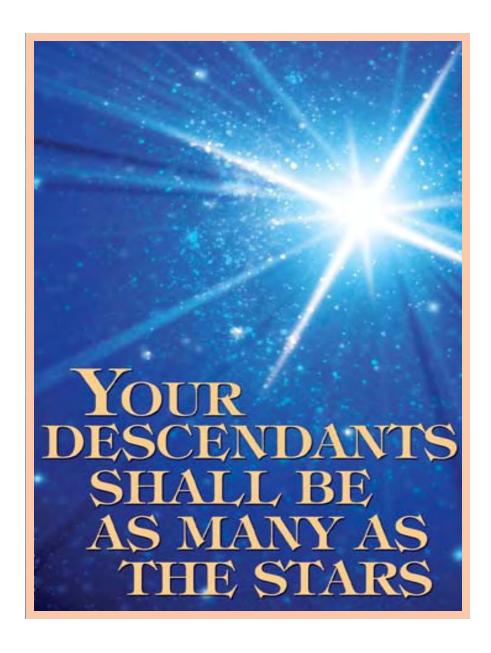


St. Cletus Canticle

December 28, 2008

Feast of the Holy Family



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 29, 2008 - January 4, 2009

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Frank Wojcik, Geneive Stock
Tuesday	8:00am	Dr. Richard P. Elander
New Year's Eve Wednesday	8:00am 4:00, 5:30p 7:00pm	Maria Vizner, Joseph Lattal Souls in Purgatory Spanish
New Year's Day Thursday	6:30am 8:00am	Souls in Purgatory Timothy Benrus, Alexander Majercik
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Alexander Majercik, Kadlec Family, Linda Felice
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	Alexander Majercik, Ben Dybas, Frank Wojcik Donna Czerwinski, Margaret Guarisco, Stella & Felix Gembala, Barbara Bystran, Mary & Stanley Michniak, Helen & Bruno Blachowicz
Sunday	7:00am 8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	People of St. Cletus Julian & Julia Kwiatkowski, Tadeus & Marion Kwiatkowski, Joseph Wanat Lawerance Frisbie, Alexander Majercik Jeanne O'Brien, Timothy Benrus, Marie Woods, Marie Blythe Priest's of the Missionaries of St. Charles

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 3/4, 2009 5:00 PM 7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM Wouk, D. Swindall, V. Hullinger, S. SMDunkovich, A. Bolton, P. Bamberger, J. Hagen, J. Curotto, L. Gallagher, J. Pison, M.L. LR Loch, L. Duffy, M. McGann, K. Rotunno, P. Wouk, D. Swindall, V. Bolton, P. **B2** Hullinger, S. Dunkovich, A. **B3** Lenz, R. Swindall, T. Walsh, M.J. Nolan, J. Mangahas, A. **B4** Delaloye, J. Hagen, C. Kensek, M. Zupancic, R. Haggerty, F. **B5** Thornton, W. Loch, L. Karch, T. Horak, V. Kelliher, K. Burke, Rd. Kwak, T. Schump, C. Condon, MK **B6** C1 Hockman, S. Koch, B. Reichl, M. Garske, E. **C2** DalPorto, K. Micek, J. Blecic, D. Ficaro, J. **C3** Sheridan, E. Warren, C. Wehrmeister, R Hoskins, C. **C4** Andrews, D. Hullinger, S. Dillane, J. Garske, E. **C5** Thornton, M. Karch, J. Haggerty, F. Kelliher, L. **C6** Burke, J. Kuchta, A. Williams, A. Brannigan, R.

AUXILIARY MINISTER SCHEDULE

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.

Collins, K.

Lively, B.

Funk, R.

Heim, J.

Lang, C. McAtee, M.

Altar

Muldonado, E.

Pusatera, S.

Kern, J.

Sarantopoulos,

Lombardo, M

Hurley, D.

Zebus, K.

Tlusty, M.

Geraci, M.



ST. CLETUS PARISH Welcomes...

Eleanor Ann Shifley,

Daughter of Patrick and Jamie (Sutton) Shifley

Claire Aemilia Rufa

Daughter of Peter and Katie (Moran) Rufa

to the Catholic Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Come and adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament Monday, January 5, and every first Monday of the month. Adoration begins immediately after the 8:00am Mass followed by Benediction at 6:45pm.

NOTES FROM FATHER BOB...

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Today's feast offers much-needed support to marriage and the family, even if its title, at first hearing, seems less than helpful. A "holy" family can sound like an unreal family, a family that travels through life trouble-free. A family which consists of the Son of God and two great saints hardly seems to be the kind we could hope to identify with, let alone imitate. However, not everyone sees it that way. A little boy's painting of the Christmas scene showed the stable, the ox and the ass, and of course the Child, but on either side of the manger there knelt a punk-rocker. "I can see baby Jesus," said the teacher, "but who are these two young people? And where are Mary and Joseph?" "Well, Miss," said the budding artist, "they're the babysitters; Mary and Joseph have gone to the bingo game."

We laugh perhaps, yet I wonder if that child's understanding of the Holy Family isn't closer to reality than that of most adults. Of course Jesus, Mary and Joseph are a unique family. Nonetheless, as today's Gospel makes clear, they are a real family, as real as any family in this church today; they lived real lives, just like the people around them. They were Jews, humbly following the normal Jewish religious customs. So they complied with the ancient Jewish law which said that every first-born baby son should be presented in the Temple (as a thanksgiving for the wonderful gift of a new life) and then "bought back" from the Lord on payment of a few shekels, or, in the case of the poor, an offering of a couple of birds. The offering of the poor was all that Mary and Joseph could afford. Clearly, Jesus was born into a home where luxuries were rare and where the family struggled to make ends meet.

While Mary and Joseph were in the Temple at Jerusalem they met two elderly God-fearing people, Simeon and Anna, who had astonishing things to say about Jesus: how they had always longed for his coming and how he was the One everyone was waiting for. However, Simeon also made a mysterious prophecy: he told Mary that her heart would be pierced by a sword. There would be heart-rending times ahead for the Holy Family; being the Mother of Jesus would cost her dearly; situations would arise when she, like any of us, would be bewildered by God's ways.

The Gospel ends with the simple statement that "the child grew to maturity". Jesus grew up, passed from childhood to youth to manhood. In the meantime Mary and Joseph did what all good parents do: they built up a home, taught their little one how to pray, set a good example, provided food and clothing and, above all, surrounded him with love. But the very ordinariness of his growing-up was surely a challenge to them. Must there not have been times when they watched him and wondered? It was only their strong faith – and faith is a theme running through today's readings – that enabled them to hold on to the incredible truth that Jesus was not simply another boy from Nazareth, but the unique, long-awaited Messiah.

Jesus would one day promise that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is present with them. Already that promise was foreshadowed in the Holy Family: Mary and Joseph – and Jesus himself in the midst. In every Christian family that promise is fulfilled, though faith alone can discern his presence. Many a couple will say with a wry smile: "Just stay a few days in our house and you'll know we're no holy family." But I wonder. The Vatican Council spoke of the Christian home as "the domestic church", the Church in miniature; it is in and through the ups and downs of family living that most people are to grow in holiness.

Jesus is in the midst of not just perfect homes (whatever they might be) but of every Christian home; in the midst of everything that happens there: the bread-winning, the love-making, the messiness, the misunderstandings, the joys and the frustrations, the coping with growing children or ageing parents. He wants every couple to know that he is with them, whatever their problems or difficulties. The kingdom of heaven is to be sought not high above the clouds but much nearer home; every family, however ordinary, can in its own small way be a holy family; and that is precisely what the Lord wants yours to be.

May God's blessing be with you and your family today and throughout the coming year.

Father Bob



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2008

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH Death without regrets

"Now I can die happy!" We sometimes say that in moments of sheer joy. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the office of Christian prayer, the words of the prophet Simeon are recited in night prayer, the last prayer before hitting the sack. It reflects our faith that in Christ we have eternal life and are prepared to go at anytime. It's the "if I should die before I wake" part of the "now I lay me down to sleep" prayer we learned as children. Our firm belief is that when we close our eyes to this world, we will open them to the next.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Colossians 3:12-21 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS - To the limit
The Russian composer Igor Stravinsky once wrote, "The more
constraints one imposes, the more one frees one's self." It may
sound paradoxical, but boundaries are necessary in life as well
as in art. They provide a structure, a space in which we can
most fully explore what it means to live and work and create. Far
from restricting our freedom, limits actually give us our freedom.
How is this so? Recall a time when you gave yourself unlimited
time to finish a project. Did you? Our loving creator gave us
commandments for this very reason. They are the constraints
that allow us to learn fully who we are—and who God is.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 "The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Fragile and perishable

"The world and its enticement is passing away." These words from scripture evoke the dualism so much favored by certain New Testament writers, reflecting a mode of thought in which there continues a never-ending battle between good and evil, the world of darkness and the world of light. Christians believe that the battle is won; the world is redeemed. Yet anyone who has lived long enough knows that redeemed as "the world" may be, it is foolish to expect that the world provides us with all we need. This is what Saint Paul means when he speaks of the "things that really matter," when we, in moments of clarity after a close call with illness or death, come to realize: There are things that really matter that are beyond the material—and they're invariably not the things we spend most of our time worrying about or working for.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 "Do not love the world or the things in the world . . . [for] the world and its desire are passing away."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

SEVENTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS; NEW YEAR'S EVE - The end is near

Just before midnight most people will be awake and anticipating

the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. But when scripture talks about endings and beginnings, it means more than putting up a new calendar. The last hour means a new world is about to begin. God has done something new in Jesus. We are reborn to new life through him. How will you welcome the new into your life, tonight, tomorrow, and every day?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 "Children. it is the last hour!"

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE Let there be peace on earth

In a world torn by violence and war, we hope and pray for peace. But peace in the world begins with peace in us; in our families, in our workplaces and schools, in our shopping malls and on our freeways. "Let peace begin with me," the song goes. So the prayer in the Book of Numbers is a prayer we can take to heart and offer daily for ourselves and the people around us. With our hearts set on peace we can resolve the small conflicts in our lives today. It is a great way to start the New Year.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you . . . and give you peace."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

FEAST OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH An invitation to divinity

In sin we reject part of our humanity—the humanity of the Garden of Eden, where there is no shame or guilt but an open acceptance of God's love. As Saint Basil the Great points out, God has not only met our rejection by restoring our true humanity but also has offered a sharing in his divinity. Basil writes in his monastic rule, the *Asketikon*, "It did not suffice Him merely to call us back to life, but he has also granted us the dignity of His Godhead." The love God holds for us is so unchangeable it not only brings us back from death and sin but also shows us a path to becoming even more than human.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS - In the name

In the gospels the name of Jesus carries lots of weight. God gave Jesus his name, which means "salvation," before Jesus was conceived. People healed in the name of Jesus. Jesus was present to those who gathered in his name. For Jesus' disciples their mission was to proclaim his name to all nations. And all those who believed in the name of Jesus became children of God. So living in the name says who you are, what you believe, and what you are to do: Gather as children of God in a community of faith to bring Christ to the world. What does it mean to live in the name of Jesus? To do everything for him, with an awareness of his presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34

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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

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE:

4:00pm....CHURCH

5:30PM....CHURCH

7:00pm....Church-spanish

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

6:30AM.....CHURCH

8:00AM.....CHURCH

WELCOME SUNDAY

Welcome to all St. Cletus newcomers. Registration will be available next weekend, January 3/4, 2009 after the 5:00pm Saturday Mass and the 7:00, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am Sunday Masses.

Please stop by the back of church, say hello, and become members.

ATTENTION HOLY NAME MEMBERS!

Please join us for our first meeting of 2009 on Friday, January 2, at 8:00pm, in Room 201 in the Education Building. We will discuss upcoming events.

New members are always welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Happy New Year!

Dan Gibbons

PLEASE NOTE

...the Rectory Office will closed at noon on Wednesday, New Year's Eve. The office will reopen on Friday, January 2, 2009 at 9:00am.



Нарру New Year! 2009

Youth Ministry Undate!

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 Youth Ministry office, at 708-215-5419.

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 ski's 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.

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 me 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 CrannyDirector of Youth

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The heart of this holy season is so much about family: Blessed Mother, Humble Father, Holy Child Jesus; our own families who we hold dear, some who live near us, some who are far away; our parish family which supports us on our pilgrim journey to our heavenly home; and, of course, the family of all humankind, all of us saved through the Greatest Gift, Jesus Christ, a Gift we long more and more to accept into our hearts and into our daily lives.

My prayer for each of us this Holy Season (celebrated from December 25th through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord January 11th) is that we might invite the Lord Jesus to have a greater home in our hearts and our families.

Thank you for your generosity to St. Agatha and for all you do that allows us to do the mission work of Jesus here in North Lawndale. Your generosity at Christmas and throughout the year continues to bring hope to many in our community through our food pantry, tutoring, pen pals, scholarships and other outreach. May God bless you, your family and parish family for all you do to allow the Lord to work through you. May God bless us all, throughout the year, with a Christmas heart.

Gentle peace!
Father Larry Dowling
& the Parish Family of St. Agatha

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and

Joseph

Monday: Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas;

St. Thomas Becket

Tuesday: Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas Wednesday: Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas;

St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve

Thursday: The Octave Day of Christmas;

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace;

New Year's Day

Friday: St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory

Nazianzen; First Friday

Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus;

First Saturday

WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust. they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned! their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things! should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 28, 2008

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

__Luke 2:30-31

Please remember our sick in your prayers: 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, 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'Rourque, Debbie Broz and Scott May. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound unable to attend Mass. Please know we pray daily for our sick.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Even before the tragedy of 9/11, the word **Islamophobia**, from the Latinized *Islamo* plus Greek *phobia* (fear), has already been used to describe the pervasive sentiments of fear or dislike of Muslims. You might have heard this term over the radio. On the other side of the coin, there are, in fact, non-Christians who are afraid of us, and disapprove of Christian behavior or culture.

These religious sentiments are very real in our world today; we feel and breathe them almost everywhere, whether we are aware of them or not. Every day, domestic and international TV or radio news programs and newspapers vividly serialize very disturbing events that explicitly express the menacing consequences of these destructive phobias.

Aren't these prevailing facts urgent enough to compel you and me to ask whether we might be nursing some fears or perhaps aversion in our hearts in relation to Islam or the Muslims? What do we think is one of the underlying reasons for these uncomfortable sentiments?

Keep track on our following series.

(V.I.S.2 2008).

Office for Ecumenical Interreligious affairs - Archdiocese of Chicago P.O. Box 1979, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

STEWARDSHIP

"And be thankful." - Colossians 3:15

St. Paul's reminder to be thankful is a great way to end the year. The good steward is always thankful. We recognize that we are God's people and everything we have is a gift from God. When we fill our hearts with gratitude we can stop striving for more and start appreciating and sharing the gifts we have already been given.

Weekly Giving Summary

Sunday Collection, December 21	\$ 19,748
Last Year	28,052
Total Collection:	
Year-to-Date	\$662,864
Previous Year-to-Date	691,766
Needed for Budget thru 12/21/08	.\$708,125

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

Thank you.

Thank You!

...to our advertisers who sponsor this bulletin. Please support them with your business.



Celebrating

"Once Upon a Universe" in Art and Music

Celebrate the universe story with Mary Southard, CSJ, and Kathy Sherman, CSJ, on Sunday, January 11, from 2–4:30 p.m., at The Well, 1515 W. Ogden Ave., LaGrange Park. Using art and music, the sisters share their collaborative work on the 2009 Universe calendar and companion CD. The \$15 in advance fee includes a 2009 calendar, \$20 at the door; additional friends and family, \$10. Please register at www.csjthewell.org or you can email thewell@csjlagrange.org or call (708) 482-5088 or (708) 482-5048.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Robert Clark

Pastor

Rev. Edgar Rodriguez

Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Watkins

Associate Pastor

Rev. Charles Gallagher

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Jesús and Silvia Casas

Deacon Couple

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Deacon Jesús Casas

Director of Hispanic Ministry

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Director of Youth Ministry

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Mary Beth Ford

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Debbie Lestarczyk

Director of Facilities & Grounds

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Co-Chairpersons: Anne Babirak, Tom Finucane

Recording Secretary: Sue Schiller

Worship Ministry: Sue Schiller, Jackie Wiley

Parish Representative: Joe Bamberger, Lori Ashe

Education Ministry: Anne Babirak, (School)

Sharon Gleich (Religious Education)

Development Ministry: Maggie Nelson, Tom Finucane

Ignacio Saavedra

Vice - Chairperson: Rita Mayer

Corresponding Secretary: Lori Ashe

Finance Liaison: Brian Kapusta

Youth Ministry: Barb Mitchell, Rita Mayer

Pastoral Care Ministry:

C. Rodger Brown, Xavier Polanski

Staff Representative: Jolene Hillgoth

Hispanic Ministry: Tim McCormick, Marynez Llanes, 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.