: Bernie Kelly, Mary Barnish, Elaine Bianco, Anthony Fisher, Freda Guide, Leslie Imholt, Ryan Cosgrove, Vincent Trauth, Ann Fahey, Joan Klein. Sheila Nash, Rosemary Sylvester, Rose Olferchek, Steve Zeman, Mary Jane Taylor, Sister Arlene Gibson, Zach Sperka, Marguerite May, Mike Patzelt, Richard Taylor, Rita D'Onofrio, Marilyn Matesevac, Adrienne Welenc, Hunter Peters, Mario Aguilar, Cacilia Ziegler, Ruth Calandriello, Ann Marie Nabor, Nadine Pankow, Patty Johnson, Connie Kosteki, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Bridie Boyce, Stephanie Yakowicz, Virginia Wilson, Gail Pankow-Locker, Josie Spoto, Larry Wojnar, Louise Jaunich, Frank Werner, Agnes Olszowka, Michael Karpinski, Augustin Jaso, Marie Krolecki, Mary O'Rourke, Debbie Broz, Scott May. Please know we pray daily for our sick.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We are pleased to welcome these newly registered parishioners to our parish family: Nicole Bolda and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Castagnola and Family, James Grabner, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Loch and Family, Dr. & Mrs. Sammy Nawas and Family, and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Santori and Family.

If you have been attending St. Cletus, but have not yet registered as a parishioner, please consider the commitment of parish membership.

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).

CONFESSIONS

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

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.

PARISH STAFF**Rev. Robert Clark**
*Pastor***Rev. Patrick O'Neill**
*Associate Pastor***Rev. Charles Watkins**
*Associate Pastor***Rev. Charles Gallagher**
*Pastor Emeritus***RECTORY STAFF****Bobbie Kallal***Director of Pastoral Services***Michele O'Brien***Director of Financial Operations***Patricia Drobny***Bulletin Editor***Nora Gardner***Rectory Receptionist*
352-6209**PASTORAL STAFF****Maria Arias***Director of Hispanic Ministry*
352-4856**Paulette Bolton***Director of Worship*
352-4834**Amy Cranny***Director of Youth Ministry*
215-5419**Mary Beth Ford***Director of Social Concerns*
215-5418**Debbie Lestarczyk***Director of Facilities & Grounds*
215-5405**Derek Sawicki***Maintenance Director*
215-5406**Justin Sisul***Director of Music*
352-4547**Christopher Wagner***Director of Technology*
215-5420**Dolores Wouk***Director of Ministry of Care*
215-5407**SCHOOL STAFF****Jolene Hillgoth***School Principal***Kathy Lifka***Assistant Principal***Denise Parlier***Administrative Assistant*
352-4820**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF****Patricia Kahl***Director of Religious Education***Mary Lee Krieger***Administrative Assistant*