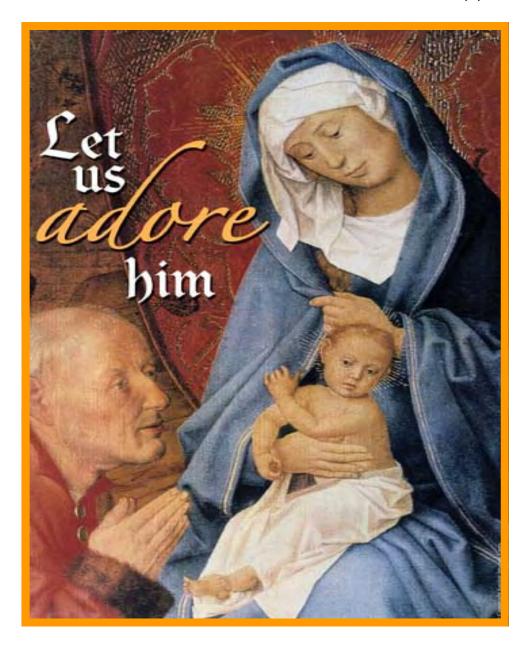


# St. Cletus Canticle

January 4, 2009

The Epiphany of the Lord



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 January 5 - January 11, 2009

Day	Time	Intentions				
Monday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Alexander Majercik				
Tuesday	8:00am	Tom Benka, Alexander Majercik, Arlene N. Skryd				
Wednesday	8:00am	Fr. Robert Shannon, Walter Rogers, Violet Cosimano, Alexander Majercik				
Thursday	8:00am	Florence Curtis, Mary Ricciardone, Calandriello Family, Alexander Majercik				
Friday	8:00am	Purgatorial Society - Alexander Majercik				
Saturday	8:00am 5:00pm	Barbara McDonnell, Alexander Majercik Belfonte Pieri				
Sunday		People of St. Cletus Frances Carey Violet Cosimano, Alexander Majercik, Arlene N. Skryd, Kate Kovacs, Walter Depa Dinora Nietó, Timothy Benrus, Sophie Egielski, June Bachta Hispanic Ministry				

AUXILIARY MINISTER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 10/11, 2009									
	5:00 PM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM				
SM	Wouk, D.	Curnutt, R.	Hagen, C.	Samuelson, D.	Bolton, P.				
LR	Gallagher, J. Pawlowicz, R.	Bellisario, J.	Hagen, K. Okkema, P.	Wehrmeister,R Reisel, T.	Demonte, L. O'Heron, R.				
B2	Wouk, D.	Curnutt, R.	Hagen, C.	Samuelson, D.	Bolton, P.				
В3	Andrews, D.	Ward, L.	Okkema, A.	Kelliher, L.	Provan, J.				
B4	Hockman, S.	Smith, D.	Dalsin, P.	Thuma, M.	Hoskins, C.				
В5	Reichl, M.	Ciraulo, S.	Walsh, M.J.	Stumreiter, E.	Mangahas, A.				
В6	Saban, J.	Hinton, G.	Kwak, T.	Malcak, L.	Schump, C.				
C1	Ford, M.B.		Welch, J.	Horak, V.	Nilles, C.				
C2	Lenz, R.		Hagen, J.	Dunkovich, A	Garske, E.				
С3	Ryva, J.		Szabelski, R.	Kelliher, K.	Provan, K.				
C4	Bozec, B.	1	Kalata, M.	Meuwissen, J.	Keating-Gay, S.				
C5	Sheridan, E.		Warren, C.	Zupancic, R.	Condon, M.K.				
C6	DalPorto, K.		Zaremba, E.	Tosheff, C.	Pristo, B.				
Altar Servers	Bogolin, K. Grodek, M. Grodek, M.	McDonnell, B. Frisbie, S. Contarino, A.	Kopicki, A. Balch, J. Balch, A.	Condotti, J. Madden, N. Clarke, T.	Dombro, J. Pikul, K. Boland, A.				



# THE HOLY STAR

O Father, may that holy star grow every year more bright and send its glorious beams afar to fill the world with light.

-William Cullen Bryant

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.

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



Ernest A. Stubitsch, Father of Mary Stubitsch

# NOTES FROM FATHER BOB ...

# **Epiphany**

A pilgrim to the Holy Land was one day praying in the underground cave at Bethlehem, when he heard an unusual hubbub in the basilica above. It grew louder; it seemed to be getting ever nearer. Then, suddenly, the grotto was flooded with a crowd of West Africans led by three magnificent black bishops. Everything about them – their glistening eyes, their chants, their brilliantly colored clothes – seemed to speak to childlike delight. Not even the Magi in their traditional garb could have cut so splendid a sight. After a period of prayer, they retraced their steps to the basilica above and there celebrated the Mass of the Epiphany. It was a woman, dressed even more sumptuously than the rest, who read the passage from Isaiah we heard today: "Arise, shine out...for your light has come...the nations come to your light." The pilgrim realized that the ancient prophecy was being fulfilled yet again.

The story of the Magi, recorded by Matthew, has an almost magical charm about it which befits this wonderful Christmas season. But of course what matters is not so much the story as the message it conveys. It's possible to get lost in questions, such as: how many Magi were there (Matthew doesn't say), or what kind of star was it that could guide them and then pinpoint the location of the stable? To get hung up on such questions is to risk missing the real point of the story.

And the real point of the story, its message, is that the tiny Child of Bethlehem is meant for all humankind, and that he is worth seeking, at whatever cost. Like a wondrous light that can never be extinguished, he draws people from every land towards him. His first visitors, as we heard on Christmas Day, were a handful of Jewish shepherds; his second, we learn today, are a group of pagan, that is, non-Jewish, Wise Men, traveling from far-away lands. The very word "epiphany" means a revelation: today we celebrate the revelation that Jesus is for everyone. As Paul explained in our second reading, God has laid bare his eternal plan, which is that the whole world, pagans therefore as well as Jews, are to be sharers in the same inheritance.

The gifts the Wise Men bring are significant, for they speak subtly of the identity of the Child in the manger. They show why he is worth seeking: gold – the royal metal; how fitting for one born to be King; sweet-smelling incense – used for the worship of God and so eminently suitable for one who is God-mademan; and myrrh – used for embalming the dead: even this apparently odd gift is appropriate, for this Child has come into the world to lay down his life as our Savior.

Among the blessings of the Second Vatican Council was the decision to describe the Church as a pilgrim people. Like the Magi, we're pilgrims, we're on a journey; our guiding star is the precious gift of faith; we'd be lost without it, for so long as this life lasts we remain pilgrims. The Magi had to make a long, arduous journey before they found the Lord. Perhaps friends and families ridiculed them; there must surely have been times on the way when they felt like giving up; and when the journey was almost over they ran into King Herod.

The Christian pilgrimage too has its hazards; it sometimes invites ridicule, can even seem a waste of time. Yet persevere in it we must; nothing else is so important. Sunday Mass, a kind of milestone on the way, enables us to take our bearings, ensure that we are on course and receive in Communion the food needed for the journey. It is only at the end that we shall find what we've always been looking for (even if we've sometimes sought it in the wrong place), what in fact we were made for – the face to face vision of Jesus, the light of our lives.

The word used to describe our Lord's visitors does not, strictly speaking, mean "wise men". All the same, it isn't a bad way of describing them: the truly wise people in this world are those who have wisdom not simply of the head but also of the heart, the kind of wisdom that leads them to pin their hopes on the star of their faith and to follow it courageously to the end.

May that kind of wisdom be granted to us all.



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

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009

# SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

# Seeing with new eyes

Looking for a fresh start at the beginning of a new year? How about renewing your vision? That isn't something your ophthalmologist can do with laser surgery. New sight goes deeper and penetrates the way we make decisions, prioritize responsibilities, engage relationships, and form new goals. Scheduling some time at a local retreat center or contacting a spiritual director for some new ideas might help. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available to relieve us of old baggage, as are 12-step programs and support groups of many kinds. You don't have to do it alone!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

"Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5

# FEAST OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

# God's way, not my way

At St. Alphonsus Church in downtown Baltimore you can visit the parish where Saint John Neumann served before he became a bishop. You can even step into his austere bedroom where a bed, tiny desk, kneeler, and picture of the Madonna make up his belongings. Simplicity was his obsession; becoming the bishop of Philadelphia certainly didn't fit into that plan. Yet he embraced his office and took on the task of serving the burgeoning immigrant church by learning 10 languages and doing what was best for the people he served and loved. When God's will speaks to you, try the gentle path of surrender.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

"We receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him."

# TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

# FEAST OF BLESSED ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS Love is divine

A prayer to André Bessette, a brother of the Holy Cross order who spent a lifetime counseling and praying for people from his desk at the entrance to his community's residence in Montreal, says: "Grant us the grace to imitate his piety and charity so that, with him, we may share the reward promised to all those who care for their neighbor because of their love for you." Love comes from God, and we love others because we love God and find God's love in our love for others. Speaking of poor people, but in words that describe all Christian love, Catholic Worker cofounder Dorothy Day once said we start by loving the poor for Jesus but we soon love them for themselves and see each one to be special. Today, find God in others and others in God.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God."

# WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

# Soft on the inside

How often have you walked down a street, looking down at the sidewalk, and not noticed a tree, or a sign, or even an entire building? When you finally notice it, you wonder how you could have missed it all this time. This phenomenon of not seeing what is right in front of us is not uncommon, nor is it limited to the physical realm.

We are often blind to spiritual realities as well. When this happens, we know our hearts are "hardened." What does it take to soften our hearts so that we can perceive the invisible—the love that surrounds and permeates us every moment of every day? It begins with desire, which forms an intention, which evolves into practice, which turns into prayer, which relies on God.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 "They did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened."

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

### Wisdom: Be attentive!

One can imagine Jesus' neighbors, the elders, and everyone in the synagogue with eyes fixed on him when he claims that a familiar passage from Isaiah is being fulfilled right there, in their hearing. It's likely they all heard him say it, but how many listened? Paying attention is risky. Maybe that's why we love to cocoon ourselves in noise. The word, wherever God chooses to speak it, invariably makes demands on us—sometimes as a new challenge to new action, sometimes asking that we let go of expectations or old resentments. The crowd that heard Jesus rejoiced at first to hear his claim but seems to have soon rejected Jesus as too familiar, too ordinary to be the fulfillment of an ancient promise. Risky as it may be, unless we pay attention, we will not hear. If we don't hear, we cannot listen. And without listening, we have no chance to choose to follow Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a "Jesus began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'"

# FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

# Compassionate rule breaking

Did you ever wonder why, when Jesus heals a leper, he always tells the guy not to say anything to anybody? Perhaps it is because the Good Lord broke a rule there. You see, according to the law of Moses, he wasn't supposed to touch the leper. But he did. Jesus broke a lot of rules it seems. That's why he got into so much trouble. But we're thankful he breaks rules for us—such as, for instance, the rule about sin and death. As Jesus pointed out, the law was made for the sake of people, not the other way around. Mercy and compassion always manages to break a few rules.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 "He ordered him to tell no one."

# SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

# The number one virtue

If you came to earth from outer space, the sheer amount of teaching on chastity—the virtue of expressing sexuality appropriately—would convince you that it's the one non-negotiable item on your spiritual checklist. While chastity is essential, *humility* is the fundamental virtue upon which a holy life is based. Humility comes from the word *humus*, the earth. It reminds us that we're dust—or "not the Christ," as John the Baptist famously put it. As we decrease in centrality, God and others increase. Start from this "ground" and work your way up.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 "John said, 'So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease.' "

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

# ST. CLETUS SCHOOL NEWS

St. Cletus School offers a full-day preschool as well as 3 and 4 year-old half-day preschool, a half-day or full-day kindergarten option and an average class size of 23 students in grades 1-8. Our well-rounded educational program offers Spanish, art, music, physical education, library, and computers as part of the student's schedule. Daily religion classes, service hours, and school Masses provide further opportunities for students to enhance the school experience. Junior Great Books, Student Council, boy and girl scouts, athletic programs, band, choir, and before and after care programs are available.

If your child is beginning his/her education, or if you are considering a change, please call the school to make an appointment to visit or to register. Limited openings are available in all grades.

# OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS ON JANUARY 5, 2009

Please call the school office at (708) 352-4820 between the hours of 7:00AM and 3:15PM if you have questions or would like to make an appointment to visit our school. Come "Discover St. Cletus"!

Jolene Hillgoth Principal



Please remember our sick in your prayers: Rose Delaloye, Dr. Karen Chermel, Denise Kuchta, Jerry Pietras, Anna Ciszek, Blasé Cinquegrani, Trudy Pacanowski,

Zeman. James Pauline Prucha, 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'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.

# SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord;

New Year Blessing of the Home;

**National Migration Week** 

Monday: St. John Neumann
Tuesday: Blessed André Bessette
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Peñafort;

**Orthodox Christmas** 

Saturday: Muslim New Year 1430

# INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

One of the most remarkable developments in Christian-Muslim relations is the growing efforts of interreligious dialogue. It is an interfaith initiative which brings representatives from different religions to various occasions: conferences, meals, social outreaches, and many other expressions of collaboration known in our neighborhoods. The thoughts of Muslims and Christians gathered and working together strongly mitigates the fears we may have of each other.

Yes, interreligious dialogue has remarkably yielded unprecedented positive fruits. Moreover, it is an excellent model which is familiar to many of us: family members dialogue when something is needed to be sorted out or to be solved; parishioners as well may enter into a dialogue when some community matters require consultations. It is essentially a communication, but it goes beyond the exchange of information because it sets an aura of commitment and sincerity to first listen and then to speak which ultimately aims at enkindling mutual respects and peaceful co-existence and collaboration.

We'll see you in the next segment. (V.I.S.4 2008).

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

# Attention Leisure Loafers!

# Happy New Year!

Our January meeting is on Thursday, January 8, at 1:00pm in Morrissey Hall. Let's play Bingo!

\*\*Alice Katzmarek\*\*

# **Parish Life Ministry**

The St. Cletus Parish Life Commission is a ministry committed to planning social programs and activities that will provide opportunities for the Parish Community to meet and interact, and to share our Christian Faith.

We are excited to announce the formation of the Parish Life Commission. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time and talent as commission members. At this point in time, we need parishioner input.

Phone			nission Chairpers		
Phone E-mail					 
E-mail					_
					_
ERESTED IN B	BECOMING A	A PARISH I II			
Please list any	social progra	ams and activ	vities that interes	st you:	

# STARTING UP AGAIN!

Mission Ladies will be starting up on Wednesday, January 7, at 9:15am in the Rectory basement. New members are welcome - young and not so young - we sew, stuff and restore toys. No skills or experiences are required. We were able to make and give 1,033 items to seven charities this Christmas. We "Thank All" who donated and those who helped in making our distribution a success. For more information, call me at (708) 839-9605.

**Dolores** Scaletta



The Epiphany of the Lord **January 4, 2009** 

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

— Psalm 72:11

**Φ 20 00** 

# NEED HELP...

# DEALING WITH OUR STRESSFUL WORLD?

If you or a family member is having difficulty dealing with this complex and stressful world in which we live, **The Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities can help.** Whether your trouble is confidential, personal, relational or career-related, the center offers professional assistance that is confidential and convenient. Ms. Sandra Luebker, LPC is the counselor at St. John of the Cross Parish (Western Springs). For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call (312) 655-7725.

# THE WOMEN'S CENTER

January 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the 36th anniversary of the legalization of abortion which has resulted in the death of over 50 million innocent, unborn babies in this country, approximately one every 30 seconds. The Women's Center is a pregnancy resource center which helped around 4,500 women and their families in 2008. We offer them a choice other than abortion and provide counseling, material assistance, friendship and prayer support.

We need volunteer **ultrasound sonographers RDMS Certified,** for our Cicero Avenue and Evergreen Park offices. Call Kathy Michalak at 773-783-6100 for information. Volunteer English and bi-lingual Spanish/ English language speakers are needed as receptionists in our Cicero Avenue and Evergreen Park Counseling Offices. Volunteers are also needed to organize clothing donations at our Cicero Avenue office any day Monday through Thursday. For more information call 773-794-1313.

# ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS...

This meeting is for anyone who believes they have a drinking or drug problem and would like some help. All are welcome!

There is a closed AA meeting every Thursday evening, 8:00pm, in Room 213, in the Education building. Please use the flag pole entrance.

# Thoughts for the New Year

The New Year lies before you like a spotless tract of snow; Be careful how you tread on it for every mark will show.

# **STEWARDSHIP**

"For your heart will always be where your riches are." (Matthew 6:21)

Your first responsibility is to take care of your needs and the needs of your family - not necessarily all their wants. In looking at what we need versus what we want, we end up placing material things and money in their proper perspective.

"Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver." (11 Corinthians 9:7)

All too often, Stewardship is presented only with the Church support or the funding of other charities as the goal. This is too limiting. Stewardship also involves time and talent.

# **Weekly Giving Summary**

Sunday Collection, December 28	\$ 30,996
Last Year	\$ 31.635
2450 1041	Ψ 51,055
Total Collection:	
Year-to-Date	\$693,860
Previous Year-to-Date	
Tievious Tear-to-Date	\$723,401
<b>Needed</b> for Budget thru 12/28/08	\$736,450

**Note**: The last Sunday of the month includes ACH debits: 55 households contributed \$6,842 during December 2008.

# PARISH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

If you are moving to a new home and will remain parishioners, call the rectory (708-352-6209) with your new address and phone number. Moving out of the parish? Please call the rectory so that we can keep our records updated. Thank you.

# **Epiphany of the Lord**

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." How can we, as individuals living in today's world, pay homage to our Lord? If you have ever thought about the priesthood and want to take a closer look, consider attending the **Exploring Priesthood Weekend** - **January 16-18, 2009** at Mundelein Seminary. This is a retreat for men college age and older. It is for reflection and conversation which can be helpful in discovering your vocation in life. For more information contact Fr. Joe Noonan at (312) 534-8298 or **jnoonan@archchicago.org**, or go to our website at **www.ChicagoPriest.com**.

### 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

# 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

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**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

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Kathy Lifka

Assistant Principal

**Denise Parlier** 

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Receptionist/Office Assistant

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Bulletin Editor

Nora Gardner

Rectory Receptionist Bobbie Kallal

Administrative Assistant

Michele O'Brien

Director of Financial Operations

(708) 352-6209

# 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

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

Hispanic Ministry: Tim McCormick, Marynez Llanes,

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

ez 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.

# RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru 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.**