

Saint Cletus Parish Canticle



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. CLETUS CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m.	Church	Chamber Ensemble
2:15 p.m.	Morrissey Hall	Vocalist/Piano
3:30 p.m.	Church	Children's Choir
3:45 p.m.	Morrissey Hall	Vocalist/Piano
5:30 p.m.	Church	Chamber Ensemble
7:00 p.m.	Church (Spanish)	Hispanic Choir
10:30 p.m.	Church	Chancel Choir
<i>(10:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Christmas Carols prior to Mass)</i>		

Christmas Day

7:00 a.m.	Church	Organ/Congregational Caroling
8:00 a.m.	Church	Vocalist/Piano
9:30 a.m.	Church	Chancel Choir
11:00 a.m.	Church	Contemporary Choir
11:15 a.m.	Morrissey Hall	Vocalist/Piano

WELCOME



- 3 Pastor's Notes
- 4 Parish School
- 5 Jubilee Year of Mercy
- 6 Youth Ministry
- 6 Other Ministry News
- 9 Advent 2015
- 10 Social Concerns
- 11 Religious Education
- 12 Community Bulletin Board
- 13 Week at a Glance
- 13 Stewardship Report
- 14 Parish Information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- DEC. 20: Giving Tree Food Baskets returned to Morrissey
- DEC. 20: 4pm Bending Towards the Light: a Jazz Nativity
- DEC. 25: Merry Christmas!
- DEC. 31: 5pm Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- JAN. 1: 9am Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- JAN. 9: 5pm Archdiocesan Mass for Life with Archbishop Blase Cupich



Mass Intentions for the Week of December 21—December 27, 2015

Day	Presider (Subject to change)	Time	Intentions
Monday	Fr. Gamboa	8:00 a.m.	Timothy Wickerd, Marty Lodovico
Tuesday	Fr. Clark	8:00 a.m.	Abe Katzmarek, Laura Brooks (Special Intention), Mikey Depasquale, Kadlec Family
Wednesday	Fr. Baker	8:00 a.m.	Angelo Cumbo, Harry Sandy & John Fisher, Bernice McKillip, Marge May, Pauline Passardi
Thursday	Fr. Fisher Fr. Baker Fr. Clark Fr. Gamboa Fr. Clark Fr. Fisher Fr. Gamboa Fr. Clark and all Priests	8:00 a.m. 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.	St. Cletus Parishioners Living and Deceased
Friday	Fr. Gamboa Fr. Baker Fr. Clark Fr. Fisher Fr. Clark	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	St. Cletus Parishioners Living and Deceased
Saturday	Fr. Fisher Fr. Fisher	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Josef & James Slowik Georgia Popp, Benjamin Patrick Hyink, Deceased Parents of Alicja Ghera, Dan Rosko, Emily M. Pezdek
Sunday	Fr. Clark Fr. Baker Fr. Clark Fr. Baker Fr. Fisher	7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	George Duda, John & Dolores Slowiak, Mark Joseph Callaghan, Dolores E. Kuchta, Marco & Emilia Rattin, Joseph Kokoszka Stacy Ann Baker Chester & Ann Koziol, Percy, Anne and Norman Hamilton, Patricia Mihalak, Denis Rahilly, Eugene Hickey, Jeremah & Catherine Hickey, Marjorie Hudznik Catherine Mlot, Dorothy Kozdas, Gene Kennedy St. Cletus Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THEIR FAMILIES...

Mary Flannery

Mother of John Flannery

May she rest in peace. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend there will be a second collection to benefit the St. Cletus Living our Faith, Building our Future Capital Campaign which breaks ground this Spring. Thank you for your continued generous support.



PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

St. Cletus Parish Rectory will be closed on Christmas Day. Please see page 13 for a complete list of holiday hours and the front cover for Christmas Mass times.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Ed Kinsley, Al Dybic, Eleanor Tolan, Carol Piccolo, Pat Harris, Eleanor Brousil, Patricia Niwa, Allie DeRivera, Don King, Carmen Rodriguez, Tom Wolak, Christine Bell, Jenna Zimmerman, Rachel Lipman, Mauricio Aguilar, Patricia Krieger, Brian Cabral, Fernando Cabral, Enrique Pacheco, Alexandra DeRivera, Steve Woynicki, Irina Fursman, Linda Mantey, Marshall Johnson, Diane Bridges, Catherine McCord, Nancy Gibson, Jean Weekly, Peter D. Rivera, Gerda E. Dorso, Judy Duque, Carolyn Sharpe, Joanne Stevens, Linda McMahon, Roy Jenkinson, Erin Lively, Bruce Byrne, Ed Barnicle, Glen Peters, Emily Ann Dziedzic, Collette Grisko-Dote, Dave McCoy, LaVerne Gill, Richard Rottinger, Ed Vokurka, Sr., Joyce Arnold, Jackie Schickel, Loretta Johncola, Denise Rowalka, Sharon Mylan, Mary Jamrozik, Shellye Bolton, Emily Devine, John Duda, Marilyn Mateševac. Also pray for our parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound unable to attend Mass.

Notes from Fr. Bob...


4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2015

It's rather different spirit that today's liturgy seems to suggest should be ours during the final run-down to Christmas. As the gospel unfolds its charming story of the meeting between the elderly woman and the teenager, Elizabeth and Mary, we cannot but be struck by several features.

First, there is the beautiful unselfishness of Mary. She, who must still have been coming to terms with the astounding news that she carried within her the long-awaited Messiah, could have been forgiven had she decided to stay at home and dwell upon her wonderful secret. After all, she could always visit her aged cousin Elizabeth later. There would be plenty of time after her own child and Elizabeth's had been born. Instead, she sets out at once "as quickly as she could" on a lengthy journey so that she can see Elizabeth, offer her congratulations and provide whatever help might be needed.

Secondly, there is the prayerfulness and faith that seem to permeate this whole event. On Mary's side, as she made her long journey into "the hill country" – it would probably have taken her the best part of a week – she must, like any young mother-to-be, have thought constantly of the child within her and, as she did so, she would have raised her mind and heart in prayer and praise. The very fact that she made the journey at all was itself an act of faith; she went because she believed what the angel had told her, both about herself and about her cousin. On Elizabeth's side, as soon as Mary arrives, she, Elizabeth, is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and under that inspiration pours out her soul in prayer: "Of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb". (Already we hear the "Hail Mary" in embryo, that prayer which to this day is on the lips of so many people throughout the world). And Elizabeth goes on to praise the deep faith of her young cousin.

A third striking feature of the Visitation is its unmistakable spirit of joy. Elizabeth tells how her own child had "leapt for joy" in her womb at the presence of the unborn Lord, whose herald he was destined to be. Reading between the lines, it's clear that the joy of the unborn John was a joy shared by both mothers too. In fact, though this doesn't appear in today's gospel passage, Mary responded with the prayer we know as the Magnificat in which she proclaims that her spirit finds its joy in "God my savior".



The days
before Christmas
are busy days for us all. We wonder where all the time has gone since we first read one of those warnings about shopping early for Christmas. In fact the great day when we celebrate the Lord's birthday is now almost here, a mere 5 days away. Yet I believe that there is still time, if we so wish, to prepare a worthy celebration of Christmas. How? By striving, especially today and this week to follow Mary's example: first, by thinking not just of ourselves, but also of others, reaching out to them in loving and practical concern; second, by finding time, making time, if need be, to devote ourselves to a period even if it is only five minutes – of quiet prayer each day in a real spirit of faith; and, third, by entering into the joy which Christ's coming into the world brings with it.

If we strive to do these things, whatever our other festivities (including a Christmas drink) may be, we shall indeed have "a real good time", for ours will surely be the true spirit of Christmastime.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

With Christmas just around the corner I would like to offer Christmas Blessings and Prayers to each member of St. Cletus Parish. Myself, along with Frs. Ken Baker, Lorenzo Gamboa, Harold Fisher O.M.I, Ron Anglim, Deacon Jesus & Silvia, Deacon Stuart Heyes & Marlene, and the entire St. Cletus Parish Staff wish you good health and a prosperous New Year.

May the love of Christ be present to you each day of your lives.

Blessings and Christmas Prayers,



Fr. Bob Clark

Parish School



DATES TO REMEMBER

Shop with Scrip Cash and Carry December 19 & 20

Last Day of School before Christmas December 22

Catholic Schools Week Open House January 31

FOR INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Jolene Hillgoth, President

(708) 215-5426

jhillgoth@stcletusparish.com

Lauren Lewandowski, Principal

(708) 352-4820

llewandowski@stcletusparish.com

2015-16 ST. CLETUS SCHOOL HONOR ROLL—1ST TRIMESTER

8th Grade High Honors

Nathaniel Banos
Thomas Braun
Charles Burke
Kaitlyn Cassidy
Madeline Cranny
Lindsay Degnan
Daniel Doheny
John Golden
Carson Hart
Katharine Hart
John Petrak
Patrick Sheridan
Moirra Sommerfeld
Patrick Townsend
Matthew Zuber

8th Grade Honors

Dorota Bednarz
Brady Bourjaily
Will Cramer
Michelle Diliberto
Gabrielle Dziak
Kelly Grace
Christian Hagn
Ailee Hogan
Chloe Hunt
Aidan Kelly
Julia Laghi
Matthew Luxem
Margaret McLean
Joseph Noga
Jack Pusatera
Catherine Rossmiller
Amanda Siegert
Holly Skrip
Matthew Schuler
Liam Sponaugle
Mary Welenc

7th Grade High Honors

Luke Alpe
Jessica Antonietti
Patrick Hurley
Emilia Kapusta
Reese Komsthoeft
Sean Mulcrone
Kevin Murphy
Blake Otrusina
Margaret Rausch
Kevin Rife
Grace Rohrbacher
Elizabeth Wangard

7th Grade Honors

Jack Beauregard
Kathryn Clifford
Michael Dahill
Isabel Decker
Kevin Fatora
Cecelia Fransen
Cole Gamboa
Mary Jacobs
Margaret Ketchum
Sabina Llerenas
Liam Ludden
Mary Ellen Murray
Jake Pulciani
Jonathan Ramicone
Adriana Serrano
Michael Sommerfeld
Brianna Valdez
Emily Vranek



NJHS Induction Ceremony on December 8th

14 St. Cletus School 7th and 8th grade students were inducted into the St. Cletus chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. These students have been recommended by their teachers and administrators, have been held to a high academic standard, and have completed 20 service hours at school and in the community in addition to what is already required of our students. They were welcomed into NJHS by the 13 current members, led by chapter President Katie Hart.



JUBILEE OF MERCY
MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE JUBILEE OF MERCY HOLY YEAR

December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

Pope Francis has granted special Indulgences to the faithful who observe and take part in the celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy. In this year, the Pope has noted, “we need constantly to contemplate

the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.” By participating in any of the various observances of this Year, and while fulfilling the usual conditions (see below), one may gain this special Indulgence.

What must one do in order to receive the special Plenary Indulgence?

In order to gain this special Indulgence, a Catholic is required first to make sacramental Confession, receive the Eucharist at Mass, make a profession of faith and offer prayers for the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.

In addition to and in conjunction with fulfilling these conditions, one may then take part in any of the following observances of the Jubilee of Mercy.

Each time one visits, in the course of a pilgrimage, the Cathedral of the Holy Name of Jesus, or a designated Jubilee Parish, and there walks through the designated Holy Door, and makes a brief visit. *Parishes designated in the Archdiocese of Chicago are listed on the second page of this summary.*

Those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, e.g., confined to the home, the Holy Father noted, “For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence.”

For those who are incarcerated, whose freedom is limited, the Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

The Pope has asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.

Youth Ministry

DARST CENTER RETREAT IN JANUARY



We have an opportunity to participate in an Urban Immersion Retreat at the Brother David Darst Center the weekend of January 22-24. During the weekend, we will explore the issues of injustice and the reality of oppression by serving at various local agencies and then discussing our experiences in light as our faith and our call to action. Don't delay: We need to submit our number of participants by tomorrow, December 21st! Registration is available on the website or contact Elizabeth for details.

ARCHDIOCESAN SKI TRIP



This event takes place January 29th-30th. Buses depart Friday evening and travel to Galena, IL for an all-night ski adventure. We will arrive back early Saturday morning. If you are interested, please submit the permission form and fee no later than January 11th. If you have questions, contact Elizabeth Tomasek at etomasek@stcletusparish.com. For information regarding cost and for registration, please visit the St. Cletus website. Parent volunteers encouraged to attend as well!!!

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON OUR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



"Like" St. Cletus Youth Ministry on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stcletusyouth.

MISSION TRIP 2016

The Mission Trip planning is underway for the summer of 2016. St. Cletus will again be taking a group of teens who have completed at least one year of high school through the Young Neighbors in Action service experience the week of July 10th-16th to Detroit, MI. YNIA offers teens a way to grow in faith and join in prayer while also participating in mission and serving those in need. This year's theme is taken from Amos 5:24, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Registration is open now through January 22nd or until all spots are taken. For more information regarding cost and for registration, please visit the St. Cletus website. Meetings for team building, mission formation, and fundraising plans will begin this winter. **Adult chaperones are needed** to make this possible!



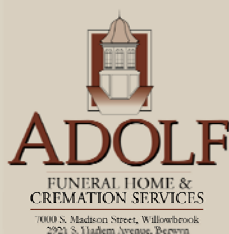
young neighbors in action ▶▶

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

We will meet again to discuss upcoming socials and service projects including our mission trip this summer! Join us to learn more and offer input on Thursday, January 14th 7-8 pm in Room 200.

Contact Elizabeth Tomasek at etomasek@stcletusparish.com or (708) 215-5419 www.stcletusparish.com/youth

St. Cletus Parish Preferred Partners

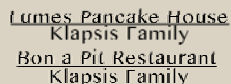
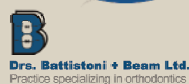


The Annella Family

Cook County Board Commissioner
Jeffrey R. Tobolski



Bill & Heidi



Other Ministry Notes

ARCHDIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE AT ST. CLETUS JANUARY 9TH 5 P.M. MASS



We remember the innocent children lost and the women, men and families hurt through abortion as we reflect on the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Join Archbishop Blase Cupich and priests from across the Archdiocese of Chicago for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as we petition the Lord to transform our society from a culture of death into a culture of life.

Sponsored by St. Cletus Parish and the Respect Life Office.

KOLBE HOUSE JAIL MINISTRY

THE DEACON'S WIFE IS COLLECTING STAMPS AGAIN!

As many of you know I serve as a Catholic Minister for the Kolbe House Jail Ministry at Cook County. In an effort to keep the detainees connected to their families, Kolbe House is again asking for postage stamps to be used for the detainees Christmas greetings to their families.



If you would like to donate stamps in any denomination (1 cent up to first class postage) please put them in an envelope and drop them off at the rectory marked "Kolbe House Stamps - c/o Marlene".

COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY



The Compassionate Care Ministry is again badly in need of postage stamps for its notes of sympathy and support during the first year following the loss of a loved one. Your generous donations have meant so much in the past and we are very grateful. If you are able to contribute to this worthwhile ministry in this way, it will be very much appreciated. Simply put them in an envelope marked **CCM** and drop them off at the parish office—or right into the collection basket on Sunday. Thank you.

WORD OF LIFE

"[W]e know what true, authentic love looks like. It looks like the man on the Cross. This deep, pure love that motivated Jesus to offer his life for ours, is the love that will answer the longing in our hearts, if we let it."

— USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program
"10 Surprising Tips for Love the Culture Won't Tell You"



HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 8TH



The St. Cletus Parish Holy Name Society is looking for new members. Dues are only \$5 each year. The next meeting will be held on January 8th at 8:00 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 98. The topic will be upcoming events. Please join us!



SHOPWITHSCRIP DEC. 19 & 20TH

Cash and Carry this weekend!

Visit our table in the narthex to pick up all of your holiday gift cards!

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL 2ND GRADE SERVICE

This year for our service project, St. Cletus School second graders will be collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Please help us by collecting your tabs at home and sending them to school.



We will be saving pop tabs throughout the year and appreciate all of your help. -Thank you. Second Grade

LEISURE LOAFERS

Our first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, January 7th at 1:00 p.m. Hope to see all of you there!

JOYFUL AGAIN WIDOWED MINISTRY

Widowed? Finding Holidays difficult? at JA Widowed Ministry we understand.

Workshop/retreat for the widowed: January 16 & 17, 2016 at Our Lady of the Angels, Lemont. 708-354-7211 to register. Visit www.joyfulagain.org to view video.

NOTICE REGARDING BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please note that all canticle articles are to be sent to canticle@stcletusparish.com. Please send as text with pictures separate.

December/January deadlines are as follows:

- Articles for the December 27th Canticle are due 12/16.
- Articles for the January 3rd Canticle are due 12/21.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW PPC MEMBERS

We'd like to wish a note of congratulations to Maggie Kensek and Henry Morlock who have been elected to the St. Cletus Parish Pastoral Council. Welcome to the PPC!



SAINT CLETUS FINE ARTS SERIES

2015-16 SEASON

BENDING TOWARDS THE LIGHT A JAZZ NATIVITY

Celebrate our Savior's birth
as told by the creative minds of a select group of Chicago's
most renowned singers, dancers, and jazz artists

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH 4:00 P.M.



**ST. CLETUS CHURCH
600 WEST 55TH ST. LA GRANGE, IL**

This concert is presented free of charge, a freewill donation will be collected with a portion benefitting the St. Cletus Food Pantry. The St. Cletus Fine Arts Series was created in 2009 to present high quality musical performances outside of the liturgical setting. We'd like to thank all the generous supporters who have made these concerts possible each year.

Advent



A NEW ORDER

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” A Philadelphia clergyman named Phillips Brooks penned these popular words back in the mid-1800s, but the prophet Micah could have used them first. Micah knew that from small packages great treasures come. In today’s first reading, he knew that from tiny Bethlehem would come the Lord.

The writer in Hebrews explains that Christ came to us to do the will of God by establishing a new order and by becoming our perfect sacrifice. And Luke tells us that Elizabeth and John, the infant in her womb, understand that great and wondrous things are at hand with the coming of the Lord.

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Soon we celebrate anew the fruit of Mary’s womb. As we are told in Hebrews, Jesus’ new order is being established even today. And as Micah proclaims, his greatness is reaching even now to the ends of the earth.

—Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:39-45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: 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
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday: St. Stephen; First day of Kwanzaa

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the “Feast of the Seven Fishes,” or *La Vigilia*. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: *Natale con I tuui, Pasqua conchi vuoi*, or “Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish.” Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served. Eel and shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to “pass the shrimp,” you’ll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LOVE NOW

Let those love now
who never lov’d before;
let those who always lov’d
now love the more.

—Anonymous

NATURE RESTORED

Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore your nature.

—St. Peter Chrysologus

LIGHT

All the darkness of the world cannot put out the light of one small candle.

—Anonymous

Social Concerns Ministry

Food Pantry

Most needed at this time:

- Dry pinto beans
- Canned or powdered milk
- Rice
- Canned Chili
- Pudding cups
- Laundry detergent
- Monetary donations

On behalf of the households we serve, THANK YOU and may your Christmas be filled with joy and peace!

Donations can be dropped off before or after masses or anytime daily between 7:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in Food Pantry bins in the Narthex.

The next St. Cletus Food Pantry distribution will be Thursday, January 14, 2016.

*If you have questions or would like to volunteer with the Social Concerns Ministry contact
Kendall Grant
(708)215-5418
kgrant@stcletusparish.com*

GIVING TREE

Food baskets are due this weekend! On Sunday we will be distributing the food baskets, along with Christmas gifts, to our local recipients. Please remember, each tag represents a real family. When you took a tag from the tree, you made a commitment to that person, and to returning your item(s) on time.

♥ **RED TAGS (food baskets):** Bring your Food Baskets to Morrissey Hall on Sunday, December 20 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.

A HUGE thank you to our volunteers last weekend! We had about 100 different volunteers move and organize (literally) thousands of gifts donated by generous St. Cletus families! Thank you for your donations!



This year we also had a special donation of a moving truck from Del's Moving & Storage. Parishioner Randy Balla and his son-in-law helped us carefully transport gifts down to our sharing parish St. Agatha's to distribute to 200 individuals. Thank you!!! (www.delsmovers.com) Thank you for your continuing generosity to the less fortunate in our community.

-The Giving Tree Committee

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the parish website:
www.stcletusparish.com/socialconcerns or contact Kendall Grant, Director of Social Concerns



THANK YOU TO DEL'S MOVING & STORAGE!



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Monthly Support Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The intent is to share our stories and listen to one another in a safe environment. We welcome both men and women survivors and victims' to express their thoughts and feelings and share their experiences.

In an emergency, dial 911, call the National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline at 800-799-7233 or the local 24 hour hotline for Pillars, found in the box to the right. You are not alone.



HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL

Monday, December 21 at 6:30pm

Old St. Pat's (700 W Adams St, Chicago 60661)

In the shadows of the Magnificent Mile, our brothers and sisters without homes are losing their lives. They will not go unremembered. Please join us. On the longest night of the year, we again remember our homeless brothers and sisters who have died in the last year. Harmony, Hope, and Healing puts on this service along with the Ignatian Spirituality Project, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Old St. Pat's, New Moms, Cornerstone Community Outreach, and the Night Ministry.

Religious Education

HANDS OF SERVICE

Tis the season to be joyful and giving. The last Rel. Ed. classes of the year were spent

thinking and doing for others. To put everyone in the true spirit of the Advent season and in anticipation of Christmas, the classes began by gathering in Morrissey Hall to pray together.

After lighting the Advent Wreath and hearing the story of Christmas, the children returned to their classes to engage in activities that were fun and "other-centered".

Catechists discussed with the children the importance of sharing our blessings and thanking God for all that we have. We decided to concentrate on remembering folks that are often forgotten during this season- some of our elderly parishioners who may be homebound, ill or in nursing homes.

The jr. high partnered with the primary grades in decorating cookies and making cards to be packaged in Christmas tins, sure to please anyone with a sweet tooth. Di-aramas were adorned with colored Nativity figures to remind all of the reason for the season. 3 dimensional trees were created and decorated for those who might not have a tree. Foam Nativity cards with cheery messages were assembled that would compete with any Hallmark product. Fleece blankets were made to keep the winter winds away.

The parish Ministers of Care were asked to pack their Santa bags and distribute these lovingly made gifts to their patient friends.

In addition to these projects, each class had individual classroom Advent/Christmas crafts to work on and take to their own homes.



The Early Childhood R.E. children presented their annual Christmas skit to the delight of their parents. The Special Needs program also took roles in the story of the Nativity.

All in all, it was a good place to be this past weekend. There were many lessons to be learned from these experiences – not the least of which is, we are all part of the body of Christ –and there is joy in giving. That is what Christmas is about.

Community Bulletin Board

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES AT SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL



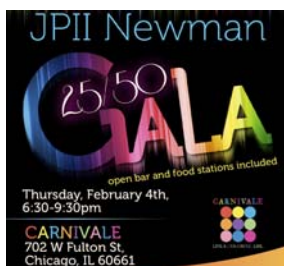
This year due to overcrowding and fire codes, St. Francis Xavier Parish has been asked to issue tickets

for the 3:00 and 5:00 masses held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Chapel. They will issue 800 tickets for each mass.

Please tell your friends and others who may be considering going to the Motherhouse for the 3:00 or 5:00 Christmas Eve mass that tickets will be required.

ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN 25/50 GALA

We are planning a St. John Paul II Newman 25/50 Gala on February 4, 2016 with gratitude to Father Patrick Marshall for twenty five years of service. For more information please see www.jp2newman.org or call Anthony Niles at 312-226-1880.



PORTIUNCULA CENTER FOR PRAYER

Introduction to Healing Touch

Saturday, January 9, 9 am-Noon Fee: \$25
This workshop is for care-givers and anyone interested in learning more about healing touch. In addition to providing time for meditation and an experiential approach to healing touch, you will be introduced to how healing energy works, the benefits of this practice, and the challenging state of health care in our world today. Three CEUs are available to nurses and massage therapists who complete this course. There is an additional \$10 fee to register CEUs. Facilitator: Kathryn Hungness

A Morning of Memoir: Writing As A Spiritual Practice

Monday, January 11, 9:30-Noon Fee: \$20
Adapting some of the writing practices from Jan Richardson's publication, "Women's Christmas: The Shimmering Hours", we will use photos and writing prompts as journaling techniques to glean the graced moments of the holiday season we have just experienced. In the process there will be time to ponder and savor fragments and pieces of life buried in the busy-ness and "tease out" those moments of joy, sorrow, love, gift, hope and challenge that too easily go unnoticed. There will be

time to share our writing exercises. Please bring your own writing supplies. Facilitator: Colette McHale-Wisnewski

Women's Sacred Circle

Monday, January 11, 7-9 p.m. Fee: free will offering
On the second Monday of each month a small group of women meet at the Port to support one another in their efforts to walk a spiritual path in the midst of the busy-ness of their lives and the challenges of the times we are living in. It is time to ask the important questions, share pieces of their stories, and learn from each other's experience. The circle is open to new members in September and January.

Word Weavers

Sunday, January 17, 2-4 p.m. Fee: \$10
Have you ever longed for a community offering a safe haven and creative support while giving you the sacred space to travel your own creative journey as a writer? Whether your interest is in poetry, fiction, memoir, or non-fiction---join us, and become part of the on-going story of a thriving, vibrant writing community that gathers on a regular basis at the Port. The group is open to new members in September and January. Facilitator: Michelle Caputo

"Soaring Crane Qigong Review"

Tuesday, January 19, 10 to Noon Fee: \$20 per session
If you have completed Soaring Crane Qigong Level I, join this group for the opportunity to practice together and to review the five routines, the liver tonifier and the tonification stance. Time permitting; there will be instruction in a remedy routine. Facilitator: Rita Travis

Portiuncula Center for Prayer 9263 W St. Francis Road
Frankfort, IL 60423, 815.464.3880, www.portforprayer.org

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SEEKS PRINCIPAL

St. Francis Xavier Elementary School in La Grange, IL is searching for a school principal for the 2016 school year. St. Francis is located in LaGrange, IL. The complete job description and job posting is on the Chicago Archdiocese web site at <http://schools.archchicago.org/careers/>

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS

Chicagoland area Catholic High Schools will offer their entrance exams on the morning of Saturday, January 9, 2016. Please visit their websites or call the school for more information or to register.

Week At A Glance

C...Church
S...School (Education Building)

Narthex...Church Vestibule
RB...Rectory Basement

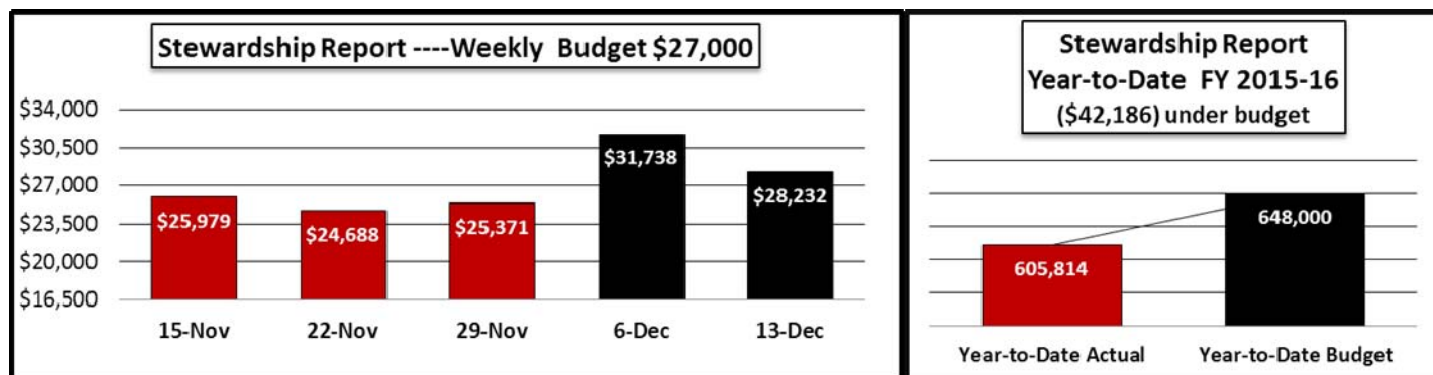
MH...Morrissey Hall

DAY/DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sunday, December 20	All Masses 7:30am-11am 4:00pm 7:00pm	Narthex MH Church Church	Shop with Scrip Cash & Carry Giving Tree Food Baskets Returned Bending Towards the Light: A Jazz Nativity Christmas Novena
Monday, December 21	4:00pm 7:00pm	S Music Room Church	Combined Youth Choir Rehearsal Christmas Novena and Posada
Tuesday, December 22	7:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	S Music Room Church S Rm 202	Contemporary Choir Rehearsal Christmas Novena Hispanic Ministry Men's Prayer Group
Wednesday, December 23	7:00pm	S Rm 201	Christmas Novena
Thursday, December 24			Christmas Mass Schedule can be found on front page
Friday, December 25			St. Cletus Facilities Closed
Saturday, December 26			
Sunday, December 27			

RECTORY HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve December 24, 2015	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve December 31, 2015	9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
Christmas Day December 25, 2015	Closed	New Year's Day January 1, 2016	Closed
Saturday, December 26, 2015	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Saturday, January 2, 2016	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 27, 2015	8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Sunday, January 3, 2016	8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Monday, December 28, 2015	Closed		

Stewardship Report



ST. CLETUS ONLINE GIVING... DONATIONS MADE EASY

We encourage you to make online donations by logging onto our website, www.stcletusparish.com and click on the Donate button and register using your checking account, debit card or credit card. Questions? Call Mary Zwolinski at the rectory, (708) 352-6209.

St. Cletus Parish Information

CONTACT US

Rectory (708) 352-6209

Español (708) 215-5440

School (708) 352-4820

www.stcletusparish.com



stcletuschurch

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays: Mon. thru Sat. 8:00 a.m.

Evening before Holy Day: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Day: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions every Saturday: 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend the Baptism Preparation class. Please make arrangements by calling the Rectory office.

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 8:00 a.m. Mass and continues during the day until 6:15pm the first Tuesday of the month.

The *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* is prayed at 6:15 p.m. followed by Benediction.

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

PARISH MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: St. Cletus is a dynamic Catholic community dedicated to spreading the Good news of Jesus Christ through worship, education, and service.

Vision Statement: We welcome all. We encourage all parishioners to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, by sharing their talents and faith with our parish and community.

STAFF

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Robert Clark, Pastor

Rev. Kenneth Baker, Associate Pastor

Rev. Lorenzo Gamboa, 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

Larry LaLonde, Music Ministry (708) 215-5423

Deacon Jesús Casas, Hispanic Ministry (708) 215-5440

Elizabeth Tomasek, Youth Ministry (708) 215-5419

Kendall Grant, Social Concerns (708) 215-5418

Deacon Stuart Heyes, Ministry of Care (708) 215-5407

Debbie Lestarczyk, Business Manager (708) 215-5405

Christopher Wagner, Technology (708) 215-5420

SCHOOL STAFF

Jolene Hillgoth, President

Lauren Lewandowski, Principal

Mary Lee Krieger, Administrative Assistant

Jeannie Scalzitti, Receptionist/Office Assistant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

(708) 352-2383

Paulette Bolton, Director of Parish Catechesis/Formation

Barb Campbell, Administrative Assistant

RECTORY STAFF

(708) 352-6209

Bobbie Kallal, Human Resources/Records

Mary Zwolinski, Parish Accounting

Elizabeth Goellner-McLean, Bulletin Editor

ST. CLETUS SCHOOL BOARD

Fr. Bob Clark	Pastor
Jolene Hillgoth	President
Lauren Lewandowski	Principal
Eileen Dorchinecz	Chairperson
Ron Skrip	Vice Chairperson
John Rossmiller	Secretary
Doug Rausch	Finance

Development, Marketing & Alumni

Chris McLean	Mike Pusatera
Zlata Kozul-Naumovski	Scott Aulinskis
Ann Foley	Patrick Townsend

Jodie Pulciani

Liaisons

Nikki Gorman	FSA President
Brendan Foley	Athletic Assoc President

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pastor:	Fr. Bob Clark
Chairperson:	Jack Fisherkeller
Vice-Chairperson:	Chuck Luna
Recording Secretary:	Robbie O'Shea
School Rep:	Jolene Hillgoth
Director of Parish Catechesis:	Paulette Bolton
Staff Rep:	Debbie Lestarczyk
Hispanic Ministry:	Luis Lopez
Members:	Helen McMahon
	Xavier Polanski
	Olivia Pach
	Colleen Hagen
	Susan Hurley