

# St. Cletus Canticle

*December 7, 2008*

*Second Sunday of Advent*



@J.S. Paluch Co., Inc

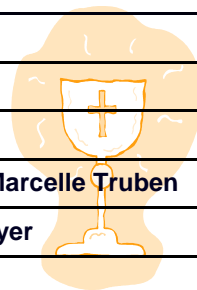
600 West 55th Street • La Grange, Illinois 60525 • 708-352-6209 • [www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com)



**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 8 - December 14, 2008

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society—Andy Jaskierski, Matthew Mack
Tuesday	8:00am	People of St. Cletus
Wednesday	8:00am	Marcie Johnston, Michael Maly
Thursday	8:00am	John Hopp, Violet Cosimano, Nicholas Murphy, Barbara Maly, Marcelle Truben
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Geraldine Okkema, Joseph Megla, Erik Geyer
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	Tom Kigin Robert Suchy, Belfonte Pieri, Karen Marie Wilson
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	Nancy & Mario Maturo Ellie Dods Donald Ashworth, Russell Walters, Josephine Sorrentino Nancy Battle, Joe White, John P. O'Donnell, Timothy Benrus, Sandy Fisher, John Fisher, Michael Maly, Mary Mulcrone, Bernie Pompe Hispanic Priests' Intentions



### AUXILIARY MINISTER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13/14, 2008

	5:00 PM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
SM	Benkert, K.	Wouk, D.	Micek, J.	Hagen, C.	Curnutt, R.
LR	Schump, C. Chlapecka, R.	Chlapecka, T.	Okkema, P. Kuchta, A.	Oboikovitz, L.	O'Heron, W. Bolton, W.
B2	Benkert, K.	Wouk, D.	Micek, J.	Hagen, C.	Curnutt, R.
B3	Bolton, P.	Parlier, J.	Bliss, G.	Keating-Gay S	Pavlik, L.
B4	Burke, R.	Parlier, D.	Biesadecki, B.	Kelliher, L.	Severino, S.
B5	Beales, N.	Smith, D.	Welch, J.	Williams, AM	Fisher, H.
B6	Bamberger, M	Hinton, G.	Kensek, M.	Dunkovich, A.	Agustyn, R.
C1	Lenz, R.		Curotto, L.	McGann, K.	Ficaro, J.
C2	Benkert, J.		Hullinger, S.	Thuma, M.	Maday, J.
C3	Ryva, J.		Severino, L.	Williams, A.	Gebka, ML
C4	Burke, J.		Biesadecki, C.	Kelliher, K.	Condon, M.K.
C5	Beales, D.		Martinez, JA	Meuwissen, J.	Mulderink, K.
C6	Sheridan, E.		Chaney, M.	Blecic, D.	Herzog, T.
Altar Servers	Goethals, A. Kelley, P. Zebus, K.	Kopicki, A. Franklin, M. Kennedy, E.	Griffin, H. Paprocki, N. Paprocki, N.	Luxem, C. Callahan, K. Garvey, S.	Gray, T. Cahill, K. Vokurka, S.



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

† *Mitchell Skupien,*  
Father of Kathy Skupien

† *Aurora M. Reguera,*  
Mother of Marianne Reguera

† *Elmer Kucera,*  
Father of Linda Meyer

† *Mrs. Marian Johnston,*  
Mother of the late Fr. Jim Johnston

Thank you so much for serving our parish as an Altar Server, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion or usher. Your skills and training are so valuable and we count on you and look for you at Mass.

Paulette Bolton  
Director of Liturgy



## NOTES FROM FATHER BOB...



*Second Sunday of Advent 2008*

Mark begins his gospel with a bid for credibility. He has to combine the old and the new. If Jesus fulfills our expectations, he also transcends them. Mark prepares the ground for the telling of the good news very carefully. His task is to introduce us to the person of Jesus, who is Christ, the Son of God. What Mark means by these titles will be made clear as the story unfolds. His story's claim to authenticity rests to begin with on its foundations in the Scriptures. The first person to appear is John the Baptist, who fulfills the role foreseen by the prophet Isaiah, preparing the way for the Lord by proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John's authority is hinted at by his appearance and his habitat. He has the accouterments of Elijah, the one who tradition believes will come as the forerunner of the Messiah, and he lives in the desert, the birthplace of the chosen people. His message is simple: repent and be forgiven.

It remains the same for us. If we wish to prepare for the Lord, we too need to change our hearts and accept forgiveness. The old ways of doing and seeing are not enough. Preparation is, more than anything, learning to remove the objects that interfere with our vision and our openness to the Lord. John ends his announcement, like all good showmen, with the claim that we haven't seen anything yet. He just baptizes with water. The one who is coming after him will baptize with the Holy Spirit. The image recalls the life of God himself hovering over the waters at the creation of the world. We are left in a state of great suspense, wondering just who is to come. Who is this man whose arrival is couched in the language of a new creation?

We go through many processes of preparation. Our schooling prepares us for adult life. Special training prepares us for jobs and professions. In the Church we prepare carefully for the celebration of each sacrament. We also prepare for the special events of the Church's year, at this time of year, of course, for Christmas. Much of our preparation is making certain that we have what we need for what we are to do. No wonder our minds can be so overloaded. Have we remembered the presents, the cards, the tree, the food, the drink, the crackers, the invitations... and then what about the poor, the lonely, and the homeless? We all know the heart of the matter can get lost in the rush to get everything done.

Perhaps we should take a leaf out of John the Baptist's book. His preparation was not an overloading but a stripping down, a getting rid of the baggage we carry. John suggests we enter into a state of stillness and openness, so that we will then be ready to be filled. It is a paradox. How do we prepare for the unexpected? How do we get ready for the unknown? Our practice is often to try and out-give the great giver. We are asked instead to let go of everything so that we may be ready to receive. We cannot have open hands if they are full of shopping lists of carefully defined hopes and expectations. We have to give access to the unknown and the unexpected.

### *Important Upcoming Advent Dates to Remember*

- *Monday December 8, 2008 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION)*  
*Mass times on Monday are: 6:30 am, 8:00 am, 9:00 am (School), and 7:00 pm*
- *Wednesday December 10, 2008 Advent Night of Reflection with Father Brian Walker, O.P. 7:00 pm*
- *Friday December 12, 2008 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 7:00 pm*
- *Sunday December 14, 2008 Parish Giving Tree Gifts due at all Masses*
- *Monday December 15, 2008 Parish Forgiveness Service (Sacrament of Reconciliation) 7:00 pm*
- *Wednesday December 17, 2008 Advent Prayer Service (Taize Prayer) 7:00 pm*
- *Thursday December 18, 2008 St. Cletus Parish Choirs Concert 7:00 pm*

*Advent Blessings,  
Father Bob*



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

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### The prophet in uniform

Ever bump into your parish priest in the supermarket? You may not have recognized him at first because he was “out of uniform” and out of the context of the church. That’s why the gospel takes pains to describe John the Baptist. It was important to know that John was a prophet, an “official” one who dressed and lived and even ate like the prophets of old. Somebody with credentials had to introduce Jesus. After all, the Lord was plain and ordinary, just like everybody else. “Isn’t he the carpenter?” people would ask later on in the story. It would be hard to imagine that a construction guy could put together a whole new world.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8*

*“A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’”*

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM

#### Full of grace

What is grace? One way to think of it is anything that comes from God. We can think of it in terms of what we give to God: prayer and worship, service to others, doing God’s will. Or what God sends to us: the gift of creation, love, inspiration, consolation, help, and many more graces. Mary had grace in abundance—both what she gave and received. Make today a day of prayer to her—who was full of grace—to intercede for us and inspire us to give and receive God’s grace.

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

*“The angel Gabriel came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’”*

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

### FEAST OF JUAN DIEGO, HERMIT

#### Be comforted

When Juan Diego (1474-1548) was canonized in 2002, he became the first Native American saint of the Catholic Church. The farmer and mat-weaver was in his 40s when Hernán Cortés led the conquest of Spain in 1521, and within three years the first wave of Franciscan monks arrived near Juan’s village. Juan and his wife were among the first of the indigenous residents to accept baptism. Despite their age, the couple opened their hearts to a new beginning and readily uprooted themselves to move closer to the missionaries in Mexico City. It’s never too late to make a new beginning in your faith.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14*  
*“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.”*

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

#### On the wings of eagles

Asked what liturgical song most fostered and nourished their spiritual life, the majority of respondents in a 2006 online poll cited “On Eagle’s Wings” by Father Michael Joncas. The song, inspired by Isaiah’s prophecy and Psalm 91, contains the beautifully crafted refrain:

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

Remember those words of solace whenever your burden feels too great.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30*

*“Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

### FEAST OF DAMASUS I, POPE - The Bible tells us so

The pontificate of Damasus (A.D. 366-384) occurred during a tumultuous period in the early church, with controversies, schisms, and heresies on all sides. Perhaps Damasus’ greatest contribution was his insight that a standardized version of the Bible was desperately needed to clear the air. In 382 he commissioned a highly respected scholar named Jerome to revise the Bible into a more accurate and updated Latin version, working directly from the original Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament) versions. Saint Jerome’s monumental effort came to be known as the *Vulgate*, meaning “translated into a native language.” Even though Latin long ago stopped being a language of everyday use, the Vulgate still holds an honored position in the church.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15*

*“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.”*

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE; PATRONAL DAY OF MEXICO AND AMERICA

#### Ironing and thinking

Los Angeles-based artist J. Michael Walker has produced one of the most memorable and insightful portrayals of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In his 1996 painting, *Ironing, Thinking*, we see Mary doing just that: busying herself with domestic chores with a slightly careworn expression on her face. In this not-ready-for-prime-time look at Our Lady, she irons her famous cloak of stars while balancing her crown on her head with simple dignity. Our Lady of Guadalupe did indeed come to represent hardworking folk with worn hands. Support the dignity of all who labor.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47*

*“A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”*

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

### FEAST OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR - To see you is to love you

One quality that many, if not all, saints share is the capacity to look beyond the sometimes horrific circumstances of their lives and see the presence of God. They see with their heart. Saint Lucy is certainly among those saints with this ability. Tradition tells us that she was raped then tortured and murdered for being a Christian. Her feast day comes at a good time. Now midway through Advent, we might be feeling the pressures, tensions, and expectations of ourselves and others to conjure up the “perfect Christmas.” Today take a moment to pause and adjust your spiritual lenses. Take your eyes off of the glitz of Christmas and focus on the love that came into the world and continues to sustain us all.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13*

*“Happy are those who saw you and were adorned with your love! For we also shall surely live.”*

©2008 by TrueQuest Communications, L.L.C. PHONE: 800-942-2811; E-MAIL: [mail@takefiveforfaith.com](mailto:mail@takefiveforfaith.com); WEBSITE: [www.TakeFiveForFaith.com](http://www.TakeFiveForFaith.com). Licensed for noncommercial use. All rights reserved. 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 Schorn, and Patrice J. Tuohy



*CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY*  
*MASS SCHEDULE*  
 2008

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

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

**ACCOMPANIMENT:**

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

**CHANCEL CHOIR****ACCOMPANIMENT:**

TRADITIONAL (NO MUSIC)  
 VOCALIST/ORGAN  
 CHANCEL CHOIR  
 CONTEMPORARY CHOIR  
 VOCALIST/PIANO

**REMINDER...**

Don't forget to return your Giving Tree **gifts** to the **Church next weekend, December 13/14, 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 14, 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, contact Mary Beth, (708) 215-5418 or Maureen, (708) 839-0345. Thank you for your generosity!

Adult volunteers are needed here at St. Cletus on Sunday, December 21, to help check-in and distribute food baskets. If you can help for a few hours between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM in Morrissey Hall, please contact Mary Beth, (708) 215-5418 or Maureen, (708) 839-0345. 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 21, please contact Mary Beth Ford at (708) 215-5418 or [mford@stcletusparish.com](mailto:mford@stcletusparish.com) and we can work out details. Thank you!



*The Hispanic Ministry  
of  
St. Cletus*

*Invites You and Your Family*



The Hispanic Ministry of St. Cletus cordially invites the entire community of St. Cletus to celebrate with us during this holy day Season. We begin this year's celebrations with the traditional "Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena" which started on December 3 and concludes on December 11. It is a Mexican religious tradition to greet Our Lady of Guadalupe and to have Mass early in the morning on December 12. We want to keep these traditions alive in St. Cletus, and we would like you to be part of our celebrations. We hope that this year a "new" tradition begins in our community. We invite you to come on December 12 and celebrate with us at the 4:00AM Mass, with Greetings to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Immediately after Mass we will have traditional food and drinks in Morrissey Hall.

**At 7:00 PM on December 12**, we will celebrate the traditional "*Misa de Las Rosas*" (Mass of The Roses), with the traditional band of "mariachis". This year it will be a bilingual celebration, and of course, we will be enjoying traditional food and refreshments after Mass. Come celebrate with us, be part of our family and friends. But wait, that is only the beginning, because the fun continues from December 16 with the "Christmas Novena and the Traditional Posadas" through December 24. There will be two actual "posadas" with candies and piñatas; one will be on **Sunday, December 21 and the second one on Monday, December 22** both in Morrissey Hall. The rest of the days "aguinaldos" (bags filled with candy) will be distributed.

## **A Brief History of the Posadas in Mexico**

### *The Origin of the Posada in Mexico*

The Christmas Posadas in Mexico, as they are now known, are a longstanding holiday tradition that began during the colonial era. During the period of the Spanish Viceroy, these representations took place in the churches and later in the streets and private homes throughout New Spain, as Mexico was called at that time. Together with the parades and the songs is the posada, a tradition that even today continues to be celebrated in the towns and neighborhoods throughout Mexico. (cont. page 7)

***THE ORIGIN IS AN INTERESTING COINCIDENCE.***

Similar processions and gatherings were celebrated in Pre-Hispanic Mexico more than 400 years ago. The colonial Spaniards observed that during the wintertime there was an adoration of the Aztec war god Huitzilopochtli, during the month of Panquetzaliztli, that ran from the 7th until the 26th of December, the same as the European Christmas holiday season. During his mission to convert the Americas, Father San Francisco Loyola was one of the first to observe this coincidence. He then came up with the idea to supplant and substitute the Aztec god with Jesus Christ and gradually added in more and different aspects of the Catholic religion while deleting the indigenous practices.

***SO WHAT ARE THE POSADAS TODAY?***

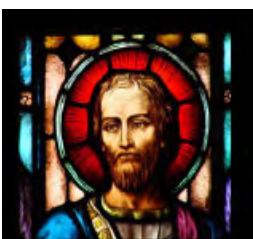
The Posada is a celebration that represents the journey of Mary and Joseph traveling from Nazareth to Jerusalem searching for a place to spend the night. It takes place from the 16th to the 24th of December. The nine days represent the nine months of Mary's pregnancy. During the parades, the children walk first. The first two represent Joseph and Mary, the following ones are the angels, the wise men and the shepherds. Behind the children are adults who each carry a candle and images of Mary and Joseph. When the procession arrives at the first house, one of the children enters the threshold and asks for posada (habitation for the night) by singing beautiful songs. The inhabitants of the home answer him by also singing songs. The first home "refuses" posada so that the procession can continue to the following house where the same routine takes place. Once they arrive at the third home, there they receive posada and a fiesta begins with a huge piñata which the children break with a long stick. The hosts then offer the guests traditional food and drink such as tamales of meat and sweets as well as champurrado (a delicious mixture of pureed corn and cocoa). The children receive "la colación" of peanuts, cakes, oranges and candies. These posadas continue so that the families and their children can enjoy and conserve the religious tradition and also maintain the union of family and friends. Whether it's a celebration to conserve ancient religious customs, an act of faith or just being able to share in a friendly gathering of friends, neighbors and families, it is interesting to observe how this has developed from the juxtaposition of two very different cultures and religions. Enjoy your holidays! *Feliz Navidad para todos!*

***Deacon Jesús Casas***

Director of Hispanic Ministry







Year of St. Paul:  
Journey of  
Transformation

*Rejoice  
in  
Hope*

## ST. CLETUS PARISH - ADVENT 2008

### Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Welcome Sunday Hospitality - Refreshments and Fellowship after all Masses in the Rectory Basement

### Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mass Times: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

7:30 p.m. St. Cletus School Christmas Program

### Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. Presentation in Church by Fr. Brian Walker, O.P.

### Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

4:30 a.m. Mañanitas, 7:00 p.m. Mass

### Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. Advent Reconciliation Service

### Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service

### Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. St. Cletus Choirs Christmas Concert

Join us Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
for our special guest speaker,  
Fr. Brian Walker, O.P.

Fr. Walker has spent the majority of his priestly years working in inner city and bilingual parishes from Los Angeles to Chicago and many places in between. He has lectured from coast to coast on working in bilingual settings and tolerance and understanding in ministry.

Fr. Walker spends extensive time preaching on how we can better our lives and develop our relationships with all of God's people. We are called to be sisters and brothers to one another. We have to break down the walls that divide us and keep us from our goal.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS!

On Sunday, November 23, the seventh & eighth grade religious education program students (pictured below) made trail mix, puppy chow, and baked cookies and packaged them for the 350-500 homeless who are served at the House of Mary and Joseph Shelter in Chicago. The house is located on Harrison Street and California. The shelter is part of the Franciscan Outreach Project that was featured on the Channel 2 News. For more information about the shelter and the services that the outreach offers, visit their website at [franoutreach.com](http://franoutreach.com).

*Pat Kahl*

Director of Religious Education







Please remember our sick in your prayers: Denise Kuchta, Jerry Pietras, Anna Cizek, Blasé Cinquegrani, Trudy Pacanowski, Roberta Zeman, James Prucha, Pauline Cuttill, Emma Fontana, Mark Ronchetti, Adrienne Welenc, Kathryn Super-Wilson, John Burke, Larry Rincon, Joseph Fajdich, Dorothy O'Neill, Betty Niwa, Donal Fox, Mary Barnish, Elaine Bianco, Freda Guide, Leslie Imholt, Ryan Cosgrove, Ann Fahey, Joan Klein, Sheila Nash, Rosemary Sylvester, Rose Olferchek, Steve Zeman, Sister Arlene Gibson, Zach Sperka, Marguerite May, Mike Patzelt, Rita D'Onofrio, Marilyn Matesevac, Hunter Peters, Cacilia Ziegler, Ruth Calandriello, Ann Marie Nabor, Nadine Pankow, Patty Johnson, Agnes Suennen, Joseph Johnson, Stephanie Yakowicz, Gail Pankow-Locker, Josie Spoto, Larry Wojnar, Louise Jaunich, Frank Werner, Agnes Olszowka, Agustin Jaso, Marie Krolecki, Mary O'Rourke, Debbie Broz, and Scott May.

### BRIAR PLACE NURSING HOME

It is Christmas time and we are again collecting small items to put together packages for Briar Place residents.

If you have small items such as jewelry, soaps, lotions, shampoos, playing cards, pens, greeting cards, etc., that you can donate, please drop them off at the St. Cletus rectory office marked for Briar Place. **No** mouth washes or candy, please!

We need your donation before December 19. Thank you so much and have a blessed Christmas.

*Mary White*



### ATTENTION LEISURE LOAFERS!

The Leisure Loafers are getting a group to attend New Year's Eve at 12:00 noon on December 31, at Niko's Restaurant, 7600 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview.

It will be a pleasant afternoon with a great lunch served at 12:30pm. Doors open at 11:30am. Great entertainment during the afternoon.

There will be an open bar and a champagne toast to end a happy time. Cost \$33 - Reservations are needed. Call Mary White at (708) 246-0340 to register or for more information.

## STEWARDSHIP

*"John was clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist." Mark 1:6*

St. John the Baptist's Advent message is, "Prepare, Prepare, Prepare." This is very different from the media's Christmas message of "Buy, Buy, Buy." At this time of the year the good steward is most definitely challenged to embrace the simplicity of St. John the Baptist more than the commercialism of the season.

### Weekly Giving Summary

Sunday Collection, 11/23/08 .....\$ 24,410  
Last Year..... 31,106

Sunday Collection, 11/30/08.....\$ 31,718  
Last Year..... 27,815

### Total Collection:

Year-to-Date ..... \$585,420  
Previous Year-to-Date..... 610,612

**Needed** for Budget thru 11/30/08.....\$623,150

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Share in the Care...Ninety-five percent of donations to the National Religious Retirement office aid elderly religious. Please take a moment to say *thanks* by giving generously. Envelopes are available in the pews.

### Music Ministry Choir Update!

Our parish choirs have already spent months rehearsing Christmas music in anticipation of our Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 18th. Mark your calendars for a wonderful musical evening as our parish choirs present a variety of Christmas music ranging from traditional carols to African spirituals. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. in church - we hope to see you there!

The St. Cletus Youth Choir will be on hiatus until next year. We will announce a new rehearsal schedule in January, 2009. Thanks to all who have shown interest in this new group, and watch the Canticle for future announcements regarding the Youth Choir!

*Justin Sisul*  
Director of Music

**PARISH STAFF**

**Rev. Robert Clark**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Edgar Rodriguez**  
*Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Charles Watkins**  
*Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Charles Gallagher**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

**PASTORAL STAFF**

**Paulette Bolton**  
*Director of Worship*  
(708) 352-4834

**Deacon Jesús Casas**  
*Director of Hispanic Ministry*  
(708) 215-5440

**Amy Cranny**  
*Director of Youth Ministry*  
(708) 215-5419

**Mary Beth Ford**  
*Director of Social Concerns*  
(708) 215-5418

**Debbie Lestarczyk**  
*Director of Facilities & Grounds*  
(708) 215-5405

**Derek Sawicki**  
*Supervisor of Maintenance*  
(708) 215-5406

**Justin Sisul**  
*Director of Music*  
(708) 215-5423

**Christopher Wagner**  
*Director of Technology*  
(708) 215-5420

**Dolores Wouk**  
*Director of Ministry of Care*  
(708) 215-5407

**SCHOOL STAFF**

**Jolene Hillgoth**  
*School Principal*

**Kathy Lifka**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Denise Parlier**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Mary Zwolinski**  
*Receptionist/Office Assistant*  
(708) 352-4820

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF**

**Patricia Kahl**  
*Director of Religious Education*

**Holly Kallal**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
(708) 352-2383

**RECTORY STAFF**

**Patricia Drobny**  
*Bulletin Editor*

**Nora Gardner**  
*Rectory Receptionist*

**Bobbie Kallal**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Michele O'Brien**  
*Director of Financial Operations*  
(708) 352-6209

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Pastor - Rev. Robert Clark • Associate Pastor - Rev. Edgar Rodriguez • Associate Pastor - Rev. Charles Watkins

*Co-Chairpersons:* Anne Babirak, Tom Finucane  
*Recording Secretary:* Sue Schiller

*Vice - Chairperson:* Rita Mayer  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Lori Ashe

*Worship Ministry:* Sue Schiller, Jackie Wiley

*Finance Liaison:* Brian Kapusta

*Parish Representative:* Joe Bamberger, Lori Ashe

*Youth Ministry:* Barb Mitchell, Rita Mayer

*Education Ministry:* Anne Babirak, (School)  
Sharon Gleich (Religious Education)

*Pastoral Care Ministry:*  
C. Rodger Brown, Xavier Polanski

*Development Ministry:* Maggie Nelson, Tom Finucane

*Staff Representative:* Jolene Hillgoth

*Hispanic Ministry:* Tim McCormick, Marynez Llanes,  
Ignacio Saavedra

*Social Concerns Ministry:* Maureen Soldat,  
Jim Ryva

*Technology Representative:* Julie Lenz

**MASSES**

**Saturday Evening: 5:00pm**

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

**Weekdays: Mon., thru Sat., 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.**

**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).