

St. Cletus Canticle

December 14, 2008

Third Sunday of Advent



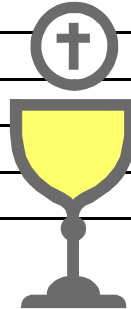
600 West 55th Street • La Grange, Illinois 60525 • 708-352-6209 • www.stcletusparish.com




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

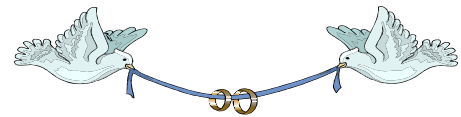
Mass Intentions for the Week of December 15 - December 21, 2008

| Day | Time | Intention |
|-----------|---|---|
| Monday | 8:00am | Purgatorial Society - Rudy Poropat, Norma Merlo |
| Tuesday | 8:00am | Grabowski Family, Frank Wojcik, Al Cooke, Evelyn Prevenas |
| Wednesday | 8:00am | Joseph Viececi, Monika Mataitis, Melvin Charlier |
| Thursday | 8:00am | Mary Ricciardone, Calandriello Family, Matthew Wier |
| Friday | 8:00am | Purgatorial Society - Timothy Benrus |
| Saturday | 8:00am 5:00pm | Teresa Matyas Robert Suchy, Donna Czerwinski, Ed Smithy, Mary Jane Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Constantino Lombardi |
| Sunday | 7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm | Mitchell Skupien, Howard Madsen, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Zarbo Giovanna Elfie Frank, Roger Vandriessche, John Burns Virginia Wendt, Mary Karen Carroll, Michael Arpaia, Walter Rogers, Dolores Slowiak Timothy Benrus, Sam & Joanne Mate, Ray Tobolski, Karen M. Wilson, Albert & Antoinette Chrabaszcz, Elmer Kucera, Joe Dykas, Richard Allen Mayer, Celina & Pedró Lopez, Special Intention Maria & Tony Lopez Priests of the Missionaries of St. Charles |



AUXILIARY MINISTER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 20/21, 2008

| | 5:00 PM | 7:00 AM | 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| SM | Swindall, V. | Wouk, D. | Koch, B. | Bolton, P. | McCaffray, P. |
| LR | Oboikovitz, L. Loch, L. | Chlapecka, T. | Bolton, W. Curaulo, S. | McGann, K. Duffy, M. | Pisone, ML Reisel, T. |
| B2 | Swindall, V. | Wouk, D. | Koch, B. | Bolton, P. | McCaffray, P. |
| B3 | Beales, D. | Smith, D. | Borsili, H. | Chaney, M. | Pavlik, L. |
| B4 | Reichl, M. | Ward, L. | Stopka, S. | Malcak, L. | Gebka, ML |
| B5 | Ryva, J. | Thornton, W. | Biesadecki, C | Williams, A. | Mangahas, A. |
| B6 | Hockman, S. | Thornton, M. | DalPorto, K. | Rotunno, P. | Provan, K. |
| C1 | Chlapecka, R. |  | Severino, K. | Tosheff, C. | Mulderink, K. |
| C2 | Swindall, T. | | Saban, J. | Keating-Gay S | Maday, J. |
| C3 | Beales, N. | | Hullinger, S. | Schump, C. | Condon, MK |
| C4 | Martinez, J | | Zaremba, E. | Nolan, J. | Ficaro, J. |
| C5 | Boyer, K. | | Biesadecki, B | Stumreiter, E. | Pristo, B. |
| C6 | Nicosia, C. | | Szabelski, R. | Wehrmeister, R | Provan, J. |
| Altar Servers | Hubona, S. Lawler, J. Lawler, K. | Pikul, K. Roll, C. Keane, S. | Riccione, J. Nelson, J. Jacobs, A. | Flannery, K. Flannery, M. Flannery, S. | Anfield, A. Ruggiero, T. Bendyk, D. |



Wedding Banns

*Katelyn Shumowsky
&
Michael Dodoer*

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



✕ *Joan Bruce,
Mother of Steve*

WE WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY
AND OURS...

NICHOLAS ANDREW BURDI,
Son of Michele & Amanda (Robinson) Burdi
FRANK LEONARD HOLDMAN, JR.,
Son of Frank & Megan (Meisner) Holdman, Sr.

THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.

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...



Third Sunday of Advent

“Everybody’s happy now,” Henry said. “Yes, everybody’s happy now,” repeated Lenina. They had heard the words over and over again, a hundred and fifty times a night for twelve years.

Happiness is important in Aldous Huxley’s BRAVE NEW WORLD, the futuristic satire on science and progress. In the book, children are brainwashed from an early age to believe they are happy. And where brainwashing does not convince, SOMA takes over. SOMA is a drug which induces a feeling of wellbeing. It protects the inhabitants of BRAVE NEW WORLD from anxiety, from thinking unhappy thoughts. In a parody of a communion service, SOMA is consumed by the worshippers, and happiness is the result. But there are the misfits who have their doubts. They suspect that there is more to happiness, and as they discover the truth, they suffer.

BRAVE NEW WORLD is funny, far-fetched, and wholly frightening. It is a penetrating look at modern science-driven society, taking current trends to their logical conclusions. The POSSIBILITY of it all is what alarms. Cloned human beings, chemically engineered, brainwashed and drugged. People taught over and over again that they live in a world with the supreme values of “Community, Identity and Stability”. And above all, they are happy. Surely there is no danger that this nightmare scenario will ever come true?

In the light of the artificial happiness of BRAVE NEW WORLD, Paul’s injunction today to “be happy at all times” can seem at best impossible, at worst, sinister. How can we be told to be happy? Surely happiness is a feeling that arises inside us because we have reasons to be happy: we have what we need to live; we have people around us to love; we are aware of our blessings. But Paul is under no illusions. For him, happiness is no easily achieved state; it is not something cheap. Paul is no stranger to suffering. His happiness comes from prayer and from faith.

The prophet Isaiah lived in a time of great political turmoil, was often in danger of his life, and, according to Jewish tradition, was put to death. Yet the spirit of joy which pervades some of his prophecies is equal to that found in any other biblical literature. “I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God.” The presence of the Lord, for Isaiah as for Paul, is the cause of a deep and lasting happiness.

John the Baptist is a grimmer figure altogether. There would seem to be no joy or happiness in his ministry. But John was driven by the Spirit of the Lord, preparing the way for Jesus. John saw the ugly side of people as they came to him with their sins. He saw the hypocrisy of professional religious people, and angrily denounced it. But anger alone is not enough to drive the prophet. He must have a vision of a better world. He must glimpse glory. He must sense, however fleetingly, true happiness in his soul.

Today’s reading from Isaiah foretells that the time of the Messiah will be one of gladness and rejoicing. It is John the Baptist who ushers in that time. It is he who hands over to Jesus the ministry of forgiveness; it is he who recognizes and proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God. It is he who can rejoice that the time so long foretold has come. Though John will pay with his life for the message he preaches, he can die knowing that his mission is fulfilled. John is a happy man.

There is no point faking happiness: we fool only ourselves. We cannot find true happiness in escape: we merely find distraction from our misery. So BRAVE NEW WORLD is not for us. But the happiness of Isaiah can be ours. If we can look at the world through the eyes of the prophet and glimpse it as it is meant to be, we will be inspired and full of praise to God. If we can have the faith of the apostle Paul, for whom Christ was all, then we will have a window into heaven. And glimpsing eternal happiness, we can rejoice on earth. If we can have the integrity and faithfulness of John the Baptist, proclaiming salvation in Christ, then we will have the reward of faithfulness: happiness with God, for ever.

There are no short cuts. Advent teaches us the importance of waiting and watching. Not simply passing time until something happens, but using time creatively to prepare ourselves for the Lord who is with us, yet who is to come. And lest we imagine it is all hard work and sacrifice, we are reminded it is about happiness too.

Advent Happiness,

Father Bob



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; GAUDETE SUNDAY

Reasons for our joy

Though it is still Advent, we've probably been to one or two Christmas parties already. Jumping the gun is unfortunate, because anticipation is so much part of joy. There is joy in longing, joy in thinking about the Beloved who is on the way to our door, joy in preparing so that the welcome will be palpable. As a culture we have forgotten deferred gratification. We despise waiting. We even encourage our children to grow into little adults long before they are ready. Can we, for a day, find joy not in scurrying about to tick off another "must do" item? Resist an E-Z Christmas that will fizzle out on December 26 when the season is just beginning. Let your celebration of God-with-us build, little by little, warming your heart like firelight.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28*

"John came for testimony, to testify to the light. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

ADVENT WEEKDAY - See beyond what's there

Children and prophets see things others don't see. The prophet Balaam saw beyond the violence and injustice of his own generation to a time when the nation would be led by a great king who would arise in Israel. The people of his day needed a vision like his to endure the troubled times in which they lived. Today kids are seeing elves and flying reindeer while the rest of us look for bargains and Uglydolls. We need to have the prophetic vision of a child to see hope in a little baby born in a stable.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27*

"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near—a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

ADVENT NOVENA; LAS POSADAS BEGINS - Who's that knocking?

Today begins the traditional Mexican festival of *Las Posadas*, a commemoration of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Customarily neighbors will gather together in a procession led by a child in angel's garb and statues of the Holy Family. Together they seek out shelter (*posada* in Spanish) at three local houses, only to be accepted at the last, where the family hosts a celebration culminating in the breaking of the *piñata*. As you in your own way seek to share the path of the Holy Family, consider first how vulnerable a position it is to beg entrance into another's home. That is what we all must accept if we desire the shelter of God's kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32*

"Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.'"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

ADVENT WEEKDAY; O ANTIPHONS BEGIN AT DUSK

What O what is an O Antiphon?

These days before Christmas are, so to speak, the home stretch of Advent, a time of final preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. To mark this time the church prays the "O Antiphons." An *antiphon*, from the Greek word for "responsively," is a short prayer said or sung after psalms or biblical songs. They come up in the Liturgy of the Hours, but you also pray a kind of antiphon every Sunday: the psalm response between the first and second readings. We add the O Antiphons—so called because they all begin with "O"—to evening prayer to make this

time before Christmas special. Drawn from Hebrew scripture, each of them helps us to understand Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17*

"O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 - Mighty righteous of you

The word *righteousness* may sound a little quaint to the ear these days, but the concept behind the word is central to an understanding of how God works in the world and what God asks of us. The Hebrew word it corresponds to appears more than 500 times in the Old Testament, and the Greek word it corresponds to more than 200 times in the New Testament. Righteousness is chiefly concerned with ethical conduct: It implies faithfully keeping promises, treating people justly, and adhering to a high moral code. Being human, we fall short at times, but it is good to keep our eye trained on righteousness as a guiding light.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25*

"O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

ADVENT WEEKDAY - Kings in unexpected places

When it came time for the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king to replace Saul, God instructed Samuel to invite Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. When Jesse paraded his boys in review before the prophet, God told Samuel that the oldest and tallest and the most kingly looking were not the guy; the next king was to be David, the youngest and lowliest, whom Jesse left tending the flocks and did not even bother to bring along. "The Lord," God says, "does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." If you live from your heart and look past appearances to the hearts of others, you'll find true royalty.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25*

"O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

ADVENT WEEKDAY - Quiet down

Some years ago Mother Theresa visited the neonatal intensive care unit of a Boston hospital. As she walked through the doors of the unit, the machines that usually hum and buzz and beep somehow stopped making noise, and every single baby fell silent. Mother Theresa stopped at each crib, spoke with the nurses and parents, had her picture taken holding a premature infant in the palm of her hand, and left. As the doors closed behind her, the usual cacophony of the unit resumed unabated. The calm that surrounded Mother Theresa was a reflection of the peace in her heart. Advent is a good time to notice our own interior state. What is going on inside ourselves, and how is it reflected in the world around us?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38*

"O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom."

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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

*CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY
NEW YEAR'S EVE/NEW YEAR'S DAY
MASS SCHEDULE
2008*

CHRISTMAS EVE:

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

CHRISTMAS DAY:

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE:

4:00PM....CHURCH
5:30PM....CHURCH

**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

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

6:30AM.....CHURCH
8:00AM.....CHURCH



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Gift Reminders...

Please remember to place your Giving Tree gifts in the Madonna della Strada chapel in the church vestibule this weekend with the tag securely attached to the package. The gifts will be organized for delivery after the 11:00 PM Mass on Sunday, December 14. Thank you to all who are so generous!!!

Next Sunday, December 21, is the date to bring the **food baskets to Morrissey Hall between 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM**. Please arrange with a friend or family member to bring in your food basket, if you are going to be out of town. We ask that you securely attach the food basket tag to your package. If your food is in more than one container, if possible please mark the containers 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc. This will be a big help in our organization process. The teens in our Confirmation Program and other volunteers will be on hand to help carry the baskets from your car. Also, a suggestion: Laundry Baskets make excellent containers for the food...and are useful to our recipients all year long. Thank you for your generosity!

Mary Beth Ford

Director of Social Concerns



Year of St. Paul:
Journey of
Transformation

*Rejoice
in
Hope*

ST. CLETUS PARISH - ADVENT 2008

Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 15th
7:00 p.m.

Prepare for Christmas as we join together for a Parish Reconciliation Service that includes the opportunity for individual sacramental reconciliation.

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesday, December 17th
7:00 p.m.

Taizé prayer is a meditative form of prayer including Scripture, spoken prayer and song. Through the repetition of musical phrases over and over, your body and your mind slow down enough to be able to listen to the voice of God that is planted deep within you.

St. Cletus Choirs Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 18th
7:00 p.m.

For the first time in over ten years, St. Cletus is proud to present a Christmas Concert. Featuring the Chancel Choir, Contemporary Choir, Children's Choir, and Choir of the Good Shepherd, this evening promises to be musically entertaining and spiritually moving. The concert will include Christmas favorites and sing-along carols.

Please plan to join us for a special evening of holiday song that the entire family can enjoy. The concert is offered free of charge and will last approximately an hour.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome... New Parishioners!

We are pleased to welcome these newly registered parishioners to our parish family: Mr. & Mrs. Todd Brejcha and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Cahill, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kelly and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Monahan and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Hans Perfect and Family, and Donna Styrsky.

If you attend St. Cletus but have not yet registered, please consider the commitment of parish membership.

UPCOMING CASH AND CARRY DATES FOR MANNA

MANNA will be available after all Masses in the church vestibule **NEXT WEEKEND**, December 20/21. MANNA will also be available after school all Fridays in December in the school lobby.

The holidays are upon us! Please take advantage of MANNA this holiday season - it helps Please call Erin Rhoads (708) 588-0510 or Leslie Doherty (708) 482-0257 with any questions or concerns.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS APPEAL

This weekend we will have the annual Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal. These monies are used to assist the women and men of religious communities who have faithfully and generously served in our schools, hospitals, parishes, and communities for years. Please be generous in helping to share in the care of our aging women and men. Envelopes are available in the pews.



Please remember our sick in your prayers: Dr. Karen Chermel, Denise Kuchta, Jerry Pietras, Anna Ciszek, 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.

YOUR VOICE is needed NOW MORE THAN EVER! A new, very serious threat to human life has arisen:
The Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)

Abortion rights groups and their allies in Congress are promoting a radical bill called the “**Freedom of Choice Act: (FOCA)**” If this extreme measure is enacted, widely supported and constitutionally sound abortion regulations will be knocked down nationwide.

FOCA eliminates regulations that protect women from unsafe abortion clinics.

FOCA forces taxpayers to fund abortions.

FOCA requires all states to allow “partial birth” and other late-term abortions.

FOCA subjects women to abortions by non-physicians.

FOCA violates the conscience rights of nurses, doctors and hospitals.

FOCA strips parents of their right to be involved in their minor daughters abortion decision.

If passed into law, **FOCA will impose upon the entire country an abortion regime far worse than anything brought on by Roe V. Wade**, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. The current level of 1.1 million abortions a year will go up, not down. **Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard to contact the offices of your Representatives and two Senators: 202-224-3121. Urge them to oppose FOCA.** Go to www.nchla.org.

TELL CONGRESS: PLEDGE NOW TO OPPOSE FOCA! US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities — www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/abortion.

Pro-abortion forces are planning to push the FOCA bill into law in 2009!!! PLEASE SPEAK UP for those who cannot speak for themselves - make your voice heard in Washington!!!

ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS

There will be AA meetings every Thursday evening at 8:00pm, Room 213, in the Education Building. Please use the flag pole entrance.

Youth Ministry News...

Are you in your 20's???: I am seeking a few young adult volunteers to assist in being small group leaders for our Confirmation overnight retreat to be held February 21/22, 2009. This promises to be a fun experience and is a great chance to share your faith! For more information, please call Amy Cranny, Director of Youth at (708) 215-5419.

Giving Tree Project: Reminder to all Year II candidates that our large group service project is held this weekend and next! Please check with your small group advisors for your group's scheduled time to assist in this service opportunity.

Ski Trip: It's time to hit the slopes!! The office of the Archdiocese of Chicago is coordinating an all night ski event. All high school teens are welcome to go to Chestnut Mountain in Galena, IL on February 13/14. The cost is \$85 for skis or snowboard, lessons, lift ticket, transportation, bonfire with seating and music with a DJ. Permission slips and fees to the St. Cletus Youth Ministry office are **due by January 5!** No exceptions!! Forms can be retrieved online at www.stcletusparish.com, under the Youth Ministry section.

Bowling Outing: Reminder that permission forms and fees for the bowling outing on December 27 at Rolling Lanes are due to the Youth Ministry office today! Information and forms can be retrieved online. See you there!

Mission Trip: The Teen Advisory Board has decided to plan a mission trip experience once again! We will be going with *YouthWorks* to the Appalachian mountains in Delbarton, WV during the first week in August, 2009. If you're in high school and are interested in participating on this trip, please contact Amy Cranny at youth@stcletusparish.com or (708) 215-5419 for more information. There are a limited number of spots available and registration forms will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Thank you!

Amy Cranny

Director of Social Concerns

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Our first parish-wide email went out the first week of December. If you didn't receive it, we might not have your email address. You can submit your email address by following a link on the home page of our website.

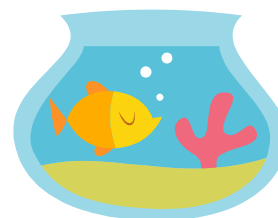
Chris Wagner

Director of Technology

On Tuesday Night, November 19, the parents and students of our 2009 First Reconciliation Class, were invited to a Parent-Child Activity Night in Morrissey Hall. We had more than 200 parents and students in attendance. The children listened to a story entitled "Swimmy" about a fish who experienced evil and found help in the community. The families then made a fish and it will be placed in the net of God's Love. The fish will be on display during our Reconciliation Reception. We also have more pictures of our families on the parish web site under Religious Education. A great time was had by all.

Pat Kahl

Director of Religious Education





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

Holiday Bucks

When you do your grocery shopping at the Jewel store across the street from St. Cletus, please don't forget to tell your cashier that you would like to help St. Cletus Food Pantry by purchasing \$1, \$5, or \$10 Albertsons (Jewel) "Holiday Bucks". Your thoughtful donation will help bring a traditional holiday dinner to a family in our community that otherwise may have gone without. Thank you!

Mary Beth Ford

Director of Social Concerns



STEWARDSHIP

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted... Isaiah 61:1

The Lord God has anointed all of us through Baptism and He has sent each of us on a mission. Each of us has been given unique gifts and talents so that we can help fulfill God's mission here on earth. Are you doing the things Jesus sent you here to do?

Weekly Giving Summary

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday Collection, December 7 | \$ 29,761 |
| Last Year..... | 28,315 |

Total Collection:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Year-to-Date..... | \$615,181 |
| Previous Year-to-Date..... | 639,227 |

Needed for Budget thru 12/07/08.....\$651,475

*St. Cletus would be grateful
if you would consider remembering
the parish in your estate planning.
Thank you.*

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Sunday: | Third Sunday of Advent |
| Tuesday: | Las Posadas begins |

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

SALAAM OR PEACE

Thanks for taking a glimpse at this new insert in your Sunday bulletin. The title itself may be quite familiar for most of us as we, from time to time, listen to the Gospel that tells us the story about the Good Samaritan. A driver who got stuck on a deserted road may praise a fellow as a "Good Samaritan" for stopping by and giving him or her a ride home. That's how familiar this parable is to us. Aptly illustrated by its simple yet strikingly profound graphic, this "Who is my neighbor" section announces a start of "literary-catechetical" series that seeks to inform us about the religion and life of Muslims.

Why Muslims? First, we can ask ourselves: How much do we know about Muslims of Islam? From where or through whom do we know about them? Shouldn't we be interested to know the Muslims in our neighborhoods? In our workplace? Or the Muslims whom we meet from time to time in the streets or markets?

Do we really know "Who is my neighbor?" Stay with us as we continue this series.

(V.I.S. I 2008).

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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.