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REV. RON ANGLIM

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REV. MR. JESÚS & SILVIA CASAS

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Mary Beth Ford

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Debbie Lestarczyk

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Justin Sisul

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(708) 215-5423 **Christopher Wagner**

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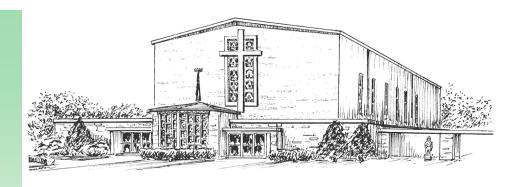
Bobbie Kallal

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Mary Zwolinski

Parish Accounting

(708) 352-6209



St. Cletus Canticle

600 W. 55th Street - La Grange, IL (708) 352-6209 Rectory (708) 352-4820 School www.stcletusparish.com December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent



All are welcome.

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

Children's Chapel available for the young and the restless in the rear of the church.

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 19 - December 25, 2011

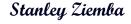
Day	Time	Intentions		
Monday	8:00 a.m.	Timothy Benrus, Maureen Fahy		
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Brother Robert Fisher, OSA		
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Timothy Wickerd, Ferdinand Czachor		
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Timothy Wickerd, Chester Zulaski, Abe Katzmarek, Linda Johnston		
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Anna Pleszka, Joseph Lewandowski, Roger Vandriessche, Stanley Klepczarek, Marge May		
Saturday Christmas Eve Spanish	2:00 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.	PARISH PRIESTS' INTENTIONS		
Sunday Christmas Day Spanish	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	PARISH PRIESTS' INTENTIONS		

Please remember our sick in your prayers: Mary Dybas, James McSweeney, John Karch, Gertrude Koenig-Stoiber, Gerdi Dorso, Joe Falls, Loretta Pavlik, N. Zagrodnik, Scott Malcak, Bob Zimmerman, Breann Moddes, Betty Niwa, Joan Workman, Betty Zapf, Donald Cuttill, Idolina Montano, Sue Kremer, Gail Pankow-Locker, Kathryn Super-Wilson, Lydia Ciaglia, Maeva Bishop, Katie Meyer, Howard Pohlman, Evelyn Kilker, Jessica Gundling, Joe Saban, Ola Maveety, Jean Weekley, Marilyn Matesevac. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

PLEASE NOTE...

There will be no 8:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24.

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



John Huebner, husband of JoAnne

Venda Tulacka



CONGRATULATIONS!

Rachel Olszewski Troy Rybicki **December 17, 2011**



PLEASE NOTE

...the Rectory Office will be closed on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 and Monday, December 26. The office will reopen on Tuesday, December 27, at 9:00 a.m. On Monday, January 2, the office will be closed. The office will reopen at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

NOTES FROM FATHER BOB...



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2011

Secular culture is rushing toward Christmas, now only one week away. Can the momentum be slowed a bit to allow us to reflect on the deep meaning of what we are about to commemorate? Who can help us to ponder God's saving deeds?

The first reading gives expression to Israel's hope for a Messiah who, like David, would govern God's people in righteousness and justice. David's intent was to build a house for God, a temple where God could dwell among his people. Instead, the prophet Nathan reveals that God will build a house, i.e., a lasting dynasty, for David! Such are the workings of the God of surprises! The promise of the perpetuity of the Davidic line became the basis of popular Jewish Messianism. The second reading praises God for the mystery of salvation, manifested through the prophets, and now fully disclosed in Jesus Christ. This same doxology appears elsewhere in Romans (14:23 and 15:33), and may have served as a conclusion to three different forms of the letter. It emphasizes the continuity of God's In the Gospel, we meet Mary, the young maiden from Nazareth. redemptive plan. Annunciation stories were common in the Hebrew Scriptures. Luke himself includes the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist as a parallel to that of Jesus. The purpose of an annunciation story was not to present an event, but to detail the role which the person about to be born will play in the great drama of salvation. As such, the annunciation of the birth of the Messiah surpasses all other annunciation narratives in importance.

On this final Sunday of Advent, with the world awash in the trappings of Christmas, God's word reminds us that WE ARE STILL IN ADVENT! Who, better than Mary, can help us prepare for the commemoration of Christ's birth? She carried him for nine months in her womb! A pregnant woman is perhaps the best teacher about patient expectation. As Mary waited for the birth of her son, she must have reflected on what his life would mean. Every mother does. Beyond this, Mary recapitulated the hopes and dreams of her people. She knew her lowliness, her powerlessness, her inability to save herself or anyone else. Mary also knew God's tender mercy and faithfulness. Thus, she awaited patiently the coming of her son and her Savior. Do we?

Abundant Advent Blessings,

Father Bob Pastor



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Coming to a manger near you

After somewhat of a rocky start with the Philistine giant Goliath, David reached the pinnacle of his career, ensconced in a palace, king of Israel. With power, wealth, and leisure now at his disposal, David noticed that the Ark of God was housed not in palatial splendor like himself but rather in a mere tent. David magnanimously pledged to build a temple for the Ark, but God gently rebuffed him, reminding him that it was God, not David, who brought him from the brink of disaster to be king of God's people. With David we recall that God is the source of all that is good in our life. As we await the arrival of God, not in a palace but in a stable, let us pray for a spirit of gratitude for all that God has done.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11)

"I have been with you wherever you went."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Turn your heart toward children

After hearing of a newborn king in Bethlehem, King Herod ordered the slaughter of all young male children in the village. Truth be told, it has never been easy to be a child. Historian John Boswell reveals in *The Kindness of Strangers* that child abandonment was a common and often accepted practice from antiquity until the Renaissance. Although strides have been made in child welfare, abuse, neglect, and exploitation are still alarmingly widespread. A society that puts children first has a great future to look forward to. Be a voice for those who are still learning to speak.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195)*

"He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Find your bliss

Many people believe God has a special plan just for them—if only they can figure out what it is! From this point of view, discovering what God wants for a person is like a search for a missing key: Find it, and you can get in; don't, and you're locked out. Discerning what God may be calling you to, though, may be as simple as seeing where, in the words of campus minister Sally Willitzer in the 2011 issue of VISION magazine, you "can best be an instrument of love in the world," and that means not only discovering where you can most effectively help others but also what makes you happy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196) "Do not be afraid . . . for you have found favor with God."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

FEAST OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Give it your all

Saint Peter Canisius might have been what today we call a Type A personality. He lived at a pace that illustrated his saying, "If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all." Sometimes it seems that he *did* do it all. He had a master's degree by 19, became a popular preacher, a founder of the Catholic press, and a diplomat who used his gifts to bring the challenge of Christian values

into the marketplace. Whether or not we have as much energy as Peter Canisius, the important thing is to give what we have and do what we can.

Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197)

"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Generous Christmas to you

The constant jingle-jangle of ads this time of year reminds us that it is not too late to get into "the spirit of giving." Most of the time those words are followed by encouragement to run to the local mall for last-minute shopping, but there are many other ways to give as well. We can give of our time, lend an ear, share our table, make a donation, deliver a gift to those who are less fortunate. There are many ways to experience the special feeling that comes from an act of generosity. If there is magic to the season, that is surely it.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198) "He has filled the hungry with good things."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Say yes to the mess

Every birth is an unequivocal "yes" to life. We enter the complexities on earth without any assurance that our lives will be smooth and we won't have difficulties. We don't know whether we will have a disability, experience the trauma of an earthquake or a fire, or struggle with addiction, or feel deep loneliness. Yet in spite of the insecurities, the unknowns, all the possible things that could go wrong, we are somehow willing to risk for life, we are willing to risk for love. Today, in the midst of the busyness of Christmas preparations, take a moment to appreciate the courage it takes to say yes.

Today's readings: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66* (199)

"What, then, will this child be?"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Peace is within our reach

The promise of peace is surely the greatest of all God's rewards. For a human race caught up in the throes of fear and competition year in and year out, the idea that there is a path toward peace is good news indeed. As Christians we believe Jesus was sent to us by God for the specific purpose of showing us the way of peace. Jesus is not only the Prince of Peace, he is peace itself. Embrace Jesus and you embrace peace. Then, as promised, you will be filled with a sense of wholeness, harmony, healing, and hope. What more is there to proclaim but hallelujah!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200)

"The dawn from on high shall break upon us, . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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www.TakeFiveForFaith.com. Licensed for noncommercial use. All rights reserved. Scripture quotes come from the New American Bible.

Contributors: Alice Camille, Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Ann O'Connor, Joel Schorn, Patrice J. Tuohy, and Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.



ST. CLETUS PARISH 2011

December 18th-22nd - Spanish Ministry Christmas Novena - 7:00 p.m.

December 19th - CREDO Nativity Movie at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration/Benediction in church December 20th Christmas Concert - 7:00 p.m.

December 23rd - Spanish Ministry Christmas Spanish Posada 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE 2011

CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00pm...church

2:15pm...morrissey hall

3:30PM...CHURCH

3:45PM...MORRISSEY HALL

5:30PM...CHURCH

7:00PM....CHURCH-SPANISH

10:30PM...CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY



ACCOMPANIMENT:

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

ACCOMPANIMENT

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING VOCALIST/PIANO CHANCEL CHOIR CONTEMPORARY CHOIR SPANISH CHOIR

NEW YEAR'S EVE/NEW YEAR'S DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011 5:00 pm SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am — 12:30 pm spanish



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2011

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

-Luke 1:35

Social Concerns Ministry



The Christmas Food Baskets will be distributed to our local recipients **this** weekend on Sunday. If you took a "Food Basket" tag from the Giving Tree, please bring your basket to

Morrissey Hall on Sunday, December 18, between 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Remember to securely attach your tag to the basket, so we know the size of the family for which it is intended. Thanks for helping make the holidays brighter for a needy family in our community!

Mary Beth Ford

Director of Social Concerns



O COME LET US ADORE HIM! ADVENT OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION AND ADORATION

In the hectic holiday season, take a moment to stop, pause, reflect on the wonder of the Nativity, and worship Jesus in adoration as the wise men did long ago.

The CREDO Committee has organized another miniretreat (similar to the Passion of the Christ event last Lent, which we will offer again next spring).

On December 19, we will show the movie *The Nativity Story* (2007) in Room 98 of the Education Building beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. Even though you know the story, the movie is a chance to reflect on the wonder of the incarnation during the season of Advent. The movie ends with the wise men worshiping the newborn king. At the conclusion of the movie, we will move to the church for Eucharistic Adoration followed by Benediction, so that we too can worship and adore our Savior.

As St. Alphonsus Liguori said, "Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us."

We hope you can join us for the evening. Families are welcome; the movie is rated PG. There will be refreshments during the movie. The movie will last until about 8:45 p.m.. Please feel free to join us in church at 8:45 p.m. if you only wish to attend Adoration and Benediction.



OPLATKI IS AVAILABLE AT THE RECTORY OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

A donation of \$3.50 is requested.

The word "Bethlehem" means "the house of bread." The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity and friendship. Religious family customs bring the truths of faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas Eve customs is the Christmas Wafer. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of all members of the family, those present as well as those who are absent, the head of the house breaks the wafer and distributes it, one piece to each person at the table. The spiritual lesson is this age-old custom is that the unity of the family is grounded in God's love for us. May you experience unity and love through this simple celebration.



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius
Friday: St. John of Kanty
Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas





TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

"The Year of the Teen and Young Adult" Youth Ministry Update!

TEEN FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Registration is ongoing! We are always welcoming newcomers! Please contact Kristen with any questions.

Instead of having December small and large groups, we will be helping Social Concerns Ministry with the Giving Tree this Sunday, December 18. Please confirm which shift you will be working with Kristen.

SOLSBERRY, INDIANA SUMMER MISSION TRIP 2012

We will be traveling to the Solsberry Hill Catholic Retreat Center in Solsberry, Indiana July 29–August 3. We will be serving with Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Worker House, Catholic Relief Services, local food banks and soup kitchens, and similar organizations. More information and registration forms are available on our website this weekend at **www.stcletusparish.com/youth.** Registration and non-refundable deposits will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis and are due by **January 9.** There may be a waiting list, so get yours in early!

OVERNIGHT CHICAGO SERVICE-BASED RETREAT

On Friday & Saturday, January 27/28, we will be staying at the Brother David Darst Center **www.brdaviddarstcenter.org** at 2834 S. Normal, Chicago 60616. We will be doing 2–3 service projects in the city and reflecting/learning about Catholic Social Teaching. Adult chaperones are needed! Registration and fees are due by <u>January 3</u>. All information is available on our website **www.stcletusparish.com/youth**.

ARCHDIOCESAN ALL-NIGHT SKI EVENT 2012

Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4, teens from all over Chicago will be skiing at Chestnut Mountain in Galena. Our bus will depart Friday evening and will return Saturday morning. Adult chaperones are needed! Registration information is available on our website **www.stcletusparish.com/youth.** Forms **and** non-refundable fees are due by **Thursday**, **January 12** as processing is completed through the Archdiocese. **NO LATE APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED!**

GPS RETREAT-GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR SOUL

Father Jacob DuMont with the Legionaries of Christ is offering a retreat for boys' ages 15-20 from December 27 thru January 1 in Cheshire, Connecticut. They will be doing mission work in Manhattan, NY. The cost is \$200 and our vicariate is advertising this event. Please contact me if your are interested.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON OUR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

"Like" St. Cletus Youth Ministry on Facebook! You can do this on our webpage www.stcletusparish.com/youth.

Kristen Maxwell

Youth Ministry

LET US CONTINUE TO REM	EMBER IN PRAYER AL	L THOSE SERVING IN THI	LWILLIAKY
Lt. Cdr. Amy Sloan Bloyd	US Coast Guard	Kevin Lewis	US

Lt. Cdr. Amy Sloan Bloyd	US Coast Guard	Kevin Lewis	USA
Michael Carr	USA	Pfc. Zackus McLoed	
Captain Anthony Cech, Chaplin	USA	Capt. Robert Mele	USAF
Sgt. Franklyn Cuchana	USA	Capt. Steven Muscolino	USA
2nd Lt., Thomas G. Dybicz	USA Ranger	Spf. Kyle Nicholson	USA
Sgt. Michael Fittanto	USA	Pvt. James Reisel	USA
M/Sgt. Patrick Hegeman	USMC	Pfc. Eugene Sapinski	USA
Sgt. Joseph Kaminski	USA	Greg Vlach	USA
		Jake Brooks	USA
		I	



Sunday Collection -December 11, 2011

Total Active Registered Families 2,780

Collection Statistics Amount Collected

of envelopes used - this week 759 \$ 22,866 Envelope Users % of registered families 27% 3,089 Loose Checks/Cash 2,098 Electronic Giving

Weekly Collection Budget: \$27,000 \$28,053 Total

Over (under) Budget \$1,053

This Fiscal Year @ 12/11/11

Actual Sunday Collections \$649,164 Mass attendance is increase Budgeted Sunday Collections 648,000 Fr. Bob, Page 1

YTD Over (Under) than budget \$1,164

Hail Mary... Our prayers are being answered.

Mass attendance is increasing. Keep Praying!

Fr. Bob, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Do not be afraid, Mary." Luke 1:30

It can be a little scary to do as God asks - to give Him the first fruits of our time, talent and treasures. The comforting words the angel spoke to Mary can comfort us, too, when we strive to be good Christian stewards - *Do not be afraid*."

	WEEK	X AT A GLAN	NCE
Monday, December 19	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:45 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	S-98 & C C C MH	Nativity Movie followed by Adoration/Benediction Spanish Christmas Novena Adoration/Benediction Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 20	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S-200 S-Library S-201 C	RCIA Tech Committee Spanish Christmas Novena Fine Arts "Home for Christmas" Concert
Wednesday, December 21	7:00 p.m.	S-201	Spanish Christmas Novena
Thursday, December 22	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	C S-Music S-Band S-Music S-201 S-Music	School Mass Children's Choir Spanish Choir Contemporary Choir Spanish Christmas Novena Chancel Choir
Friday, December 23	School Clos 7:00 p.m.	ed for Christmas V S-98	acation Spanish Christmas Novena/Posada
Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve	See Mas	ss Schedule on pag	5
Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day	Regular	Sunday Masses	
CChurch CVChurch Vestibule MHMorrissey Hall		S RB	School (Education Building) Rectory Basement

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Cletus Catholic Parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago is a Christian community of believers and followers of Christ Jesus. We call and welcome all to join our family of faith as we seek to live the Gospel values in our daily lives, community and world. We are committed to providing spiritual nourishment through the worship of God, celebration of the sacraments, Christian education, and use of our time, talent and treasure in serving others with compassion and love.

MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am,

11:00am, 12:30pm (Spanish)

Weekdays: Mon. thru Sat. 8:00am **Evening before Holy Day: 7:00pm**

Holy Day: 6:30am, 8:00am

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 11:30am. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Rectory office (708-352-6209).

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 (708-215-5407).

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Adoration begins following the 8:00am Mass and continues during the day until 6:15pm the first Tuesday of the month.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed at 6:15pm followed by Benediction.

Hispanic Adoration continues from 7:00pm until 8:00pm.

CONFESSIONS

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

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

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

Sunday: 8:00am-1:00pm

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Elizabeth Goellner-McLean Corresponding Secretary:

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George Pach (Rel. Ed.)

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Jim Matthews Development Ministry: Ed Burke Staff Representative: Paulette Bolton Hispanic Ministry: Silvia Casas

Louis Lopez Social Concerns: Dick Ford Peggy Meidell

Parish Life: Fr. Edgar Rodriguez

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