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REV. EDGAR RODRIGUEZ

Associate Pastor

REV. KENNETH BAKER

Associate Pastor

REV. RON ANGLIM

Weekend Associate

REV. MR. JESÚS & SILVIA CASAS

Deacon Couple

REV. MR. STUART & MARLENE HEYES

Deacon Couple

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Ken Baker/Paulette Bolton

Worship

(708) 215-5422

Laura Langseth Brasky

Music Ministry

(708) 215-5423

Deacon Jesús Casas

Hispanic Ministry

(708) 215-5440

Amanda Birth

Youth Ministry

(708) 215-5419

Mary Beth Ford

Social Concerns

(708) 215-5418

Deacon Stuart Heyes

Ministry of Care

(708) 215-5407

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Business Manager (708) 215-5405

Christopher Wagner

Technology

(708) 215-5420

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Margaret Hayes

Principal

Mary Lee Krieger

Administrative Assistant

Jeannie Scalzitti

Receptionist/Office Assistant

(708) 352-4820

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Paulette Bolton

Director of Parish Catechesis/Formation

Holly Kallal

Administrative Assistant

(708) 352-2383

RECTORY STAFF

Patricia Drobny

Bulletin Editor/Office Assistant

Bobbie Kallal

Human Resources/Records

Mary Zwolinski

Parish Accounting

(708) 352-6209



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 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 23 – December 29, 2013

Day	Time	Intentions		
Monday	8:00 a.m.	Buczek Family, Nan Rettig, Benjamin Patrick Hyink		
Tuesday 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		
Wednesday 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		
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Jozef & James Slowik		
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Louis & Sophie Egielski		
Saturday	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Tom Lihosit, Nicolas Arambula Rev. Charles Gallagher, Georgia Popp, Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Michael Liszeo		
Sunday	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Rev. Charles Gallagher, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Dolores E. Kuchta, Frank Wojcik Rev. Charles Gallagher, Sam & Maria Scopelliti Rev. Charles Gallagher, Len Wehrmeister Rev. Charles Gallagher, Rich Zdunczyk Rev. Charles Gallagher, Nicolas Arambula		

Please remember our sick in your prayers: Sue Engstrom, Ray Salstedt, Ron Ziemba, Loretta Johncola, Catherine Mlot, Denise Rowalka, Marty Weber, Barbara Kotus, Hector Gonzalez, Donna Cameron, Dave McCoy, Eric Sanchez, McCormick, Sharon Anna Mae Mylan, Mary Jamrozik, Margaret Bauer Fountain, Christine Anderson Rita, Shellye Bolton, Emily Devine, Gerda Dorso, Niwa, Karen Betty Stoltman, Bergnach, Judy Duque, Mark Joan 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.

Please know we pray daily for the sick and the dying.



Bridget O'Connor & Matthew Matkovich



RECTORY HOLIDAY HOURS

December 24 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

December 25 CLOSED
December 26 CLOSED

December 27 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. December 31, 2013 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

January 1, 2014 CLOSED

PLEASE NOTE: December 26

ALL facilities will be closed after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

January 1, 2014 CLOSED

The office will reopen Thursday, January 2, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.





NOTES FROM FATHER BOB...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2013

Our faith, which comes to us with fragrant incense, flickering candles, consecration and communion, now comes to us in the human forms and in the animal shapes of the Christmas crib. If God was mysterious before, coming down on the altar in sacramental sign and raised host, now it is marvelous to see with our own eyes, that he was very, very human also. He loved animals and was surrounded by them. He loved children and came to them like this, a helpless babe, but cozy and warm. This unseen, unknowable God, dwelling in unapproachable light, is here and now with us in flesh and blood. He is part of this world's pageant and part of our parish life. He is part of life, with you and with me. That phrase "God is with us" makes sense now. God is here and I have found him.

Like us, Jesus has a Mom and Dad who love him very much. They watch over him and take care of him, so that, like us, he can grow up safe and sound and surrounded by love. He has a home in a village called Nazareth. His Dad is a carpenter. He grows up and goes to school like all boys and girls do. This is a wonderful kind of God, one who wants to be exactly like we are. This kind of God we can talk to, because we can "see" him and get to know him. From watching his life and how he lives it, from studying his behavior, we can really get to know what kind of person this Jesus is. Risen from the dead and now living forever, this Lord is also flesh and is our brother and friend. For that is why he came...quite simply, to be one of us.

This truth, that God has become a human being, forms the opening statement of Paul's letter to the Romans, read to us today. My message to you, says Paul, is that the Son of God took on our human nature, becoming a son of David's race. His name is Jesus, and being God's Son, he was raised from the dead, so that everyone would know that he is the Lord. The Lord is now with you, and with all who call on his name. What Paul tells the Romans in his letter, he now tells us today. We are God's beloved, here in this place, and we are called to be saints.

The Christmas crib warms the heart of every person who looks on it. How could it not? For there, in that tender scene, in the form of a helpless child, we see the tenderness of God. That same child will be helpless once again, when his life is snatched from him on a cross, and once more we will look upon the helplessness of God.

What message is this that God is trying to give us? Why this helplessness, why this vulnerability to the pain of the world? The answer lies in a most forgotten word...the word is "INNOCENCE." Innocence is a total inability to hurt others, and so as such, it is the greatest ability of all. Looking upon the crib, many of us have recognized the face of God in a helpless child. This is the sign that has been given to us, Mary's child. In that child we see, not only the loveliness of God, but also the beauty of every human being.

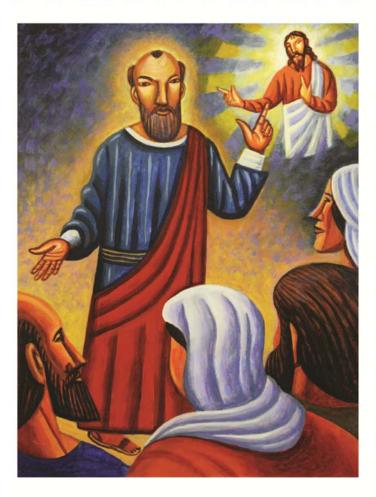
May the joy and "Innocence" of the Christmas Cribs in our Church and homes bring us the realization of how loved we are by this God of LOVE! The prayers and thoughts of all the priests and deacons of the parish, along with your parish staff, wish each of you a blessed, innocent, and holy Christmas. May peace reign in our hearts and homes throughout this holy season and forever.

Blessings Always,

Father Bob

Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Take up the Gift of Apostleship

Father, you who give us signs of your compassion and love through the prophets you called in times past, through the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to your Son, and through the disciples you call in every age. Now help us, we pray, to open ourselves to the gift of apostleship, as Saint Paul urges. Help us to take up our call to serve in the troubled world. We rejoice in the strength and support of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and with the choirs of angels may we sing joyful carols everywhere, so that the way of Christ may be prepared, and our world will be full of faith at the day of Christ's coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 22, 2013 A Pattern for Apostleship

Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm: 24: 1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24. This Sunday's Scriptures are bursting with good news for all of us. For Christians, the First Reading, from Isaiah, makes it clear that Mary and Joseph (the focus of the Gospel) are called to participate in a plan that has been unfolding for hundreds of years—a miraculous plan. Both the liturgy and the writings of the early Church emphasize that Jesus was born of a virgin mother. The response to today's Responsorial Psalm identifies this child as "King of glory," and one of the verses calls us to "seek the face of the God of Jacob," indicating that this royal child is a descendant of the great King David. (Today's O Antiphon is *O Rex Gentium*, O King of Nations.) Even in the midst of confounding the human circumstances that

result from these miraculous events, Mary and Joseph are models of integrity and obedience.

When we read the Gospel together with Paul's assurance that we are all called "to belong to Jesus Christ" and that Christ has given us "apostleship," these readings encourage us to hear and to answer Christ's call. The pattern they provide for our apostleship is profound: Mary and Joseph's deep desire to do God's will, their honesty, and their prayerful, trusting response to their dilemma. St. Augustine went so far as to say that Mary's model of apostleship outweighed even her motherhood in importance (Sermon 25, 7). What does apostleship look like in your life? What exactly does it mean to you "to belong to Jesus Christ"?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 23 O Emmanuel

God is with us! The seventh and greatest O antiphon announces the holy name. What a great gift, that our God is with us as one who knows our experience and who shares in our sufferings and sorrows, our joys and delights. When we walk the Advent pilgrimage, we find our God reborn in us once again. The first letter of each of the O antiphons spelled backwards spells the Latin words *ero*, *cras*, which mean "tomorrow I shall be here." O come, O come Emmanuel! Today's Readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.

Tuesday, December 24 Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

On this night, Eastern European Christians spread straw under the tablecloth and place on it an image of the Christ child, a large white candle (Christ as the "light of the world") and a loaf of bread (Christ as the "bread of life"). The meal includes twelve dishes representing the Twelve Apostles. Italian households traditionally serve fish on this night. What Christmas Eve traditions do you cherish? Today's Readings: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.

Wednesday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord

The Scripture readings proclaimed in the dark of night are some of the most beautiful—full of vivid images, serious teaching, and dramatic story. Isaiah contrasts the "land of deep darkness" in which we have been living with the "great light" of the "Prince of Peace." Paul's Letter to Titus teaches that the Lord has "appeared . . . training us . . . to live . . . self controlled, upright, and godly" lives. The Gospel narrates the beloved words: "Bethlehem . . . Joseph . . . Mary . . . firstborn son . . . manger . . . shepherds . . . angels." The mystery of God born into time surrounds us

once again, always offering more for us to discover. Today's Readings (Mass during the Night): Isaiah 9:1–6; Titus 2:11–14; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13 (Luke 2:11); Luke 2:1–14.

Thursday, December 26 Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr

On this day after Christmas, we are reminded to embrace the whole of the Paschal Mystery (Christ's dying and rising) in every season of the liturgical year. Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused and brought to unwarranted condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. Pray for all those who face discrimination for proclaiming their faith in Jesus Christ, especially those who face a martyr's death. Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.

Friday, December 27 Feast of St. John

The John for whom the Gospel account is named was an Apostle, called "the one whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2). He reclined with Jesus at the Last Supper, stood beneath the Cross, and cared for Jesus's mother. John fervently loved and trusted in the Lord. In whom do we place all our trust? Are you struggling to love God, neighbor, and self? Be open to receive the unconditional love that comes from the Prince of Peace. Today's Readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a and 2–8.

Saturday, December 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

King Herod ordered the slaughter of boys two years old and younger in Bethlehem. This horror lead Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children." Rachel is pictured weeping for a later generation of Israelites who were deported by the Assyrians for a life of captivity. Pray for all children who suffer death and for an end to genocide and abortion in our day. Today's Readings: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.





CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

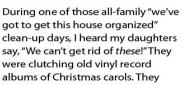
—From *God's Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications. p. 73



The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.
-Luke 1:35

Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

Sing





proclaimed, "We listened to these over and over when we were little!" Even though it was March, we found a turntable in the attic, put on the albums, and enjoyed them once more.

Back in the day, we not only listened to these hymns but sang them together throughout Advent, Christmas, and beyond. The hymns carried the essence of the Gospel and placed it forever in my daughters' hearts. "Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light." So, no, we didn't get rid of those albums. It would have been like tossing out the family Bible. —Tom McGrath

YEAR OF STRONG CATHOLIC PARENTS

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For more parenting resources: www.loyolapress.com www.CatholicParentsChicago.org

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10,

14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5,

27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,

29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;

Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;

Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;

Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6,

8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8;

Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;

Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. John of Kanty Tuesday: Vigil of Christmas

Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Thursday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins;

Boxing Day (Canada)

Friday: St. John

Saturday: The Holy Innocents





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

New Year's Eve/New Year's Day

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2013

8:00am

5:00PM-VIGIL MASS FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2014

9:00AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

CHRISTMAS Season Family Prayer

Loving God,

As we journey through the Christmas season, we know that we walk with you. You bring home and joy to our lives through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fill our hearts with your love that we may support one another in our family.
Guide us to treat each other with respect.
dignity, and care as your creation

Give our family the strength to face any challenges that will come our way. We know that you are with us always, and through you all things are possible.

Help us as a family to reach out to others and find a way to help people in need. We remember that we bring Christ Into the world for other by sharing your love.

We ask you to bless our family.

May we be living signs of your presence
by the way we live our lives each day
of the Christmas season and beyond.

Amen.



St. Cletus School News







The kindergartners began a two week long gingerbread unit. They read several different versions of the gingerbread story and rotated through centers related to these stories. Some of the favorite centers were the gingerbread button sort, gingerbread computer games, gingerbread scented play-doh and the art center where they created their own gingerbread boys and girls.

The children enjoyed comparing the different stories to see which characters were the same and which characters were different. They wrote about their favorite gingerbread story ending and created a bar graph to see which story was the class favorite.

We ended the unit by making our own gingerbread man which we decorated and put in the oven just as the little old man and the little old woman did in the stories we read. If you were anywhere near our kindergarten classrooms that day, you may have heard our gingerbread man yelling, "Run, run as fast as you can you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man," as he ran right out of the oven! He sent us on a wild chase through the school, and although we couldn't catch him, we were so happy he left us with a sweet treat to enjoy in our classrooms.







DATES TO REMEMBER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL

Jolene Hillgoth, President

(708) 215-5426 | jhillgoth@stcletusparish.com

Margaret Hayes, Principal

(708) 352-4820 | mhayes@stcletusparish.com

DUE TO THE EARLY PRINTING OF THE CANTICLE THE SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR 12-15-13 WILL BE PRINTED IN NEXT WEEKEND'S CANTICLE.

"The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2

How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we all have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without Him nothing would be possible.

ST. CLETUS INTRODUCES ONLINE GIVING

St. Cletus has begun accepting online donations through GiveCentral, our new online donation service. GiveCentral is a safe, secure, and paperless way to make your contribution. It was designed specifically for Catholic churches and schools in the Chicago area, and many other parishes have already found success with it. The site allows you to make automatically repeating payments on a schedule that works best for you, using any credit card, debit card or electronic bank account.

We believe that having a flexible online giving option will make it easier for many of you to support St. Cletus. Please visit **www.stcletusparish.com** for more information.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Questions? Call Mary Zwolinski in the rectory at (708) 352-6209.

	WEE	K AT A GL	ANCE
DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION/ ROOM #	EVENT
Sunday, December 22	7:00 p.m.	S-98	Rosary and Posada
Monday, December 23	7:00 p.m.	S-201	Christmas Novena
Tuesday, December 24	<u> </u>	2076 16	
Wednesday, December 25	See pages	2 & 7 for Mass 1	rimes
Thursday, December 26	All Faci	lities Closed Afte	r the 8:00 a.m. Mass
Friday, December 27	6:30 p.m.	S-Music	Hispanic Choir
Saturday, December 28			
Sunday, December 29			
CChurch NarthexChurch MHMorrissey	,	ast & West)	SSchool (Education Building) RBRectory 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

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

<u>DEPARTMENT</u> <u>POSITION</u>

Administration

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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**.