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## St. Cletus Canticle

600 W. 55th Street - La Grange, IL 60525

(708) 352-6209 Rectory

(708) 215-5440 Español

(708) 352-4820 School

[www.stcletusparish.com](http://www.stcletusparish.com)

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2013



**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 9 – December 15, 2013

Day	Time	Intentions
Monday	8:00 a.m.	Tony Frasca, Special Intention for Laura & Michael Brooks
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Estrella Pardilla
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Robert Kunkel, Dr. Julio Battistoni, John Dunbar Battistoni
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Aaliyah Jade Gedminas, James Vonesh, Mary Jane Manley
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Tom Kigin, Grabowski Family, Erik Geyer, Stanley Nykiel
Saturday	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Purgatorial Society Nancy (from the Flame), Georgia Popp, Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Robert Staniszewski
Sunday	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Nancy & Mario Maturo, Thelma LaFido, Charles Fogarty, John Patrick McGinley Gienia & Adam Muller-Special Intention Victims of Typhoon: Especially Elsie, Erlinda, and Cobacha Family Marcia Shishman, Bob Pieranunzi, Josephine Sorrentino Jill Heidemann, Robert Kunkel, Jack O'Donnell, John Joyce, Harry, Sandy & John Fisher Nicolas Arambula



Please remember our sick in your prayers: Ron Ziemba, Loretta Johncola, Catherine Mlot, Denise Rowalka, Marty Weber, Barbara Kotus, Hector Gonzalez, Donna Cameron, Dave McCoy, Eric Sanchez, Anna Mae McCormick, Sharon Mylan, Mary Jamrozik, Margaret Bauer Fountain, Christine Anderson Rita, Shellye Bolton, Emily Devine, Gerda Dorso, Betty Niwa, Karen Stoltman, Judy Duque, Mark Bergnach, Joan Curtin, Phil Hodak, Nancy Ptak, Jennie Boerste, John Duda, George Duda, Steven Onusaitis, Lorraine Walter, Pam Wilson, Loretta Harwood, Marilyn Matesevac, Joe Butkus, Elizabeth Dougherty, Barbara Stamm, Teddy Kowalski, and Frances Klimcke. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound and are unable to attend Mass.

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS "SHARE IN THE CARE" SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, DECEMBER 7/8

This weekend we will have a second collection for the Retired Religious. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who offered their lives in service to others. Your gift provides basic necessities such as prescription drugs and nursing care. Please be generous. Envelopes are available in the pews.



*Bridget O'Connor & Matthew Matkovich*

### PARISH FORGIVENESS SERVICE

***BROTHERS AND SISTERS, ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO CHRIST IS A NEW PERSON. THE PAST IS FORGOTTEN AND EVERYTHING IS NEW. GOD HAS DONE IT ALL. HE HAS SENT CHRIST TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND US. AND HE HAS GIVEN US THE WORK OF MAKING PEACE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND OTHERS. WHAT WE MEAN IS THAT GOD IS IN CHRIST, OFFERING PEACE AND FORGIVENESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD."*** (2 COR. 5:17-19)

**W**e have another opportunity to be graced by God's peace and extend it to others through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Parish Forgiveness Service will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Monday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church. Advent is a time to mend quarrels, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to pray for peace. What better way to "Be watchful! Be Alert! WE do not know the day nor the hour."



## **NOTES FROM FATHER BOB...**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2013**

*A teacher once asked her class of ten-year olds: "What would you do if one day there was a ring at your front door and when you opened it you found our Lord standing on the doorstep?" One little boy knew what he would do. "I'd run upstairs," he said, "and I'd get the big bible from my Mom's room and I'd hand it over to our Lord and I'd say: 'Jesus, this is your life!'"*

*The boy was closer to the mark than his teacher may have realized. Of course something like three-quarters of the Bible was written before Jesus was born – it's the part we call the Old Testament, the part which usually provides the first of our Sunday readings. Naturally, the Old Testament can't speak directly of Jesus' life and teachings, and yet without it our understanding of him would be impoverished; without it, his life's story would have no context, it would seem to have been parachuted in from nowhere. We'd be meeting him in two dimensions rather than three, so to say, in black and white rather than in color. St. Paul says that "everything that was written long ago in the scriptures" – he's thinking, of course, of the Old Testament – "was meant to teach us." It has not lost its significance. The point is perfectly illustrated in the readings we've heard today.*

*In the first, Isaiah, who lived eight centuries before the birth of Christ, looks towards a time when God's people will rejoice in a ruler on whom the Spirit of the Lord will rest, who will rule with justice, who will bring peace, who will fill the country with knowledge of the Lord. The responsorial psalm, also from the Old Testament of course, takes up the same theme – a coming king who will rule "from sea to sea", who "will save the poor...and the needy" and "have pity on the weak" and in whose days "justice shall flourish."*

*When we turn to the gospel, there is John the Baptist crying out: "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." And if the kingdom is close at hand, so too is its king, the king that was promised long ago and the promises of the old are about to be fulfilled in Jesus. And so the call goes out: Make ready for the coming of the King! Without the Old Testament we would never have known how perfectly Jesus fulfills the hopes and yearnings of men and women who lived long before him. It would be like hearing the climax of the story of our salvation without hearing the lead-in-the final chapter without the first.*

*In Advent we are invited to share in the longings and yearnings of Old Testament times so that we may celebrate worthily the birth of the King at Christmas. The infant of the stable is the fulfillment of the whole of the Old Testament, the realization of everyone's hopes and dreams, and he is also destined to come again in glory at the end of time. We are to repent, says John the Baptist: that means that we're to have a change of heart. It may well result in our finding a little extra time for prayer and scripture reading during these days before Christmas, but the main part of the preparation will be the way we lead our daily lives. After insisting that "everything written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us", Paul sets before his readers some very practical consequences of listening to the scriptures; you must live together in harmony, he says, striving "to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you" – apparently squabbles were not unknown among the early Christians! A similar appeal is made to us today: how can we be ready to receive the Prince of Peace if we are not at peace with our brothers and sisters?*

*But there is something more. Paul speaks of the immense hope that the scriptures bring, for they are centered upon Jesus who is the God of hope in our midst. And so Paul concludes with a prayer – which unfortunately is not included in today's reading – a beautiful prayer which includes in it such wonderful Christian key words as hope, joy, peace, faith, and the power of the Spirit. It's a prayer that we might make our own on this Advent Sunday. 'May the God of hope fill (us) with all joy and peace in (our) faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit we may be rich in hope' (Romans 15:13). Amen.*

*Advent Peace,*

*Fr. Bob  
Pastor*



# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Source of Everlasting Hope

Father, you are the source of everlasting hope.  
 In this holy season,  
 help us to heed the cry of John the Baptist  
 to prepare a way for the Lord.  
 As we await him,  
 may peace and harmony abide in your holy Church  
 and in your holy creation.  
 Direct our lives in good works.  
 With strengthened hearts  
 and lamps bright with expectation,  
 may we be a sign of your love  
 and be made ready for the Lord who is to come,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Sunday, December 8, 2013**

**Live in Harmony with One Another**

Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12. During this holy time of Advent, God's Word gives us encouragement so that, as Saint Paul writes, "we might have hope." For our God, Paul tells us, is the source of "steadfastness and encouragement." The prophet Isaiah announces the coming of a wise ruler ("a shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse") who will judge with righteousness and bring peace—a peace so profound that even natural enemies will live in harmony. Is this the "kingdom of heaven" John the Baptist says is so near? The only way to welcome the kingdom, he says, is to repent of all our unjust behavior. Through repentance and conversion, we "prepare the way of the Lord," and we must demonstrate our conversion in our deeds.

John the Baptist describes the Lord's judgment with the chilling but instructive image of a farmer separating the chaff from the wheat and burning the chaff. Until the time of judgment, he teaches, good and bad will coexist all around us. We must recognize the difference and reform our lives through penance and just actions. In today's Psalm, we continue to sing about justice and the fullness of peace.

Through our Baptism we have already committed ourselves wholly to Christ. The repentance that John calls us to is a continuous work, which we practice daily. What will this work look like in each of our very different lives? How will the Spirit lead us?





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 9

#### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today we celebrate the patronal feastday of the United States of America. Mary's Immaculate Conception reminds us of Christ's redemptive mission. God preserved Mary from original sin at the outset so that she could be the mother of Christ, who would save us. Washed of our sins and joined to Christ at our Baptism, we are invited into his saving work. Do you have an image of Mary in your home? Place flowers or light a candle in front of it. Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.

### Tuesday, December 10

#### Shepherd and Lamb

Jesus, our gentle shepherd, is also the Lamb of God who feeds us, gathers us, and leads us to our heavenly Father. In the celebration of the Eucharist, we receive the Lamb of God. The simple gifts of bread and wine become the very Body and Blood of Christ. As we prepare for the birth of Christ at Bethlehem and also the Second Coming of Christ, we can take heart in Jesus the Good Shepherd, who calls us when we stray and rejoices each time we approach the banquet table of heaven and earth. Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3 and 10ac, 11–12, 13; Matthew 18:12–14.

### Wednesday, December 11

#### Saint Damasus I

Pope Damasus (c304–384), whose memorial may be celebrated today, lived in very turbulent times in the early Church, yet survived to see the edict in 380 that declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman state. Damasus calls to mind two qualities of good leadership: alertness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and service. During Advent, pray for all those who minister in the Church, that

they "shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with eagles" (Isaiah 40:31). Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.

### Thursday, December 12

#### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A young Native American maiden dressed like an Aztec princess appeared at Tepeyac to a poor Indian, St. Juan Diego, on December 12, 1531. Consider attending an early morning celebration of *Las Mañanitas* in a parish nearby where Latino Catholics come together to celebrate in word and song. Place an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe near your Advent wreath on this day, and pray that people of every race, language, and way of life will be afforded the dignity due them as a child of God. Today's Readings: Zechariah 2:14–17; Psalm: Judith 13:8bcde, 19; Luke 1:26–38.

### Friday, December 13

#### Memorial of Saint Lucy

The Church has honored the example of St. Lucy, martyred in the year 304, by adding her name to the First Eucharistic Prayer. Lucy means "light" and in Swedish homes today, the oldest daughter wears a crown of lit candles and serves breakfast to her family. Today's feast gives us a glimpse of the light that is breaking through the darkness of winter. Light candles in your home today to dispel the darkness. How will you let your light shine? Today's Readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 11:16–19.

### Saturday, December 14

#### Memorial of Saint John of the Cross

John's life and writings, so full of light and darkness, express his experience of prison, the Cross, and the ecstasy of mystical union with God. He was ordained as a Carmelite priest in 1567 and was a contemporary of Theresa of Jesus (Avila). Where do you find light in the midst of darkness? How might you bring light to someone trapped in the darkness of winter depression? Today's Readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.





**ST. CLETUS PARISH 2013  
PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

**December 11th Room 98 in the Education Building  
6:30 p.m. Mass**

**December 3rd-11th Spanish Ministry  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena  
7:00 p.m.**

**December 12th - Spanish Ministry  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration  
5:00 a.m. "Mañanitas" (morning greetings)  
7:00 p.m. Mass - Reception to follow in MH**

**December 14th  
Tower Coral-Spirit of the Season  
8:00 p.m. in Church  
December 15th  
4:00 p.m. in Church**

**December 16th  
Parish Forgiveness Reconciliation Service  
7:00 p.m.**

**December 16th-23rd - Spanish Ministry  
Christmas Novena  
7:00 p.m.**

**December 18th Church  
6:30 p.m. Mass**

**December 21st & 22nd - Spanish Ministry  
Christmas Posadas & Rosary  
7:00 p.m. - Room 98 in the Education Building**

**CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY  
MASS SCHEDULE  
2013**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

7:00AM...CHURCH  
8:00AM...CHURCH  
9:30AM...CHURCH  
11:00AM...CHURCH  
12:30PM...CHURCH/SPANISH



**ACCOMPANIMENT**

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE  
HISPANIC CHOIR  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
CHANCEL CHOIR

**ACCOMPANIMENT**

ORGAN/CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING  
VOCALIST/PIANO  
CHANCEL CHOIR  
CONTEMPORARY CHOIR  
HISPANIC CHOIR





## SAINT CLETUS PARISH

*Living our Faith, Building our Future.*

### *About the update.....*

Every month in the update presented below, current information is given about the Capital Campaign. I would like to briefly comment on the numbers shown below. First, the great news is that the 'Total Collected to date' jumped by over \$50,000 this past month – thanks to new pledges, new gifts and payments on pledges received this past month. A number of people responded to the Capital Campaign reminders sent out by the rectory staff, and others responded to the "Thank You" cards sent out by the children in religious education and the school children thanking you for your contribution – whether it was spiritual, financial or promotional.

The number of those contributing to the Campaign shows a considerable increase from 863 to 905, almost 30% of the parishioners. The parish staff reviewed all the names of the parishioners contributing and adjusted the numbers accordingly. Thank you for your support!

Although the Update shows more parishioners contributing to the Campaign, the total amount pledged shows a small decrease of about \$6,000. The increase in contributions was offset by pledges cancelled due to the deaths of a few of our supporting parishioners as well as the cancellation of a few pledges for financial reasons.

I thank you for your continued support of the Capital Campaign and wish you a peaceful Advent and a blessed and Merry Christmas.

*Roman*



### Year-end Tax Update...

One of the tax provisions that will expire on December 31, 2013 is the IRA Charitable Contribution Deduction. This is the law that allows tax-free distributions directly from IRAs to charities, by individuals 70 ½ or older. Since this law is expiring it may be to your benefit to maximize your contribution or even your unpaid pledge amount to the "Living our Faith, Building our Future" Capital Campaign before December 31, 2013. This is particularly beneficial to those individuals who generally do not itemize their deductions or who have not yet taken their annual Required Minimum Distributions from their IRAs for 2013. As such, this distribution can be transferred directly to St. Cletus without paying income tax on the amount so transferred. If you are 70 ½ or older and have an IRA, check with your tax professional to see if you can take advantage of this tax incentive before year-end. Cash is not the only donation that is acceptable! Other kinds of assets such as stock or real estate can also be used as gifts to the capital campaign, and if they are appreciated assets, may produce attractive benefits. Please contact Bobbie Kallal at the rectory for more information about these types of contributions.

### Update

Families Contributing with Pledge	630
Families Contributing with non-pledge gift	275
Total Families Contributing	905
Total Contributions through Family Pledges and non-pledged gifts	\$3,049,311
Total Collected to date	\$1,755,677

**SECOND COLLECTION - Weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – please be generous!**

## Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

# Explore

Jesus often sent people he encountered into action saying, "Go!" "Go; your faith has made you well," he told the man born blind. "Go, sell what you own," he told the man born rich. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," he told the Apostles. Each case is an invitation to explore a new way of living in the light of grace.

Parents begin to explore a whole new way of living when children come into our lives. We learn to tend to our children's ailments, whether physical or psychological; we sacrifice immediate ease and pleasure for their physical, spiritual, and moral welfare; and we teach in both word and example what it means to follow Jesus, who tells us, Go! Explore what it means to live in the Kingdom of God. —Tom McGrath



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## YEAR OF STRONG CATHOLIC PARENTS

The **ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO** in partnership with **LOYOLA PRESS**.

For more parenting resources: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)  
[www.CatholicParentsChicago.org](http://www.CatholicParentsChicago.org)

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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30+  
**Thursday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Second Sunday of Advent  
**Monday:** Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Tuesday:** International Human Rights Day  
**Wednesday:** St. Damasus I  
**Thursday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
**Friday:** St. Lucy  
**Saturday:** St. John of the Cross

## WONDERS



The normal response to a surprise is amazement, gratitude, and delight. By definition, we don't anticipate surprises. Their occurrence reminds us that we cannot always guess or shape the future. Granted, we do what we can do; we attend to the daily tasks, as we must. For grace is surely here in the mundane, and God is in the details. But God is in the happy surprises, too.

Today's readings are filled with startling developments. We hear the clarion cry of one of those rare prophets announcing the coming of the Lord. Isaiah proclaims startling, surprising images of the nearly impossible reconciliation of opposites: calf and lion, leopard and young goat, child and serpent. Isaiah's vision sees all of these creatures living in harmony. This is Eden again; this is paradise. It is God's surprise and promise.



## Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2013

The earth shall be filled with  
knowledge of the LORD,  
as water covers the sea.

— *Isaiah 11:9*



## Social Concerns Update!

### GIVING TREE REMINDERS

Please remember to place your Giving Tree gifts in the Madonna della Strada chapel in the church narthex this weekend with the tag **securely attached** to the package. If you have more than one package for the same person, please attach a gift tag indicating his/her name and family number, to make sure all gifts go to the correct person. **The gifts will be organized for distribution after the 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 8.**

- **Bring your Food Baskets to Morrissey Hall on December 15**, from 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. There will be volunteers curbside to help carry in your baskets. 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.

*Mary Beth Ford*

Director of Social Concerns

## Youth Ministry Update!

### 2013-2014 Teen Faith Formation Program

Our next group gathering will be this Sunday, December 8, from 2:00-6:15 p.m. All High School Age Teens are welcome to join us! We will be sorting gifts for our annual giving tree project! Please let me know what times you can come to help!

### GIVING TREE

We are looking for Teens to help with our annual giving tree project! December 8 and 15. Please contact me to sign up!

### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014

**December 8 - Giving Tree 2:00-6:15 p.m. (St. Cletus)**

**December 15 - Giving Tree 7:00 a.m. –6:00 p.m.**

**Pizza and White Elephant gifts to follow until 7:30 p.m. (St. Cletus)**

**Freshman/ Sophomore Retreat** is January 10-12, 2014 and the Theme is *Hidden Treasure*. The permission form can be found on our website and they are due back by December 15! Join us for a weekend away!

*Amanda Birth*

Youth Ministry Director

### DINING FOR DOLLARS

**St. Cletus School** will wrap up our 2013 “fun” raising Dining for Dollars on Monday, December 9, at McDonalds (5701 S. La Grange Rd. in Countryside). Help support St. Cletus School programs when you **dine in** or **drive thru** for dinner at McDonalds between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 9. Stock up on burgers or buy nuggets for your crew to enjoy during the Bears game that night. **No flyer required!!!** We hope to see you there!



### MARY AND MARTHA

We hope you have been saving little items for the Briar Place residents Christmas packages. We will be putting our gift bags together in the Rectory Basement on Thursday, December 19, at 9:00 a.m. Small items e.g. lotions, shampoo, combs, tooth brushes, toothpaste, denture cleaner, deodorant, playing cards, small books, and jewelry are needed. We usually assemble 70 bags. Please drop off your donations at the rectory. Thank you for your kindness.

## St. Cletus School Update



### St. Cletus' Math Team Takes First Place

Congratulations to the math team from St. Cletus for their success at the annual Nazareth Academy Math Contest! Our school's math team placed first for the small school division. In addition Andy Schramka placed first and Luke Rohrbacher placed 4th in the individual ranks.

Thank you to the whole team (pictured above from left to right) Neil Doherty, Luke Rohrbacher, Phallyn Habercoss, Lauren Piskorski, and Andy Schramka and Coach Pat Rotunno for representing the high quality of academics provided at St. Cletus.



### Author Visit and Book Fair

Tom Watson, the author of "Stick Dog," "Stick Dog Wants a Hot Dog" and the upcoming "Stick Dog Chases a Pizza," visited St. Cletus School on Nov. 24. The children and their parents enjoyed Tom Watson's humorous presentation about his books. He also taught the children how to draw the characters in his books and asked for suggestions from the children for his future Stick Dog books. His visit coincided with the school's annual Book Fair.



### Pumpkin Book Reports

Fourth grade recently completed a book report using their imaginations to depict their favorite character using a pumpkin. Students read a book of their choice and analyzed their favorite character from the text. They then used their creativity to decorate a pumpkin to look like the chosen character. They identified key character traits and provided evidence from the text to support the character qualities. Students presented their pumpkins and summarized their stories for the class.

### Purifying Liquids in the Science Lab

Third graders have just learned how difficult it is for seeds to germinate in anything but water. They tried orange juice, coffee, Coke, vinegar, oil and milk with no success. They are now in the process of purifying water filled with dirt, leaves, sticks and grass. The students have been adding aluminum potassium sulfate and calcium oxide to separate out the solids. Students are now ready to filter their water through charcoal and three different grades of sand. They are definitely hoping their water will look much cleaner than when they received it!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Dining 4 Dollars - Countryside McDonalds ..... December 9  
 School Christmas Performance ..... December 11  
 School Mass ..... December 12

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL

**Jolene Hillgoth, President**

(708) 215-5426 | [jhillgoth@stcletusparish.com](mailto:jhillgoth@stcletusparish.com)

**Margaret Hayes, Principal**

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SAINT CLETUS  
FINE ARTS SERIES

28th ANNUAL

The Tower Chorale

The Tower Chorale  
presents

**SPIRIT OF THE SEASON**

Patrick Godon  
Music Director

Accompanied by Dennis Zimmer  
on organ and a brass quartet

Guest appearance by the  
St. Cletus Youth Choirs  
Karen Ziemba, Director

ADULTS: \$20  
SR/STU: \$17  
CHILDREN 10 & UNDER  
FREE

DECEMBER  
14TH  
15TH

SATURDAY  
8:00PM  
SUNDAY  
4:00PM

INFO: TOWERCHORALE.ORG

ST. CLETUS CHURCH  
600 W 55TH STREET  
LA GRANGE

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THIS PROGRAM IS  
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## Upcoming St. Cletus Fine Arts Series Performances:

SUNDAY  
MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>  
4 PM

**Fr. Ken Baker  
& Friends**

Proceeds benefit  
the St. Cletus  
Capital Campaign

LTHS North Campus  
Reber Center  
100 South Brainard Ave  
La Grange, IL 60525

SUNDAY  
APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>  
4 PM

**An Afternoon of  
Chamber Music**

Grant Street Quartet  
with Jeffrey Panko, Piano

St. Cletus Church  
600 W 55<sup>th</sup> St. La Grange, IL

The St. Cletus Fine Arts Series was created in 2009 to present high quality musical performances outside of the liturgical setting. Most concerts are presented free of charge. Freewill offerings are collected to support the St. Cletus Fine Arts Series or other selected charities as announced. More information at <http://stcletusparish.com/our-parish/fine-arts-series/>



**MINISTRY OF CARE MEETING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 @ 12:30 P.M.  
RECTORY BASEMENT**

Will all Ministers of Care please make every effort to attend.

This meeting is also open to anyone who is interested in ministering to those in La Grange Hospital or to the homebound. Please feel free to attend and hear about this very special ministry.

Deacon Stuart  
(708) 215-5407  
[sheyes@stcletusparish.com](mailto:sheyes@stcletusparish.com)

**ADVENT IMAGERY: EXPERIENCING THE  
SEASON THROUGH SYMBOL AND RITUAL**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11  
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**FACILITATOR: DAVID F. SCHIMMEL, M.DIV., M.A.**

The Advent scriptures paint the liturgical season with varied images that converge into a single motif. Whether contemplating wild and domesticated animals, the wilderness and farmland, pregnancy and unfolding family stories, or justice from judges and neighbors, the vision is interconnectedness, and the challenge is to nurture mutual relationships. The time together will explore the symbols of and ritualize the longing for walking in God's paths.

**COST: \$30**

All programs are held at The Well Spirituality Center, located at The Congregation of St. Joseph, 1515 W. Ogden Ave., La Grange Park, 60526. To learn more about The Well's programs or to register, please call (708) 482-5048 or email [thewell@csjoseph.org](mailto:thewell@csjoseph.org).



**CHRISTMAS WAFERS PLATKI**

The Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) have arrived. If you would like to purchase them, please come to the Rectory office. Each envelope (three per envelope) is \$2.

**A NOTE FROM ST. CLETUS WOMEN'S CLUB**

Throughout the last several years, the St. Cletus Women's Club has donated money to St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Cletus Social Concerns, and, most recently, to the St. Cletus Capital Campaign. The gloves, hats, scarves and slippers that were generously donated by Women's Club members and their guests at our annual Christmas event have been truly appreciated by the St. Cletus Food Pantry clients.

After much consideration, the Women's Club will not be hosting the luncheon this Christmas season. Although we have enjoyed planning this festive event, meeting many new women, and supporting the needs of the parish and our community, the Women's Club currently lacks the leadership and structure that is necessary for it to be a purposeful entity of our congregation. We have gained an overwhelming appreciation for the beauty, talent and strength of our women, but feel that the time has come to step down and pass the baton to the next generation, should anyone be interested. We remain hopeful that the St. Cletus Women's Club can one day have a greater presence within our faith community, so please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and talents you have generously shared. Merry Christmas to you and your families!

Sincerely,

Sheila Benson (708) 579-1299  
Karen Mulcrone (708) 579-5859  
Email: [womensclub@stcletusparish.com](mailto:womensclub@stcletusparish.com)

**HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE**

On Friday December 13, at 7:30 p.m., Divine Infant Parish, 1601 Newcastle, in Westchester will hold a pro-life Holy Hour with solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The hour will contain scripture, the Litany of the Precious Blood of Jesus, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Our worship will be enriched by the sacred music of Ecclesia Choir directed by Timothy Woods. The monstrance is courtesy of the Pope John Paul II Eucharistic Adoration Association, which was blessed by the Holy Father just prior to his death in 2005. You will not want to miss the beauty of this pro-life event – nor will you easily forget it. Please join us as we entreat God's mercy for human life. Contact Deacon James Sinacore at (708) 343-2263 if you have questions.

**“Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it.”**

**-Blessed Mother Teresa**



### Sunday Collections – November 24 and December 1, 2013

Total Active Registered Families      2,753  
Collection Statistics  
 # of envelopes used - this week      621  
 % of registered families      23%

**Weekly Collection Budget:    \$27,000**

**This Fiscal Year @ 12-1-13**

Actual Sunday Collections    \$ 559,073

Budgeted Sunday Collections    594,000

YTD Over (Under) than budget \$ ( 34,927)

**Amount Collected**

11-24	12-1	
\$ 18,827	\$25,663	Envelope Users
2,939	3,457	Loose Checks/Cash
2,098	1,674	Electronic Giving
<b>\$23,864</b>	<b>\$30,794</b>	<b>Total</b>

*Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation. Please help us to increase our weekly giving by a few extra dollars so we can be prepared to meet our weekly financial obligations. Thank you,*

*Fr. Bob Clark, Pastor*

WEEK AT A GLANCE			
DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION/ ROOM #	EVENT
Sunday, December 8	7:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	C-Narthex S-98 S-98 C	Giving Tree Gifts Returned Welcome Committee Hospitality Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena
Monday, December 9	7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	C MH	Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Men's Basketball
Tuesday, December 10	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	S-200 MH Rectory-DR MH	YM Teen Drop-in Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena RCIA YM Church League
Wednesday, December 11	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	S-98 MH C S-200 MH	Advent Mass Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena School Christmas Performance Baptism Prep Class YM Church League
Thursday, December 12	5:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	C C S-Music S-Music S-Music C MH	Our Lady of Guadalupe School Mass Children's Choir Cantor's Rehearsal Chancel Choir Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast
Friday, December 13	2:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	MH Lobby S-Music	MANNA Cash & Carry Hispanic Choir
Saturday, December 14	5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	S-98 C	MANNA Cash & Carry "Spirit of the Season" Fine Arts Concert
Sunday, December 15	7:00 a.m. 7:30-11:00 a.m.. 12:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	S-98 MH RB C	MANNA Cash & Carry Food Basket & Giving Tree Ministry of Care Meeting "Spirit of the Season" Fine Arts Concert
<b>C...Church Narthex...Church Vestibule (East &amp; West) MH...Morrissey Hall</b>			<b>S...School (Education Building) RB...Rectory Basement</b>

### 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).

### EUCCHARISTIC 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

### ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

#### DEPARTMENT

#### POSITION

#### Administration

Fr. Bob Clark

Pastor

Jolene Hillgoth

President

Margaret Hayes

Principal

#### Executive Committee

Mike Pusatera

Chairperson

Marty Mulcrone

Vice Chairperson

Heather Alpe

Secretary

#### Finance Committee

Mike Magee

Bob Gray

#### Policy

Shawn Temple

#### Development & Marketing

Michael Gilmartin

Chris McLean

Zlata Kozul-Naumovski

Ron Skrip

Ann Foley

Rachel Luna

Doug Rausch

#### Liaisons

Mary DeGroot

FSA President

Kevin Dahill

Athletic Assoc President

Chris McLean

Tech Comm Liaison

### BULLETIN ARTICLES

The deadline for Canticle article submission is 5:00 p.m. Friday, one full week prior to Sunday's publication. Articles may be submitted electronically to [pdrobny@stcletusparish.com](mailto:pdrobny@stcletusparish.com).



CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Cletus Church #9238  
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Pat Drobny/Bulletin Editor  
Debbie Lestarczyk-Bus Mgr (708-352-6209)

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS